# Proposed Rule Revision Tracker Division 18 – Allocation of Conserved Water

| Section /            | Issue  | Response/Modified Language                            | Status / Version                          |
|----------------------|--|---|---|
| Version              |  |   | change made in                            |
| comment              | RACM - While we appreciate that the rules provide notice of the application, there is no notice required in the weekly public notice of the IR and/or PFO. It  | OWRD modified OAR 690-018-<br>0050(1)-(7) to address. | Complete.<br>Changes made to<br>v2 draft. |
| 690-018<br>(General) | appears that the only way for a non-applicant to get notice beyond the application is in section - 0050(6) where a person who has notified the OWRD that they are interested in getting notice or they have commented on the application is given notice of the PFO (not the IR). While I appreciate that the statute says the OWRC "shall notify the applicant and any other person requesting notice, of the action the commission intends to take under subsection (3) of this section. Any person objecting to the proposed allocation may file a protest requesting a contested case hearing before the commission", I think there is an argument to be made that anyone who has signed up for the weekly public notice is in fact asking for notice of any and all water allocation and reallocation decisions before the agency.  Moreover, the statute does not say that the OWRD can ONLY notice those who have specifically asked for notice, it just says that they have to provide it to those people. |   |   |
|                      | The more inclusive and transparent route would be to provide public notice and comment/protest opportunities at the IR and PFO stage. We suggest the OWRD add this.  | OWRD modified OAR 690-018-<br>0050(3)(j) to address.  |   |
|                      | RACM - We encourage OWRD to include language in this rule to   |   |   |

| 11/19/2025 v2    |                                     |                                     |                  |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
|                  | ensure accountability,              |                                     |                  |
|                  | transparency and certainty that the |                                     |                  |
|                  | full amount being paid for by       |                                     |                  |
|                  | public dollars is being returned    |                                     |                  |
|                  | instream, for example OWRD          |                                     |                  |
|                  | and/or third-party verification of  |                                     |                  |
|                  | the accounting of the amount of     |                                     |                  |
|                  | saved water                         |                                     |                  |
|                  | RACM - The Tribe supports strong    | OWRD POST RAC: OWRD modified        | Complete.        |
|                  | recordkeeping and system            | 690-018-0050(3)(j) to address.      | Change made. v2  |
|                  | modernization to ensure accurate    | 000 010 0000(0)(0) to add. 000.     | draft.           |
|                  | tracking within the Allocation of   |                                     | arart.           |
| 690-018          | Conserved Water (ACW) program       |                                     |                  |
| General          | both in stream and in the ground.   |                                     |                  |
| General          | The Tribe notes the potential for   |                                     |                  |
|                  | unintentional expansion of use or   |                                     |                  |
|                  | abuse due to lack of measurement    |                                     |                  |
|                  | or audits.                          |                                     |                  |
|                  | RACM – See detailed comments        |                                     | Under Review -   |
|                  |                                     |                                     |                  |
|                  | from Leah Cogan (several            |                                     | Pending final    |
|                  | paragraphs so not pasting here).    |                                     | language on land |
| Combined         | RACM Recommendation - For the       |                                     | use.             |
| comments on      | provisions relating to application  |                                     |                  |
| land use         | requirements (690-018-0040(22)(a),  |                                     | Land Use         |
| compatibility    | 690-310-0040(1)(a)(L), 690-380-     |                                     | Discussion with  |
| issue            | 3000(19), 690-380-7100(14), 690-    |                                     | RAC              |
|                  | 380-8003(2)(d), and 690-382-        |                                     |                  |
| 690-018-         | 0400(12)): "A Land Use Information  |                                     |                  |
| 0040(22)(a), -   | Form completed by the affected      |                                     |                  |
| 018-             | local government as outlined in the |                                     |                  |
| 0050(3)(c), -    | Department's Land Use Planning      |                                     |                  |
| 310-             | Procedures Guide described in OAR   |                                     |                  |
| 0040(1)(a)(L), - | 690-005-0035(4)."                   |                                     |                  |
| 380-3000(19),    |                                     |                                     |                  |
| -380-7100(14),   | 690-018-0050(3)(c): The original    | OWRD also notes that the v1         |                  |
| -380-            | rule language was sufficient to     | proposed draft rules changed        |                  |
| 8003(2)(d), -    | allow OWRD to comply with           | "acknowledged comprehensive         |                  |
| 382-0400(12)     | Division 5 and ORS 197.180.         | plans" to lower case, so no changes |                  |
| 302 0400(12)     | Recommend keeping the original      | needed for that item.               |                  |
|                  | language (could make                |                                     |                  |
|                  | "acknowledged comprehensive         |                                     |                  |
|                  | plans" lower-case)                  |                                     |                  |
|                  | PUBLIC – Comments were              |                                     | Under Review -   |
|                  | submitted emphasizing the           |                                     | Pending final    |
| 690-018          | interface between OWRD and DLCD     |                                     | language on land |
|                  | and the importance of collaboration |                                     | use.             |
| General          | in land use/resource                |                                     |                  |
|                  | planning as manifested in           |                                     |                  |
|                  | Deschutes County (see comments      |                                     |                  |
|                  |                                     |                                     |                  |

