



SNOQUALMIE VALLEY Watershed Improvement District

2018 Short-Term Water Right Leasing Program

Frequently Asked Questions

This document presents information about the 2018 Snoqualmie Valley Short Term Water Right Leasing Program. The Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (SVWID) will be accepting requests to lease water from WID members. To participate in the Short-Term Water Right Leasing Program, potential lessees must submit a Participant Form and then the SVWID will attempt to match lessees them with available water supply. All water transfers must be approved by the Department of Ecology.

If additional questions and answers are added to these FAQs they will be posted on the SVWID's website so please check the website or contact the SVWID for additional information.

If I am interested in obtaining water for 2018 and beyond, what do I need to do?

Submit a Water Request form to the SVWID within the *Marketing Window*: **October 15th -December 1st 2017**. Request forms must be submitted by close of business on December 1st.

Who is eligible to lease water for use on their farm in 2018?

All SVWID members and their tenants can submit a request to lease water rights for use on their farm during the 2018 irrigation season. Due to Department of Ecology rules and regulations about where and how water rights can be moved, final eligibility to receive water rights can only be determined after water right transfers are filed and reviewed by Ecology.

How much will it cost to lease water rights?

The SVWID is offering water at \$125/ acre-foot to eligible buyers. For the 2017 irrigation season, SVWID conducted a two-way water right auction that resulted in a \$125/acre-foot market price for 1-year water right leases. In addition to the \$125 /acre-foot water price, buyers will also be required to pay a \$50 Department of Ecology administrative processing fee and a \$250 fee to cover SVWID administrative costs. This one-time fee is for the duration of the lease of one to five years.

For what duration can I lease water?

The SVWID is accepting requests for water right leases from one to five. You must choose a lease term of between one and five years when you submit your Water Request Form.

What will the SVWID do if they receive more requests than water that is available?

If demand for water exceeds supply, the SVWID will first attempt to solicit additional water supplies to meet the requested need. If this effort is not successful, the WID Board of Commissioners will determine a procedure for allocating available water.

How does SVWID match buyer’s requests to lease water with available water?

Once the marketing window is closed and SVWID knows how much water is requested and for what duration and in which location, the SVWID will attempt match available water supply with demand. Under Washington water law and policy, not all sources of water right supply are a good match for all water right sources of demand so the SVWID works closely with the Department of Ecology to ensure that acceptable matches are made.

Questions about the Contracting and Leasing Process

If my request for water is accepted what do I do next?

The SVWID will provide you with instructions once your request is accepted. The key steps will be to cooperate with the SVWID in submitting the change application to the Department of Ecology and signing a lease contract with SVWID. Payments will be due in the first year after the Department of Ecology approves the water right transfer (expected around May 1). For water right leases of more than one-year payment is due on October 15th annually after the first year. A payment plan may be available, by written or email request to the director (cynthia@svwid.com), for buyers who cannot pay their entire payment by the payment due date. Buyers whose requests are accepted but who do not pay in full by the final payment date or as agreed to in a payment plan will no longer be considered members of the SVWID in good standing, and may not be eligible to receive water from the SVWID until they are back in good standing.

What is the role of Department of Ecology in the 2018 Short Term Water Right Lease Program?

The Washington State Department of Ecology is the state agency that manages water resources. All changes to water rights including temporarily moving water rights from one user to another must be approved first by the Department of Ecology. The SVWID is working closely with Ecology to make sure that proposed temporary transfers that are identified in the auction can be approved efficiently before the start of the 2018 irrigation season.

What key dates do I need to remember?

| Dates | Activity |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Oct. 15 th -Dec. 1st 2017 | Marketing Window: SVWID accepts requests to lease water |
| January 8, 2018 | SVWID notifies participants if they are able to match their request for water with supply |
| February 1-15, 2018 | SVWID submits change applications to Ecology |
| February – March 2018 | Lease contracts with SVWID signed with buyers |
| On or about May 1, 2018 | Ecology approval expected; 2018 payment due; Irrigation season begins |
| On or about October 1 2018 | Irrigation season ends |
| October 15 th , 2018 | Subsequent year payments due from buyers |

Where can I get more information or have my questions answered?

- Visit the SVWID website at svwid.com
- Call 425-549-0316 or email Cynthia at cynthia@svwid.com.