



**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES PERMIT**

**MODIFICATION #1**

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
 800 SE Emigrant Ave. Suite 330, Pendleton, OR 97801  
 Telephone: 541-276-4063  
 Issued pursuant to ORS 468B.050

**ISSUED TO:**

Silvies Valley Ranch, LLC  
 40000 Cowboy Lane  
 Seneca, OR 97873

**SOURCES COVERED BY THIS PERMIT:**

Type of Waste	Outfall Number	Location
Domestic Wastewater	001	Tanks/Drainfields
Graywater	002	Subsurface
Domestic Wastewater	003	Lagoon

**FACILITY TYPE AND LOCATION:**

Septic Tanks, Drainfields, Wastewater  
 Lagoon, Graywater Systems  
 10000 Rendezvous Lane  
 Seneca, OR

**RIVER BASIN INFORMATION:**

WRD Basin: Malheur Lake  
 USGS Sub basin: Silvies  
 LLID: 1190333435686 - RM 67  
 Lat/Long: 44.0540/-118.9786  
 County: Grant

**Treatment System Class Level:** SWWS  
**Collection System Class Level:** N/A

Nearest surface stream which would receive waste if it were to discharge: Silvies River

Permit renewal issued in response to application #953086 received May 16, 2018 and based on the land use compatibility statement in the permit record. Modification #1 is issued in response to application #948175 and is processed as a minor modification.

Mike Hiatt, Water Quality Manager  
 Eastern Region

5-14-2024

Signature Date

5-14-2024

Effective Date

**PERMITTED ACTIVITIES**

Until this permit expires or is modified or revoked, the permittee is authorized to construct, install, modify, or operate a wastewater collection, treatment, control and disposal system in conformance with all the requirements, limitations, and conditions set forth in the attached schedules.

Unless specifically authorized by this permit, by another NPDES or WPCF permit, or by Oregon Administrative Rule, any other direct or indirect discharge to waters of the state is prohibited, including discharge to an underground injection control system.

**Table of Contents**

**SCHEDULE A Waste Discharge Limits .....3**

- 2. The Wastewater and Disposal Systems Shall Consist of the following locations: .....3
- 8. Graywater Reuse and Disposal Outfall 002: .....4
- 9. Hauled Waste Requirements: .....8
- 10. Sewage Lagoon Outfall 003: .....8

**SCHEDULE B Minimum Monitoring and Reporting Requirements ..... 10**

- 2. Minimum Monitoring and Reporting Requirements .....10

**SCHEDULE A**  
**Waste Discharge Limits**

Schedule A(2), Schedule A(8), Schedule A(9), and Schedule A(10) of the permit is fully replaced with the following:

**2. The Wastewater and Disposal Systems Shall Consist of the following locations:**

- a. Silvies Valley Rest Area: System installed in 2012. 1,000-gallon septic tank and 450 lineal feet of drainfield.
- b. Golf Course:
  - i. Golf Course Club House: System installed in 2013. 1,500-gallon tank with 450 lineal feet of drain field line.
  - ii. Golf Course Restrooms: System installed in 2013. 1,000-gallon tank with 150 lineal feet of drainfield.
- c. Bridge Creek Headquarters: 450 gpd domestic wastewater with 350 lineal feet of drainfield.
- d. Guest Ranch: 6,709 feet of drainfield, a 5,000-gallon septic tank, 2,000 gallon dosing tank, replacement area for drainfield, 4,350 gpd domestic wastewater. A type 1 tier 2 graywater system serving guestroom showers for 300 gpd with 500 feet of shallow leach field.
- e. Bridge Creek: 450 feet of drainfield, a 1,250-gallon septic tank, 130' of 4" PVC piping, 450 gpd domestic wastewater.
- f. Bridge Creek Bunkhouse: 150' drainfield, 1,000-gallon septic tank, 80' of 4" PVC piping, 150 gpd domestic wastewater. System use must be limited to two guests at a time.
- g. Hideaway primary residence: 250' drainfield, 1,250-gallon septic tank, 895' of 4" PVC, 225 gpd domestic wastewater.
  - i. Hideaway Bunkhouse: This system was connected to the Hideaway primary residence and due to system size, the use of the bunkhouse must be limited to two guests at a time.
- i. Cottonwood: 450' drainfield, 1,250-gallon septic tank, 100' of 4" PVC, 450 gpd domestic wastewater.
- j. Cottonwood Bunkhouse: 150' drainfield, 1,000-gallon septic tank, 75' of 4" PVC, 150 gpd domestic wastewater. System use is limited to two guests at a time.
- k. Blackburn: 375' drainfield, 1,250-gallon septic tank, 30' of 4" PVC, 450 gpd domestic wastewater.
- l. Blackburn Bunkhouse: 150' drainfield, 1,000-gallon septic tank, 60' of 4" PVC, 150 gpd domestic wastewater. System use is limited to two guests at a time.
- m. Pronghorn: 387' drainfield, 1,250-gallon septic tank, 70' of 4" PVC, 450 gpd domestic wastewater.
- n. Pronghorn Bunkhouse: 150' drainfield, 1,000-gallon septic tank, 75' of 4" PVC, 150 gpd domestic wastewater. System use is limited to two guests at a time.

