



## **Water Right Application Initial Review**

August 7, 2020

GREGORY L. BINGAMAN  
64088 MCDONALD LANE  
LA GRANDE OR 97850

Reference: Application G-18895

This document is to inform you of the preliminary analysis of the water-use permit application and to describe your 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:

### **Preliminary Determinations under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 690-310-0080:**

1. Application G-18895 proposes the appropriation of 3.85 cubic feet per second (CFS) of water from a well (UNIO 50684/140696) in the Grande Ronde Basin for irrigation of 267.6 acres from March 1 through October 1 of each year.
2. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
3. Irrigation use is allowed under the Grande Ronde Basin Program. (OAR 690-508-0020(1)(a))
4. Groundwater will likely be available and if properly conditioned (and if authorized), 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 Grande Ronde Scenic Waterway, as designated under Oregon Revised Statute 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.
7. The point of appropriation is not located within a critical, limited, or withdrawn groundwater area.

8. The application proposed a rate that is higher than the general basin-wide standard and submitted information that demonstrates the need for the higher amount. Oregon Revised Statute 537.621(4) allows the Department to authorize the requested amount, except upon specific findings related to the application to support a determination that a lesser amount is needed. The Department has determined there is a need for the higher amount of 1/60<sup>th</sup> of a CFS per acre.

Summary of Preliminary Determinations
<b>The appropriation of 3.85 CFS of water from a well (UNIO 50684/L40696) in the Grande Ronde Basin for irrigation of 267.6 acres is allowable March 1 through October 1 of each year.</b>

Because of the favorable determinations described herein, Application G-18895 can move to the next phase of the water-rights application review process, which includes a public interest review.

**Public Comment & Further Review:**

Public interest issues and/or public comments will be addressed as the Department prepares a Proposed Final Order. If significant public interest issues are identified, they could have an impact on the eventual

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

- To 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.
- To Withdraw - You may withdraw the application and receive a refund (minus a \$260 examination fee per application). You must notify the Department **in writing** by **August 21, 2020**. For your convenience you may use the enclosed "STOP PROCESSING" form.

**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 construction deadline to begin 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. **Water Use Measurement, Recording, and Reporting Condition:**

- 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. **Static Water Level 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. **The Department shall be granted access to the well in order to conduct static water level measurements in addition to yearly static water level measurements in March, as required by the condition above.**

6. **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.

7. **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 website at <https://www.oregon.gov/ODA> to learn more about the plans and how they may affect the proposed water use.

**For Further Information:**

Feel free to contact me at Elisabeth.A.Graham@oregon.gov or 503-986-0808 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 503-986-0900. When corresponding by mail, please use this address: Lisa Graham, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266. Our fax number is 503-986-0901.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Graham*

Lisa Graham  
Water Right Application Specialist  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
Enclosures: Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form

G-18895  
No PSI  
Proposed to Approve

# APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: G-18895

Applicant: GREGORY L. BINGAMAN

County: UNION

Watermaster: JANNA STEVENS, 6, ER

Priority Date: DECEMBER 16, 2019

Source: A WELL (UNIO 50684/L40696) IN GRANDE RONDE BASIN

Use: IRRIGATION OF 267.6 ACRES

Quantity: 3.85 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND

Basin Name & Number: GRANDE RONDE, #8

WAB: GRANDE RONDE R > SNAKE R - AB WILLOW CR

Well Location:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
2 S	38 E	WM	12	SE SW	84 FEET NORTH AND 1994 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 12

Place of Use:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
2 S	38 E	WM	12	NW NE	37.1
2 S	38 E	WM	12	SW NE	38.2
2 S	38 E	WM	12	SE NE	40.0
2 S	38 E	WM	12	NE NW	39.1
2 S	38 E	WM	12	NW NW	38.2
2 S	38 E	WM	12	SW NW	36.8
2 S	38 E	WM	12	NE SE	38.2

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: Tuesday, August 11, 2020**

**14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: Friday, August 21, 2020**

**30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: Thursday, September 10, 2020**

## **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.oregon.gov/OWRD](http://www.oregon.gov/OWRD)

### ***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) 986-0900.

### ***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 REQUEST FORM**  
**FOR GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND REGULAR RESERVOIR**  
**APPLICATIONS**

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- Stop processing deadline is within 14 days of Initial Review.

Applicant notification to withdraw Water Right Application **G-18895**.

After reviewing the Initial Review for my application, I request that processing be stopped and 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 by the Water Resources Department no later than:

**August 21, 2020**

- Return the notice to:

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

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# Mailing List for IR Copies

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Application G-18895

IR Date: August 7, 2020

**Original and map mailed to applicant:**

GREGORY L. BINGAMAN  
64088 MCDONALD LANE  
LA GRANDE OR 97850

Copies Mailed

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(SUPPORT STAFF)

On: \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

**Sent via auto email:**

1. Agent – Greg Blackman: gtblackman@yahoo.com
2. WRD – Watermaster #6, Janna Stevens
3. WRD – Jason Spriet, ER
4. WRD – SW Section

**Copies sent to:**

1. WRD - File G-18895
2. A.L.O. - Speckhart Farms Inc; Joanne Parsons; 63970 Mc Donald Lane; La Grande, Oregon 97850
3. A.L.O. - TSJ Koza Inc; 69264 Squire Loop; Cove, Oregon 97824

Application Specialist: Lisa Graham