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case #T2 2020 13067

1 message

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Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 10:29 AM

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Dear Lisa,

My husband and I own the property directly to the West of 2 of the properties under review in this case. I am actually not clear as to what the application under review is requesting in its entirety, as the application is referring to 3 tax lots as being under review to be included in a new single tax lot.

Please inform me who is the owner of the lot referred to as "17" in the aerial graphic of the properties.

My understanding is that the tax lots labelled "15" and "16" are privately owned, but that lot "17" is county owned, as it is a historical site.

Does this mean that Multnomah County has been petitioned to return lot 17 to private ownership as part of the "lot of record" verification and consolidation process?

If this is the case, I will tell you my concerns:

As I said, lot 17 is a historical site. It is the location of the burial of 2 or 3 of the original pioneer families. The location of the graves are marked, but the graves are no longer maintained by the descendants. There is also a memorial placed by the county commemorating another more recent historical figure, who is not buried there.

In addition to this, this small lot has some of the largest Douglass Firs on the island. We have lived her for 17 years, and during that entire time, it has been the yearly nesting site for a family of eagles. This is not to mention the other small animals, and large and small birds who make this small wooded area their habitat.

My concern is that by returning this small lot to private ownership, I am fairly certain that these trees will be cut down and sold for profit in time, and that lot 17 will be plowed under to be farmed.

In addition to the loss of habitat that is an important Eagle nesting area, and a historical site which is visited regularly in Summer and treasured by locals, removing the trees and plowing the soil will likely create a water drainage problem in this area.

The area directly to the South of lot 17 is low lying. In Winter during heavy rains, water accumulates there. Since the time we have lived here up until last year, the farmer leasing lots 15 and 16 did not attempt to farm the area just in front of lot 17, due to this water problem. It was left in a natural state with grass growing.

In the past year there is a new tenant and the area has been plowed right up to the woods. This has resulted in an amount of water 2 times the amount that I have seen in even the worst years. In fact, the water is now impinging onto my property – something that has never occurred previously.

If you are able, please call me to explain the application parameters in more detail, as well as the approval criteria.

If my concerns about the possibility of the legal transfer of ownership of lot 17 are valid, please consider this a formal comment for this case.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Lisa Scaglione

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