

**STAFF REPORT**

**Planning Department File No. 2020-02-015**

**CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATION  
FOR  
ONE NON-FARM DWELLING**

Planning Commission Meeting Date: April 23, 2020

- 1. APPLICANT:** Andy & Joan Bentz  
2092 Westridge Drive  
Ontario, OR 97914
- OWNER OF RECORD:** Andrew P. & Joan M. Bentz  
2092 Westridge Drive  
Ontario, OR 97914
- 2. PROPOSED ACTION:** Conditional Use approval for one non-farm dwelling.
- 3. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION:** Tax Lot 900, T18S, R46E, Sec. 24; Assessors Map 18S4624; Malheur County Reference #7572.
- 4. PROPERTY LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS:** South on Vista Drive from Hwy 20/26. Turn into driveway of 3808 just south of Shoestring Canal. Drive east on driveway to shop and home site.
- 5. ZONING:** Exclusive Farm Use (C-A1).
- 6. PARCEL SIZE:** The parcel is 15.95 acres.
- 7. PARCEL USE:** Vacant bench top with about 10 acres of pasture land. Parcel currently has a shop.
- 8. SURROUNDING USE:** To the west is a non-farm dwelling. To the north, south and west is all farm land.
- 9. ACCESS:** Vista Road via US Hwy 20/26. (Letter Attached)
- 10. SANITATION REQUIREMENTS:** A DEQ approved sanitation system would be required.
- 11. FIRE PROTECTION:** The parcel is within the Ontario Rural Fire Protection District. (Letter Attached).

**12. NATURAL HAZARDS:** None.

**13. WATER RIGHTS:** The property does have water rights attached to it. (Letter Attached)

**14. SOIL TYPE:** The soils on the property are class III, IV, & VI.

**15. ZONING HISTORY:** A conditional use permit was approved in 2004 (2004-04-22-7) for a non-resource dwelling. The CUP was then granted an extension in 2008 for two years. The permit expired in May 2010.

#### **GENERAL CONDITIONAL USE CRITERIA**

**MCC 6-6-7 - GENERAL CRITERIA TO EVALUATE SUITABILITY:** In considering the suitability of proposed conditional uses, the Planning Commission shall base its decision upon the following criteria:

- A. Comprehensive Plan goals and policies, as applicable.
- B. Specific plan recommendations

**Proposed Finding: MCC 6-6-8-1 regulates the conditional use process for a non-farm dwelling.**

- C. Existing development and viewpoints of property owners in the surrounding area.

**Proposed Finding: Letter notice was sent to adjoining landowners on March 5, 2020 and published in the Argus Observer on March 6, 2020. No comments were received.**

- D. Availability of services and utilities.

**Proposed Finding: The parcel is located within the Ontario Rural Fire Protection District. All services and utilities are available.**

- E. The effect of the proposed use on the stability of the community's social and economic characteristics.

**Proposed Finding: The proposed dwelling will have no negative effect on the farming/ranching practices that would interfere with the stability of the community's social and economic characteristics.**

- F. It does not interfere with traditional fish and wildlife use of habitats determined critical or sensitive in the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan for Malheur County.

**Proposed Finding: The proposed dwelling is not located in an area that contains fish or wildlife deemed critical or sensitive, and will not interfere with**

**traditional fish and wildlife.**

G. General Criteria

1. Increasing setbacks of structures to reduce possibilities of overshadowing adjoining property, noise, odor or night lighting nuisances.

**Proposed Finding: The proposal is to build a house on this parcel. The proposed residence will not overshadow adjoining property. This criterion is met.**

2. Landscaping improvements for the visual benefits of the subject site and for the improved appearance of the neighborhood and County.

**Proposed Finding: The proposed dwelling will not deteriorate the appearance of the neighborhood. This criterion is met.**

3. Location and size of driveway access points and right-of-way widening and improvement for present and future traffic circulation and safety.

**Proposed Finding: The subject parcel has access from Vista Drive. No new access must be obtained (see attached letter).**

4. Visual screening of outdoor waste and storage areas.

**Proposed Finding: The proposed development is for a dwelling. Outdoor waste storage will be minimal. This criterion is met.**

5. Control and focusing of outdoor lighting to avoid glare being directed beyond property limits.

**Proposed Finding: Control of outdoor lighting will not be necessary.**

6. Special criteria listed below, as applicable:

H. Allowance of Certain Uses: A use allowed under Section 6-3A-3 of this Title shall be approved only where it is found that the use will not:

1. Force a significant change in accepted farm or forest practices on surrounding lands devoted to farm or forest use; or
2. Significantly increase cost of accepted farm or forest practices on surrounding lands devoted to farm or forest use. (Ord. 86, 12-7-1993)

**Proposed Finding: This home will not have any impact to any current use in the area. No activities will conflict with grazing or farming. The proposed**

**non-resource dwelling will not force significant change in accepted farm or forest practices on surrounding lands devoted to farm use, nor significantly increase the cost of accepted farm practices.**

#### **SPECIFIC CONDITIONAL USE CRITERIA**

#### **MMC 6-6-8-1 - NONRESOURCE DWELLINGS IN EFU, ERU OR EFFU ZONES:**

A. The use:

1. Is compatible with farm uses and is consistent with ORS 215.243; and

**Proposed Finding: The granting of this application will not result in loss of natural resources, and the amount of open land used for agriculture use will not change. Therefore, the proposed use is compatible with farm use.**

