OREGON DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ORS 195.300 to ORS 195.336 (MEASURE 49) SUPPLEMENTAL REVIEW
OF MEASURE 37 CLAIM
Final Order of Denial

STATE ELECTION NUMBER: E129529

CLAIMANTS:
Norman Lovell¹
72234 Lower Imnaha Road
Imnaha, OR 97842

MEASURE 37 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION:
Township 1N, Range 48E, Section 5
Tax lots 300 and 400
Township 2N Range 48E, Section 32
Tax lot 3500
Wallowa County

The claimant, Norman Lovell, filed a claim with the state under ORS 197.352 (2005) (Measure 37) on June 19, 2006, for property located at 72234 Lower Imnaha Road, near Imnaha, in Wallowa County. ORS 195.300 to ORS 195.336 (Measure 49) entitles claimants who filed Measure 37 claims to elect supplemental review of their claims. The claimant has elected supplemental review of his Measure 37 claim under Section 6 of Measure 49, which allows the Department of Land Conservation and Development (the department) to authorize up to three home site approvals to qualified claimants.

This Final Order of Denial is the conclusion of the supplemental review of this claim.

1. ANALYSIS OF CLAIM

A. Maximum Number of Home Sites for Which the Claimant May Qualify

Under Section 6 of Measure 49, the number of home site approvals authorized by the department cannot exceed the lesser of the following: three; the number stated by the claimant in the election materials; or the number described in a Measure 37 waiver issued by the state, or if no waiver was issued, the number of home sites described in the Measure 37 claim filed with the state. The claimant has requested three home site approvals in the election material. The Measure 37 waiver issued for this claim describes twenty-four home sites. Therefore, the claimant may qualify for a maximum of three home site approvals under Section 6 of Measure 49.

¹ Anna May Warnock was also a Measure 37 claimant; however, she passed away since the filing of the Measure 37 claim.
B. Qualification Requirements

To qualify for a home site approval under Section 6 of Measure 49, the claimant must meet each of the following requirements:

1. Timeliness of Claim

A claimant must have filed a Measure 37 claim for the property with either the state or the county in which the property is located on or before June 28, 2007, and must have filed a Measure 37 claim with both the state and the county before Measure 49 became effective on December 6, 2007. If the state Measure 37 claim was filed after December 4, 2006, the claim must also have been filed in compliance with the provisions of OAR 660-041-0020 then in effect.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions

The claimant, Norman Lovell, filed a Measure 37 claim, M129529, with the state on June 19, 2006. The claimant filed a Measure 37 claim, 2006-071, with Wallowa County on June 1, 2006. The state claim was filed prior to December 4, 2006.

The claimant timely filed a Measure 37 claim with both the state and Wallowa County.

2. The Claimant Is an Owner of the Property

Measure 49 defines “Owner” as: “(a) The owner of fee title to the property as shown in the deed records of the county where the property is located; (b) The purchaser under a land sale contract, if there is a recorded land sale contract in force for the property; or (c) If the property is owned by the trustee of a revocable trust, the settlor of a revocable trust, except that when the trust becomes irrevocable only the trustee is the owner.”

Findings of Fact and Conclusions:

According to the decree of distribution submitted by the claimant, Norman Lovell is the owner of fee title to the property as shown in the Wallowa County deed records and, therefore, is an owner of the property under Measure 49.

Wallowa County has confirmed that the claimant is the current owner of the property.

3. All Owners of the Property Have Consented in Writing to the Claim

All owners of the property must consent to the claim in writing.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions:

All owners of the property have consented to the claim in writing.
4. The Property Is Located Entirely Outside Any Urban Growth Boundary and Entirely Outside the Boundaries of Any City

The Measure 37 claim property must be located entirely outside any urban growth boundary and entirely outside the boundaries of any city.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions:

The Measure 37 claim property is located in Wallowa County, outside any urban growth boundary and outside any city limits, near the community of Imnaha.

5. One or More Land Use Regulations Prohibit Establishing the Lot, Parcel or Dwelling

One or more land use regulations must prohibit establishing the requested lot, parcel or dwelling.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions:

Tax lots 300 and 3500 of the Measure 37 claim property are currently zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) by Wallowa County, in accordance with ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660, division 33, because the property is “agricultural land” as defined by Goal 3. Goal 3 requires agricultural land to be zoned exclusive farm use. Applicable provisions of ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660, division 33, enacted or adopted pursuant to Goal 3, generally prohibit the establishment of a lot or parcel less than 80 acres in size in an EFU zone, and regulate the establishment of dwellings on new or existing lots or parcels.

Tax lots 300 and 3500 of the Measure 37 claim property consists of 151.08 acres.