| 11/19/2025 02  | submitted by Jim Powell, 11/4/25,  |   |  |
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|  | <u> </u>   |   |  |
| 690-018-<br>0010(1),<br>690-018-<br>0020(3), 690-<br>018-0020(4) | for more context).  PUBLIC - "any water conserved" is implied to be eligible and subject to allocation based on ORS 537.470(3).  PUBLIC RECOMMENDATION - Add clarification that the ACW surface water pathway applies to only "duty" water.  | It appears this comment may be related to OWRD's December 18, 2024, memo titled, "Water Conservation and Protection Pathway for Irrigation Modernization Projects in the Upper Deschutes Basin." The memo describes an "alternate pathway" for conserving and protecting water and is accomplished outside of the ACW program, therefore OWRD does not believe the recommendation is appropriate. Additionally, upon finalization of an approved ACW project, OWRD issues a remaining | Complete. No change made.              |
| 690-018-<br>0012(3)  | RACM – "final completion" should be changed to "finalization".   | right certificate that is reduced in both instantaneous rate and annual volume of water to reflect the amount of water that is needed to satisfy the existing beneficial use following implementation of the conservation measures.  OWRD agrees that changing "final completion" to "finalization" is appropriate and consistent with the terminology used in proposed rule OAR 690-018-0065 (Finalization of Conservation Project).   | Complete.<br>Change made. v2<br>draft. |
| 690-018-<br>0020(9)  | RACM - The original certificate is not always canceled. Districts with a lot of water right activity have "living certificates" with a new superseding certificate issued periodically.  RACM Recommendation - Propose the cancelation or partial cancelation of the original water right certificate or living certificate. Not sure if living certificate would need to be added to definitions. This might also lead to an update in (a)(C) and in (b)(B) and (c) to recognize living certificates. | OWRD added a definition for "living certificate" in OAR 690-018-0020 and modified 690-018-0050(5)(a)(B), - 0050(5)(b)(B), and -0050(5)(c) to address this comment.  | Complete.<br>Change made. v2<br>draft. |
| 690-018-<br>0025(1)  | RACM - When the Department receives an application for allocation of conserved water, the Director shall: Is this something  | OWRD POST RAC: It appears this comment is related to OAR 690-018-0050(1). Based on the statutory  | Complete.<br>Change made. v2<br>draft. |

| the Director does or should this be the Department shall? RACM Recommendation - Consider changing Director to Department if this is not a Director duty  ORS 537.470(1) states, "Upon receipt of an application for allocation of conserved water, the Water Resources Commission shall give notice of receipt of the application"  ORS 536.025(2) states, "the commission may delegate its authority to the Water Resources Director"  ORS 536.037(3) states, "The director |
|--|
| RACM Recommendation - Consider changing Director to Department if this is not a Director duty  ORS 537.470(1) states, "Upon receipt of an application for allocation of conserved water, the Water Resources Commission shall give notice of receipt of the application"  ORS 536.025(2) states, "the commission may delegate its authority to the Water Resources Director"  ORS 536.037(3) states, "The director   |
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| Director"  ORS 536.037(3) states, "The director  |
| ORS 536.037(3) states, "The director   |
|  |
|  |
| may delegate to any employee of the  |
| department the exercise or discharge   |
| in the director's name of any power,   |
| duty or function of whatever   |
| character"   |
| RACM - We strongly oppose the It appears this comment is related to Complete.  |
| provision directing the applicant OAR 690-018-0040(22)(b). Change made   |
| to provide notice to each affected draft.  |
| local government along the OWRD amended OAR 690-018-   |
| instream reach. This provision is 0040(22)(a) to address equity-related <b>Possible</b>  |
| inequitable in that it is only comments.  Discussion w   |
| 0025(22)(b) targeting ACW projects that RAC  |
| propose to put all water instream,   |
| but not to other uses. This also   |
| seems to go against the notion of  |
| efficiency in processing. There is   |
| nothing in statute directing this,   |
| we urge you to remove this.  |
| RACM – grammar issue/should be OWRD POST RAC: added "(s)" after Complete. plural. "email address" to allow for plural, if Change made  |
| RACM Recommendation - "(1) The   applicable. Also added "(s)" after   draft.   |
| name of the applicant(s), mailing "name" to indicate this could be   |
| address(es), email address(es) (if plural as well.   |
| available), and telephone  |
| number(s);"  |
| RACM - "applicant" is singular OWRD POST RAC: OWRD agrees Complete.  |
| throughout except for one with this proposed change. Change made   |
| 690-018- plural "applicants" here draft.   |
| 0040(9) RACM Recommendation - Change   |
| "applicants" to "applicant" to   |
| match the rest of the rule   |
| 690-018- ODFW - Flagging that this may OWRD POST RAC: OWRD amended Complete.   |
| <b>0040(16)</b> need a bit more description OAT 690-018-0040(15) & (16) to Change made   |
| 9/18 regarding the "reservations or better differentiate between that draft.   |

