



Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department
725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 986-0900
Fax (503) 986-0904

Water Right Application Initial Review

September 8, 2017

J & M COOMBS RANCH
27577 SUMMIT PRAIRIE RD
PRAIRIE CITY OR 97869

Reference: G-18547

Application G-18547 proposes the appropriation of 2.03 cubic feet per second (CFS) of water, being 1.74 CFS from Well 2 (GRAN 50836/L73947) and 0.29 CFS from Well 4 (GRAN 50838/L73949) in Falman Spring Drainage Basin for irrigation of 320.0 acres April 1 through September 30 of each year.

Summary

The proposed groundwater use will have the potential for substantial interference with an unnamed tributary to John Day River and with Dixie Creek, tributary to John Day River. Therefore, in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 690-400-0010(11)(a)(B), surface water availability must also be considered. Surface water is available during the period April 1 through May 30. **It is unlikely that the application will be approved unless a suitable mitigation proposal is provided prior to issuance of the Proposed Final Order.**

This initial review does not 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. If significant public interest issues are identified, they could have an impact on the eventual outcome of the application.

At this time, you must decide whether to proceed or to withdraw the application.

Proceed

If you choose to proceed with the application you do not have to notify the Department. The application will 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.

Withdraw

You may withdraw the application and receive a refund (minus a \$260 processing charge per application). You must notify the Department in writing by **Friday, September 29, 2017**. For your convenience you may use the enclosed "STOP PROCESSING" form.

Initial Review Preliminary Determinations (OAR 690-310-0080)

1. The application proposed the appropriation of 2.03 CFS of water, being 1.74 CFS from Well 2 (GRAN 50836/L73947) and 0.29 CFS from Well 4 (GRAN 50838/L73949) in Falman Spring Drainage Basin for irrigation of 320.0 acres April 1 through September 30 of each year.
2. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
3. Groundwater will likely be available within the capacity of the resource, and if properly conditioned (and if authorized), the proposed use of groundwater will avoid injury to existing groundwater rights.
4. The Department has determined, based upon OAR 690-009, that the proposed groundwater use will have the potential for substantial interference with an unnamed tributary to John Day River and with Dixie Creek, tributary to John Day River. Therefore, in accordance with OAR 690-400-0010(11)(a)(B), surface water availability must also be considered. Surface water is available only during the period April 1 through May 30.
5. Irrigation is allowed under the John Day Basin Program (OAR 690-506-0010(2) and OAR 690-506-0040(2)); however OAR 690-506-0040(2)(a) states that the waters from Dixie Creek may be used for irrigation only between January 1 and June 15.
6. OAR 690-033-0120(2) prohibits the diversion of water from April 15 through September 30 each year.
7. The proposed use is located above the John Day Scenic Waterway, as designated under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 390.826. The Department has determined, based upon OAR 690-310-0260, that there is not a preponderance of evidence that the proposed use of groundwater 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.
8. The points of appropriation are not located within a Critical, Limited, or Withdrawn Groundwater Area.
9. Because this application will have an impact on surface water flows where the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has identified that sensitive, threatened or endangered fish are present, this application will be reviewed by at least ODFW and the Department of Environmental Quality in accordance with OAR 690-033 rules. This review could have an impact on the eventual outcome of your application. This review

could cause your application to be proposed for denial, the season of use to be shortened or impacted in some other way when the Department issues a proposed final order at the next stage of processing.

10. The proposed diversion falls within a high priority area for streamflow restoration under the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds.

11. Documentation has been submitted from the relevant land-use planning jurisdiction that indicates the proposed use is allowed outright. 537.621(3)(b); 690-310-0150(2)(b)

If a Permit is Issued it will Likely Include the Following Conditions:

1. Construction of the well shall begin within five years of the date of permit issuance. The deadline to begin construction may not be extended. This permit is subject to cancellation proceedings if the begin construction deadline is missed.
2. If the number, location, source, or construction of any well deviates from that proposed in the permit application or required by permit conditions, this permit may not be valid, unless the Department authorizes the change in writing.

3. 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 used each month, and shall submit an annual report which includes the recorded 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.

4. Annual Measurement Condition:

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.

5. Scenic Water Way 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.

6. Substantial Interference Condition:

If substantial interference with 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.

7. If the number, location, source, or construction of any well deviates from that proposed in the permit application or required by permit conditions, this permit may be subject to cancellation, unless the Department authorizes the change in writing.

8. Dedicated Measuring Tube Condition:

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.

9. 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 include the application number in all correspondence. 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,



Barbara Poage
Water Right Application Specialist

enclosures: Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form

G-18547
WAB: 6-213

APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: G-18547

Applicant: J & M COOMBS RANCH

County: GRANT

Watermaster: Eric Julsrud, 4, NCR

Priority Date: August 11, 2017

Source: WELL 2 (GRAN 50836/L73947) AND WELL 4 (GRAN 50838/L73949) IN FALMAN SPRING DRAINAGE

Use: IRRIGATION of 320.0 ACRES

Quantity: 2.03 CFS, BEING 1.73 CFS FROM WELL 2 (GRAN 50836/L73947) AND 0.29 CFS FROM WELL 4 (GRAN 50838/L73949)

Basin Name & Number: John Day, #6

WAB: JOHN DAY R > COLUMBIA R - AB LITTLE PINE CR

Well Location(s):

POA	POA Name	Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
1	WELL 2 (GRAN 50836/L73947)	12 S	33 E	WM	34	NW NW	1290 FEET SOUTH AND 1230 FEET EAST FROM NW CORNER, SECTION 34
2	WELL 4 (GRAN 50838/L73949)	12 S	33 E	WM	34	SE NW	1450 FEET SOUTH AND 1700 FEET EAST FROM NW CORNER, SECTION 34

Place of Use:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
12 S	33 E	WM	34	NE NE	33.40
12 S	33 E	WM	34	NW NE	34.50
12 S	33 E	WM	34	SW NE	22.50

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
12 S	33 E	WM	34	SE NE	24.10
12 S	33 E	WM	34	NE NW	27.80
12 S	33 E	WM	34	SE NW	31.90
12 S	33 E	WM	34	NE SW	15.60
12 S	33 E	WM	34	SE SW	15.00
12 S	33 E	WM	34	NE SE	37.30
12 S	33 E	WM	34	NW SE	21.00
12 S	33 E	WM	34	SW SE	16.90
12 S	33 E	WM	34	SE SE	40.00

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: Tuesday, September 12, 2017

14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: Friday, September 22, 2017

30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: Thursday, October 12, 2017

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

In order to use the waters of Oregon, an application must be submitted and a permit obtained from the Water Resources Department. The water must be used for beneficial purpose without waste. For more information 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 Customer Service Group 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.
- An 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.
- Four 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.
- **An 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.

5. Final Order (FO)

- If no protest is filed, Final Order is issued.

The protest process

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

- settlement discussion;
- contested case hearing;
- proposed Order;
- period of time to file exceptions; or
- Possible hearing by Water Resources Commission.
- Final Order is 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 the 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.

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 \$260

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

Applicant notification to withdraw Water Right Application G-18547

After reviewing the Initial Review for my application, I request that processing be stopped and the fees be refunded (minus a \$260 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 \$260 examination fee) be returned.

This notice must be received at Water Resources Department by

Friday, September 22, 2017

Return the notice to:

OWRD, Water Rights Division
STOP PROCESSING
725 Summer Street, NE - Suite A,
Salem OR, 97301-1271