



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1271
503-986-0900
FAX 503-986-0904

September 27, 2013

CUNNINGHAM SHEEP COMPANY
PO BOX 1186
PENDLETON, OR 97801

Reference: File G-17640

Dear Applicant:

**THIS IS NOT A PERMIT AND IS
SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE NEXT PHASE OF PROCESSING.**

This letter is to inform you of the preliminary analysis of your water-use permit application and to describe your options. In determining whether an application may be approved, the Department must consider the factors listed below, all of which must be favorable to the proposed use if it is to be allowed. Based on the information you have supplied, the Water Resources Department has made the following preliminary determinations:

Initial Review Determinations:

1. The application proposed the appropriation of 385.0 gallons per minute, or 0.86 cubic foot per second (CFS), from Well UMAT 57116 in Birch Creek Basin for irrigation of 32.9 acres and supplemental irrigation of 30.6 acres March 1 through October 31.
2. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
3. The appropriation of water from Well UMAT 57116 in Birch Creek Basin for irrigation is allowable under the Umatilla Basin Program.
4. Ground water will likely be available within the capacity of the resource, and if properly conditioned, the proposed use of ground water will avoid injury to existing ground water rights.

The Department has determined, based upon OAR 690-009, that the proposed ground water use will have the potential for substantial interference with West Fork Birch Creek. Therefore, in accordance with OAR 690-400-0010(11)(a)(B), surface water availability must also be considered. Surface water is not available at any time of year.

5. West Fork Birch Creek is a tributary of Birch Creek; Birch and McKay Creeks and tributaries are withdrawn from further appropriation of unappropriated waters except for domestic, livestock, fish and wildlife uses, and storage, during the period June 1 through October 31 each year by the Commission on December 2, 1985 (Oregon Administrative Rule) 690-507-0060(2)(a)).

6. OAR 690-033-0120(2) prohibits the diversion of water from April 15 through September 30 of each year.
7. The application is subject to Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act.
8. The Department has determined that Well UMAT 57116 does not meet current minimum well construction standards. Prior to the issuance of a permit, evidence demonstrating compliance with well construction standards must be submitted and approved by the Department. In repairing the well(s), you should work closely with the Department and/or a licensed well constructor to ensure that repairs are carried out in a manner that will not violate well construction or other rules. You are encouraged to contact Kris Byrd of the Department's Well Construction and Compliance Section at 503-986-0851 to determine how to proceed.

Please note that repair of the well(s) will not necessarily overcome the potential for substantial interference with surface water and might not result in the issuance of a permit.

Please also note that regardless of the outcome of this application, you will need to work with the Department to either repair or abandon the well(s) to comply with the minimum standards for the construction, conversion, alteration, maintenance, and abandonment of water supply wells in order to protect the state's ground water supply (OAR 690-200).

9. The well requested under this application is located within a five-mile radius around the City of Pilot Rock's municipal wells. Per Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 690-507-0060(3)(a)(B), groundwater use from the basalt reservoir within a five-mile radius around any municipal well of the City of Pilot Rock could be limited to only municipal uses, group domestic uses, or statutorily exempt groundwater uses, if the city has an approved water management and conservation plan in effect. The City of Pilot Rock does not currently have a full-time water management and conservation programs in effect, therefore OAR 690-507-0060(3)(a)(B) will not affect this application.

Please Note: The determinations of this Initial Review are subject to change if a water management and conservation plan is approved by the Water Resources Department for the City of Pilot Rock before the protest filing deadline passes, which ends 45 days after the issuance of the Proposed Final Order.

Summary of Allowable Water Use

Because not all items above are favorable, the appropriation of 0.86 CFS of water from Well UMAT 57116 in Birch Creek Basin for irrigation of 32.9 acres and supplemental irrigation of 30.6 acres is not allowable, and it appears unlikely that you will be issued a permit unless a suitable mitigation proposal is provided prior to issuance of the Proposed Final Order. At this time, you must decide whether to proceed or to withdraw your application as described below.

