SNOQUALMIE VALLEY
Watershed Improvement District

2027 Short-Term Water Right Leasing Program
Frequently Asked Questions

This document presents information about the 2027 Snoqualmie Valley Short Term Water Right Leasing Program. The Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (SVWID) will be accepting requests from SVWID members to lease water. 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 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 (svwid.com)

If I am interested in obtaining water for 2027 and beyond, what do I need to do?
Submit a Water Request form to the SVWID within the *Marketing Window*: **November 15 - December 31, 2026.** Request forms must be submitted by close of business on December 31.

Who is eligible to lease water for use on their farm in 2027?
All SVWID members and their tenants can submit a request to lease water rights for use on their farm during the 2027 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. Beginning in 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, for new applicants, a $300 fee to cover SVWID administrative costs. This one-time fee is for the duration of the lease of one to five years. Renewing water buyers in 2027 will be required to pay the $50 Ecology fee.

For what duration can I lease water?
The SVWID is accepting requests for water right leases from one to five years. 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. Water lease payments will be due on October 31, 2027. A payment plan may be available, by written or email request to the Director (erin@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 2027 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 2027 irrigation season.

What key dates do I need to remember?

Dates	Activity
November 15 - December 31, 2026	Marketing Window: SVWID accepts requests to lease water.
February 15, 2027	SVWID notifies participants if they are able to match their request for water with supply; SVWID submits change applications to Ecology.
On or about March 31, 2027	Ecology responses expected; Publication of public notice if required by Ecology (30-day comment period may be required for lease terms greater than 1 year); Executed leases with Buyers complete; Invoices sent.
October 31, 2027	Payments due from Buyers.
On or about October 31, 2027	Irrigation season ends.

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

- Call 425-549-0316 or email Erin at erin@svwid.com.