| 11/19/2025 VZ | T  |  |                  |
|---------------|--|--|------------------|
|               | dedications." Is this the state's                                    | state's portion and the applicant's        |                  |
|               | portion? Also, curious if the  | portion of the conserved water.            |                  |
|               | instream portion is reserved for                                     |  |                  |
|               | future out of stream use (per –                                      |  |                  |
|               | 0080(2) language), what happens                                      |  |                  |
|               | to the applicant's portion?  |  |                  |
|               | RACM – Comments are similar to                                       |  | Under Review -   |
|               | those for Div 310.   |  | Pending final    |
|               | RACM Recommendation - OWRD   |  | language on land |
|               | should add the language "local                                       |  | use.             |
|               | land use regulations" in addition                                    |  |                  |
|               | to "acknowledge comprehensive  |  |                  |
|               | plans" in order to ensure that the                                   |  |                  |
| 690-018-      | proposed allocation of conserved                                     |  |                  |
| 0040(22)(a)   | water is reviewed for compliance                                     |  |                  |
| 9/18          | with all relevant local land use                                     |  |                  |
|               | regulations, as required by ORS                                      |  |                  |
|               | 197.180(1). Further, if applicable,                                  |  |                  |
|               | OWRD should require land use   |  |                  |
|               | approval from local government                                       |  |                  |
|               | before approving the proposed  |  |                  |
|               | allocation of conserved water.                                       |  |                  |
|               | RACM - What is the current   | OWRD POST RAC: This reflects               | Complete.        |
|               | practice with respect to land use                                    | OWRD's current practice as it relates      | Change made. v2  |
|               | review; is an application to put                                     | to transactions to modify an existing      | draft.           |
|               | 100% of a water right instream                                       | water right to permanently dedicate        | diait.           |
|               | needed a land use review to  | (e.g., ACW or instream transfer)           |                  |
|               | ensure alignment with Division                                       | waterinstream underinstream water          | Possible         |
|               | 310.   | right for instream purposes. OWRD          | Discussion with  |
|               | RACM – recommend OWRD  | feels the proposed provisions in OAR       | RAC              |
|               | remove this section. It is not clear                                 | 690-018-0040(22)(a)&(b) are                | IIAO             |
|               | why this rule requirement is   | necessary to adequately provide            |                  |
|               | needed.  | notice to affected local governments       |                  |
|               | niceded.   | along the proposed instream reach.         |                  |
|               | RACM - We ask that you remove  | atong the proposed matream reach.          |                  |
| 690-018-      | the provision directing the  | OWRD amended OAR 690-018-                  |                  |
| 0040(22)(b)   | applicant to provide notice to                                       | 0040(22)(a) to address equity-related      |                  |
| 9/18          | each affected local government                                       | comments. Notice related to the            |                  |
|               | along the instream reach. This                                       | conserved water, or portions thereof,      |                  |
|               | provides an added burden and   | to be dedicated instream under an          |                  |
|               | cost to those of us focused on                                       | instream water right for instream          |                  |
|               | instream restoration. We are not                                     | purposes, does not require                 |                  |
|               |  |  |                  |
|               | aware of any statutory   | completion of OWRD's Land Use              |                  |
|               | requirement to this end, and the                                     | Information Form; instead, it simply       |                  |
|               | lack of any similar requirement for Allocation of Conserved Water    | requires the applicant to send a           |                  |
|               |  | written notice (e.g., a letter or email)   |                  |
|               | (ACW) projects that dedicate a                                       | to the affected local governments          |                  |
|               | portion of the saved water to  | and to provide a copy of the notice to     | ļ                |
|               | athor 11000 0 110 at a constain lais                                 |  |                  |
|               | other uses creates an unfair bias against projects that dedicate all | OWRD as part of the application materials. |                  |

saved water instream. Finally, water flowing in a streambed should not come as a surprise to local governments. This provision gets us further, rather than closer, to the agency's goals of increased administrative efficiency and provides little actual benefit to local jurisdictions that expect water in waterways. We ask that you remove this provision

RACM - Statute does not direct notifications of local governments along a reach and this is not a requirement for out of stream uses, only for instream and as such, is an inequitable additional requirement. This also time consuming for the applicants.
RACM Recommendation - Propose removal of this as a requirement or confine to notifying only Tribal entities along a reach.

RACM - OEC recommends removing 690-018-0040(22)(b), as there is no direction in statute requiring this and no clear need has been shown for requiring it in rule.

RACM - Requiring applicants to notify affected local governments along the stream reach of the intent to allocate 100% of conserved water to an instream water right. The Tribe disagrees with the addition of this requirement. It is overly burdensome to the applicant and is not required by statute. OWRD has procedures for digital notifications to interested agencies or groups that are satisfactory for this purpose. (25) Changes the existing rule from "shall waive" to "may waive" fees to be consistent with the statute

