



# Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Overview - Grass Carp Stocking Permit Process

Dear Applicant:

A permit from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is required to stock grass carp in Oregon.

Grass carp can be beneficial if stocked and contained in an appropriate location. However, fish that escape or are released from a permitted site can cause significant damage to aquatic habitat and other fish and wildlife. The permit process and requirements ensure fish are stocked where they can provide benefit, but at little or no risk to other waters.

The Grass Carp Stocking Permit requirements are defined in-part by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR). A copy of the OARs specific to grass carp is attached. The information you provide in the application will allow the department to determine if your proposed site and management plan meets these requirements. These include:

- Grass carp cannot be stocked where they will be detrimental to any population of a state or federally listed threatened or endangered species, or their habitat.
- Grass carp may only be stocked in waterbodies on private land or on land owned or controlled by an irrigation or drainage district. Public access to any site must be restricted so that no individual or entity may remove grass carp from the site and transport them to any other location without prior written approval from ODFW.
- Lakes, ponds, or reservoirs in which grass carp will be stocked must have a surface area of less than 10 acres.
- The applicant must have a valid water right for the waterbody, if one is required.
- All inlets and outlets of a waterbody in which grass carp will be stocked must be screened with screens approved by ODFW (Note: At a minimum, screens must be self-cleaning or fixed panels installed in tandem to allow one screen at a time to be removed for cleaning, with a third backup screen available for emergency replacement. Each screen must have an opening of 1 inch or less for fish 12-19 inches total length, or 2 inches or less for fish over 19 inches total length).
- The permit approval process includes a site visit and evaluation by ODFW staff.
- Grass carp must be obtained from an approved supplier. The list of suppliers currently approved for transporting grass carp into Oregon is attached.
- Grass carp must be sterile (i.e. genetically triploid).
- Grass carp must be 12 inches or greater in length.
- Each grass carp must be implanted with a unique Passive Induced Transmitter tag (PIT-tag) of frequency 134.2 kilohertz.

The Grass Carp Stocking Permit process includes the following steps:

1. Research the various aquatic vegetation management and control options available to ensure the use of grass carp will be the most effective or preferred approach.
2. Contact the ODFW Grass Carp Stocking Permit Coordinator (Coordinator) to obtain a copy of the Permit Application and Management Plan for Stocking Triploid Grass Carp.
3. Before beginning, carefully read through the application to familiarize yourself with what information will be needed. Also, confer with the supplier to discuss an appropriate stocking rate for your site and the estimated cost.
4. Include with your application the following:
  - a. A map showing the location of the waterbody;
  - b. A detailed map of the waterbody;
  - c. A copy of the valid water right, if necessary;
  - d. Additional supporting material, if desired (photos, maps, diagrams, etc.).
5. Mail the completed application to:

Grass Carp Permit Coordinator  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302
6. After receiving your application, the Coordinator will review it to make sure it's complete, then will contact you to confirm this or if there are any questions or additional information is needed.
7. A copy of the completed application will be forwarded by the Coordinator to the ODFW District Fish Biologist (Biologist) for your area. The Biologist will then contact you to arrange an appointment for the site visit and inspection.
8. If after visiting the proposed site the Biologist has determined that it meets the physical requirements, they will sign and return the application to the Coordinator. However, if they determine it does not meet the requirements, the Biologist will explain to you the reasons for this. Any changes or modifications subsequently made to the site to meet these requirements must be confirmed by the Biologist before the application can receive their signature.
9. The Coordinator will forward the application signed by the Biologist to the ODFW Region for review and approval.
10. After the application has been approved by the Biologist and Region, the Coordinator will notify you that the application will be approved by ODFW pending payment of the Grass Carp Stocking Permit and Fish Transport Permit fees:
  - ✓ Grass Carp Stocking Permit - \$252;
  - ✓ Fish Transport Permit - \$14;
11. Upon payment of the permit fees, the Coordinator will issue and send to you the Grass Carp Stocking Permit. The Fish Transport Permit for the authorized stocking will be sent to the grass carp supplier.

12. After receiving the permit, you must contact the supplier to arrange for the delivery of the grass carp. You must also make sure that the supplier:
  - a. Has received the required Fish Transport Permit (this permit must accompany the shipment of grass carp during transportation within Oregon);
  - b. Will have the grass carp tested for ploidy by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and will have the Grass Carp Ploidy Release Authorization from the USFWS sent to the Coordinator;
  - c. Will send a list of the PIT-tag identification numbers to the Coordinator.

Note: Although the supplier furnishes the documents described in b. and c., it is your responsibility to make sure these are delivered to the Coordinator prior to stocking.

