

Water Rights

The Water Code Under Oregon law, all water is publicly owned. With some exceptions, cities, farmers, factory owners and other users must obtain a permit or water right from the Oregon Water Resource Department's (OWRD) to use water from any source— whether it is underground, or from lakes or streams. Generally speaking, landowners with water flowing past, through, or under their property

do not automatically have the right to use that water without a permit from the OWRD. One exception is that domestic ground water wells are exempt from

needing permits. Water rights can be researched from the OWRD's website at www.wrd.state.or.us.

The OWRD's home website has links to: "Water Rights" and "Interactive Mapping" where information about individual water rights can be researched using the water right information system.

The "Water Rights" link takes you to a **Water Right Information Search** web page which has three options.

- Water Rights Information Query
- Platcard (POU Summary)
- POD Summary Report



Hugo Neighbors At Water Mtg.

Researching Via "Interactive Mapping"

The "**Interactive Mapping**" link takes you to a **Water Right Information Search** web page which has five options.

http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/MAPS/index.shtml#Interactive_Water_Right_Maps

- **Interactive Water Right Maps**
- Other Water Right Maps
- Water Right Mapping Status
- Water Right Report Codes
- Water Right Data/GIS Themes



The "**Interactive Water Right Maps**" web page takes you to the "**Oregon Water Resources Web Mapping Program**" which allows research of water rights by basin, township, and/or application.

A search by township takes you to the familiar quadrangle map where research is interactive (e.g., search of Section 2, T.35S., R.6W., WM produces Figure 1). The darker green areas on the map are areas that have existing water rights.

On the interactive map make the "Place of Use" visible and active in the table of contents and activate the identify tool ("i"). At this point move the pointer to one of the darker green areas on the map where your interest is and click. The certificate number of the water right for that location will be displayed along with other information. If your area of interest has no darker green areas there are probably no water rights with the property.

The aerial photo map with the location of water rights is also helpful.

More Information

Oregon's water laws are based on the principle of prior appropriation. This means the first person to obtain a water right on a stream is the last to be shut off in times of low stream flows. In water-short times, the water right holder with the oldest date of priority can demand the water specified in their water right regardless of the needs of junior users. If there is a surplus beyond the needs of the senior right holder, the water right holder with the next oldest priority date can take as much as necessary to satisfy needs under their right and so on down the line until there is no surplus or until all rights are satisfied. In Oregon, the appropriation doctrine has been law since February 24, 1909.

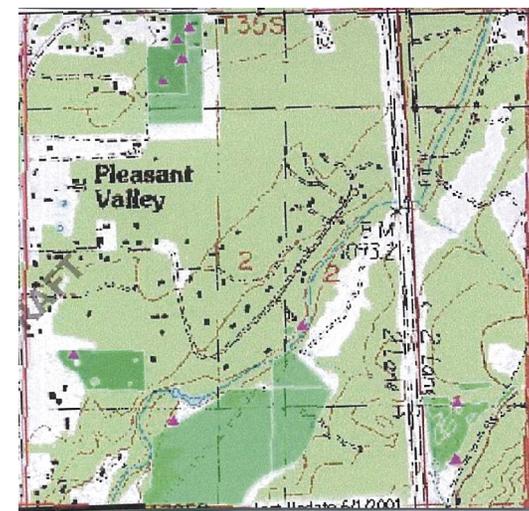


Figure 1 - T35S, R6W, Sec. 2, WM

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood*.

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Make checks to the *Hugo Neighborhood* and send them to our Treasurer. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

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Land Use Committee
**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**

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