2. Does not interfere seriously with accepted farming practices on adjacent lands; and

**Proposed Finding: The subject parcel and the neighboring parcel to the east were both previously approved for non-resource dwellings. These parcels sit on the top of a bench and is not farmable land due to the soil being gravel/aggregate.**

3. Does not materially alter the stability of the overall land use pattern of the area; and

**Added by OAR 660-033-130(4)(a)(D) - June 1, 1998:** In determining whether a proposed non-farm dwelling will alter the stability of the land use pattern in the area, a county shall consider the cumulative impact of possible new non-farm dwellings and parcels on other lots or parcels in the area similarly situated. To address this standard, the county shall;

- i. Identify a study area for the cumulative impacts analysis. The study area shall include at least 2000 acres or a smaller area not less than 1000 acres, if the smaller area is a distinct agricultural area based on topography, soil types, land use pattern, or the type of farm or ranch operations or practices that distinguish it from other adjacent agricultural areas. Findings shall describe the study area, its boundaries and the location of the subject parcel within this area, why the selected area is representative of the land use pattern surrounding the subject parcel and is adequate to conduct the analysis required by this standard. Lands zoned for rural residential or other urban or non-resource uses shall not be included in the study area.
- ii. Identify within the study area the broad types of farm uses (irrigated or non-irrigated crops, pasture or grazing lands), the number, location and type of existing dwellings (farm, non-farm, hardship, etc.), and the dwelling development trends since 1993. Determine the potential number of non-farm / lot-of-record dwellings that could be

approved under subsections (3)(a), (3)(d) and section (4) of this rule, including identification of predominant soil classifications, the parcels created prior to January 1, 1993, and the parcels larger than the minimum lot size that may be divided to create new parcels for non-farm dwellings under ORS 215.263(4). The findings shall describe the existing land use pattern of the study area including the distribution and arrangement of existing uses and the land use pattern that could result from approval of the possible non-farm dwellings under this subparagraph:

- iii. Determine whether approval of the proposed non-farm / lot-of-record dwellings together with existing non-farm dwellings will materially alter the stability of the land use pattern in the area. The stability of the land use pattern will be materially altered if the cumulative effect of existing and potential non-farm dwellings will make it more difficult for the existing types of farms in the area to continue operation due to diminished opportunities to expand, purchase or lease farmland, acquire water rights or diminish the number of tracts or acreage in farm use in a manner that will destabilize the overall character of the study area.
4. Is situated on generally unsuitable land for the production of farm crops or livestock considering the terrain, adverse soil or land conditions, drainage and flooding, location and size of tract.

- B. As a condition of approval, the owner is required to allow the following statement to be entered into the chain of title for the non-farm parcel: (the use of a straw-man may be necessary):

“The property herein described is situated in or near a resource (farm or ranch) zone, where the intent is to encourage agricultural use and minimize conflicts with non-resource uses. Non-resource residents may be subjected to common, customary and accepted farm and ranch practices that are conducted in accordance with federal and state laws but ordinarily and necessarily produce noise, dust, smoke and other impacts. The grantees, including their heirs, assigns and lessees, by the recording of this statement, and in return for allowing a non-resource dwelling on this property, hereby accept the potential impacts of accepted farm and ranch practices as normal and necessary and part of the risk of establishing a dwelling in this area, and grantee acknowledges the need to avoid activities that conflict with nearby resource uses.” Evidence shall be provided showing the lot or parcel upon which the dwelling is proposed to be located has been disqualified for valuation at true cash value for farm use under ORS 308.113.

**Proposed Finding: The non-resource dwelling will be located on land that is not farmable due to the lack of soils (mostly aggregate) and is on the edge of a bench. The approximately 10 acres of irrigated land will be kept in farm use.**

## **OTHER PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT**

The applicant has submitted additional proposed findings of fact in the conditional use

application.

## **PROPOSED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

1. The following statement must be entered into the chain of title for the new non-farm dwelling parcel: (Subject parcel is tax lot #1200, Section 31, T17S, R47E, Assessor's map 17S4731. Malheur County Reference #7205)

“The property herein described is situated in or near a resource (farm or ranch) zone, where the intent is to encourage agricultural use and minimize conflicts with non-resource uses. Non-resource residents may be subjected to common, customary and accepted farm and ranch practices that are conducted in accordance with federal and state laws but ordinarily and necessarily produce noise, dust, smoke and other impacts. The grantees, including their heirs, assigns and lessees, by the recording of this statement, and in return for allowing a non-resource dwelling on this property, hereby accept the potential impacts of accepted farm and ranch practices as normal and necessary and part of the risk of establishing a dwelling in this area, and grantee acknowledges the need to avoid activities that conflict with nearby resource uses.”

2. Adequate firebreaks shall be constructed and maintained to minimize danger from potential wildfire.
3. This approval is valid for four years from the date of this order. Substantial action must be taken within this time period or the approval will lapse.

## **EXHIBITS**

1. Applicant's Approved Conditional Use Application
2. Agency Letters
3. Maps