- o. Hankins: No drainfield, 1,500-gallon sewage tank.
- p. Lagoon: A 1.48-acre evaporative domestic wastewater lagoon, capable of holding 1.67 million gallons at capacity (3' depth, 2' freeboard). The lagoon is designed with a 60 mil HDPE liner and must maintain a minimum level of 1 ft. A dump station will be installed.
- q. RV Park: Eleven (11) spaces with power and potable water at each space. The gray water system is Type 1, which is either untreated graywater or it has passed through a physical process to remove solids, fats, oils and grease.
- r. Vacation Cabins: sewage storage tanks and gray water systems to serve individual cabins or clusters of cabins. The gray water systems will be Type 1, which is either untreated graywater or it has passed through a physical process to remove solids, fats, oils and grease. The gray water systems and sewage storage tanks associated with these cabins must receive Departmental approval prior to installation.

## 8. Graywater Reuse and Disposal Outfall 002:

The permittee may construct, install, and operate a graywater reuse and disposal system in compliance with OAR Chapter 345 Division 53 and pursuant to the following limitations:

### a. **Greywater Submittal Requirements:**

Submit the following documentation, meeting the conditions in Schedule D, to DEQ for review and approval:

- i. Graywater system design plan;
- ii. Operations and maintenance manual;
- iii. Graywater irrigation site evaluation;
- iv. For systems utilizing performance-based treatment, treatment system plans and specification; and
- v. For systems diverting graywater from an onsite wastewater treatment system (i.e., septic system), the system design plan must include the signature of a professional engineer registered in accordance with ORS Chapter 672 or a wastewater specialist registered in accordance with ORS Chapter 700 that the graywater system has been designed to not result in a septic tank effluent concentration that exceeds the criteria for residential strength wastewater.

### b. **Beneficial Purposes:**

The permittee may reuse graywater only for the following beneficial purposes:

- i. Subsurface irrigation of gardens, lawns, and landscape plants;
- ii. Subsurface irrigation of food crops, except root crops or crops that have edible portions that touch graywater;
- iii. Subsurface irrigation of vegetated roofs that do not drain to stormwater management structures;
- iv. Subsurface irrigation of compost; and

- v. Subsurface irrigation of livestock pasture and hay fields.
- vi. Graywater is only applied during the dry summer months when the vegetation needs the additional moisture. All graywater is to be directed back to the sanitary system during the winter months and periods of high rainfall.
- c. **Prohibited Uses.** The permittee may not use graywater for drinking, personal hygiene bathing, showering, cooking, dishwashing, maintaining oral hygiene or any use other than beneficial purposes.
- d. **Connection to wastewater disposal system required.** The graywater reuse and disposal system must be equipped with a graywater diversion valve that allows graywater flow to be directed between beneficial reuse and either an approved sewerage system, or a functioning onsite wastewater treatment system approved under OAR 340 Division 071. Graywater not suitable for reuse as described in this permit or the rules under OAR 340 Division 053 as well as graywater exceeding the volume needed for reuse must be diverted to a sewerage system or a functioning onsite wastewater treatment system or wastewater holding tank.
- e. **No discharge to surface water or stormwater systems allowed.** The permittee may not allow graywater discharge to:
  - i. Surface waters of the state;
  - ii. A municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4);
  - iii. An industrial stormwater system; or
  - iv. A stormwater management system including swales, infiltration basins, underground injection control (UIC) systems, or other structures intended to infiltrate stormwater into the ground.
- f. **No groundwater impacts allowed.**