Additional notes about the Grass Carp Stocking Permit:

- Any deviation from the approved Permit Application and Management Plan for Stocking Triploid Grass Carp or the approved Grass Carp Stocking Permit requires written approval from the Grass Carp Permit Coordinator. Any request(s) to stock additional grass carp must be approved by ODFW. Any transfer of live grass carp out of the water(s) listed on the permit requires approval from ODFW
- As a condition of the permit, employees of ODFW or the Oregon State Police shall be allowed to inspect at reasonable times the permitted waterbody (Note: Inspection of the waterbody [**not residence**] may take place without warrant or notice, but unless prompted by emergency or other exigent circumstances shall be limited to regular and usual business hours including weekends).
- The ODFW District Fish Biologist for your area must be contacted immediately if grass carp have escaped from the approved site or conditions are such that they could escape. The permit application must include the proposed procedure for notifying the Biologist.
- The Grass Carp Stocking Permit remains with the property. If the property is sold, please have the new owner contact ODFW to change the name on the permit.
- Permits are revocable at any time for violation of any wildlife statute or rule of ODFW. Upon revocation and if stocking has already occurred, the permittee shall remove all grass carp within two-weeks at his/her own cost and dispose of them in a manner approved by the Grass Carp Permit Coordinator.

The permitting process may take up to 60 days, so an application must be submitted at least 60 days prior to the desired stocking date. However, the review process can go more quickly if the application is detailed and complete and all restrictions or requirements outlined in this letter and the attached OARs have been met prior to its submittal.



# Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Permit Application and Management Plan For Stocking Triploid Grass Carp

### Applicant Information

Name or Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Contact (*if organization*) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Grass Carp Request

Proposed Stocking Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Fish Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
Stocking Rate (# fish per surface acre) \_\_\_\_\_  
Minimum Size (inches) \_\_\_\_\_  
Maximum Size (inches) \_\_\_\_\_

### Waterbody Description

Waterbody Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Type (pond, lake, reservoir, canal) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (*or "same" if above*) \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal (Township, Range, Section, ¼ Sect) \_\_\_\_\_  
Maximum Depth (feet) \_\_\_\_\_  
Surface Area (1 acre = 208 ft x 208 ft) \_\_\_\_\_ *or length x width (ft<sup>2</sup>)* \_\_\_\_\_  
Does the public have access to the waterbody?      Yes              No  
Have all inlets and outlets been screened?      Yes              No              Not applicable  
If yes, describe any screen(s) used \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is the waterbody within the 100-year floodplain?            Yes            No

Does the waterbody require a water right?            Yes            No

**Note:** There can be exceptions, but generally most impoundments in Oregon require a water right. If a water right is required, **a copy of it must be attached to this application**. Water right information can be found on the Water Resources Department website at <http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/wr/index.aspx>.

What is the waterbody used for (storage, irrigation, recreation, fish and wildlife, other)?

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Is the project of indefinite duration? If not, how will the fish be removed and disposed of?

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Detail Emergency Procedures for responding to and mitigating potential grass carp escapes due to floods, screen failure, angling, or other events.

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**Attach to your application three maps:**

A map showing the location of the waterbody as well as area roads and rivers or streams.

A scaled and detailed map of the waterbody including the vegetation present, all inlets and outlets, and screen locations.

A map (FIRM, FEMA, etc) showing the waterbody location in relation to the 100-year floodplain.  
*Note: Floodplain maps can be found on the FEMA Flood Map Service Center (MSC) website at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>.*



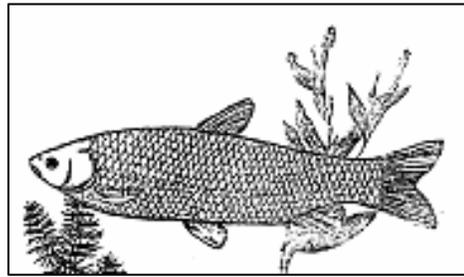
Signature of Applicant

*February 12th, 2026*

Date

**Mail to:            ODFW Grass Carp Permit Coordinator  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302**

*or email to:*



## MAPPING VEGETATION IN YOUR POND

In order for you and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine how many triploid grass carp are needed in your lake or pond, you must provide us with a rough estimate of the amount of each type of aquatic plant that is present. The following drawings should provide you with all you need to know when mapping vegetation types in your water.

There are basically five types of plants to consider when determining a grass carp stocking rate. These groups are emergent plant, floating leaf plants, free floating plants, algae, and submergent plants. They are displayed in the drawings and text that follows.

