

BEFORE THE HEARINGS OFFICER
KLAMATH COUNTY, OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF CUP 27-90 FOR
STEVE HARPER TO LOCATE A RESIDENCE NOT
IN CONJUNCTION WITH FOREST USE

ORDER

1. NATURE OF THE REQUEST:

The applicant wishes to establish a single family residence not in conjunction with forest use on 22.12 acres m/l 1.5 miles east of the confluence of the Williamson River and Spring Creek, four miles north of Chiloquin.

The request was heard by the Hearings Officer June 15, 1990 pursuant to Ordinances 44 and 45. The request was reviewed for conformance with Land Development Code Section 51.020 D 4.

2. NAMES OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED:

The Hearings Officer in review of this application was Neil D. Smith. The applicants representative, Jerry Molatore, appeared and offered testimony in support of the application. The Planning Department was represented by Kim Lundahl, Senior Planner. The recording secretary was Karen Burg. No opposition was offered this application.

3. LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

The subject property is a 22.12 acre rectangle located in the NE 1/4 Section 11, T 34S R 7E W.M.. Generally located east of Collier State Park and north of Chiloquin. T.A. 3407-11-900.

4. RELEVANT FACTS:

A. ACCESS: The property is accessed by an easement road extending 1/2 mile north from Pine Ridge Rd., a county maintained all weather access road. Pine Ridge road leads south to the Sprague River Hwy three miles.

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- B. FIRE PROTECTION: The property is within the Chiloquin/Agency Lake R.F.D. and is approximately five miles from the nearest responding station. That distance represents a response time of 20-30 minutes. The applicant has also agreed to fuel breaks (required by L.D.C. sec 51.020 G) around the residence to reduce the potential of a structural fire spreading to the lands to the north, south, east and west. The applicant has also agreed to provide a 1000 gallon on-site water storage tank for fire suppression. Larson Creek, on the western boundary of the property, is an all year stream and pumps can be utilized by fire department personnel to obtain a water supply.
- C. LAND USE: The property is a parcel of approximately 22 acres of undeveloped land. The site was burned over 30 years ago and has very little healthy second volunteer growth. The adjacent lands to the north and south, are found devoted to low intensity agricultural use. Rural residential uses have been established on adjacent properties to the west.
- D. SEWERAGE: The applicant has selected a septic installation location in the northwest corner of the clearing. Site specific site evaluation has been accomplished, and available soils information and the existence of nearby systems indicates site feasibility.
- E. SLOPE: Available topographic mapping and site inspection indicates slopes of 0-5% predominate the site.
- F. SOILS: Available mapping of the site indicates a land capability classification of IV to VI and a timber site rating of V.
- G. WATER: Proposed well
- H. PLAN/ZONING: The plan/zone designation of the project site and properties to the north, south, east and west is Forestry/Forestry.

5. RELEVANT CRITERIA:

The standards and criteria relevant to this application are found in the Klamath County Comprehensive Plan (Goal 4) and the Klamath County Land Development Code, specifically Section 44.003, Section 51.020 and Article 69.

6. FINDINGS:

All evidence submitted as the staff report, exhibits b-h, and offered testimony were considered in this Order.

6.1 Goal Findings: With regard to the Statewide Planning Goals and the Klamath County Comprehensive Plan, the Hearings Officer makes the following findings:

A. The goal of the Forest Lands Element is to conserve forest lands for the production of wood fiber and other forest uses, protect forest lands from incompatible uses, and to ensure a continued yield of forest products and values.

B. Forest Uses are defined by Statewide Planning Goal 4 and the Comprehensive Plan to include:

1. The production of trees and forest products;
2. Watershed protection and wildlife and fisheries habitat;
3. Soil protection from wind and water;
4. Grazing of livestock;
5. Maintenance of clean air and water;
6. Outdoor recreational activities
7. Open space, buffers from noise, and visual separation of conflicting uses.

FINDING: The Hearings Officer finds that dwellings are not included in the

list of forest uses. The Land Development Code does, however, permit residences subject to conditional use findings that the dwelling is located on lands generally unsuitable for timber management and not needed for other permitted forest uses and is otherwise consistent with the County's acknowledged criteria.

