

**Oregon Water Resources Department
Water Rights Division**

Water Rights Application
Number R-86923

Prior to issuance of a permit and construction of the project, final dam designs and specifications must be submitted to the Department and approved by the Department's dam-safety engineer.

Please include your application number on any documents submitted to the Oregon Water Resources Department.

Proposed Final Order

Summary of Recommendation: The Department recommends that the attached draft permit be issued with conditions.

Application History

On June 27, 2007, White River Ranch LLC., submitted an application to the Department for the following water use permit:

- Amount of Water: 381.9 ACRE FEET (AF)
- Use of Water: MULTIPLE PURPOSE
- Source of Water: UNNAMED STREAM, A TRIBUTARY OF WHITE RIVER
- Area of Proposed Use: WASCO COUNTY WITHIN SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 12 EAST, W.M.

On October 5, 2007, the Department mailed the applicant notice of its Initial Review, determining that "*The storage of 381.9 acre feet from an unnamed stream, a tributary of White River, for multiple purpose use is allowable during the period January 1 through April 14.*" The applicant did not notify the Department to stop processing the application within 14 days of that date.

On October 9, 2007, the Department gave public notice of the application in its weekly notice. The public notice included a request for comments, and information for interested persons about both obtaining future notices and a copy of the Proposed Final Order.

More than 30 days after the Department's public notice, written comments were received from Kimberley Priestley on behalf of WaterWatch of Oregon. WaterWatch contends that water is not available for the proposed use, and the proposed use will significantly impair scenic waterway flows.

In reviewing applications, the Department may consider any relevant sources of information, including the following:

- recommendations by other state agencies
- any applicable basin program
- any applicable comprehensive plan or zoning ordinance
- the amount of water available
- the rate and duty for the proposed use
- pending senior applications and existing water rights of record
- the Scenic Waterway requirements of ORS 390.835
- applicable statutes, administrative rules, and case law
- any comments received

Findings of Fact

The attached draft permit is conditioned to protect scenic waterway flows. Furthermore, the scenic waterway flows in question are fully protected by senior instream water-right Certificate 73237, which protects instream flows that meet or exceed state scenic waterway flows.

The Deschutes Basin Program allows storage of water for multiple purpose.

Senior water rights exist on unnamed stream, a tributary of White River, or on downstream waters.

Unnamed stream, a tributary of White River, is above the Deschutes River State Scenic Waterway.

An assessment of water availability has been completed. This assessment compared a calculation of natural streamflow minus the consumptive portion of all relevant rights of record. A copy of this calculation is in the file. This calculation determined that water is available for further appropriation (at an 50 percent exceedance probability) January 1 through June 30.

The Department finds that the amount of water requested, 381.9 AF, is an acceptable amount.

In accordance with OAR 690-033-0330, an interagency team reviewed this proposed use for potential adverse impacts on sensitive, threatened and endangered fish populations. This team consisted of representatives from the Oregon Departments of Water Resources (WRD), Environmental Quality (DEQ), Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Agriculture. WRD and ODFW representatives included both technical and field staff. The interagency team recommended that additional limitations or conditions of use be imposed on this application as follows:

If the riparian area is disturbed in the process of developing a point of diversion, the permittee shall be responsible for restoration and enhancement of such riparian area in accordance with ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy OAR 635-415. For purposes of mitigation, the ODFW Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Goals and Standards, OAR 635-415, shall be followed.

The use may be restricted if the quality of the source stream or downstream waters decreases to the point that those waters no longer meet existing state or federal water quality standards due to reduced flows.

The permittee shall install, maintain, and operate fish screening and by-pass devices consistent with current Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) standards. Fish screening is to prevent fish from entering the proposed diversion while by-pass devices provide adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish. The required screen and by-pass devices are to be in place and functional, and approved in writing by ODFW prior to diversion of any water. The permittee may submit evidence in writing that ODFW has determined screens and/or by-pass devices are not necessary.

Before water use may begin under this permit, a staff gage that measures the entire range and stage between full reservoir level and dead pool storage must be installed in the reservoir. The staff gage shall be United States Geological Survey style porcelain enamel iron staff gage style A, C, E or I.

Before water use may begin under this permit, the permittee shall install a totalizing flow meter at each point of diversion. The permittee shall maintain the meter in good working order.