| 11/19/2025 V2 |                                     |                                      |              |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
|               | language. The Tribe understands     |                                      |              |
|               | the goal, but notes that a          |                                      |              |
|               | generous fee waiver policy for      |                                      |              |
|               | creating an instream water right is |                                      |              |
|               | important for correcting historic   |                                      |              |
|               | harms to Indigenous people from     |                                      |              |
|               | overextraction of water under       |                                      |              |
|               |                                     |                                      |              |
|               | Oregon's water right system         |                                      |              |
|               | despite being subsequent to         |                                      |              |
|               | Tribal Treaties and to the Winters  |                                      |              |
|               | v. United States Supreme Court      |                                      |              |
|               | ruling.                             |                                      |              |
|               | RACM - We oppose the change         | OWRD POST RAC: The language in       | Complete. No |
|               | from "shall" to "may" waive the     | the v1 draft proposed rules reflects | change made. |
|               | application fee (not to exceed      | existing statutory language found in | -            |
|               | 50%). Allocations of conserved      | ORS 536.050(5) and was proposed to   |              |
|               | water to instream are one of        | bring the rules into alignment with  |              |
|               | several tools to return water to    | statute.                             |              |
|               | streams which are significantly     |                                      |              |
|               | overallocated. These projects       |                                      |              |
|               | serve a public benefit and rely on  |                                      |              |
|               | extensive public funding. Fees      |                                      |              |
|               | should not be a deterrent to        |                                      |              |
|               |                                     |                                      |              |
|               | protecting the water instream.      |                                      |              |
|               | RACM Recommendation - These         |                                      |              |
|               | projects serve a public interest    |                                      |              |
|               | and rely on extensive public        |                                      |              |
|               | funding. Retain the "shall waive."  |                                      |              |
|               | The rule already states that if the |                                      |              |
| 690-018-      | applicant puts less than 50%        |                                      |              |
| 0040(25)      | instream, the waiver can be less    |                                      |              |
| 0040(23)      |                                     |                                      |              |
|               | than 50%. As an alternative – the   |                                      |              |
|               | Department could use "shall"        |                                      |              |
|               | waive 50% of the fee when 50%       |                                      |              |
|               | to100% of water conserved is        |                                      |              |
|               | dedicated to instream protection    |                                      |              |
|               | and "may" waive up to 50% of the    |                                      |              |
|               | fee if less than 50% of the         |                                      |              |
|               | conserved water is dedicated        |                                      |              |
|               | instream.                           |                                      |              |
|               | RACM - We oppose elimination of     |                                      |              |
|               | the mandatory fee waiver for        |                                      |              |
|               | specified conservation projects.    |                                      |              |
|               | Rules can provide more than the     |                                      |              |
|               | statute requires – OWRD has         |                                      |              |
|               | exercised discretion through        |                                      |              |
|               | existing rules to always waive fees |                                      |              |
|               | in these circumstances and          |                                      |              |
|               | าน เมองอ ดิเเดินเมิงโสมิดิยิง สมิติ |                                      |              |

|   | should continue to do so for  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
|   | specified projects serving public   |  |  |
|   |   |  |  |
| 690-018-<br>0040(25)(c)<br>9/18           | interests.  ODFW-Not recommending changes here but flagging that this initial endorsement may be in conflict with any final determination under a full assessment for a consent to injury recommendation. We add a disclaimer in the endorsement.  RACM - 690-018-0040(25): We request that you do not eliminate the mandatory fee waiver for the conservation projects specified. We find it frustrating that the outof-stream use of water has been granted to such an extent that many of our fisheries have been severely compromised; indeed, many of our rivers and streams would have no water during the irrigation season if it were not for the work of flow restoration practitioners like CTUIR and others. To eliminate the fee waiver for this work to try and correct Oregon's past practices and restore water back to our rivers and streams is particularly frustrating. We respectfully ask that you do not eliminate this waiver. | OWRD POST RAC:  ODFW comment – OWRD acknowledges and appreciates ODFW flagging this item.  RACM comment - The language in the v1 draft proposed rules reflects existing statutory language found in ORS 536.050(5) and was proposed to bring the rules into alignment with statute.  | Complete. No change made.  |
| <b>690-018-</b><br><b>0050(1)</b><br>9/18 | RACM - Division 18, 310, and 315 all have slightly different variation as written (Div 310: unless the recipient has requested mailing, Div 315: unless the applicant has requested mailing or other sending in written form, Div 18: unless the recipient has requested that the notice be sent by regular mail) RACM Recommendation – propose same language be used throughout all divisions.   | OWRD POST RAC: OWRD will strive for consistent language across the various rule divisions as it relates to requests for mailing of documentation and notice instead of by electronic means. The change has not been made at this time because OWRD is still in the process of making revisions, however we anticipate making revisions for more consistent language prior to finalizing the rules. | Under Review - Change not made at this time, however we anticipate making revisions for more consistent language (mailing vs. electronic) across all rule divisions prior to finalizing the rules. |

