

Oregon Water Resources Department

Water Right Services Division

Water Right Application G-18448 in the
name of AARON MITCHELL

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PROPOSED FINAL ORDER

Summary: The Department proposes to issue an order approving Application G-18448 and a permit consistent with the attached draft permit.

Prior to the issuance of a permit, if it is issued the Department must receive the following:

- Documentation that the proposed use complies with the local acknowledged comprehensive land-use plan. Documentation from the relevant planning jurisdiction that either a) the proposed use is allowed outright or b) that an approved land-use decision has been obtained, and that either no administrative appeals were received, or all such appeals have concluded.

Authority

The application is being processed in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.615 through 537.628, and 390.826, and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 690, Divisions 5, 8, 9, 33, 300, 310, 400, 410, and Rogue Basin Program OAR 690-515. These statutes and rules can be viewed on the Oregon Water Resources website: <http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/law/index.aspx>

The Department's main page is <http://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/pages/index.aspx>

The Department shall presume that a proposed groundwater use will ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health as described in ORS 537.525 if:

- a) The proposed use is allowed in the applicable basin program established pursuant to ORS 536.300 and 536.340 or given a preference under ORS 536.310(12);
- b) Water is available;
- c) The proposed use will not injure other water rights; and
- d) The proposed use complies with the rules of the Commission. ORS 537.621(2); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(b)

All four criteria must be met for a proposed use to be presumed to ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health. When the criteria are met and the presumption is established the Department must further evaluate the proposed use, any comments received information available in its files or received from other interested agencies and any other available information to determine whether the presumption is overcome. OAR 690-310-0140

If the Department determines that the presumption is established and not overcome, the Department shall issue a proposed final order recommending issuance of the permit subject to any appropriate modifications or conditions.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Application History

1. On February 2, 2017, Aaron Mitchell filed a complete application for the following water use:
Amount of Water: 0.22 cubic foot per second (CFS)
Use of Water: nursery use (irrigation and agriculture) on 55.0 acres
County: Jackson County
Location: within Section 22, Township 34 South, Range 1 West, W.M
Source of Water: Well 1 (JACK 57929/L78700) and Well 2 in Rogue River Basin
2. On June 30, 2017, the Department mailed the applicant notice of its Initial Review, determining that *"The appropriation of 0.22 CFS of water from Well 1 (JACK 57929/L78700) and Well 2 in Rogue River Basin for year-round nursery use on 55.0 acres is allowable."* The applicant did not notify the Department to stop processing the application within 14 days of that date.
3. On July 4, 2017, the Department gave public notice of the application in its weekly notice. The public notice included a request for comments, and information for interested persons about obtaining future notices and a copy of the Proposed Final Order. No written comments were received within 30 days.

Presumption Criteria (a) Consistency with Basin Program

4. Uses included in nursery use are included in irrigation and agriculture uses, both of which are allowed under the Rogue Basin Program (OAR 690-515). ORS 537.621(3)(b); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(b)

Presumption Criteria (b) Water Availability

5. An assessment of groundwater availability has been completed by the Groundwater/Hydrology section. A copy of this assessment is in the file. Groundwater will likely be available within the capacity of the resource, and /or the proposed use of groundwater will avoid injury to existing groundwater rights.. ORS 537.621(3)(c); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(c)

Presumption Criteria (c) Injury Determination

6. The proposed use will not injure other water rights. ORS 537.621(3)(d); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(e)

Presumption Criteria (d) Whether the use complies with rules of the Commission

7. Documentation has been submitted from the relevant land-use planning jurisdiction that indicates an approved land-use decision is being pursued. ORS 537.621(3)(b); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(b)
8. The proposed groundwater use is not within a designated critical groundwater area. ORS 537.620(4)(a), 537.621(3)(a); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(a)
9. The Department has determined that the proposed groundwater use will not have the potential for substantial interference with surface water.
10. The proposed use complies with rules of the Water Resources Commission not otherwise described above.

Determination of Presumption that a proposed groundwater use will ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health

Based on the review of the presumption criteria (a)-(d) above, the presumption has been established. ORS 537.621(3)(g); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(g)

Further evaluation of the proposed use

11. No comments were received by the close of the comment period. OAR 690-310-0140(3):
12. Information available in Department files, received from other interested agencies, and other available information does not provide a preponderance of evidence that the proposed use would not ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety, and health under ORS 537.525. OAR 690-310-0140(3)