Please reference the application number when sending any correspondence regarding the conclusions of this Initial Review. Comments received within the comment period will be evaluated at the next phase of the process.

Withdrawal Refunds:

If you choose not to proceed, you may withdraw your application and receive a refund (minus a \$225 processing charge per application). To accomplish this you must notify the Department in writing by **Friday, October 11, 2013**. For your convenience you may use the enclosed "STOP PROCESSING" form.

To Proceed With Your Application:

If you choose to proceed with your application, you do not have to notify the Department. Your application will automatically be placed on the Department's Public Notice to allow others the opportunity to comment. After the comment period the Department will complete a public interest review and issue a Proposed Final Order.

If A Permit Is Issued It Will Likely Include The Following Conditions:

1. Measurement, recording and reporting conditions:
 - A. Before water use may begin under this permit, the permittee shall install a totalizing flow meter at each point of appropriation. The permittee shall maintain the meter in good working order.
 - B. The permittee shall keep a complete record of the amount of water diverted each month, and shall submit a report which includes the recorded report 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.
 - C. The permittee shall allow the watermaster access to the meter; provided however, where any meter is located within a private structure, the watermaster shall request access upon reasonable notice.
 - D. The Director may provide an opportunity for the permittee to submit alternative measuring and reporting procedures for review and approval.
2. The well shall produce groundwater from a single aquifer in the Columbia River Basalt Group.
3. If substantial interference with surface water or a senior water right occurs due to withdrawal of water from any well listed on this permit, then use of water from the well(s) shall be discontinued or reduced and/or the schedule of withdrawal shall be regulated until or unless the Department approves or implements an alternative administrative action to mitigate the interference. The Department encourages junior and senior appropriators to jointly develop plans to mitigate interferences.

4. The Department requires the water user to obtain, from a qualified individual (see below), and report annual static water levels for each well on the permit. The static water level shall be measured during the period from February 1 through March 31. Reports shall be submitted to the Department within 30 days of measurement.

The permittee shall report an initial February/March static water-level measurement once well construction is complete and annual measurements thereafter. Annual measurements are required whether or not the well is used. The first annual measurement will establish a reference level against which future measurements will be compared. However, the Director may establish the reference level based on an analysis of other water-level data. The Director may require the user to obtain and report additional water levels each year if more data are needed to evaluate the aquifer system.

All measurements shall be made by a certified water rights examiner, registered professional geologist, registered professional engineer, licensed well constructor or pump installer licensed by the Construction Contractors Board. Measurements shall be submitted on forms provided by, or specified by, the Department. Measurements shall be made with equipment that is accurate to at least the standards specified in OAR 690-217-0045. The Department requires the individual performing the measurement to:

- A. Associate each measurement with an owner's well name or number and a Department well log ID; and
- B. Report water levels to at least the nearest tenth of a foot as depth-to-water below ground surface; and
- C. Specify the method of measurement; and
- D. Certify the accuracy of all measurements and calculations reported to the Department.

The water user shall discontinue use of, or reduce the rate or volume of withdrawal from, the well(s) if any of the following events occur:

- A. Annual water-level measurements reveal an average water-level decline of three or more feet per year for five consecutive years; or
- B. Annual water-level measurements reveal a water-level decline of 15 or more feet in fewer than five consecutive years; or
- C. Annual water-level measurements reveal a water-level decline of 25 or more feet; or
- D. Hydraulic interference leads to a decline of 25 or more feet in any neighboring well with senior priority.

The period of restricted use shall continue until the water level rises above the decline level which triggered the action or the Department determines, based on the permittee's and/or the Department's data and analysis, that no action is necessary because the aquifer in question can sustain the observed declines without adversely impacting the resource or causing substantial interference with senior water rights. The water user shall not allow excessive decline, as defined in Commission rules, to occur within the aquifer as a result of use under this permit. If more than one well is involved, the water user may submit an alternative measurement and reporting plan for review and approval by the Department.

