



Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department

725 Summer St NE, Suite A

Salem, OR 97301

(503) 986-0900

Fax (503) 986-0904

January 15, 2016

MIKE WEEDMAN
98720 GOSSEN LANE
WASCO, OR 97065

WEEDMAN RANCHES INC
PO BOX 386
WASCO, OR 97065

Reference: File G-18167

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 the water-use permit application and to describe the 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 supplied, the Water Resources Department has made the following preliminary determinations:

Initial Review Determinations:

1. The application proposed the appropriation of 0.07 cubic foot per second (CFS) of water from Well 1 (SHER 50344/L98286) in Unnamed Draw Basin for irrigation of 1.5 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 (SHER 50344/L98286) in Unnamed Draw Basin for irrigation is allowable under the John Day Basin Program (OAR 690-506-0040).
4. Groundwater will likely be available within the capacity of the resource, and if properly conditioned, the proposed use of groundwater will avoid injury to existing groundwater rights.
5. The Department has determined, based upon OAR 690-009, that the proposed groundwater use will have the potential for substantial interference with Grass Valley Canyon. Therefore, in accordance with OAR 690-400-0010(11)(a)(B), surface water availability must also be considered.
6. Surface water is not available during the period June 1 through December 31 and February 1 through March 31.
7. OAR 690-033-0120(2) prohibits the diversion of water from April 15 through September 30 of each year.

8. Surface water is not available for the entire period requested, therefore, the appropriation of 0.07 CFS of water from Well 1 (SHER 50344/L98286) in Unnamed Draw Basin for irrigation of 1.5 acres is not allowable.
9. The application is subject to Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act.
10. The proposed diversion falls within a high priority area for streamflow restoration under the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds.
11. The proposed use is located above the John Day Scenic Waterway (includes N Fk, Middle Fk, & S Fk John Day R), as designated under Oregon Revised Statute 390.826.
12. Although it is unlikely that a permit will be issued, if the Department's findings change and a permit is issued, the standard allowable rate for irrigation use from groundwater is 1/80 CFS per acre. If the application is approved, the rate allowed will be limited to 0.02 CFS for irrigation of 1.5 acres.

Summary of Initial Determinations

Because not all items above are favorable, the appropriation of 0.07 CFS of water from Well 1 (SHER 50344/L98286) in Unnamed Draw Basin for irrigation of 1.5 acres is not allowable, and it appears unlikely that a permit will be issued 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 the application as described below.

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

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 the Application:

If you choose to proceed with the application, you do not have to notify the Department. The 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 the application and receive a refund (minus a \$225 processing charge per application). To accomplish this you must notify the Department in writing by **Friday, January 29, 2016**. 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. The Director may require the permittee to install a totalizing flow meter at each point of appropriation. If the Director notifies the permittee to install a measuring device, the permittee shall install such device within the period stated in the notice. Once installed, the permittee shall maintain the device in good working order, and shall allow the watermaster access to the device.
- B. The Director may require the permittee to keep and maintain a record of the volume of water diverted, and may require the permittee to report water-use on a periodic schedule as established by the Director. In addition, the Director may require the permittee to report general water-use information, the periods of water use and the place and nature of use of water under the permit.
- C. 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. Scenic Waterway Condition

Use of water under authority of this permit may be regulated if analysis of data available after the permit is issued discloses that the appropriation will measurably reduce the surface water flows necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of a scenic waterway in quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife in effect as of the priority date of the right or as those quantities may be subsequently reduced.

4. Well Identification Tag Condition

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. Be aware that, if significant public interest issues are found to exist, such a finding could have an impact on the eventual outcome of the application.

The water source identified in the 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 the 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 the application. Please have the 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, 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".

Kim French
Water Right Application Caseworker

enclosures: Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form

G-18167
WAB 6-30620401
POU 6-30620401
GW

APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: G-18167

Applicant: MIKE WEEDMAN/WEEDMAN RANCHES INC

County: Sherman

Watermaster: 21

Priority Date: December 4, 2015

Source: WELL 1 (SHER 50344/L98286) IN UNNAMED DRAW BASIN

Use: IRRIGATION OF 1.5 ACRES

Quantity: 0.07 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Basin Name & Number: John Day, #6

Stream Index Reference: Volume 1A GRASS VALLEY CAN & MISC

Well Location: SESW, SECTION 22, T1N, R18E, W.M.; 390 FEET NORTH AND 2275 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 22

Place of Use:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 1.5 ACRES
SECTION 22
TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 18 EAST, W.M.

14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: Friday, January 29, 2016

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: Tuesday, January 19, 2016

30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: Thursday, February 18, 2016

Mailing List for IR Copies

Application #G-18167

IR Date: January 15, 2016

Original and map mailed to applicant:

MIKE WEEDMAN, 98720 GOSSEN LANE, WASCO, OR 97065

WEEDMAN RANCHES INC, PO BOX 386, WASCO, OR 97065

SENT VIA EMAIL:

1. WRD - Watermaster # 21
2. ODFW
3. DEQ

Copies Mailed

By: _____
(SUPPORT STAFF)

on: _____
(DATE)

Copies sent to:

1. WRD - Water Availability: Shawn Ortiz-Turner

IR, Map, and Fact Sheet Copies sent to:

2. WRD - File # G-18167
3. WRD - Regional Manager: NCR
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

Caseworker: Kim French

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