ODFW - The last part of the Related to ODFW's comment, this Partially sentence appears to be missing a change has been made and can be complete. found in OAR 690-018-0050(1)(b). few words. A recipient would not know that the Director One change determined they should be Related RACM comment (#1), OWRD made – v2 draft. notified in advance, so would not is not proposing to remove notice via be able to request notification in the Department's weekly public One change not writing. I added a few words, if notice. Instead, that element was made. this is the intent. moved from 690-018-0050(1)(b) up **ODFW Recommendation** to 690-018-0050(1)(a). Then, 690-One change not ...and parties that the Director 018-0050(1)(b) was modified as made at this determines should be notified, proposed to avoid duplication of time, however we unless thea recipient has notice to any entity or individual who anticipate requested notification and that already received notice under 690making revisions the notice be sent by regular 018-0050(1)(a). No change made. for more mail. consistent Related RACM comment (#2), OWRD language (mailing RACM - It is unclear why the will strive for consistent language vs. electronic) OWRD is proposing to delete "on across the various rule divisions as it across all rule 690-018the Department's weekly notice relates to requests for mailing of divisions prior to 0050(1)(b) list". By expanding the way it has, documentation and notice instead of finalizing the 9/18 OWRD now must determine who by electronic means. The change has rules. they think should get notice, then not been made at this time because send notice. This is not only time OWRD is still in the process of consuming and burdensome but making revisions, however we anticipate making revisions for more potentially opens the OWRD up for challenge if they fail to notice consistent language prior to someone they should have. finalizing the rules. RACM - different variation as written (Div 310: unless the recipient has requested mailing, Div 315: unless the applicant has requested mailing or other sending in written form, Div 18: unless the recipient has requested that the notice be sent by regular mail) I am proposing that the same language be used throughout all divisions. RACM - Comments are similar to Under Review those for Div 310. Pending final language on land RACM Recommendation - OWRD use. 690-018should add the language "local 0050(3)(c) land use regulations" in addition 9/18 to "acknowledge comprehensive plans" in order to ensure that the proposed allocation of conserved water is reviewed for compliance

11/19/2025 v2 with all relevant local land use regulations, as required by ORS 197.180(1). Further, if applicable, OWRD should require land use approval from local government before approving the proposed allocation of conserved water. RACM - Requirement for OWRD to ensure that the local government comprehensive plan and land use classification is consistent to approve a proposed allocation of conserved water rights. The Tribe's understanding of local comprehensive plans is that they are written to conform with the State's Land Use Goals. We disagree that a local comprehensive plan should be able to prevent an allocation of conserved water to the State from being approved, if this is the intent of this statement. If the goal is to ensure that the local government correct any land use classification conflicts, or that the local government becomes aware of the State's intent to enact a water right via the ACW program, then the language needs to be clarified. RACM - Applicant should be able OWRD POST RAC: Complete. to get consent from the certificate Changes made. v2 draft. holder and that the applicant RACM comment (#1) related to the should not have to be the holder fact that the applicant is not always of the certificate. the holder of the water right -Changes made in OAR 690-018-RACM - The original certificate is 0050(3)(e), -0050(5)(a)(B), not always canceled. Districts 0050(5)(b)(B), and -0050(5)(c), OAR 690-018with a lot of water right activity 690-018-0062(1)(a). 0050(5)(a)(B), have "living certificates" with a -0050(5)(b)(B) new superseding certificate RACM comment (#2) related to issued periodically. "living certificates" – OWRD added a **RACM Recommendation** definition for "living certificate" in Propose - ... the cancelation or OAR 690-018-0020 and modified 690-018-0050(5)(a)(B), partial cancelation of the original water right certificate or living 0050(5)(b)(B), and -0050(5)(c) to

address this comment.

certificate. Not sure if living

certificate would need to be

|               | added to definitions. This might also lead to an update in (a)(C)  |                                     |                  |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|
|               | and in (b)(B) and (c) to recognize   |                                     |                  |
|               | living certificates.   |                                     |                  |
| 690-018-      | OWRD – The draft rule, as  | OWRD POST RAC: OWRD has added       | Complete.        |
| 0050(5)(b)(A) | written, fails to include  | language to OAR 690-018-            | Change made. v2  |
|               | reference to OAR 690-018-  | 0050(5)(b)(A) to correct the        | draft.           |
|               | 0050(3)(i) which specifies that  | omission.                           | G. G. G.         |
|               | the time between completion of   |                                     |                  |
|               | an ACW project and the date by   |                                     |                  |
|               | which the applicant must   |                                     |                  |
|               | finalize their project and   |                                     |                  |
|               | request finalization cannot  |                                     |                  |
|               | exceed 5 years. This was an  |                                     |                  |
|               | oversight and should be  |                                     |                  |
|               | corrected.   |                                     |                  |
| 690-018-0050  | OWRD – need to remove (i) b/c  | OWRD POST RAC:                      | Partially        |
| (5)(c)(C)(i)  | there is no (ii)   |                                     | complete.        |
| 9/18          | there is no (ii)   | OWRD staff comments – change        | Compteter        |
| 0, 10         | RACM - no instream water right   | made in 690-018-0050(5)(c)(C) of v2 | One change       |
|               | shall be issued" should also   | proposed draft rules.               | made – v2 draft. |
|               | reference "groundwater rights."  | proposed arangement                 |                  |
|               | a contract of ground and a contract of the con | Comments related to inclusion of    | Groundwater      |
|               | RACM - OWRD shared during the  | GW – No changes made at this time.  | matter is still  |
|               | RAC meeting that if a groundwater  | Under review.                       | under review.    |
|               | right goes through the ACW   |                                     | <b>GG</b>        |
|               | program, the state's portion of  |                                     |                  |
|               | conserved water is just left in the  |                                     | Possible         |
|               | aquifer without protections.   |                                     | Discussion with  |
|               | Without a mechanism in place to  |                                     | RAC              |
|               | protect the state's portion of the   |                                     |                  |
|               | groundwater right, strongly  |                                     |                  |
|               | recommend that OWRD remove   |                                     |                  |
|               | all proposed rules related to  |                                     |                  |
|               | groundwater projects in Div 18.  |                                     |                  |
|               | g  |                                     |                  |
|               | RACM - Without a mechanism to  |                                     |                  |
|               | protect the state's portion of a   |                                     |                  |
|               | groundwater right, we strongly   |                                     |                  |
|               | recommend that OWRD remove   |                                     |                  |
|               | all proposed rules related to  |                                     |                  |
|               | groundwater projects in Division   |                                     |                  |
|               | 18. While we are firm advocates  |                                     |                  |
|               | for water conservation, the ability  |                                     |                  |
|               | to protect the public's benefit  |                                     |                  |
|               | from these projects is critical. We  |                                     |                  |
|               | know from experience that, in  |                                     |                  |
| 1             | over-appropriated basins, saved  |                                     |                  |
|               | surface water left instream will   |                                     |                  |
|               | only be withdrawn by other water   |                                     |                  |