5. Dedicated Measuring Tube: Wells with pumps shall be equipped with a minimum 3/4-inch diameter, unobstructed, dedicated measuring tube pursuant to figure 200-5 in OAR 690-200. If a pump has been installed prior to the issuance of this permit, and if static water levels and pumping levels can be measured using an electrical tape, then the installation of the measuring tube can be delayed until such time that water levels cannot be measured or the pump is repaired or replaced.
6. Prior to using water from any well listed on this permit, the permittee shall ensure that the well has been assigned an OWRD Well Identification Number (Well ID tag), which shall be permanently attached to the well. The Well ID shall be used as a reference in any correspondence regarding the well, including any reports of water use, water level, or pump test data.

This initial review does not attempt to address various public interest issues such as sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species. These issues will be addressed as the Department reviews comments from the public and other agencies, and prepares a Proposed Final Order. You should be aware that, if significant public interest issues are found to exist, such a finding could have an impact on the eventual outcome of your application.

The water source identified in your application may be affected by an Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. These plans are developed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) with the cooperation of local landowners and other interested stakeholders, and help to ensure that current and new appropriations of water are done in a way that does not adversely harm the environment. You are encouraged to explore ODA's Water Quality Program web site at http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water_agplans.shtml to learn more about the plans and how they may affect your proposed water use.

If you have any questions:

Feel free to call me at 503-986-0816 if you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter or your application. Please have your application number available if you call. General questions about water rights and water use permits should be directed to our customer service staff at 503-986-0801. When corresponding by mail, please use this address: Kerry Kavanagh, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266. Our fax number is 503-986-0901.

Sincerely,



Kerry Kavanagh
Water Right Application Caseworker

enclosures: Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form

G-17640
WAB 7-70687
POU 7-70687
GW

APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: G-17640

Applicant: CUNNINGHAM SHEEP COMPANY

County: Umatilla

Watermaster: 5

Priority Date: March 25, 2013

Source: WELL UMAT 57116 IN BIRCH CREEK BASIN

Use: IRRIGATION OF 32.9 ACRES; SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION OF 30.6 ACRES

Quantity: 0.86 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Basin Name & Number: Umatilla, #7

Stream Index Reference: Volume 4 W BIRCH CR & MISC

Well Location: SWNW, SECTION 30, T1S, R32E, W.M.; 850 FEET NORTH AND 2010 FEET WEST FROM C1/4 CORNER, SECTION 30

Place of Use:

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Supplemental</u>
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	15.0 ACRES	
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$		10.2 ACRES
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	4.3 ACRES	
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$		2.1 ACRES
SECTION 25		
TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST, W.M.		
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	4.0 ACRES	
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$		18.3 ACRES
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	9.6 ACRES	
SECTION 30		
TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 32 EAST, W.M.		

14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: Friday, October 11, 2013

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: Tuesday, October 1, 2013

30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: Thursday, October 31, 2013

Mailing List for IR Copies

Application #G-17640

IR Date: September 27, 2013

Original **emailed** to applicant:

CUNNINGHAM SHEEP COMPANY
PO BOX 1186
PENDLETON, OR 97801

Copies Mailed By: _____ (SUPPORT STAFF) on: _____ (DATE)

SENT VIA EMAIL:

1. WRD - Watermaster #5
2. Applicant - csheepco@gmail.com
3. Agent - bporfily@myl80.net
4. ODFW
5. DEQ

Copies sent to:

1. WRD - File # G-17640
2. WRD - Water Availability: Shawn Turner
3. WRD - Lisa Jaramillo (w/in 5-mile radius of City of Pilot Rock)

IR, Map, and Fact Sheet Copies sent to:

4. WRD - Regional Manager: NC
5. Department of Agriculture
6. Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, Julie Carter,
729 NE Oregon St, Ste 200, Portland OR 97232
7. US Fish & Wildlife Service, Gary Miller, 3502 Hwy 30, La Grande, OR 97850
8. NW Power Planning Council, Fish & Wildlife Division, Karl Weist
851 SW Sixth Ave, Ste 1020, Portland OR 97204
9. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Carl Merkle or Jennifer Hudson
Nixyaawii Governance Center, 46411 Timine Way, Pendleton OR 97801
10. National Marine Fisheries Service, Spencer Hovekamp
3502 Hwy 30, La Grande, OR 97850

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

11. Kim Kratz, Director, Oregon State Habitat Office, National Marine Fisheries Service,
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Portland, OR 97232
12. Gary Miller, Field Supervisor, USFWS, La Grande Field Office,
3502 Hwy 30, La Grande, OR 97850

APPLICATION PROCESS DESCRIPTION FOR GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND REGULAR RESERVOIR APPLICATIONS

In order to take and use the waters of Oregon, a citizen must first obtain a permit from the Water Resources Department. The water must be used for beneficial purpose - without waste. To become well-informed about water right topics, weekly public notice, forms and fees please visit our web site at www.wrd.state.or.us

1. Pre-application considerations

- follow instructions in the application packet
- if you have questions about completing an application or would like to arrange a pre-application conference contact the Department's Water Rights Information Group (WRIG) at 503-986-0801

2. Application filing

- application with fee is received by the Department
- Department determines completeness of application
- if use is not allowed by statute (ORS 538), the application and fees are returned to the applicant
- incomplete application and fees are returned to the applicant
- only a complete application receives a tentative priority date, is assigned a caseworker, and moves forward for processing

3. Initial Review (IR)

- caseworker reviews application by considering basin plans, water availability, statutory restrictions and all other appropriate factors
- caseworker sends IR report to applicant
- contact the caseworker if you have questions about the IR
- seven days after date of the IR, it is included in Department's weekly Public Notice
- public comments must be submitted within 30 days after the Public Notice
- **administrative hold** may be requested in writing by applicant

4. Proposed Final Order (PFO)

- caseworker evaluates application against required criteria and develops draft permit, if appropriate
- PFO includes instructions for filing of protests
- caseworker considers public comments and mails PFO to applicant
- the PFO is included in Department's weekly Public Notice
- public protests to the PFO must be submitted within 45 days after the Public Notice

Stop Processing deadline is within 14 days of Initial Review - use the form below

- applicant may request no further action and fee refund of all but \$225

**STOP PROCESSING REQUEST FOR
GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND REGULAR RESERVOIR APPLICATIONS**

Applicant notification to withdraw Water Right Application # _____

After reviewing the Initial Review for my application, I request that processing be stopped and the fees be refunded (minus a \$225 examination fee.) I understand that without a valid permit I may not legally use the water as requested in my application

Signature _____ date _____

Signature _____ date _____

Under ORS 537.150 (5) and 537.620 (5) timely submission of this request authorizes that the water right application process be stopped and all filing fees (except \$225 examination fee) be returned.

This notice must be received at Water Resources Department by _____

Return the notice to: OWRD, Water Rights Division

STOP PROCESSING

725 Summer Street, NE - Suite A

Salem OR 97301-1271

5. Final Order (FO)

- if no protest is filed, Final Order is issued

The protest process

If one or more protests are filed, permit process consists of:

- settlement discussion
- contested case hearing
- proposed order
- period of time to file exceptions
- possible hearing by Water Resources Commission
- final order issued

Permit holder responsibilities

- comply with all water use conditions of the permit
- advise Department of address change or assignment to new permit holder
- if need arises, request extension of time or authorize cancellation of permit
- submit timely claim of beneficial use (COBU) to Department
- most permits require COBU to be prepared by a Certified Water Right Examiner
- permits may be canceled by the permit holder or by the Department for failure to comply with or one or more permit conditions