

# 5 Things to Know

## Water Right Application

1. In December 2023 the City of Bend submitted an application for a new groundwater permit. Using water in Oregon generally requires a water right from the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD).
2. The purpose of the water right application is to ensure we have access to sufficient water to maintain storage for fire flows and to meet customer needs. The City requested a rate of 6.2 cubic feet per second, equivalent to about 4 million gallons per day, which is projected to be sufficient to meet the peak demands of the City's water service population through 2045.
3. The City's conservation efforts (leak-detection, outreach, rebate programs, water waste restrictions, etc.) have successfully reduced per capita water demands, particularly during the peak demand season, and these programs will continue. Over the past 10 years, per capita water demands have decreased despite significant population growth. However, overall water demand and use are continuing to increase slightly, and the City's water plans and projections identify the need for some additional water in the future.
4. Considering unmet housing needs, continued projected growth, and the uncertain impact of warming temperatures on water demands, the City must use all available tools to plan for its water future, including seeking a new water right - a step that will allow the City to maintain flexibility to meet future water demands.
5. The City of Bend provides water to about 75% of the Bend population. Bend's population is about 102,000. (The remainder are served primarily by private water providers Avion and Roats). The City's water comes from two sources – surface water from the Bridge Creek watershed located in US Forest Service land west of the city, and groundwater drawn from 20 wells located across the city. The City has water rights for these sources, and the proposed new water right would provide access as needed in the future for additional groundwater only.

[www.bendoregon.gov/water](http://www.bendoregon.gov/water)



### **Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities**

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact Lori Faha, Environmental Resources Manager, at [lfaha@bendoregon.gov](mailto:lfaha@bendoregon.gov) or 541-317-3025. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