Please note that grass carp **will not** eat certain types of plants so if you do have majority of these plants, you may wish to consider an alternative to stocking grass carp. Another consideration is that if you are managing your pond for multiple uses (swimming, bird use, fishing) grass carp may not be compatible with those uses. For example, grass carp may not eat vegetation in areas where there is heavy use, such as a swimming area. They can also decrease habitat for bluegill, bass, and other desirable fishing species.

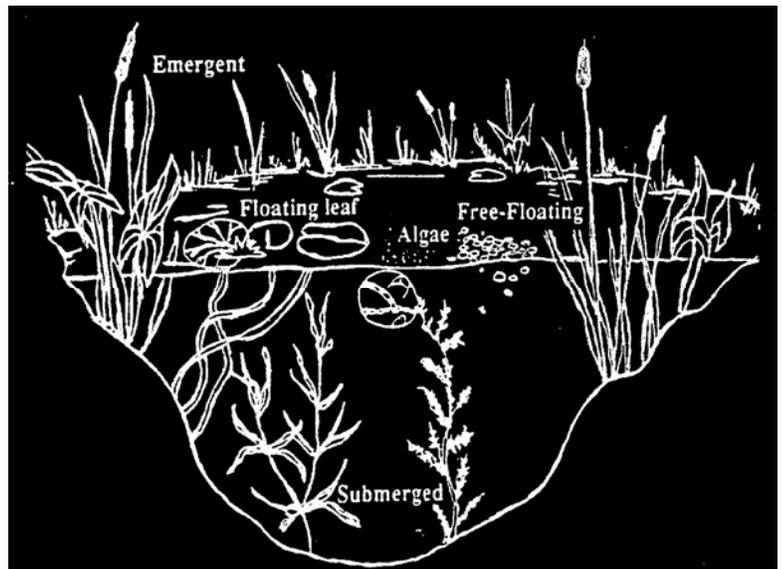
You may also wish to view some websites to help you in identifying aquatic plants. These are a few that may be helpful:

<http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/>

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/waterres/smlakes/weed.htm>

[http://www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed\\_id/aquatics.htm](http://www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed_id/aquatics.htm)

[http://awc-america.com/plant\\_id\\_utility/catagories.html](http://awc-america.com/plant_id_utility/catagories.html)



## Emergent Plants

Typical emergent plants include cattails, bulrushes and arrowheads. Generally, they are rooted in the lake bottom along the shores and grow through the water up into the air.

*Grass carp generally will not eat emergent plants.*



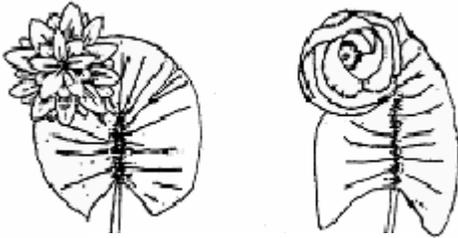
**Bulrush**  
(up to six feet)



**Arrowhead**  
(up to two feet)



**Cattail**  
(up to six feet)



**Water Lilies**  
(2-10 inches across)

## Floating Leaf Plants

Typical floating leaf plants are water lilies (lily pads). The large leaves float on the surface connected by long stems to roots in the lake bottom.

*Grass carp generally will not eat floating leaf plants.*

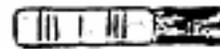
## Algae

There are two types of algae: The single celled microscopic variety which can turn a lake the color of pea soup, and the filamentous kind which forms large floating mats. No leaves or stems exist and the mats are slimy and shapeless.

*Grass carp do not eat single-celled form, but will reluctantly eat filamentous algae.*



*Asterionella formosa*



*Melosira granulata*



*Ceratium hirundinella*



*Synura uvella*



*Anabaena flosaquae*



*Tabellaria fenestrata*

## Free Floating Plants

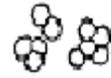
Duckweeds are typical free-floating plants. They are tiny plants which float freely on the surface of the water and are not rooted to the bottom.