Other Criteria and Requirements

13. The proposed use is located within or above the Rogue Scenic Waterway, as designated under ORS 390.826. The Department has determined 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. ORS 537.620(4)(a), 537.621(3)(a); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(a)
14. The amount requested, 0.22 CFS, is necessary for the proposed use. ORS 537.621(3)(c); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(b)
15. The applicant proposed to apply water when needed and use the most efficient method of water application for the crop being irrigated (drip irrigation). These measures are adequate at this time. OAR 690-310-0150(2)(j)
16. Prior to the issuance of a permit, if it is issued, the Department must receive the following:
 - a. Documentation that the proposed use complies with the local acknowledged comprehensive land-use plan. Documentation from the relevant planning jurisdiction that either a) the proposed use is allowed outright or b) that an approved land-use decision has been obtained, and that either no administrative appeals were received, or all such appeals have concluded.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

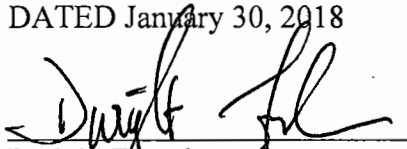
The proposed use would ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health as described in ORS 537.525.

When issuing permits, ORS 537.628(1) authorizes the Department to include limitations and conditions which have been determined necessary to protect the public welfare, safety, and health. The attached draft permit is conditioned accordingly.

PROPOSED ORDER

The Department recommends approval of Application G-18448, as amended, and issuance of a permit consistent with the attached draft permit.

DATED January 30, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwight French", is written over a horizontal line.

Dwight French
Water Right Services Division Administrator, for
Thomas M. Byler, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department

Protests

Under the provisions of ORS 537.153(7) (for surface water) or ORS 537.621(8) (for groundwater), you can protest this Proposed Final Order. Protests must be received in the Water Resources Department no later than **March 16, 2018**. Protests must be in writing, and must include the following:

- Your name, address, and telephone number;
- A description of your interest in the Proposed Final Order, and, if you claim to represent the public interest, a precise statement of the public interest represented;
- A detailed description of how the action proposed in the Proposed Final Order would impair or be detrimental to your interest;
- A detailed description of how the Proposed Final Order is in error or deficient, and how to correct the alleged error or deficiency;
- Any citation of legal authority to support your protest, if known;
- To affect the department's determination that the proposed use in this application will, or will not, ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health as described in ORS 537.525, ORS 537.621(2)(b) requires that a protest demonstrate, by a preponderance of evidence any of the following: (a) One or more of the criteria for establishing the presumption are, or are not, satisfied; or (b) The specific aspect of the public welfare, safety and health under ORS 537.525 that would be impaired or detrimentally affected, and specifically how the identified aspect of the public welfare, safety and health under ORS 537.525 would be impaired or be adversely affected;
- If you are the applicant, the protest fee of \$410 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If you are not the applicant, the protest fee of \$810 required by ORS 536.050 and proof of service of the protest upon the applicant.
- If you are the applicant, a statement of whether or not you are requesting a contested case hearing.

Requests for Standing

Under the provisions of ORS 537.153(7) (for surface water) or ORS 537.621(8) (for groundwater), persons other than the applicant who support a Proposed Final Order can request standing for purposes of participating in any contested case proceeding on the Proposed Final Order or for judicial review of a Final Order.

Requests for standing must be received in the Water Resources Department no later than **March 16, 2018**. Requests for standing must be in writing, and must include the following:

- The requester's name, mailing address and telephone number;
- If the requester is representing a group, association or other organization, the name, address and telephone number of the represented group;
- A statement that the requester supports the Proposed Final Order as issued;
- A detailed statement of how the requester would be harmed if the Proposed Final Order is modified; and
- A standing fee of \$230. If a hearing is scheduled, an additional fee of \$580 must be submitted along with a petition for party status.

After the protest period has ended, the Director will either issue a Final Order or schedule a contested case hearing. The contested case hearing will be scheduled only if a protest has been submitted and either:

- upon review of the issues, the director finds that there are significant disputes related to the proposed use of water, or
- the applicant requests a contested case hearing within 30 days after the close of the protest period.

If you do not request a hearing within 30 days after the close of the protest period, or if you withdraw a request for a hearing, notify the Department or the administrative law judge that you will not appear or fail to appear at a scheduled hearing, the Director may issue a Final Order by default. If the Director issues a Final Order by default, the Department designates the relevant portions of its files on this matter, including all materials that you have submitted relating to this matter, as the record for purpose of proving a prima facie case upon default.

You may be represented by an attorney at the hearing. Legal aid organizations may be able to assist a party with limited financial resources. Generally, partnerships, corporations, associations, governmental subdivisions or public or private organizations are represented by an attorney. However, consistent with OAR 690-002-0020 and OAR 137-003-0555, an agency representative may represent a partnership, corporation, association, governmental subdivision or public or private organization if the Department determines that appearance of a person by an authorized representative will not hinder the orderly and timely development of the record in this case.