The use of water as proposed in this application is not allowed April 15 through September 30 per OAR 690-033, which sets public interest standards for threatened, endangered or sensitive fish species.

Conclusions of Law

Under the provisions of ORS 537.153, the Department must presume that a proposed use will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest if the proposed use is allowed in the applicable basin program established pursuant to ORS 536.300 and 536.340 or given a preference under ORS 536.310(12), if water is available, if the proposed use will not injure other water rights and if the proposed use complies with rules of the Water Resources Commission.

The proposed use requested in this application is allowed in the Deschutes Basin Program, or a preference for this use is granted under the provisions of ORS 536.310(12).

Water is available for the proposed use.

The proposed use will not injure other water rights.

The proposed use complies with other rules of the Water Resources Commission not otherwise described above.

The proposed use complies with the State Agency Agreement for land use.

For these reasons, the required presumption has been established.

Once the required presumption has been established, under the provisions of ORS 537.153(2) it may be overcome by a preponderance of evidence that either:

- (a) One or more of the criteria for establishing the presumption are not satisfied; or
- (b) The proposed use will impair or be detrimental to the public interest as demonstrated in comments, in a protest . . . or in a finding of the department that shows:
 - (A) The specific public interest under ORS 537.170(8) that would be impaired or detrimentally affected; and
 - (B) Specifically how the identified public interest would be impaired or detrimentally affected.

In this application, all criteria for establishing the presumption have been satisfied, as noted above. The presumption has not been overcome by a preponderance of evidence that the proposed use will impair or be detrimental to the public interest.

The Department therefore concludes that water is available in the amount necessary for the proposed use; the proposed use will not result in injury to existing water rights; and the proposed use will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest as provided in ORS 537.170.

When issuing permits, ORS 537.211(1) authorizes the Department to include limitations and conditions which have been determined necessary to protect the public interest. The attached draft permit is conditioned accordingly.

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the attached draft permit be issued with conditions.

DATED September 8, 2009

E. Timothy Wall

for Phillip C. Ward, Director
Water Resources Department

*If you have any questions,
please check the information
box on the last page for the
appropriate names and
phone numbers.*

Protests

Under the provisions of ORS 537.153(7) (for surface water) or ORS 537.621(8) (for ground water), you can protest this Proposed Final Order. Protests must be received in the Water Resources Department no later than **October 23, 2009**. Protests must be in writing, and must include the following:

- Your name, address, and telephone number;
- A description of your interest in the Proposed Final Order, and, if you claim to represent the public interest, a precise statement of the public interest represented;
- A detailed description of how the action proposed in this Proposed Final Order would impair or be detrimental to your interest;
- A detailed description of how the Proposed Final Order is in error or deficient, and how to correct the alleged error or deficiency;
- Any citation of legal authority to support your protest, if known;
- If you are the applicant, the protest fee of \$300 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If you are not the applicant, the protest fee of \$600 required by ORS 536.050 and proof of service of the protest upon the applicant.
- If you are the applicant, a statement of whether or not you are requesting a contested case hearing. If you do not request a hearing, the Department will presume that you do not wish to contest the findings of the Proposed Final Order.
- *If you do not protest this Proposed Final Order and if no substantive changes are made in the Final Order, you will not have an opportunity for judicial review, protest or appeal of the Final Order when it is issued.*

Requests for Standing

Under the provisions of ORS 537.153(7) (for surface water) or ORS 537.621(8) (for ground water), persons other than the applicant who support a Proposed Final Order can request standing for purposes of participating in any contested case proceeding on the Proposed Final Order or for judicial review of a Final Order.

Requests for standing must be received in the Water Resources Department no later than **October 23, 2009**. Requests for standing must be in writing, and must include the following:

- The requester's name, mailing address and telephone number;
- If the requester is representing a group, association or other organization, the name, address and telephone number of the represented group;
- A statement that the requester supports the Proposed Final Order as issued;
- A detailed statement of how the requester would be harmed if the Proposed Final Order is modified; and
- A standing fee of \$150. If a hearing is scheduled, an additional fee of \$350 must be submitted along with a request for intervention.

After the protest period has ended, the Director will either issue a Final Order or schedule a contested case hearing. The contested case hearing will be scheduled only if a protest has been submitted and either:

- upon review of the issues, the director finds that there are significant disputes related to the proposed use of water, or
- the applicant requests a contested case hearing within 30 days after the close of the protest period.

