



## City of North Bend Water Rights Overview

### Water Rights

- Washington State Water Law
- Washington State Municipal Water Law

### City of North Bend Water Rights

- Water Right S1-00620C, Mt Si Springs
- Water Right G1-26617(A)P, Centennial Well

### Water System

- VFD at Mt Si Springs
- VFD at Centennial Well
- Hobo Springs Mitigation Source

### Future Possible Secondary Mitigation Sources

- Cascade Golf Course
- Sallal Water Association

Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) regulates water rights.

- A water right permit is a permit to develop a water right.
- A water right permit becomes a water right when the water has been put to full use and Ecology issues a certificate of water right.
- For rivers, minimum instream flows specified under WAC 173-500 are a water right.
- Municipal water rights are not subject to the “use it or lose it” principle applicable to private water rights. Municipal water rights are subject to the requirement to conserve water.

The City of North Bend (City) has two water rights. The City pumps water from Mt. Si Springs under Water Right S1-00620C. The City is allowed to pump up to 336 acre-feet per year from Mt Si Springs, as long as it allows 3 cubic feet per second (cfs) minimum to bypass the intake and does not pump above 2,250 gallons per minute (gpm). The City installed variable frequency drive (VFD) pumps in 2017 so that it could control the rate at which it pumps water from Mt Si Springs.



The City also pumps water from the Centennial Well (NB-3) under water right G1-26617(A)P. This is a water right permit that still needs to be developed into a certificate of water right by January 1, 2059. The City is allowed to pump up to 3,094 acre-feet per year from the Centennial Well. However, water use under this water right is subject to minimum instream flow requirements at three locations on the Snoqualmie River: Snoqualmie, Carnation, and Monroe gauges. The City is required to replace the net stream depletion resulting from new groundwater withdrawals in the Snoqualmie River from another source when minimum instream flow requirements are not met at any of the three gauging locations. The mitigation requirement must be calculated every day, and mitigation water supplied from a mitigation source, currently Hobo Springs, if needed.

The maximum annual volume of water that was needed for water right G1-26617(A)P was based on the City’s estimated 50 year growth and existing water demand that could not be met by Water Right S1-00620C. These demand projections were developed in 2004. Updates to these growth projections will help to ensure that the City is able to develop the water certificate and that sufficient mitigation water is available.

Municipal water rights cover the area supplied by the water system and include the planned growth within the water system area. The City has the ability to optimize water use (i.e., minimize mitigation water needed) in order to promote sustainable use and environmental stewardship of its water sources and mitigation sources.