Notice Regarding Service Members: Active duty service members have a right to stay proceedings under the federal Service Members Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. §§501-597b. You may contact the Oregon State Bar or the Oregon Military Department for more information. The toll-free telephone number for the Oregon State Bar is: 1 (800) 452-8260. The toll-free telephone number of the Oregon Military Department is: 1 (800) 452-7500. The Internet address for the United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Legal Services Locator website is: <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>

- If you have any questions about statements contained in this document, please contact Scott Grew at scott.a.grew@oregon.gov or 503-986-0899.
 - If you have questions about how to file a protest or if you have previously filed a protest and you want to know the status, please contact Patricia McCarty at 503-986-0820.
 - If you have any questions about the Department or any of its programs, please contact our Water Resources Customer Service Group at 503-986-0801.
 - Address any correspondence to : Water Right Services Division
725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1266
- Fax: 503-986-0901

STATE OF OREGON

COUNTY OF JACKSON

DRAFT PERMIT TO APPROPRIATE THE PUBLIC WATERS

THIS DRAFT PERMIT IS HEREBY ISSUED TO

AARON MITCHELL
7435 SE 52ND AVE
PORTLAND OR 97206

The specific limits and conditions of the use are listed below.

APPLICATION FILE NUMBER: G-18448

SOURCE OF WATER: WELL 1 (JACK 57929/L78700) AND WELL 2 IN ROGUE RIVER BASIN

PURPOSE OR USE: NURSERY USE (IRRIGATION AND AGRICULTURE) ON 55.0 ACRES

MAXIMUM RATE: 0.22 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

PERIOD OF USE: JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31

DATE OF PRIORITY: FEBRUARY 2, 2017

WELL LOCATION:

Well	Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
1	34 S	1 W	WM	22	NW SW	2005 FEET NORTH AND 650 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 22
2	34 S	1 W	WM	22	NW SW	2475 FEET NORTH AND 730 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 22

The amount of water used for nursery use under this right, together with the amount secured under any other right existing for the same lands, is limited to 0.15 cubic foot per second per acre and 5.0 acre feet per acre per year. For irrigation of containerized nursery plants, the amount of water diverted under this right, together with the amount secured under any other right existing for the same lands, is limited to ONE-FORTIETH of one cubic foot per second and 5.0 acre feet per acre per year. For irrigation of in-ground nursery plants, the amount of water diverted under this right, together with the amount secured under any other right existing for the same lands, is limited to ONE-EIGHTIETH of one cubic foot per second and 2.5 acre feet per acre per year. The use of water for nursery use may be made at any time, during the period of allowed use specified above, that the use is beneficial. For irrigation of any other crop, the amount of water diverted under this right, together with the amount secured under any other right existing for the same lands, is limited to ONE-EIGHTIETH of one cubic foot per second and 2.5 acre feet per acre during the irrigation season of each year.

THE PLACE OF USE IS LOCATED AS FOLLOWS:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
34 S	1 W	WM	22	NW SW	31.0
34 S	1 W	WM	22	SW SW	24.0

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 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.

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

3. 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.

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.

STANDARD CONDITIONS

Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this permit may result in action including, but not limited to, restrictions on the use, civil penalties, or cancellation of the permit.

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.

If substantial interference with surface water or 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.

The well(s) shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the General Standards for the Construction and Maintenance of Water Supply Wells in Oregon. The works shall be equipped with a usable access port adequate to determine water-level elevation in the well at all times.

If the riparian area is disturbed in the process of developing a point of appropriation, the permittee shall be responsible for restoration and enhancement of such riparian area in accordance with ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy OAR 635-415. For purposes of mitigation, the ODFW Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Goals and Standards, OAR 635-415, shall be followed.

The use may be restricted if the quality of downstream waters decreases to the point that those waters no longer meet state or federal water quality standards due to reduced flows.

Where two or more water users agree among themselves as to the manner of rotation in the use of water and such agreement is placed in writing and filed by such water users with the watermaster, and such rotation system does not infringe upon such prior rights of any water user not a party to such rotation plan, the watermaster shall distribute the water according to such agreement.

Prior to receiving a certificate of water right, the permit holder shall submit to the Water Resources Department the results of a pump test meeting the Department's standards for each point of appropriation (well), unless an exemption has been obtained in writing under OAR 690-217. The Director may require water-level or pump-test data every ten years thereafter.

This permit is for the beneficial use of water without waste. The water user is advised that new regulations may require the use of best practical technologies or conservation practices to achieve this end.

By law, the land use associated with this water use must be in compliance with statewide land-use goals and any local acknowledged land-use plan.

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 construction deadline to begin is missed.

Complete application of the water shall be made within five years of the date of permit issuance. If beneficial use of permitted water has not been made before this date, the permittee may submit an application for extension of time, which may be approved based upon the merit of the application.

Within one year after making beneficial use of water, the permittee shall submit a claim of beneficial use, which includes a map and report, prepared by a Certified Water Rights Examiner.

Issued

DRAFT - THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

Dwight French
Water Right Services Division Administrator, for
Thomas M. Byler, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department