If you do not request a hearing within 30 days after the close of the protest period, or if you withdraw a request for a hearing, notify the Department or the administrative law judge that you will not appear or fail to appear at a scheduled hearing, the Director may issue a Final Order by default. If the Director issues a Final Order by default, the Department designates the relevant portions of its files on this matter, including all materials that you have submitted relating to this matter, as the record for purpose of proving a *prima facie* case upon default.

This document was prepared by Joel Plahn. If you have any questions about any of the statements contained in this document I am most likely the best person to answer your questions. You can reach me at 503-986-0815.

If you have questions about how to file a protest or a request for standing, please refer to the respective sections in this Proposed Final Order entitled "Protests" and "Requests for Standing". If you have previously filed a protest and want to know its status, please contact Patricia McCarty at 503-986-0820.

If you have other questions about the Department or any of its programs please contact our Customer Service Group at 503-986-0801. Address all other correspondence to:

Water Rights Section, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266, Fax: 503-986-0901.

DRAFT

This is not a permit.
STATE OF OREGON

DRAFT

COUNTY OF WASCO

DRAFT PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A RESERVOIR AND STORE THE PUBLIC WATERS

THIS DRAFT PERMIT IS HEREBY ISSUED TO

WHITE RIVER RANCH LLC
56100 SMOCK RD
WAMIC, OR 97063

The specific limits and conditions of the use are listed below.

APPLICATION FILE NUMBER: R-86923

SOURCE OF WATER: UNNAMED STREAM, A TRIBUTARY OF WHITE RIVER

STORAGE FACILITY: A RESERVOIR

PURPOSE OR USE OF THE STORED WATER: MULTIPLE PURPOSE TO BE APPROPRIATED UNDER PERMIT S-XXXXX (APPLICATION S-86924)

MAXIMUM VOLUME: 381.9 ACRE FEET EACH YEAR

WATER MAY BE APPROPRIATED FOR STORAGE DURING THE PERIOD: JANUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 14

DATE OF PRIORITY: JUNE 27, 2007

THE AREA SUBMERGED BY THE RESERVOIR, WHEN FULL, WILL BE 27.52 ACRES AND THE MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF THE DAM SHALL NOT EXCEED 38.0 FEET.

DAM LOCATION: SE ¼ NE ¼, SECTION 4, T5S, R12E, W.M.; 2013 FEET SOUTH AND 1122 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 4

THE AREA TO BE SUBMERGED BY THE RESERVOIR IS LOCATED AS FOLLOWS:

NE ¼ NE ¼
NW ¼ NE ¼
SW ¼ NE ¼
SE ¼ NE ¼
NE ¼ NW ¼
SE ¼ NW ¼
SECTION 4

TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 12 EAST, W.M.

Measurement, recording and reporting conditions:

- A. Before water use may begin under this permit, a staff gage that measures the entire range and stage between full reservoir level and dead pool storage must be installed in the reservoir. The staff gage shall be United States Geological Survey style porcelain enamel iron staff gage style A, C, E or I.
- B. The permittee shall maintain all required devices in good working order.
- C. The permittee shall allow the watermaster access to the device; provided however, where any device is located within a private structure, the watermaster shall request access upon reasonable notice.
- D. The permittee shall keep a complete record of the amount of water used each month and shall submit a report which includes the recorded water-use measurements to the Department annually or more frequently as may be required by the Director. Further, the Director may require the permittee to report general water-use information, including the place and nature of use of water under the permit.
- E. The Director may provide an opportunity for the permittee to submit alternative measuring and reporting procedures for review and approval.

The storage of water allowed herein is subject to the installation and maintenance of an outlet pipe (with a minimum diameter of 8" for any in-channel reservoir). This requirement may be waived if the Department determines other means have been provided to evacuate water when necessary.

The permittee shall pass all live flow outside the storage season described above.

The Director may require the user to measure inflow and outflow, above and below the reservoir respectively, to ensure that live flow is not impeded outside the storage season. Measurement devices and their implementation must be acceptable to the Director, and the Director may require that data be recorded on a specified periodic basis and reported to the Department annually or more frequently.