C. Policy 4 of the Klamath County Forest Lands Goal states "The County shall regulate development of nonforest uses in forest areas". The "rationale" for such policy is "to protect the health, safety and welfare of County Citizens" and "to reduce fire danger to man-made structures and forest resources".

FINDING: The Hearings Officer finds that active commercial forest management has not occurred on properties directly adjacent to the property. Specifically, there is residential development to the west and a State Park use to the west. The residence proposed would be adjacent to several other dwellings in the area, and with the proposed fuelbreaks, the readily available fire protection, and on-site water supplies, there is an insignificant risk of fire.

6.2 Land Development Code Findings: With regard to the Klamath County Land Development Code, the Hearings Officer makes the following findings:

A. Klamath County Land Development Code Section 44.003-Conditional Use Permit Criteria:

A Conditional Use Permit shall be granted only if the reviewing authority shall find that it satisfies the following criteria, as well as other criteria and standards of this Code and other applicable codes and ordinances

44.003 A: "That the use is conditionally permitted in the zone in which it is proposed to be located."

FINDING: Section 51.020 D 4 identifies residential-single family or mobile home as a nonforest conditional use.

44.003 B: "That the location, size, design, and operating characteristics of the proposed use are in conformance with the Klamath County Comprehensive Plan".

Goal 4, Policy #1 states: The following lands shall be designated forestry and subject to the regulations of the Forestry and Forestry/Range zones contained in the Land Development Code:

1. Public or private industry forest lands located contiguously in large blocks, i. e. Forest Service, BLM, Weyerhaeuser, Gilchrist Timber;
2. Significant wildlife and fishery habitat areas;
3. Land having a predominant timber site productivity rating of I-VI;
4. Isolated pockets of land within forest areas which do not meet the above criteria;
5. Lands needed for watershed protection or recreation;
6. Other lands needed to protect farm or forest uses on surrounding designated agricultural or forest lands.

Rationale: To preserve the maximum area of productive forest land.

FINDING: The area surrounding the subject property is not in commercial forestry use and the site presents no resource for wildlife or fisheries habitat nor watershed protection or recreation values.

FINDING: The subject property has a Timber Site Class Rating of V, thereby meeting the definition of forest land. However, the site chosen for the homesite is clearly not in forest production and significant tree growth is not apparent.

FINDING: The small site is not large enough for legitimate forestry use and

presently has no significant second growth. There is no property adjacent to the site which is presently in commercial forestry use. The signing of a restrictive covenant will prohibit the permit holder from interfering with accepted resource management practices if they do occur on nearby lands. Goal 4, Policy #4 states: "The County shall regulate development of nonforest uses in forested areas".

Rationale: To protect the health, safety, and welfare of county citizens. And to reduce the fire danger to man-made structures and forest resources.

FINDING: The proposed residence is within an established fire protection district and the response time is 20-30 minutes. Access to the property to fight fire is excellent, being only 1/2 mile from a paved county maintained road. Further, the applicant has agreed to required fuelbreaks around the house to prevent the spread of fire along with developing an on-site water supply specifically for fire suppression.

44.003 C: "That the location, size, design and operating characteristics of the proposed development will be compatible with and will not have significant adverse effects on the appropriate development and use of abutting properties and the surrounding neighborhood. Consideration shall be given to harmony in scale, bulk, coverage, and density; to the availability of civic facilities and utilities; to harmful effects, if any, upon desirable neighborhood characteristics and livability; to the generation of traffic and the capacity of surrounding streets; and to any other relevant impact of the development".

FINDING: Access to the proposal is provided via an unnamed user maintained easement road extending north from the county road (Pine Ridge Road). The road provides access for the proposal and to similar properties to the west

and is not utilized by commercial timber operators or for other forestry uses.

FINDING: The proposal is five miles from the nearest fire station, and will be accessible during the winter months. The residence will not significantly increase the risk of wildfire impacts to nearby forest land or increase the danger to firefighters.

FINDING: The property is located within the Klamath County School District and will have no impact on the school system. The existence of a new residential use within the district will slightly increase the tax base.