users unless it has formal, legal protection under an instream water right. Without this protection, the public will not realize the benefits intended from the ACW program. Groundwater is no different. Until legislation is passed to enable the protection of the state's portion of saved water in the aquifer, we fear that an expansion of the ACW program to groundwater via rule would merely enable water spreading without any public benefit. Finally, the statutory language of the ACW program is clear in its contemplation of "instream" benefits; if we are to expand this program to groundwater, it should be done via legislation, not this rules advisory process.

RACM - DRC strongly supports all water conservation efforts. However, this does not seem to follow the intent of Division 18. With new groundwater allocation rules and low availability of groundwater in many basins, how will it be assured that the conserved groundwater is not withdrawn/pumped by another water user or won't result in another water user pumping water that may not have been available prior to the conservation? If the groundwater conservation cannot improve aquifer conditions, it should not be included for allocations of conserved water.

RACM – Note Groundwater conservation is also mentioned in -018-0065(2)(c)(A) and (3)(b). RACM Recommendation - Unless there is a way to protect the conserved groundwater in the aquifer, there would or may be no public benefit or improvement of

| 11/19/2025 VZ |                                     | T                                 |                 |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
|               | the status of the aquifer. Consider |                                   |                 |
|               | removing groundwater                |                                   |                 |
|               | conservation from Division 18       |                                   |                 |
|               | unless or until methods are         |                                   |                 |
|               | established to protect the          |                                   |                 |
|               | conserved water from further        |                                   |                 |
|               | withdrawal.                         |                                   |                 |
|               |                                     |                                   |                 |
|               | RACM - We strongly oppose the       |                                   |                 |
|               | expansion of conserved water        |                                   |                 |
|               | projects to groundwater via rule.   |                                   |                 |
|               | Unless legislation is passed to     |                                   |                 |
|               | allow state protection of saved     |                                   |                 |
|               | groundwater in the ground, then     |                                   |                 |
|               | this new provision is simply        |                                   |                 |
|               | allowing increased consumptive      |                                   |                 |
|               | use (via water spreading) with no   |                                   |                 |
|               | public benefit. The language of     |                                   |                 |
|               | the statute is very clear that      |                                   |                 |
|               | public benefits of the ACW are      |                                   |                 |
|               | "instream" benefits; groundwater    |                                   |                 |
|               | was not contemplated at time of     |                                   |                 |
|               | the law's passage.                  |                                   |                 |
|               |                                     |                                   |                 |
|               | RACM - OEC strongly opposes         |                                   |                 |
|               | proposed language in 690-018-       |                                   |                 |
|               | 0050-(5)(c)(C)(i) and (D)(i)(ii).   |                                   |                 |
|               | Groundwater should not be           |                                   |                 |
|               | included in Division 18 rules.      |                                   |                 |
|               | Expanding conserved water           |                                   |                 |
|               | projects to groundwater by rule     |                                   |                 |
|               | without assurances provided by      |                                   |                 |
|               | legislation that the state will     |                                   |                 |
|               | protect saved groundwater from      |                                   |                 |
|               | subsequent withdrawals is not       |                                   |                 |
|               | acceptable. Until such legislation  |                                   |                 |
|               | is passed, the allocation of        |                                   |                 |
|               | conserved water should be           |                                   |                 |
|               | applied only to surface water       |                                   |                 |
|               | RACM – Similar to comment re: -     | RACM comments related to          | Groundwater     |
|               | 0050(5)(c)(C)(i), recommends that   | inclusion of GW – No changes made | matter is still |
|               | OWRD remove this section.           | at this time. Under review.       | under review.   |
|               | Without a mechanism in place to     |                                   |                 |
| 690-018-0050  | protect the state's portion of the  |                                   |                 |
| (5)(c)(D)(ii) | groundwater right, strongly         |                                   |                 |
| 9/18          | recommend that OWRD remove          |                                   |                 |
|               | all proposed rules related to       |                                   |                 |
|               | groundwater projects in Div 18.     |                                   |                 |
|               | PACM As stated above. CTUP          |                                   |                 |
|               | RACM - As stated above, CTUIR       |                                   |                 |