The permittee must apply graywater at a rate and in a manner that minimizes the movement of contaminants to groundwater and does not adversely impact groundwater quality. At the time of irrigation, the minimum separation distance between the point of graywater release and groundwater must be at least four feet.
- g. **Graywater limitations.**

The permittee must divert the following wastewaters to a sewerage system or onsite wastewater treatment system:

  - i. Wastewater originating from kitchen sinks that has not passed through primary graywater treatment (primary treatment is the physical process to remove a portion of the grease, and floatable and settleable solids from graywater);
  - ii. Wastewater from dishwashers, garbage disposals, or both;
  - iii. Wastewater resulting from the washing of soiled diapers or other similarly infectious or soiled materials; and
  - iv. Wastewater containing residual waste from activities such as, but not limited to, cleaning of oily rags; rinsing of paint brushes; disposal of pesticides, herbicides, or other chemicals; or disposal of waste solutions from hobbyist activities like home photo labs.
- h. **Graywater reuse and disposal system design.**

The graywater reuse and disposal system must be designed to reuse a volume of water needed for a specified beneficial purpose or beneficial purposes. Graywater in excess of the design flow must be diverted to an approved sewerage system or a functioning onsite wastewater treatment system approved under OAR 340 Division 071. The system design must be documented in a written system design plan and transferred to the new owner or operator on property transfer.

i. **Graywater treatment and storage.**

Graywater must meet the criteria for Type 1 graywater, which includes the following conditions:

- i. All graywater originating from kitchen sinks must pass through a physical process to remove a portion of the grease, floatable and settleable solids.
- ii. Type 1 graywater may not be stored for more than 24 hours.

j. **Setbacks.**

The graywater system must be designed, installed, and operated to meet the following setbacks (in feet):

Feature requiring setback	Graywater Storage or Surge Tank	Point of graywater discharge to landscape for irrigation or edge of landscape pond	
		Type 1	Type 2
Groundwater supplies and wells	50	100	50
Springs	50	100	50
Surface water of the state, excluding springs	50	50	25
Stormwater management structures, collection systems, and catch basins	10	10	10
Underground injection control systems (UICs)	10	10	10
Property boundaries	5	2	2
Building structures	0	0	0

k. **Access and Exposure.** The permittee must implement the following access and exposure controls when using graywater:

- i. All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that contact with graywater by humans and domestic pets is avoided.
- ii. Using graywater for subsurface irrigation, the point of graywater discharge must be covered by at least two inches of soil, mulch, compost, or other suitable material.

l. **Graywater irrigation management.** The permittee may irrigate with graywater pursuant to the following limitations:

- i. Irrigation sites must be located on stable geologic formations not subject to flooding or excessive runoff from adjacent land at the time of irrigation.
- ii. Graywater may not be applied to areas with slopes exceeding 45 percent.
- iii. Graywater may not be discharged to frozen or saturated soils.
- iv. Irrigation may only occur when evapotranspiration exceeds precipitation.
- v. The soil and vegetation in the irrigation area must have capacity to accommodate the volume and rate of graywater applied so that discharge to surface water or groundwater does not occur.
- vi. When irrigating a parcel for the production of a food crop, the edible portion of the crop must not contact the graywater, and fruit or nuts must not be harvested off the ground for human consumption.
- vii. Type 1 graywater must not surface, pond, or runoff.
- viii. Graywater irrigation must not create objectionable odors, fly and mosquito breeding, or other nuisance conditions.

- m. **Operation and maintenance.** The owner or operator of the graywater reuse and disposal system must operate the system as specified in the written operations and maintenance manual submitted with the application that is specific to the system and remains with the system on property transfer.
- n. **Property lines crossed.** The permittee may reuse graywater only on the property on which it was generated, unless all of the following conditions are met:
  - i. Both the person generating graywater and the person reusing graywater agree to reuse graywater in accordance with the rules in OAR Chapter 340, Division 53.
  - ii. A written agreement exists and is being adhered to between the person generating graywater and owner of the property where graywater reuse occurs.
  - iii. The state's officers, agents, employees and representatives are allowed access to enter and inspect all portions of the graywater reuse and disposal system, regardless of location.
- o. **Waste strength limitations.** The permittee may not divert graywater from an onsite wastewater treatment system if the resulting septic tank effluent concentration exceeds the criteria for residential strength wastewater. If the resulting septic tank effluent concentration does exceed the criteria for residential strength wastewater, the permittee must take appropriate measures to reduce the septic tank effluent waste strength, such as but not limited to reducing the amount of graywater diverted from the onsite wastewater treatment system.
- p. **Graywater reuse and disposal system abandonment.** A permittee that abandons a graywater reuse and disposal system must remove the graywater diversion valve and direct all graywater flow to an approved sewerage system or a functioning onsite wastewater treatment system approved under OAR 340 Division 071.