Tax lot 400 of the Measure 37 claim property is currently zoned Timber/Grazing (T/G) by Wallowa County in accordance with Goals 3 and 4, as implemented by OAR 660-006-0050. State land use regulations, including applicable provisions of ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660, divisions 6 and 33, generally prohibit the establishment of a lot or parcel less than 80 acres in size in a mixed farm/forest zone and regulate the establishment of dwellings on new or existing lots or parcels. Under ORS 215.780(2)(a), counties may adopt minimum lot sizes larger than 80 acres, subject to approval by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (the Commission). The Commission has approved Wallowa County’s T/G zone, which requires a minimum lot size of 240 acres.

Tax lot 400 of the Measure 37 claim property consists of 81.67 acres.

Therefore, state land use regulations prohibit the claimant from establishing on the Measure 37 claim property the three home sites the claimant may qualify for under Section 6 of Measure 49.
6. The Establishment of the Lot, Parcel or Dwelling Is Not Prohibited by a Land Use Regulation Described in ORS 195.305(3)

ORS 195.305(3) exempts from claims under Measure 49 land use regulations:

(a) Restricting or prohibiting activities commonly and historically recognized as public nuisances under common law;
(b) Restricting or prohibiting activities for the protection of public health and safety;
(c) To the extent the land use regulation is required to comply with federal law; or
(d) Restricting or prohibiting the use of a property for the purpose of selling pornography or performing nude dancing.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions

Based on the documentation submitted by the claimant, it does not appear that the establishment of the three home sites for which the claimant may qualify on the property is prohibited by land use regulations described in ORS 195.305(3).

7. On the Claimant’s Acquisition Date, the Claimant Lawfully Was Permitted to Establish at Least the Number of Lots, Parcels or Dwellings on the Property That Are Authorized Under Section 6 of Measure 49

A claimant’s acquisition date is “the date the claimant became the owner of the property as shown in the deed records of the county in which the property is located. If there is more than one claimant for the same property under the same claim and the claimants have different acquisition dates, the acquisition date is the earliest of those dates.”

Findings of Fact and Conclusions

Wallowa County deed records indicate that the claimant acquired the property on January 25, 1994.

On January 25, 1994, tax lots 300 and 3500 of the Measure 37 claim property were subject to Wallowa County’s acknowledged Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zone. Wallowa County’s Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) requires 80 acres for the creation of a new lot or parcel on which a dwelling could be established. Tax lots 300 and 3500 consist of 151.08 acres, and are developed with two dwellings. Therefore, the claimant lawfully could not have established on tax lots 300 and 3500 of the Measure 37 claim property any additional home sites on his date of acquisition.²

On January 25, 1994, tax lot 400 of the Measure 37 claim property was subject to Wallowa County’s acknowledged Timber/Grazing (T/G) zone. Wallowa County’s Timber/Grazing (T/G)

² On the claimant’s acquisition date he may have been lawfully permitted to establish one home site on tax lots 300 and 3500 of the Measure 37 claim property. However, because it appears that tax lots 300 and 3500 of the Measure 37 claim property already include at least one lot or parcel that is developed with a dwelling, an authorization of one home site approval would not appear to provide the claimant with any benefit.
zone requires 160 acres for the creation of a new lot or parcel on which a dwelling could be established. Tax lot 400 consists of 81.67 acres. Therefore, the claimant lawfully could not have established any home sites on tax lot 400 of the Measure 37 claim property on his date of acquisition.

II. COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

The department issued its Preliminary Evaluation for this claim on September 15, 2009. Pursuant to OAR 660-041-0090, the department provided written notice to the owners of surrounding properties. No written comments were received in response to the 28-day notice.

III. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, the claimant does not qualify for Measure 49 home site approvals because the claimant was not lawfully permitted to establish the lots, parcels or dwellings on the claimant’s date of acquisition.
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Final Order of Denial is entered by the Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development as a final order of the department and the Land Conservation and Development Commission under ORS 197.300 to ORS 195.336 and OAR 660-041-0000 to 660-041-0160.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND THE LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Judith Moore, Measure 49 Division Manager
Dept. of Land Conservation and Development
Dated this 6th day of November 2009.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL OR OTHER JUDICIAL RELIEF

You are entitled, or may be entitled, to judicial remedies including the following:

1. Judicial review is available to anyone who is an owner of the property as defined in Measure 49 that it the subject of this final determination, or a person who timely submitted written evidence or comments to the department concerning this final determination.

2. Judicial review under ORS 183.484 may be obtained by filing a petition for review within 60 days from the service of this order. A petition for judicial review under ORS 183.484 must be filed in the Circuit Court in the county in which the affected property is located. Upon motion of any party to the proceedings, the proceedings may be transferred to any other county with jurisdiction under ORS 183.484 in the manner provided by law for change of venue.

3. Judicial review of this final determination is limited to the evidence in the record of the department at the time of its final determination. Copies of the documents that comprise the record are available for review at the department’s office at 635 Capitol St. NE, Suite 150, Salem, OR 97301-2540. Judicial review is only available for issues that were raised before the department with sufficient specificity to afford the department an opportunity to respond.