|          | requests that OM/DD remails this    |   |                   |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
|          | requests that OWRD remove this      |   |                   |
|          | section. (see comment re: -         |   |                   |
|          | 0050(5)(c)(C)(i))                   |   |                   |
|          |                                     |   |                   |
|          | RACM – see comment for -018-        |   |                   |
|          | 0050(c)(C)(i)                       |   |                   |
|          | RACM Recommendation – see           |   |                   |
|          | above.                              |   |                   |
|          |                                     |   |                   |
|          | RACM - : We strongly oppose the     |   |                   |
|          | expansion of conserved water        |   |                   |
|          | projects to groundwater via rule.   |   |                   |
|          | Unless legislation is passed to     |   |                   |
|          | allow state protection of saved     |   |                   |
|          | groundwater in the ground, then     |   |                   |
|          | this new provision is simply        |   |                   |
|          | allowing increased consumptive      |   |                   |
|          | use (via water spreading) with no   |   |                   |
|          | public benefit. The language of     |   |                   |
|          | the statute is very clear that      |   |                   |
|          | public benefits of the ACW are      |   |                   |
|          | "instream" benefits; groundwater    |   |                   |
|          | was not contemplated at time of     |   |                   |
|          | the law's passage.                  |   |                   |
|          |                                     |   |                   |
|          | RACM - OEC strongly opposes         |   |                   |
|          | proposed language in 690-018-       |   |                   |
|          | 0050-(5)(c)(C)(i) and (D)(i)(ii).   |   |                   |
|          | Groundwater should not be           |   |                   |
|          | included in Division 18 rules.      |   |                   |
|          | Expanding conserved water           |   |                   |
|          | projects to groundwater by rule     |   |                   |
|          | without assurances provided by      |   |                   |
|          | legislation that the state will     |   |                   |
|          | protect saved groundwater from      |   |                   |
|          | subsequent withdrawals is not       |   |                   |
|          | acceptable. Until such legislation  |   |                   |
|          | is passed, the allocation of        |   |                   |
|          | conserved water should be           |   |                   |
|          | applied only to surface water       |   |                   |
|          | RACM - Is certified/registered      | Related to RACM comments (#1 &          | Complete. Partial |
|          | mail the only way for the applicant | #2) – Pursuant to the Administrative    | change in v2.     |
|          | to receive the proposed final       | Procedures Act and ORS 183.415, all     | J                 |
|          | order? Can the applicant also       | proposed final orders must be           |                   |
| 690-018- | receive the PFO via electronic      | mailed by registered or certified mail. |                   |
| 0050(6)  | mail service? Emails can be sent    | Change not made.                        |                   |
|          | with confirmation requests          |   |                   |
|          | - 1                                 | #3 comment: OWRD has added a            |                   |
|          | RACM Recommendation - If the        | reference to party status.              |                   |
|          | PFO can be sent to applicant via    | , , , ,                                 |                   |
|          |                                     |   |                   |

| 11/19/2025 V2 |                                      |                                      |                 |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
|               | postal service and/or                |                                      |                 |
|               | electronically, add electronic mail  |                                      |                 |
|               | with a read receipt, delivery        |                                      |                 |
|               | receipt, or applicants' response     |                                      |                 |
|               | to the Department email.             |                                      |                 |
|               | RACM - As we have noted at every     |                                      |                 |
|               | RAC meeting, all rule references     |                                      |                 |
|               | to protests and contested cases      |                                      |                 |
|               | should also include ORS 183 and      |                                      |                 |
|               | OAR 137. And, in addition to         |                                      |                 |
|               | mentioning "protests" and            |                                      |                 |
|               | "contested case proceedings"         |                                      |                 |
|               | the rules need to mention            |                                      |                 |
|               | "petitions for party status". Again, |                                      |                 |
|               | this comment applies to nearly all   |                                      |                 |
|               | rules the RAC is reviewing           |                                      |                 |
|               | RACM – Change to "Department."       | OWRD agrees with this proposed       | Complete.       |
|               | Other references call out WRD as     | change. Change made in 690-018-      | Change made. v2 |
| 690-018-      | "Department"                         | 0050(7).                             | draft.          |
| 0050(7)       | RACM Recommendation - "In            |                                      |                 |
|               | addition to any other authority the  |                                      |                 |
|               | Department may have."                |                                      |                 |
|               | RACM - Not all water rights are      | OWRD added a definition for "living  | Complete.       |
|               | canceled with an allocation of       | certificate" in OAR 690-018-0020 and | Change made. v2 |
|               | conserved water, some are living     | modified 690-018-0062(1)(a) and      | draft.          |
|               | certificates with reductions         | 690-018-0065(2)(b) to address this   |                 |
|               | tracked and superseding              | comment.                             |                 |
| 690-018-      | certificates issued periodically     |                                      |                 |
| 0062(1)(a)    | RACM Recommendation -                |                                      |                 |
| 0002(1)(a)    | Consider revising to cancellation    |                                      |                 |
|               | or partial cancellation of the       |                                      |                 |
|               | original water right certificate or  |                                      |                 |
|               | living certificate. A definition may |                                      |                 |
|               | be needed to describe living         |                                      |                 |
|               | certificates.                        |                                      |                 |
|               | RACM - While CTUIR certainly         | RACM comments (#1 & #2) – OWRD       | Complete.       |
|               | benefits from the lack of            | has modified 690-018-0050(3)(j) to   | Changes made.   |
|               | requirements that the amount of      | address comments related to the      | v2 draft.       |
|               | water saved from a conservation      | need for metering.                   |                 |
|               | project is verified by a third party |                                      |                 |
|               | or the agency, we remain             |                                      |                 |
| 690-018-0065  | concerned that this lack of          | RACM comment (#3) on the need for    |                 |
|               | measurement requirements can         | clarification in OAR 690-018-0065 to |                 |
|               | create the potential for the ACW     | reduce confusion around the ACW      |                 |
|               | program to be abused. Because        | process for approval, completion,    |                 |
|               | so few of our water diversions       | and finalization of an ACW project – |                 |
|               | have metering in the first place,    | OWRD added language in OAR 690-      |                 |
|               | an absence of verification could     | 018-0065(2) to provide more clarity. |                 |
|               | lead to an applicant actually        |                                      |                 |