B. Klamath County Land Development Code Section 51.020 E - Non Forest Conditional Use Permit Criteria:

The uses conditionally permitted shall be subject to review in accordance with the following criteria:

1. The proposal is compatible with forest uses;

FINDING: Large lot rural-residential use predominate to the west. Low intensity agricultural use is found to the north. Idle property with no discernible management is found to south and east.

2. The proposal does not interfere seriously with the accepted forestry practices on adjacent lands devoted to forestry use, and does not significantly increase the cost of forestry operations on such lands;

FINDING: The adjacent lands to the north, south, east and west are found not devoted to forestry uses as set out in state and local goals. The Hearings Officer finds the predominant land use to be large-lot residential. The closest forestry use lands are to the north and east some distance of the applicants property. The location of a non-resource home will not conflict with management practices on those lands. The permit holder will be

required to file a restrictive covenant which will prohibit the permit holder and successors in interest from filing complaints concerning valid resource management practices on adjacent lands.

3. The project will not materially alter the stability of the overall land use of the area;

FINDING: The subject parcel was created years ago as a result of parcelization prior to the current Land Development Code and determined to constitute legal parcels. The placement of a residence on the property will not destabilize the existing land use pattern of the area as residential use similar to that proposed has been established in the immediate vicinity.

4. The proposal is located on generally unsuitable land for the production of forest products and livestock, considering the terrain, adverse soil or land conditions, drainage and flooding, vegetation, location and size of the tract;

FINDING: The project is on a parcel, 22.12 acres, too small to be considered for commercial forest uses. The site is found to be poorly located for forest management activities as it is located between developed properties and adjacent to an all year stream, Larson Creek. Commercial forest practices may conflict with the residential and low intensity agricultural uses long established in the area.

5. The proposal considers site productivity, minimizes the loss of productive forest lands; and is limited to the area suitable and appropriate to the needs of the proposed use;

FINDING: Site productivity for noncommercial forest uses may actually be increased due to the presence of an interested landowner. No loss of productive resource lands will result, rather the resident will enhance the

noncommercial resource uses of the property through intensive management practices. The Hearings Officer finds the commercial Forestry land base of the County will not be compromised by the permitting of a nonforest home on 22.12 acres.

6. The proposal meets the standards set forth relating to the availability of fire protection and other rural services and will not tax those services;

FINDING: Structural fire protection is provided by the Chiloquin/Agency Lake R.F.D.. In addition, the owner shall adhere to the requirements outlined in Section 51.020 G of the Code, RESIDENTIAL SITING STANDARDS. Other rural services will be minimally impacted by the addition of another residence.

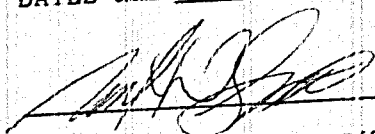
7. ORDER:

Therefore, it is ordered the request of Steve Harper for approval of C.U.P. 27-90 is approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall file a restrictive covenant with the County Clerk prohibiting the permit grantee and successors in interest from filing complaint concerning accepted resource management practices that may occur on nearby lands devoted to commercial resource use.
2. The applicant must comply with the fire safety and other siting standards of the land use code.

3. The applicant shall comply with the conditions of approval set out in the O.D.F.W. letter dated May 29, 1990 (Exhibit f) relating to the riparian zone of Larson Creek (Larkin Creek).

DATED this 29th day of June, 1990



Neil D. Smith, Hearings Officer

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

You are hereby notified that this decision may be appealed to the Klamath County Board of Commissioners by filing with the Planning Department a NOTICE OF APPEAL as set out in Section 33.004 of the Code, together with the required fee within TEN DAYS of the date of mailing of this decision.

STATE OF OREGON: COUNTY OF KLAMATH: ss.

Filed for record at request of Klamath County the 2nd day
of July A.D., 19 90 at 2:23 o'clock P.M., and duly recorded in Vol. M90
of Deeds on Page 12972
By Evelyn Biehn County Clerk
Pauline Mueland

FEE \$none

Return: Commissioners Journal.