

**Oregon Water Resources Department
Water Right Services Division**

Application for Extension of Time

In the Matter of the Application for an Extension of Time)	
for Permit G-12506 (modified by Permit Amendment T-8352),)	PROPOSED
Water Right Application G-14031, in the name of Brian S and)	FINAL
Susan J Thompson; and Bernard Damon		ORDER

Permit Information

Application:	G-14031
Permit:	G-12506 (modified by Permit Amendment T-8352)
Basin:	7 – Umatilla / Watermaster District 21
Date of Priority:	April 10, 1995
Source of Water:	one well in Willow Creek Basin, and three additional wells as approved by Permit Amendment T-8352
Purpose or Use:	Irrigation of 182.8 acres
Maximum Rate:	2.28 cubic feet per second (cfs)

Please read this Proposed Final Order in its entirety.

In Summary, the Department proposes to:

- Grant an extension of time to complete construction of the water system from October 1, 2017, to October 1, 2021.
- Grant an extension of time to apply water to full beneficial use from October 1, 2017, to October 1, 2021¹.

This Extension of Time request is being processed in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute 537.630 and 539.010(5), and Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 690, Division 315.

¹Pursuant to ORS 537.630(5), upon the completion of beneficial use of water allowed under the permit, the permittee shall hire a certified water rights examiner to survey the appropriation. Within one year after the complete application of water to a beneficial use (or by the date allowed for the complete application of water to a beneficial use), the permittee shall submit a map of the survey and a new or revised claim of beneficial use as deemed appropriate by the Department.

ACRONYM QUICK REFERENCE

Application – Application for Extension of Time
Department – Oregon Department of Water Resources
FOF – Finding of Fact
PFO – Proposed Final Order
Authorized Well – MORR 50273
Well 1 – MORR 134
cfs - cubic feet per second
gpm – gallons per minute

AUTHORITY

Generally, see ORS 537.630 and OAR Chapter 690 Division 315.

ORS 537.630(2) provides in pertinent part that the Oregon Water Resources Department (Department) for good cause shown shall order and allow an extension of time within which irrigation or other works shall be completed or the right perfected. In determining the extension, the Department shall give due weight to the considerations described under ORS 539.010(5) and to whether other governmental requirements relating to the project have significantly delayed completion of construction or perfection of the right.

ORS 539.010(5) instructs the Director to consider: the cost of the appropriation and application of the water to a beneficial purpose; the good faith of the appropriator; the market for water or power to be supplied; the present demands therefor; and the income or use that may be required to provide fair and reasonable returns upon the investment.

OAR 690-315-0040 provides that in order to approve an application for an extension of time to complete construction or apply water to full beneficial use, the Department shall make the findings in OAR 690-315-0040(1) including a finding that there is “good cause” to approve the extension. OAR 690-315-0040(2)-(4) contains the factors that the Department must consider to make findings that support a “good cause” determination.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On June 19, 1996, Permit G-12506 was issued by the Department. The permit authorizes the use of up to 2.28 cfs of water from one well in Willow Creek Basin for irrigation of 182.8 acres. The permit specified actual construction of the well to begin by June 19, 1997, construction of the water system was to be completed by October 1, 1998, and complete application of water was to be made on or before October 1, 1999.
2. On February 11, 2010, the Department approved Permit Amendment T-8352 (Special Order Volume 80, Page 245) authorizing the addition of three points of appropriation and a change in place of use under Permit G-12506 (modified by Permit Amendment T-8352) which is hereafter referred to simply as Permit G-12506.
3. On August 8, 2013, a partial assignment from Brian S. and Susan J. Thompson, to Bernard Damon was recorded in the records of the Water Resources Department.

4. On July 31, 2014, Permit Amendment T-11869 was submitted to the Department. The Permit Amendment requests a change in place of use of 40.0 acres that was moved from land owned by Bernard Damon as a result of Permit Amendment T-8352, back to the original place of use under Permit G-12506.
5. Three prior permit extensions have been granted for Permit G-12506. The most recent extension request resulted in the completion dates for construction and full application of water being extended from October 1, 2012, to October 1, 2017.
6. On March 18, 2019, the permit holder, Bernard Damon, submitted an “Application for Extension of Time” (Application) to the Department, requesting both the time to complete construction of the water system and the time to apply water to full beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit G-12506 be extended from October 1, 2017, to October 1, 2021.
7. On March 26, 2019, notification of the Application for Permit G-12506 was published in the Department’s Public Notice. No public comments were received regarding the Application.
8. On April 24, 2019, the permit holder submitted an amended Application.

Review Criteria [OAR 690-315-0040]

In order to approve an Application for an Extension of Time to complete construction and/or apply water to full beneficial use pursuant to ORS 537.230 or 537.630, or to begin construction, pursuant to ORS 537.248, the Department must make the findings in OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a) – (d).

Complete Extension of Time Application [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a)]

9. On March 18, 2019, the Department received a completed Application and the fee specified in ORS 536.050 from the permit holder.