*Spirodela polyrhiza*  
(about 1/8" long across)



*Wolffiella floridana*  
(about 1/2" long across)



*Wolffia columbiana*  
(about 1/100" long across)

**Although not highly preferred, grass carp will eat free-floating plants.**

## Submergent Plants

Typical submergent plants are pondweeds, coontails and milfoils. They are rooted to the bottom and in most cases are completely submerged. Some plants in this group float at the surface in large mats, but they look nothing like the floating plant groups such as lily pads and duckweed. This group of plants represents the most readily consumed by grass carp, **although some submergents are preferred over others.**



**Elodea**  
(up to six feet long)



**Thin-leaved Pondweed**  
(up to six feet)



**Water Celery**  
(up to two feet long)



**Curly-leaved Pondweed**  
(up to six feet)

### Preferred submergent plants include:

1. Canadian waterweed (elodea)
2. thin-leaved pondweeds
3. water celery (vallisneria)
4. curly-leaved pondweeds



**Broad Leaf Pondweed**  
(up to six feet – leaves may float)



**Milfoil**  
(up to ten feet)



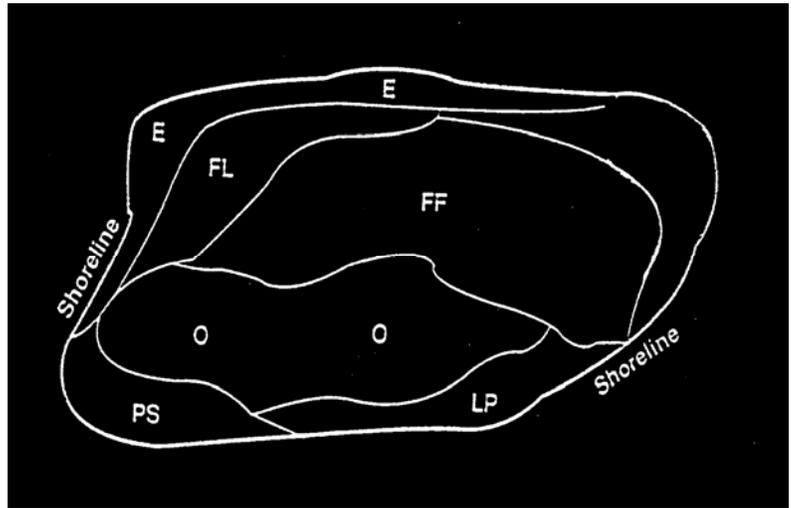
**Coontail**  
(up to six feet)

### LESS Preferred Submergent Plants include:

1. broad leaf pondweeds
2. milfoils
3. coontails.

## Map Drawing Instructions

Please use the area below to draw a map of your water as close to scale as possible. Also, draw in the approximate areas that are covered by each type of plant and properly label each. Plant coverage estimates should be made in July or August or from your best recollection of that time.



FL - Floating Leaf Plants  
FF - Free Floating Plants  
A - Algae

LP - Less preferred  
O - Open water



# Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

## List of Suppliers Approved to Supply and Transport Grass Carp to Oregon

The following facilities have been approved by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Fish Health Services Section to supply grass carp to Oregon Grass Carp Stocking Permit holders:

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1. Keo Fish Farms  
Mike Freeze, VP  
PO Box 123, Highway 165 North  
Keo, Arkansas 72083  
Phone: (501) 842-2872  
Fax: (501) 842-2156

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If you locate another facility that would like to supply grass carp to permit holders in Oregon, please have them contact:

Hatchery Operations Biologist  
4304 Fairview Industrial Drive SE Salem,  
Oregon 97302  
Phone: (503) 947-6249

Suppliers must be located outside of Oregon and must provide grass carp that meet state requirements.

## **Oregon Administrative Rule 635-056-0075**

### **Controlled Fish Species**

#### (1) Controlled Fish

**(a) Grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*):** Grass carp may be released into water bodies within Oregon only pursuant to the issuance of a permit from the Department under sub-section (1)(a)(A) or if identified in sub-section (1)(a)(B). Complete permit applications shall be submitted to Department headquarters at least 60 days before proposed stocking. A fee of \$250.00 (plus a \$2.00 license agent fee) shall be charged for each Grass carp permit issued.

(A) The following restrictions and standards will govern the issuance of grass carp permits:

(i) Stocking will occur only in water bodies which are:

(I) Completely within private land; or

(II) On land owned or controlled by special districts defined in ORS 198.010.

(ii) Stocking will occur only in the following types of water bodies: (I) Lakes, ponds, or reservoirs less than 10 acres; or (II) Ditches and canals.

(iii) Public use of the water body must be restricted to prevent removal of grass carp (by angling or otherwise) by unauthorized persons. At a minimum, the water body must be closed to angling and other use by the general public.

(iv) Stocking shall not detrimentally affect any population of species listed as threatened or endangered by the federal or state government.

(v) Stocking shall occur only in water bodies with fish screens approved by the Department. Such screens shall have screen openings 1 inch or less for fish 12–19 inches total length and screen openings 2 inches or less for fish over 19 inches total length. Screens shall be inspected and approved by the Department before a permit will be issued. The applicant must comply with fish passage requirements (OAR 635, division 412); given grass carp screening requirements, this entails applying for and receiving a waiver or exemption from passage requirements if grass carp will be stocked into waters where native migratory fish are or were historically present.

