



Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department

725 Summer St NE, Suite A

Salem, OR 97301

(503) 986-0900

Fax (503) 986-0904

July 3, 2015

ROBERT T SANDERS
31437 HWY 205
FRENCHGLEN, OR 97736

Reference: File G-17921

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 1985.0 gallons per minute or 4.43 cubic feet per second (CFS) of water from Sanders #1 Well and Sanders #2 Well in Solomon Canyon Basin for irrigation of 250.0 acres April 15 through October 15 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 Sanders #1 Well and Sanders #2 Well in Solomon Canyon Basin is allowable under the Malheur Lake Basin Program (OAR 690-512-0040).
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 not have the potential for substantial interference with any surface water source.

5. The application requested 250.0 acres for irrigation however the provided map indicates 229.22 acres. In the absence of additional information, 229.22 acres will be used for the purposes of this Initial Review. If this acreage is not correct, please submit a revised map indicating the corrected acreage by **Thursday, August 2, 2015**.
6. The application proposed a duty that is higher than the general basin-wide standard of 3.0 acre-feet (AF) per acre. In the absence of other information, if the application is approved, the allowed duty will be limited to 3.0 AF per acre.

7. The application proposed a water use limit that is higher than the general basin-wide standard. 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 1/60 CFS per acre. If the application is approved, the rate allowed will be limited to 3.82 CFS for irrigation of 229.22 acres.
8. Portions of the area proposed to be irrigated under this application are currently covered by existing irrigation water rights as evidenced by Certificate 36760 and Certificate 11584, which conflict with the application. Please see the **Conflict Resolution Information** section below for more information.
10. Please refer to the **Additional Information Required** section below for specific information regarding deficiencies with the application.

Summary of Initial Determinations

The appropriation of 3.82 CFS from Sanders #1 Well and Sanders #2 Well in Solomon Canyon Basin, being 1.28 CFS for primary irrigation of 77.05 acres and 2.54 CFS for supplemental irrigation of 152.17 acres, may be allowable during the full period requested, April 15 through October 15 of each year, contingent upon resolution of the underlying water right conflicts.

Because of these favorable determinations, the Department can now move your application to the next phase of the water-rights application review process, where public interest factors will be evaluated.

Additional Information Required:

Additional information is required to process your application prior to issuance of any Proposed Final Order that may recommend approval. Please provide the following item(s):

- The well location descriptions indicated on the maps are inconsistent with the requirements of OAR 690-310-0050(4)(a). Please provide maps that show the location of the wells by distance and bearing or by coordinates (distance north or south and distance east or west **from** (not to) the corner of a recognized public land survey corner. For purposes of this Initial Review, the locations that were used to review this application are listed in the Application Fact Sheet.
- Please use well names that are consistent between the application and the provided map ("Sanders #1" and "Sanders #2" wells).

Please submit this information no later than Thursday, August 2, 2015. If you are unable to submit the information listed above, you may request an administrative hold for up to an additional 180 days. You must submit the request in writing, stating how much more time you will need and why you need additional time. If an administrative hold is granted, your application will not be processed further until the requested information is received or the extended deadline has passed.

If we do not receive the items requested above or a request for an administrative hold by this date, the Department will likely proceed with a Proposed Final Order recommending denial of the application.

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.

Conflict Resolution Information:

Portions of the area proposed to be irrigated under this application, being a total of 150.84 acres, are currently covered by existing irrigation water rights as evidenced by Certificate 36760 and Certificate 11584, which conflict with the application.

If you would like the conflicting portion of this application to be supplemental to the existing certificates, the Department must receive a \$300.00 fee for the additional use and a revised map showing the place of use of both the primary and supplemental lands. Please note the supplemental lands will be limited and/or jeopardized as follows:

- If the existing right is found to have been forfeited, the use which is supplemental to such certificate may also be canceled.
- You may only use the supplemental right after the primary right becomes unavailable. Water from the primary source must be exhausted first.
- The season of use for the supplemental irrigation will be limited to that of the primary right.

If you would like this application to be the primary right, the Department must receive:

- A completed form authorizing cancellation of the conflicting portions of the existing right, along with a map describing those portions; or
- A completed affidavit of diminution of the conflicting portions of the existing right to reduce them to supplemental use, along with a map describing those portions; or
- A transfer application addressing the conflicting portions of the existing right; or
- Another means of dealing with the conflict between the existing right and the use proposed under this application.
- At the time of perfection, the permittee may request that the use be certificated as primary irrigation, if water has been used beneficially according to the terms and conditions of this permit, and if underlying primary water rights are simultaneously diminished or canceled.

Please submit this information no later than Thursday, August 2, 2015. If you are unable to submit the information listed above, you may request an administrative hold for up to an additional 180 days. You must submit the request in writing, stating how much more time you will need and why you need additional time. If an administrative hold is granted, your application will not be processed further until the requested information is received or the extended deadline has passed.

