

FINDINGS OF FACT

Application History

1. On June 14, 2021, Robert W. Hunter and Gail S. Hunter filed a complete application for the following water use:

Source: UNNAMED SPRING, TRIBUTARY TO NORTH SLOUGH
Use: HUMAN CONSUMPTION USE FOR ONE HOUSEHOLD
Rate/Volume: 0.01 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND (CFS) (AF)
Period of Use: JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31
County: COOS COUNTY
Place of Use: SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH, RANGE 12 WEST, W.M.

2. On July 30, 2021, the Department mailed the applicant notice of its Initial Review, determining that the diversion of 0.01 CFS of water from an unnamed spring, tributary to North Slough, for human consumption use for one household is not allowable; however, by providing additional information you may request a limited permit for human consumption use (indoor use only: cooking, drinking, sanitation) at 0.005 CFS, further limited to 500 gallons per day per household. The applicant did not notify the Department to stop processing the application within 14 days of that date.
3. On August 3, 2021, the Department provided notice of the application in its weekly public notice, requesting comments, and providing information for interested persons about obtaining future notices and a copy of the Proposed Final Order.
4. On September 9, 2021, the applicant submitted an *Application Supplement for Human Consumption and Livestock Use* form, indicating that they cannot reasonably obtain water from any other source and that denial of the application would result in loss of reasonable expectations for the use of the property.

Presumption Criteria (a) Consistency with Basin Program

5. Human consumption use is allowed under the South Coast Basin Program (OAR 690-517-0000(12)). ORS 537.153(2); OAR 690-310-0110(1)(a)

Presumption Criteria (b) Water Availability

6. An assessment of water availability at 80% exceedance for the proposed use was completed using the Department's Water Availability Reporting System. A copy of this assessment is in the application file. This review is done consistent with OAR 690-410-0070(2)(a). During the period of use requested, the assessment established that water surface water is only available December 1 through April 30 of each year. ORS 537.153(2); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(c)

Presumption Criteria (c) Injury Determination

7. The proposed use will not injure other water rights. ORS 537.153(2); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(e)

Presumption Criteria (d) Whether the Use Complies with Rules of the Commission

8. Documentation has been submitted from the relevant land-use planning jurisdiction that indicates an approved land-use decision has been obtained, and that either no administrative appeals were received, or all such appeals have concluded. ORS 537.153(2)(b); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(b)
9. The proposed use is in an area of the state in which OAR 690-033-0310 thru -0340 applies. These rules establish definitions, additional procedures, and standards to aid the Department in determining whether a proposed use will impair or be detrimental to the public interest with regard to sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species.

OAR 690-033-0310 Statewide Rules

- A. The proposed use occurs occur in an area that may affect the habitat of sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species. OAR 690-033-0310(2)
- B. The applicant has been notified that based on a preliminary determination, the proposed use may affect the habitat of sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species and the application may be conditioned or denied. OAR 690-033-0330(1)(a)
- C. The interagency review team has been notified that an application has been received in an area that may affect the habitat of sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species. OAR 690-033-0330(1)(b)
- D. The interagency review team was convened to review the application and recommended conditions as necessary to achieve the standards listed in 690-033-0330(2)(a) and (b). As a result of this review, Permit Specific Conditions #3, #4, and #5 have been included in the draft permit.

Other Criteria and Requirements

10. No comments were received by the close of the comment period. OAR 690-310-0120(3)
11. 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 impair or be detrimental to the public interest under ORS 537.153. OAR 690-310-0120(3)
12. The proposed use is not located within or above a state scenic waterway, as designated under ORS 390.826.
13. The amount requested, 0.01 CFS, is excessive for the proposed use. The amount of water requested for human consumption use is limited to 0.005 CFS and 500 gallons per day per household. ORS 537.153(3)(c); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(d)
14. The applicant proposed methods to measure the amount of water diverted, prevent damage to aquatic life and riparian habitat, prevent discharge of contaminated water to a surface stream, or to prevent damage to public uses of any affected surface waters. These measures are adequate at this time. OAR 690-310-0150(2)(j)

Determination of Presumption that a Proposed Surface Water Use will not Impair or be Detrimental to the Public Interest

15. Based on the review of the presumption criteria (a)-(d) above, the presumption has not been established ORS 537.153(2); OAR 690-310-0110(1)(a)-(d)
16. OAR 690-310-120(2)(b) states that when the presumption is not established, the Department shall determine whether the proposed use will impair or be detrimental to the public interest considering the factors in ORS 537.170(8), and may make specific findings to demonstrate that even though the presumption is not established, the proposed use will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest.

