



# 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

July 25, 2014

RUSTIN SMITH  
PO BOX 885  
BAKER, OR 97814

Reference: File G-17802

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 4.58 cubic feet per second (CFS) of water from Well 1, Well 2, Well 3, Well 4 and Well 5 in Baldock Slough Basin for primary irrigation of 6.1 acres and supplemental irrigation of 269.0 acres March 1 through October 31 of each year.
2. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
3. The appropriation of water from Well 1, Well 2, Well 3, Well 4 and Well 5 in Baldock Slough Basin for irrigation is allowable under the Powder 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.
5. The Department has determined, based upon OAR 690-009, that the proposed ground water use from Well 1 and Well 4 will not have the potential for substantial interference with surface water.
6. Based upon OAR 690-009, Well 2, Well 3 and Well 5 *will* have the potential for substantial interference with Powder River and Baldock Slough. 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. In addition, OAR 690-033-0120(2) prohibits the diversion of water from April 15 through September 30 of each year. Due to these determinations, it is unlikely a permit will be issued for Well 2, Well 3 or Well 5.

7. The application proposed a water use limit that is higher than the general basin-wide standard and submitted information that demonstrates the need for the higher limit. Oregon Revised Statute 537.621(4) allows the Department to authorize the requested limit except upon specific findings related to the application to support a determination that a lesser amount is needed. The Department has determined there is a need for the higher limit, being 4.58 CFS, which is 1/60 CFS/acre, being 0.10 CFS for primary irrigation of 6.1 acres and 4.48 CFS for supplemental irrigation of 269.0 acres.
8. The proposed diversion falls within a high priority area for streamflow restoration under the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds.

### Summary of Initial Determinations

**The appropriation of 4.58 CFS, being 0.10 CFS for primary irrigation of 6.1 acres and 4.48 CFS for supplemental irrigation of 269.0 acres from Well 1 and Well 4 in Baldock Slough Basin may be allowed during the full period requested, March 1 through October 31 of each year.**

**The appropriation of water from Well 2, Well 3 and Well 5 in Baldock Slough Basin is not allowable.**

Because of the Department's determination, your application can be moved to the next phase of the water rights application review process, where public interest factors will be evaluated. However, due to #6 above, your application will likely be limited accordingly.

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.

At this time, you must decide whether to proceed or to withdraw your application as described below.

#### 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, August 8, 2014**. 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 devices, and recording/reporting of annual water use conditions:
  - A. Before water use may begin under this permit, the permittee shall install a totalizing flow meter, or other suitable measuring device as approved by the Director, at each point of appropriation. The permittee shall maintain the device in good working order.
  - B. 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.
  - C. The permittee shall keep a complete record of the volume of water diverted each month, and shall submit a report which includes 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.
  - D. The Director may provide an opportunity for the permittee to submit alternative measuring and reporting procedures for review and approval.

2. Static Water Level Conditions

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 in the month of March. Reports shall be submitted to the Department within 30 days of measurement.

The permittee shall report an initial 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.

3. 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](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: Kim French-Gorski, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266. Our fax number is 503-986-0901.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kim French-Gorski".

Kim French-Gorski  
Water Right Application Caseworker

enclosures: Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form

G-17802  
WAB 9-30920327  
POU 9-30920327  
GW

# APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: G-17802

Applicant: RUSTIN SMITH

County: Baker

Watermaster: 8

Priority Date: March 17, 2014

Source: WELL 1, WELL 2, WELL 3, WELL 4 AND WELL 5 IN BALDOCK SLOUGH BASIN

Use: PRIMARY IRRIGATION OF 6.1 ACRES AND SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION OF 269.0 ACRES

Quantity: 4.58 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND

Basin Name & Number: Powder, #9

Stream Index Reference: Volume 2 POWDER R MISC

Point of Diversion or Well Location(s):

WELL 1: SESE, SECTION 16, T8S, R40E, W.M.; 50 FEET NORTH AND 150 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 16

WELL 2: SESE, SECTION 16, T8S, R40E, W.M.; 85 FEET NORTH AND 1100 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 16

WELL 3: NESE, SECTION 16, T8S, R40E, W.M.; 2615 FEET NORTH AND 230 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 16

WELL 4: NENE, SECTION 21, T8S, R40E, W.M.; 120 FEET SOUTH AND 80 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 21

WELL 5: NWNW, SECTION 15, T8S, R40E, W.M.; 5215 FEET NORTH AND 80 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 15

Place of Use:

	<u>OO</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SUPPLEMENTAL</u>
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$			37.9 ACRES
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$			38.8 ACRES
		SECTION 15	
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$			40.0 ACRES
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$			31.3 ACRES
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$			24.1 ACRES
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$			40.0 ACRES
		SECTION 16	

<u>OO</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SUPPLEMENTAL</u>
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$		21.9 ACRES
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	0.8 ACRE	
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	5.3 ACRES	
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$		35.0 ACRES

SECTION 21  
TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 40 EAST, W.M.

**14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: Friday, August 8, 2014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: Tuesday, July 29, 2014**

**30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: Thursday, August 28, 2014**

# Mailing List for IR Copies

Application #G-17802

IR Date : July 25, 2014

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**Original mailed to applicant:**

RUSTIN SMITH, PO BOX 885, BAKER, OR 97814

**SENT VIA EMAIL:**

1. Applicant - [rustin.smith@yahoo.com](mailto:rustin.smith@yahoo.com)
2. Agent - [sara@browneconsulting.biz](mailto:sara@browneconsulting.biz)
3. WRD - Watermaster # 8
4. ODFW
5. DEQ

**Copies sent to:**

1. WRD - File # G-17802
2. WRD - Water Availability: Shawn Turner

**IR, Map, and Fact Sheet Copies sent to:**

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

Copies Mailed By: _____ (SUPPORT STAFF) on: _____ (DATE)
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**Affected District (include "Notice of Initial Review--Affected District")**

1. Baker Valley Irrigation District, 3895 10<sup>th</sup> St, Baker City, OR 97814

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

1. Randy & Mary Jane Guyer, 20234 Medical Springs Hwy, Baker City, OR 97814
2. Parker Ussery, USDA National Resource Conservation Service, 3990 Midway Dr,  
Baker City, OR 97814

Caseworker: Kim French-Gorski



# 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](http://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