Start of Construction [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and 690-315-0040(5)]

10. Actual construction of the well began prior to the June 19, 1997, deadline specified in the permit.
11. According to the well log received by the Department on January 16, 1997, construction of MORR 50273 (Authorized Well) began December 12, 1996.

Based on Finding of Fact (FOF) 10 and 11, the Department has determined that the prosecution of the construction of the well began prior to June 19, 1997.

Good Cause [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d)]

The Department must find that there is “good cause” to approve the extension. In making a “good cause” finding, the Department shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(2).

Reasonable Diligence of the Appropriator [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(a)]

In order to make a finding of “good cause” to approve the extension, the Department shall consider whether the applicant has demonstrated “reasonable diligence” in previous performance under the permit. OAR 690-315-0040(2)(a). In determining “reasonable diligence”, the Department shall consider, but is not limited to, the following factors: a) The amount of construction completed within the time allowed in the permit or previous extension; b) The amount of beneficial use made of the water during the permit or previous extension time limits; c) Water right holder conformance with the permit or previous extension conditions; and d) Financial investments made toward developing the beneficial use of water.

Amount of Construction [OAR 690-315-0040(3)(a)]

The amount of construction completed within the time allowed in the previous extension.²

12. During the most recent extension period, being from October 1, 2012, to October 1, 2017, Permit Amendment T-11869 was pending review at the Department.

The Application provides evidence of progress of physical work made towards completion of the water system, enough to qualify as the minimum necessary for the Department to find good cause and reasonable diligence towards complete application of water to a beneficial use.

Compliance with Conditions [OAR 690-315-0040(3)(c)]

The water right permit holder’s conformance with the previous extension conditions.

13. The Department has considered the permit holder’s compliance with conditions, and did not identify any concerns.

Based on FOF 13, the Department has determined that the permit holder has demonstrated compliance with permit conditions as required by Permit G-12506.

Beneficial Use of Water [OAR 690-315-0040(3)(b)]

The amount of beneficial use made of the water during the permit time limits and previous extension limits.

14. A maximum rate of 1,100 gallons per minute (gpm) (2.45 cfs) of water has been appropriated, from Authorized Well and MORR 134 (Well 1) for irrigation of 182.8 acres. This exceeds the amount of water for irrigation use authorized under this permit. The authorized amount of water for irrigation use is 2.28 cfs.

² “Actual Construction” is defined in OAR 690-315-0020(3)(d)(A) and (B) as physical work performed toward completion of the water system which demonstrates the water right permit holder’s good faith and intention to complete the project with reasonable diligence. Actual construction does not include planning a diversion system, formulating a business plan, securing financing, letting contracts, purchasing but not installing equipment, surveying, clearing land or planting crops.

15. Delay of full beneficial use of water under Permit G-12506 was due, in part, to insufficient yield of water from Authorized Well and pending Permit Amendment T-11869 to reauthorize the 40.0 acres of land owner by Bernard Damon. The permit holder needs more time in which to gain approval of Permit Amendment T-11869.

Beneficial use of water has been demonstrated under this permit as all permit conditions were satisfied by October 1, 2017.

Financial Investments to Appropriate and Apply Water to a Beneficial Purpose [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(b),(3)(d),(4)(d)]

16. An investment of approximately \$150,000, which is the total cost for complete development of this project, has been made. An additional \$0 investment is needed for the completion of this project.

Based on FOF 16, the Department has determined that the permit holder had made an investment, which provides evidence of good cause and reasonable diligence towards the complete application of water to a beneficial use.

Reasonable Diligence of the Appropriator [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(a)]

The Application provides evidence that work has been accomplished towards completion of the water system; the permit holder has demonstrated compliance with permit conditions, a financial investment has been made, and; beneficial use of water has been demonstrated. The Department has determined the applicant has demonstrated reasonable diligence in previous performance under Permit G-12506.

The Market and Present Demands for Water [OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a-f)]

The Department's determinations of market and present demand for water or power to be supplied shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a-f). In accordance with OAR 690-315-0040(4), the Department shall consider, but is not limited to, the following factors when determining the market and the present demand for water or power to be supplied:

- *(a) The amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows;*
- *(b) Special water use designations established since permit issuance, including but not limited to state scenic waterways, federal wild and scenic rivers, serious water management problem areas or water quality limited sources established under 33 U.S.C. 1313(d);*
- *(c) The habitat needs of sensitive, threatened or endangered species, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife;*
- *(d) Economic investment in the project to date;*
- *(e) Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project; and*
- *(f) Other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demands for water and power.*

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a)

The amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows.

17. A review of the amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows was determined at the time of issuance of Permit G-12506; furthermore, water availability for other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows after the permit was issued is determined when an Application for a new water right is submitted.

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(b)

Special water use designations established since permit issuance, including but not limited to state scenic waterways, federal wild and scenic rivers, serious water management problem areas or water quality limited sources established under 33 U.S.C. 1313(d).

18. The points of appropriation for Permit G-12506, located within the Willow Creek Basin, is not located within a limited or critical groundwater area.
19. Willow Creek is not located within or above any state or federal scenic waterway.
20. The points of appropriation are not in an area listed by the Department of Environmental Quality as a water quality limited stream.

