

**RCW 90.66.060 Withdrawal of water under family farm permit—  
Conditioned upon complying with definition of family farm—Suspension  
of permit, procedures, time.** (1) Except as provided in subsections  
(2) and (3) of this section, the right to withdraw water for use for  
the irrigation of agricultural lands under authority of a family farm  
permit shall have no time limit and shall be conditioned upon the land  
being irrigated complying with the definition of a family farm as  
defined at the time the permit is issued.

(2) If the acquisition by any person of land and water rights by  
gift, devise, bequest, or by way of bona fide satisfaction of a debt,  
would otherwise cause land being irrigated pursuant to a family farm  
permit to lose its status as a family farm, such acquisition shall be  
deemed to have no effect upon the status of family farm water permits  
pertaining to land held or acquired by the person acquiring such land  
and water rights if all lands held or acquired are again in compliance  
with the definition of a family farm within five years from the date  
of such acquisition.

(3) For family farm permits under this chapter, if the department  
determines that water is being withdrawn for use on land not in  
conformity with the definition of a family farm, the department shall  
notify the holder of such family farm permit by personal service of  
such fact and the permit shall be suspended two years from the date of  
receipt of notice unless the person having a controlling interest in  
said land satisfies the department that such land is again in  
conformity with the definition of a family farm. The department may,  
upon a showing of good cause and reasonable effort to attain  
compliance on the part of the person having the controlling interest  
in such land, extend the two year period prior to suspension. If  
conformity is not achieved prior to five years from the date of notice  
the rights of withdrawal shall be canceled. [2001 c 237 § 25; 1979 c  
3 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 59, approved November 8, 1977).]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2001 c 237:** See  
notes following RCW 90.82.040.

**Intent—2001 c 237:** See note following RCW 90.66.065.