#### 9. **Hauled Waste Requirements:**

The permittee may not accept hauled wastes, including but not limited to wastewater solids from another treatment facility, domestic septage, grease trap wastes, portable and chemical toilet wastes, landfill leachate, groundwater remediation wastewater, and commercial or industrial wastewater, may not be accepted at this facility for treatment or processing.

The permittee may have wastes from septic tanks and wastewater storage tanks on the Silvies Valley Ranch hauled by licensed septage haulers to the sewage lagoon outfall 003. Prior to use of the sewage lagoon outfall 003 a hauled waste plan for Silvies Valley Ranch must be approved by DEQ.

#### 10. **Sewage Lagoon Outfall 003:**

The permittee may construct, install, and operate a sewage lagoon for storage and treatment of sewage and wastewater from facilities covered by this permit pursuant to the following limitations:

- a. **Minimum depth:** The lagoon cell must maintain a minimum liquid level of 1 foot over accumulated solids.
- b. **Minimum Freeboard:** The lagoon cell must maintain a minimum freeboard of 2 feet.
- c. **Odor Control:** Sufficient freshwater shall be added as needed to control odors.
- d. **Allowed waste:** Only wastewater and septage from septic tanks and wastewater holding tanks serving the Silvies Valley Ranch may be discharged to this lagoon. The wastewater and septage must be transported by haulers with the required licensure.
- e. **Screening:** The wastewater discharge to the sewage lagoon shall be passed through a screen to remove garbage and debris to facilitate biosolids removal and land application.

- f. **Fencing and egress:** the sewage lagoon shall be fenced to keep animals and unauthorized personnel from accessing the facility. The lagoon shall have at a minimum one structure for the egress of people or animals from the lagoon to protect human health and the liner from damage.

**SCHEDULE B**

**Minimum Monitoring and Reporting Requirements**

Replace Schedule B(2)(c) and (e) with the following:

**2. Minimum Monitoring and Reporting Requirements**

- c. Effluent from: Rest area; Golf Course Club House; Bridge Creek & Bunkhouse; Hideaway; Cottonwood & Bunkhouse; Blackburn & Bunkhouse; Pronghorn & Bunkhouse; Golf Course Restrooms. The permittee must monitor effluent and record separately for each system according to the table below:

Parameter	Minimum Frequency	Type of Sample/Required Action
Occupancy/week for each bunkhouse/guest house system	Monthly	Record
Inspect septic tanks	Annually	Log record of inspection
Solids pumped from treatment system	Each occurrence	Log date, volume (gallons), hauler and disposal* point

\*Disposal must occur at a permitted facility and be listed on the report.

- e. **Sewage Lagoon.** The permittee must monitor the sewage lagoon as follows:

Item or Parameter	Minimum Frequency	Type of Sample/Required Action
Perimeter inspection (see note 1)	Weekly	Observation
Depth	Weekly	Measurement
Discharge Septage and Wastewater (see note 2)	Each load	Record information for each load
Lagoon Solids Accumulation (see note 3)	Once / Permit Cycle	Measurement

Notes: 1/ A perimeter inspection is a sight surveillance of the lagoon dikes looking for the presence of muskrats, ground hogs, or other rodents whose burrowing activities could threaten the structural integrity of a dike. 2/ For each load of septage or wastewater discharged to the sewage lagoon record: type (septage or wastewater), source location (on the ranch), date and time discharged, gallons, hauler & license number, 3/ During final or penultimate year of permit coverage the permittee shall survey the accumulation of biosolids in the sewage lagoon and report this on the next discharge monitoring report. This information shall also be provided to DEQ on the permit application to renew permit coverage.