Further Evaluation of the Proposed Use

17. After considering various alternative water sources, including groundwater, stored water, purchased trucked water, community and municipal supplies, and transfer of existing water rights, there are no reasonable alternative sources of water.
18. Pursuant to ORS 537.170(8), the Department has considered the following factors:
 - A. The maximum economic development of the waters involved: The applicants have demonstrated that denial of this application would result in loss of reasonable expectations for use of the property. OAR 690-310-0260(4)(c)
 - B. The control of the waters of this state for all beneficial purposes, including drainage, sanitation and flood control: Human consumption use includes uses of water for sanitation (OAR 690-300-0010(24)). Because the applicants have no other reasonable source of water to provide sanitation to their home, human consumption use is necessary to provide the beneficial use of sanitation to the applicants.
 - C. The amount of waters available for appropriation for beneficial use: Water is not available during the full period requested.
 - D. The prevention of wasteful, uneconomic, impracticable or unreasonable use of the waters involved: The use will be conditioned to require reasonable use of the water and installation of equipment to permit water use measurement and reporting.
 - E. All vested and inchoate rights to the waters of this state or to the use of waters of this state, and the means necessary to protect such rights: Issuance of this right may increase the likelihood that water may not be available for all water rights.
 - F. The State Water Resources Policy formulated under ORS 536.295 to 536.350 and 537.505 to 537.534: ORS 536.310(3) provides that "adequate and safe supplies be preserved and protected for human consumption use, while conserving maximum supplies for other beneficial uses." Because the proposed use is human consumption there is a preference for this use over all other uses.

19. Applying these factors one may conclude that the proposed use could increase the likelihood that water may not be available to all existing water rights (including those for the protection of fish and wildlife) because water is not available for the proposed use during the full period requested. However, because the proposed use is preferred above all other uses, is for sanitation, and will not be wasteful, uneconomic, impractical or unreasonable, and because denial of this application will result in the loss of reasonable expectations for use of the property, the public interest in the proposed use outweighs water availability concerns.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. Considering the factors in ORS 537.170(8), the Department has determined that, even though the presumption is not established, the proposed use will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest.

NOTE: When issuing permits, ORS 537.170(6) authorizes the Department to include provisions or restrictions concerning the use, control and management of water to be appropriated for the project.

PROPOSED ORDER

The Department recommends approval of Application S-89132 and issuance of a permit consistent with the attached draft permit.

DATED April 5, 2022

Dwight French

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

Digitally signed by Dwight French
Date: 2022.03.28 13:46:01 -07'00'

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 by the Water Resources Department no later than **May 20, 2022**.

IMPORTANT: Due to COVID-19, the Department's office is closed to walk-in services. The Department encourages the submission of protests by U.S. mail. Please consider mailing early to ensure the Department receives the protest by the deadline specified above.

Protests must be in writing and 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, impair or be detrimental to the public interest, ORS 537.153(6) 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 537.170(8) that would be impaired or detrimentally affected, and specifically how the identified aspect of the public welfare, safety and health under ORS 537.170 (8) would be impaired or be adversely affected;
- If you are the applicant, a protest fee of \$480 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If you are not the applicant, a protest fee of \$950 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 **May 20, 2022**. 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;

DRAFT

This is not a permit.

DRAFT

STATE OF OREGON

COUNTY OF COOS

DRAFT PERMIT TO APPROPRIATE THE PUBLIC WATERS

THIS DRAFT PERMIT IS HEREBY ISSUED TO

ROBERT W. HUNTER
GAIL S. HUNTER
95416 NORTH WAY LANE
NORTH BEND OR 97459

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

APPLICATION FILE NUMBER: S-89132

SOURCE OF WATER: UNNAMED SPRING, TRIBUTARY TO NORTH SLOUGH

PURPOSE OR USE: HUMAN CONSUMPTION USE FOR ONE HOUSEHOLD

MAXIMUM RATE: 0.005 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND, FURTHER LIMITED TO 500 GALLONS PER DAY PER HOUSEHOLD

PERIOD OF USE: JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

DATE OF PRIORITY: JUNE 14, 2021

AUTHORIZED POINTS OF DIVERSION:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
24 S	12 W	WM	8	NW NW	1200 FEET SOUTH AND 1100 FEET EAST FROM NW CORNER, SECTION 8

AUTHORIZED PLACE OF USE:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
24 S	12 W	WM	8	NW NW

PERMIT SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

1. 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.
2. **Water Use Measurement, Recording, and Reporting:**

A. Before water use may begin under this permit, the permittee shall install a totalizing flow meter at each point of diversion. 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.

3. Riparian Area Restoration:

If the riparian area is disturbed in the process of developing a point of diversion, 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.

4. In-Water Work:

Any in-water work related to construction, development, or maintenance of the proposed use shall be conducted during the preferred work period of July 1 through September 15, unless an alternate time period is approved by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

5. Water Quality:

All water use under this permit shall comply with state and federal water quality laws. The permittee shall not violate any state and federal water quality standards, shall not cause pollution of any waters of the state, and shall not place or cause to be placed any wastes in a location where such wastes are likely to escape or be carried into the waters of the state by any means. The use may be restricted if the quality of source stream or downstream waters decrease to the point that those waters no longer meet existing state or federal water quality standards.

STANDARD CONDITIONS

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.

3. 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.
4. The use of water allowed herein may be made only at times when sufficient water is available to satisfy all prior rights, including prior rights for maintaining instream flows.

DEVELOPMENT AND COMPLETION TIMELINE REQUIREMENTS

1. Construction of the water system 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. 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.
3. Within one year after complete application of water to the proposed use, 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