using more water after the completion of an ACW project than had been used pre-project. That defies the spirit of this program—to create a "new" water supply through conservation—and could unfairly deprive other water users of water to which they were legally entitled. Again, while we are loath to request additional administrative requirements (that we would have to follow ourselves as practitioners), the water resources of the state would be better off if there were additional attention given to the veracity of quantities claimed through the ACW program.

RACM - The Deschutes Basin benefits from extensive gaging and measurement ability. Measurement and management is important to the success of this program in the Deschutes. However, other basins may not be so fortunate. Metering, measurement and verification are key components to ensure the conserved water serves its intended purpose and does not result in enlargement. This may include third party or agency verification of the amount of water saved. **RACM Recommendation -**

RACM - The Tribe acknowledges OWRD's discussion during the RAC about ensuring that the process of finalization is clear and complete, and the original water right is officially terminated, but not before the process is complete, approved, and finalized. This section requires additional consideration by

Consider metering/measurement

and verification.

| 11/19/2025 02                                   | OWRD to avoid confusion.   |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>690-018-0065</b><br><b>(2)(c)(A)</b><br>9/18 | WRD staff – need to remove (A) because there is no (B)  RACM - Similar to comment re: -0050(5)(c)(C)(i), recommend that OWRD remove this section.  Without a mechanism in place to protect the state's portion of the groundwater right, LandWatch strongly recommends that OWRD remove all proposed rules related to groundwater projects in Div 18.  RACM - As stated above, CTUIR requests that OWRD remove this section. (see comment re: -018-0065 above).  RACM - Remove groundwater references until a method to protect the conserved groundwater is determined.  PUBLIC - I support the concerns expressed by Chris, Kimberley and others about the provision in 690-018-0065 (2)(c)(A) of applying the ACW to groundwater but not protecting any conserved water or having a plan beyond leaving it for the next user to access. | WRD staff comment – change made to 690-0018-0065(2)(c) of v2 draft proposed rules.  RACM comments related to inclusion of GW – No changes made at this time. Under review. | Partially complete.  One change made – v2 draft.  Groundwater matter is still under review. |
| 690-018-<br>0065(3)(b)                          | RACM - Similar to comment re: - 0050(5)(c)(C)(i), recommend that OWRD remove this section. Without a mechanism in place to protect the state's portion of the groundwater right, LandWatch strongly recommends that OWRD remove all proposed rules related to groundwater projects in Div 18.  RACM - Remove groundwater references until a method to protect the conserved groundwater is determined.a  | OWRD POST RAC: No changes made at this time. Under review.   | Groundwater matter is still under review.   |
| <b>690-018-0090 (2)</b> 9/18                    | ODFW - I may not be fully<br>grasping this intent, but a change<br>in POD should be subject to an  | OWRD POST RAC: OWRD amended OAR 690-018-0090(2) to address this comment.   | Complete.<br>Change made. v2<br>draft.  |

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|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
|               | injury assessment prior to         |                  |
|               | approval.                          |                  |
|               | Not sure how (6) plays a part if   |                  |
|               | injury is not provided for in (2). |                  |
|               | Does that mean the transfer rules  |                  |
|               | apply for injury?                  |                  |
|               | ODFW Recommendation – Add an       |                  |
|               | injury assessment to POD           |                  |
|               | changes?                           |                  |
|               | RACM – Similar to comments re:     | Under Review -   |
|               | Div 310, OWRD should add the       | Pending final    |
|               | language "local land use           | language on land |
|               | regulations" in addition to        | use.             |
|               | "acknowledge comprehensive         |                  |
|               | plans" in order to ensure that     |                  |
|               | proposed water permits are         |                  |
|               | reviewed for compliance with all   |                  |
|               | relevant local land use            |                  |
|               | regulations, as required by ORS    |                  |
|               | 197.180(1).                        |                  |
| 690-018-      |                                    |                  |
| 0090(2)(c)    | RACM - Don't agree with removing   |                  |
|               | reference to Div. 5, but if this   |                  |
|               | stays in, clarify that it's the    |                  |
|               | proposed use that should be        |                  |
|               | allowed under                      |                  |
|               | the comp. plan, not the approval   |                  |
|               | itself                             |                  |
|               | RACM Recommendation - "The         |                  |
|               | proposed use is allowed under      |                  |
|               | the                                |                  |
|               | acknowledged comprehensive         |                  |
|               | plan"                              |                  |