This permit allows an annual appropriation (not to exceed the specified volume). This permit does not provide for the appropriation of water for out-of-reservoir uses, the maintenance of the water level or maintaining a suitable freshwater condition. If any water is to be used for out-of-reservoir purposes, a secondary water right is required. If any additional live flow is to be appropriated to maintain either the water

level or a suitable freshwater condition, an additional water right is required.

The permittee shall not construct, operate or maintain any dam or artificial obstruction to fish passage in the channel of the subject stream without providing a fishway to ensure adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish, unless the permittee has requested and been granted a fish passage waiver by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. The permittee is hereby directed to contact an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Fish Passage Coordinator, before beginning construction of any in-channel obstruction.

The permittee shall install, maintain, and operate fish screening and by-pass devices consistent with current Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) standards. Fish screening is to prevent fish from entering the proposed diversion while by-pass devices provide adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish. The required screen and by-pass devices are to be in place and functional, and approved in writing by ODFW prior to diversion of any water. The permittee may submit evidence in writing that ODFW has determined screens and/or by-pass devices are not necessary.

Use of water under this permit is contingent on designated scenic waterway flows being met downstream. The user is required to monitor streamflow at Deschutes River near Biggs, OR, gage 14103000, and discontinue storage when the flows specified below are unmet. At the discretion of the Director, the location and nature of streamflow monitoring required to protect scenic waterway flows is subject to change. In addition, the Watermaster may regulate storage under this right if it is determined by the Department that the flows listed below are unmet.

Deschutes River Scenic Waterway	
Month	Minimum Bypass Flow (cfs)
January	4500
February	4500
March 1 through March 15	4500
March 16 through March 31	4000
April 1 through April 14	4000

DAM CONDITIONS

To be added upon approval by the Department's dam-safety engineer.

STANDARD CONDITIONS

Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this permit may result in action including, but not limited to, restrictions on the use, civil penalties, or cancellation of the permit.

If the riparian area is disturbed in the process of developing a point of diversion, the permittee shall be responsible for restoration and enhancement of such riparian area in accordance with ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy OAR 635-415. For purposes of mitigation, the ODFW Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Goals and Standards, OAR 635-415, shall be followed.

The use may be restricted if the quality of the source stream or downstream waters decreases to the point that those waters no longer meet existing state or federal water quality standards due to reduced flows.

This permit is for the beneficial use of water without waste. The water user is advised that new regulations may require the use of best practical technologies or conservation practices to achieve this end.

By law, the land use associated with this water use must be in compliance with statewide land-use goals and any local acknowledged land-use plan.

The use of water allowed herein may be made only at times when sufficient water is available to satisfy all prior rights, including prior rights for maintaining instream flows.

Construction shall be completed and the permitted volume of water shall be stored within five years of the date of permit issuance. If additional time is needed, the permittee may submit an application for extension of time, which may be approved based upon the merit of the application.

Within one year after storage of water, the permittee shall submit a claim of beneficial use, which includes a map and report, prepared by a Certified Water Rights Examiner.

Issued

DRAFT - THIS IS **NOT** A PERMIT

for Phillip C. Ward, Director
Water Resources Department

Mailing List for PFO Copies

Application #R-86923

PFO Date: September 8, 2009

Original mailed to applicant:

WHITE RIVER RANCH LLC, 56100 SMOCK RD, WAMIC, OR 97063

Copies sent to:

1. WRD - File # R-86923
2. Water Availability: Ken Stahr
3. WRD - DAM SAFETY

PFO and Map Copies sent to:

3. WRD - Watermaster # 3
4. Regional Manager: NC
5. Oregon State Parks

<p>Copies Mailed By: _____ (SUPPORT STAFF) on: _____ (DATE)</p>

Copies sent to Other Interested Persons (CWRE, Agent, Well Driller, Commenter, etc.)

11. Cato, Stuart L, CWRE#151

Ronald A. Bush Engineering and Surveying Inc. 16151 SE Bluff Road, Sandy OR 97063

12. Ronald A. Bush, Engineering & Surveying Inc. 16151 SE Bluff RD Sandy, OR 97055

"\$10 LETTER" sent to Interested Persons who have not protested or paid for copies

13. Kimberley Priestley, Waterwatch, 213 SW Ash St Suite 208 Portland OR 97204

CASEWORKER : plahnjm