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.

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.

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, July 17, 2015**. For your convenience you may use the enclosed "STOP PROCESSING" form.

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 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 Department may require the discontinuance of groundwater use, 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. **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.
- 4. The well(s) shall be constructed to develop groundwater only from the predominantly volcanic/basalt bedrock unit underlying the predominantly basin fill unit. The well(s) shall be continuously cased and continuously sealed a minimum of five (5) feet into the predominantly volcanic/basalt bedrock beneath the predominantly basin fill unit. The well(s) may not be completed in such a manner to allow ground water to be developed from the overlying basin fill. If during well construction, it becomes apparent that the well can be constructed to eliminate interference with nearby shallow wells or hydraulically connected streams in a manner other than specified in this permit, the permittee can contact the Department Hydrogeologist for this permit or the Ground Water/Hydrology Section Manager to request approval of such construction. The request shall be in writing, and shall include a rough well log and a proposed construction design for approval by the Department. The request can be approved only if it is received and reviewed prior to placement of any permanent casing and sealing material. If the well is constructed first and then the request made, the requested modification will not be approved. If approved, the new well depth and construction specifications will be incorporated into any certificate issued for this permit.
- 5. The permittee shall construct one (1) minimum six-inch diameter observation well to penetrate the same aquifer as the production wells. The well shall meet the Department's minimum well construction standards and shall be cased and sealed to the same depth as the production wells. The well shall be constructed at a location approved by the Department for the purpose of instrumentation with continuous water-level monitoring equipment. The

landowner or permittee shall provide access to Department staff to install and maintain the monitoring equipment. The well shall not be used for any other purpose while the Department is monitoring water levels. The well shall be completed prior to water use under the terms of any permit issued.

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.

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/programs/NaturalResources/Pages/AgWaterQuality.aspx> to learn more about the plans and how they may affect your proposed water use.

If you have any questions:

Feel free to contact me at Barbara.J.Park@wrdd.state.or.us or 503-986-0859 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: Barbara Park, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266. Our fax number is 503-986-0901.

Sincerely,



Barbara Park
Water Right Application Caseworker

enclosures: Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form

G-17921
WAB 12-no PSI
POU 12-
GW

APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: G-17921

Applicant: ROBERT T SANDERS

County: Harney

Watermaster: 10

Priority Date: September 9, 2014

Source: SANDERS #1 WELL AND SANDERS #2 WELL IN SOLOMON CANYON BASIN

Use: IRRIGATION OF 229.22 ACRES

Quantity: 4.43 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND

Basin Name & Number: Malheur Lake, #12

Stream Index Reference: Volume 1 SOLOMAN CR & MISC

Well Location(s):

SANDERS #1 WELL: NWN SECTION 29, T32S, R32E, W.M.; 280 FEET SOUTH AND 2185 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 20

SANDERS #2 WELL: NWSE SECTION 29, T32S, R32E, W.M.; 3290 FEET SOUTH AND 2215 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 29

Place of Use:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	25.47	ACRES
NW $\frac{1}{4}$	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	6.53	ACRES
SW $\frac{1}{4}$	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	19.01	ACRES
SE $\frac{1}{4}$	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	40.73	ACRES
NW $\frac{1}{4}$	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	14.01	ACRES
SW $\frac{1}{4}$	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	14.12	ACRES
SECTION 20			

NW $\frac{1}{4}$	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	2.10	ACRES
SW $\frac{1}{4}$	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	18.45	ACRES
NE $\frac{1}{4}$	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	22.09	ACRES
NW $\frac{1}{4}$	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	1.68	ACRES
SW $\frac{1}{4}$	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	7.63	ACRES
SE $\frac{1}{4}$	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	40.94	ACRES
NE $\frac{1}{4}$	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	13.40	ACRES
NW $\frac{1}{4}$	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	0.34	ACRE
NW $\frac{1}{4}$	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	2.72	ACRES
SECTION 29			

TOWNSHIP 32 SOUTH, RANGE 32 EAST, W.M.

14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: Friday, July 17, 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: Tuesday, July 7, 2015

30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: Thursday, August 6, 2015

Mailing List for IR Copies

Application #G-17921

IR Date: July 3, 2015

Original and map mailed to applicant:

ROBERT SANDERS, 31437 HWY 205, FRENCHGLEN, OR 97736

SENT VIA EMAIL:

1. WRD - Watermaster # 10
2. Applicant - Robert Sanders, ROARINGSRINGSRANCH@GMAIL.COM
3. Agent - Stacy Davies, ROARINGSRINGSRANCH@GMAIL.COM

IR, Map, and Fact Sheet Copies sent to:

1. WRD - File # G-17921
2. Department of Agriculture

Caseworker: Barbara Park

COPYSHT.IR

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