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(c)

The habitat needs of sensitive, threatened or endangered species, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

21. Willow Creek is located within an area ranked “moderate” for stream flow restoration needs as determined by the Department in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is located within a Sensitive, Threatened or Endangered Fish Species Area as identified by the Department in consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(d)

Economic interests dependent on completion of the project.

22. An approximate total of \$150,000 has been invested in the project.

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(e)

Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project.

23. Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project have not been identified.

OAR 690-315-0040(4)(f)

Other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demand for water and power.

24. No other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demand for water and power have been identified.

Fair Return Upon Investment [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(f)]

25. The use and income from the permitted water development will likely result in reasonable returns upon the investment made to date.

Other Governmental Requirements [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(g)]

26. Delay in the timely completion of the development of the project was caused in part by the delay in reviewing Permit Amendment T-11869.

Unforeseen Events [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(h)]

27. Delay in the review of Permit Amendment T-11869.

Denial of the Extension Will Result in Undue Hardship [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(i)]

28. A denial of the extension would result in undue hardship, in that Bernard Damon would lose the primary irrigation right for his property, and subsequently lose the supplemental irrigation rights provided by Willow Creek Irrigation District.

Good Faith of the Appropriator [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(c)]

29. The Application provides evidence of good faith of the appropriator under Permit G-12506.

Based on FOF 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 22, the Department has determined that the applicant has shown good faith and reasonable diligence.

Duration of Extension [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c)]

Under OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c), in order to approve an extension of time for water use permits the Department must find that the time requested is reasonable and the applicant can complete the project within the time requested.

30. As of March 18, 2019, the remaining work to be completed consists of completing review of Permit Amendment T-11869 and if approved, irrigating the 40.0 acres under ownership of Bernard Damon; meeting all permit conditions, which include submitting annual water use reports; and applying water to full beneficial use.

Given the amount of development left to occur, the Department has determined that the permit holder's request to have until October 1, 2021, to complete construction of the water system and

to accomplish the application of water to beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit G-12506 is both reasonable and necessary.

Good Cause [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d)]

The Department must find that there is "good cause" to approve the extension. In making a "good cause" finding, the Department shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(2).

The Department has considered the reasonable diligence and good faith of the appropriator, the cost to appropriate and apply water to a beneficial purpose, the market and present demands for water to be supplied, the financial investment made and fair and reasonable return upon the investment, the requirements of other governmental agencies, and unforeseen events over which the permit holder had no control, whether denial of the extension will result in undue hardship to the applicant and whether there are no other reasonable alternatives for meeting water use needs, any other factors relevant to a determination of good cause, and has determined that the applicant has shown that good cause exists for an extension of time to complete construction and apply water to full beneficial use pursuant to OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The applicant has submitted a complete extension application form and the fee specified in ORS 536.050, as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a).
2. The applicant has complied with the construction timeline requirements to begin actual construction as required by ORS 537.630, OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and OAR 690-315-0040(5).
3. Based on Finding of Facts 10 through 29, completion of construction and full application of water to beneficial use can be accomplished by October 1, 2021, as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c).
4. The applicant can complete the project within the time period requested for the extension on the project.
5. The applicant has demonstrated good cause for the extension.

continued on following page

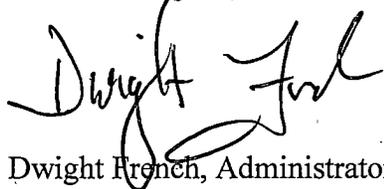
PROPOSED ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Department proposes to issue an order to:

Extend the time to complete construction of the water system under Permit G-12506 from October 1, 2017, to October 1, 2021.

Extend the time to apply water to beneficial use under Permit G-12506 from October 1, 2017, to October 1, 2021.

DATED: May 28, 2019



Dwight French, Administrator,
Water Right Services Division

*If you have any questions,
please check the information
box on the last page for the
appropriate names and
phone numbers.*

Proposed Final Order Hearing Rights

1. Under the provisions of OAR 690-315-0100 and 690-315-0060, the applicant or any other person adversely affected or aggrieved by the proposed final order may submit a written protest to the proposed final order. The written protest must be received by the Water Resources Department no later than **July 12, 2019**, being 45 days from the date of publication of the proposed final order in the Department's weekly notice.
2. A written protest shall include:
 - a. The name, address and telephone number of the petitioner;
 - b. A description of the petitioner's interest in the proposed final order and if the protestant claims to represent the public interest, a precise statement of the public interest represented;
 - c. A detailed description of how the action proposed in the proposed final order would adversely affect or aggrieve the petitioner's interest;
 - d. A detailed description of how the proposed final order is in error or deficient and how to correct the alleged error or deficiency;
 - e. Any citation of legal authority supporting the petitioner, if known;
 - f. Proof of service of the protest upon the water right permit holder, if petitioner is other than the water right permit holder; and
 - g. The applicant or non-applicant protest fee required under ORS 536.050.

