

To the Malheur County Planning Commission,

I request that this letter be read out loud in the meeting to be put into the record.

My name is Rod Price. I farm on a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farm with my brother and nephew.

When settlers came to this part of the U.S. it was because of projects like the Owyhee Dam, which was dedicated in July of 1932. Tunnel # 5 (approximately five miles long) was completed in 1935. Water from the tunnel comes out directly behind our home place. As laterals were developed so was the farm ground. When the first settlers arrived, they lived in very primitive conditions such as tarpaper shacks, dugouts, tents, living with other people, or whatever it took to live temporarily until they could build homes.

My father's family came here from the dust bowl in 1937 and lived in a cutout in the bank of the river in the Kingman Colony area until they could get something better.

The replacement dwelling that Jeff Downie is asking to replace was exactly one of these. This dwelling was very temporary and the requirements needed to replace this dugout in Oregon Statute 215.283 did not exist. He provided no proof of official record that it existed as far as the county or state had recorded. There is no physical evidence in Jeff's exhibits; no physical address, no pictures, no power bills etc.

I am not saying that a primitive structure did not exist, because it did. But this week I was questioning Keith Tallman, 92 years old. Keith grew up and farmed all his life in this area, and now resides in Boardman, Oregon. He said there was a structure on the river, but when his family arrived in the spring of 1939, the Eastman family did not live in the dugout and he said the Eastman's lived on the west side of the highway. I asked him about the dwelling on the river and he said you could barely see the roof from the road. It had no side walls above ground level. It was more like a basement. He said he was never in it because no one lived in it, from the time his family arrived in '39. He said the Eastman kids would walk the railroad tracks to the Napton School and my mother, Norma Jean Dierking, (whose friend was Phyllis Eastman), would join them as well as Keith as they passed by on their way to school. So, Keith knew the Eastman kids and would have known their living conditions.

I also talked with Emery Cameron (90) and he said that the Eastman's lived in the Big Bend area next to the Cameron family he thought from 1936 to 1938, before the Eastman's moved across the river south of Adrian.

Downie keeps referring to the property as the "Eastman Homestead" that can be deceiving and needs to be substantiated that it was homesteaded. Keith Tallman said an Oregon land company was finding buyers for property in this area at that time. That is how his folks and others obtained their farm ground.

If a replacement dwelling is given to the Downie's with the total lack of evidence or proof and on affidavits from people including himself that knew nothing about what went on prior to them coming here in 2000 to 2004, I think you have opened up a can of worms for others to do the same thing on any old structure or dwelling that existed in years past.

I hereby ask the planning commission to deny this application for a replacement dwelling on the basis of no evidence in regards to the requirements necessary in Oregon Statute 215.283 and that what was testified in the affidavits were inaccurate.

**This land and the adjoining land around it are classified C-1A or EFU ground and I *strongly* feel that this land should be left for its intended use - farming and not for homes or subdivisions.**

Submitted by Rod Price on May 28, 2020

**EXHIBIT #** 1