(vi) Stocking will not be allowed in water bodies within 100-year floodplains (as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on federal Flood Insurance Rate Maps) during times of potential flood. Times of potential flood are January 1 through July 31 in watersheds east of the Cascades and October 15 through May 31 in watersheds west of the Cascades. Grass carp will be removed from water bodies in a 100-year floodplain and held or disposed of during times of potential flood. If grass carp will be held and not disposed of, they shall be held at a permitted site outside the 100-year floodplain. Applications for sites within a 100-year floodplain shall contain a detailed removal plan which shall receive Department approval.

(vii) Grass carp may only be purchased and imported from approved suppliers outside Oregon. Grass carp may not be propagated or held for further distribution within Oregon. Department pathologists shall approve suppliers. Approval will be based on ability to provide grass carp free of

Asian tapeworms and meet health and disease requirements according to OAR 635-007-0555 through 635-007-0585.

(viii) Grass carp imported into Oregon shall be:

(I) (2) Sterile triploids. Documentation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that each fish is triploid must be submitted to the Department prior to release;

(II) At least 12 inches long;

(III) Tagged with a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag of frequency 134.2-kilohertz. Each tag shall be programmed with a unique identification number. A list of unique tag numbers shall be submitted to the Department prior to release; and

(IV) Stocked at a rate not exceeding 22 per affected acre.

(ix) In addition to documentation relating to the restrictions above, each permit application shall include:

(I) Applicant's name, address and daytime telephone number. All property owners of the water body to which grass carp will have unrestricted access must be party to the application and permit;

(II) Location of the water body, including township, range, section and quarter section, with map including written directions for access;

(III) Map of the water body including, vegetation present in the water body, all inlets and outlets, and screen locations;

(IV) Description of emergency procedures for responding to fish escapes from approved sites;

(V) Description of how fish will be removed and disposed of at the end of the proposed project.

(x) An application becomes the management plan upon approval. Permits and management plans shall be specific to particular sites and particular stocking projects. Permittees shall not deviate from permit conditions and management plans without prior written approval from the Department. No person may remove grass carp from one site (as identified in a management plan) and transport them to any other site without prior written approval from the Department.

(xi) An Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fish transport permit shall accompany grass carp imported into and transported within Oregon. If transport is required within the management plan and occurs entirely on the permittee's property, a transport permit is not needed. Any other permit or documentation required for fish import, transport, or stocking shall also be obtained prior to importation and stocking.

(xii) Permittees shall, as a condition of the permit, allow employees of the Department or the Oregon State Police to inspect at reasonable times the permitted water body, permit, and associated records. Inspection may take place without warrant or notice, but, unless prompted by emergency or other exigent circumstances, shall be limited to regular and usual business hours, including weekends. Nothing in these rules is intended to authorize or allow the warrantless search or inspection of property other than the water bodies or fish holding facilities on the permittee's property.

(xiii) Permits are revocable at any time for violation of any wildlife statute or rule of the Department. Upon revocation, if stocking has already occurred, the permittee shall remove all grass carp within two weeks at her/his own cost.

(xiv) Grass carp which escape a permitted water body are subject to seizure or destruction by the Department at the expense of the permit holder. The permit holder shall be held liable for incidental kill of any other species due to or during destruction of escaped grass carp.

(xv) The Commission may grant an exception to OAR 635-056-0075(1)(a)(A)(i) or (1)(a)(A)(ii). Exception requests must be submitted in writing in addition to the normal application and must address the requirements in this section. Unless the Commission determines that an alternative provides equivalent protection to fish and wildlife resources and their habitats, exceptions shall have the following additional requirements:

(I) If the water body into which grass carp will be stocked is greater than or equal to 10 acres a professional topographic survey by a licensed surveyor must be provided for the entire perimeter of the water body showing all points of water movement in and out of the water body. A topographic survey completed by a state or federal agency within five years from the date of application for the water body may be used. The Department shall determine screening requirements from the survey;

(II) Grass carp may remain in a water body within the 100-year floodplain year-round if a professional plan or drawing that is certified by a licensed engineer is provided which indicates that the entire perimeter of the water body is protected from 100-year floods. In order to prevent grass carp escape, screens, dikes, and devices protecting the water body must be able to remain structurally sound within 100-year floods and not be over-topped by a 100-year flood. The Department reserves the right to have a licensed engineer retained by the agency review and approve or deny the plan or drawing submitted by the applicant.