



March 17, 2017

THOR THOMPSON
BUTTE CREEK RANCH LLC
1441 BROWNSBORO MERIDIAN
EAGLE POINT, OR 97524

Reference: File G-18388

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 0.20 cubic foot per second (CFS) of water from Well 1 (JACK 54961/L49363), Well 2, Well 3, Well 5 (JACK 19406), Well 6 (JACK 19404), and Well 7 in Little Butte Creek Basin for year-round nursery use on 314.0 acres.
2. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
3. Uses included in nursery use are fully included in irrigation and agriculture uses, both of which are allowed under the Rogue Basin Program (OAR 690-515). Therefore, the appropriation of water from Well 1 (JACK 54961/L49363), Well 2, Well 3, Well 5 (JACK 19406), Well 6 (JACK 19404), and Well 7 in Little Butte Creek Basin for nursery use is allowable.
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 not have the potential for substantial interference with any surface water source.
6. The proposed use is located above the Rogue Scenic Waterway, as designated under Oregon Revised Statute 390.826.
7. The standard minimum amount of acreage allowable for irrigation at 0.20 CFS is 80.0 acres. Please refer to the **Additional Information Required** section below for specific information regarding the application.

Summary of Initial Determinations

The appropriation of 0.20 CFS of water from Well 1 (JACK 54961/L49363), Well 2, Well 3, Well 5 (JACK 19406), Well 6 (JACK 19404), and Well 7 in Little Butte Creek Basin for year-round nursery use on 80.0 acres is allowable.

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.

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 standard allowable rate for nursery use is 1/40th CFS per acre, being 7.85 CFS on 314.0 acres. The standard allowable rate for irrigation is 1/80th CFS per acre, being 3.93 CFS on 314.0 acres. “Thin water” is considered the minimum allowable acreage on which beneficial use can be made, and is 1/5th of the standard irrigation rate per acre, being 1/5th of 3.93 CFS on 314.0 acres, or 0.79 CFS.

This application proposes 0.20 CFS on 314.0 acres, approximately 1/4th of the “thin water” standard. The Department is unlikely to approve more acreage than what can be made beneficial with the rate of water application. If you would like to pursue a permit for greater than 80.0 acres at a rate of 0.20 CFS, please submit specific information on how you intend to make beneficial use on this increased acreage.

- If you decide to decrease the proposed place of use to make better beneficial use of 0.20 CFS, you will need to submit an updated map indicating what acres you intend to use.

Please submit this information no later than April 20, 2017. 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.

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, March 31, 2017**. 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 (Only From Well 5 (JACK 19406)):

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. Static Water Level Conditions:

To monitor the effect of water use from the well(s) authorized under this permit, the Department requires the water user to obtain, from a qualified individual (see below), and report annual static water-level measurements. The static water level shall be measured in the month of March. Reports shall be submitted to the Department within 30 days of measurement.

Measurements must be made according to the following schedule:

Before Use of Water Takes Place

Initial and Annual Static Water Level Measurements

The Department requires the permittee to report an initial water-level measurement in the month specified above once well construction is complete, and annually thereafter until use of water begins; and

After Use of Water has Begun

Reference Static Water Level Determination

Following the first year of water use, the user shall report one static water-level measurement in the month specified above which will establish the reference level against which future annual measurements will be compared. The Director may require the user to obtain and report additional static water levels after the reference level has been determined. The additional measurements may be required in a different month. If the measurement requirement is stopped, the Director may restart it at any time.

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 and be submitted to the Department on forms provided by the Department. The Department requires the individual performing the measurement to:

- A. Identify each well with its associated measurement;
- B. Measure and report water levels to the nearest tenth of a foot as depth-to-water below ground surface;
- C. Specify the method used to obtain each well 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 non-use or restricted use shall continue until the water level rises above the decline level which triggered the action or until 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 senior water rights. The water user shall in no instance 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.

4. 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.

5. Irrigation allowed under this permit shall be by drip irrigation or by an equally efficient method.

6. Well Identification Tag Condition:

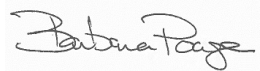
Prior to using water from any well listed on this permit, the permittee shall ensure that the well has been assigned an OWRD Well Identification Number (Well ID tag), which shall be permanently attached to the well. The Well ID shall be used as a reference in any correspondence regarding the well, including any reports of water use, water level, or pump test data.

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 contact me at Barbara.J.Poage@Oregon.gov or 503-986-0859 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: Barbara Poage, 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 black ink that reads "Barbara Poage". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Barbara Poage
Water Right Application Caseworker

enclosures: Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form

G-18388
WAB 15-no PSI
POU 15-no PSI
GW

APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: G-18388

Applicant: THOR THOMPSON/BUTTE CREEK RANCH LLC

County: JACKSON

Watermaster: 13

Priority Date: SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

Source: WELL 1 (JACK 54961/L49363), WELL 2, WELL 3, WELL 5 (JACK 19406), WELL 6 (JACK 19404), AND WELL 7 IN LITTLE BUTTE CREEK BASIN

Use: NURSERY USE ON 314.0 ACRES

Quantity: 0.20 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Basin Name & Number: Rogue, #15

Stream Index Reference: Volume 2A LT BUTTE CR

Point of Diversion or Well Location(s):

WELL 1: SWSE SECTION 6, T36S, R1E, W.M.; 83 FEET NORTH AND 1346 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 6

WELL 2: NWSE SECTION 6, T36S, R1E, W.M.; 1507 FEET NORTH AND 2418 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 6

WELL 3: NWSE SECTION 6, T36S, R1E, W.M.; 1526 FEET NORTH AND 2375 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 6

WELL 5: NESE SECTION 6, T36S, R1E, W.M.; 1610 FEET NORTH AND 4420 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 6

WELL 6: SWNE SECTION 6, T36S, R1E, W.M.; 3275 FEET NORTH AND 2116 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 6

WELL 7: NENE SECTION 6, T36S, R1E, W.M.; 4120 FEET NORTH AND 1063 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 6

Place of Use:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 22.5 ACRES
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 13.5 ACRES
SECTION 31
TOWNSHIP 35 SOUTH, RANGE 1 EAST, W.M.

(Continued on the next page)

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 40.0 ACRES
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 40.0 ACRES
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 40.0 ACRES
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 40.0 ACRES
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 40.0 ACRES
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 40.0 ACRES
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 38.0 ACRES

SECTION 6

TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 1 EAST, W.M.

14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: Friday, March 31, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: Thursday, April 20, 2017

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