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3 SEC USE ONLY

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4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

USA

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Number of Shares Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person With: 5 SOLE VOTING POWER

336,598

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6 SHARED VOTING POWER

0

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7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

336,598

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8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

0

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9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

336,598

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10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

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11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

5.1

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12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IN

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**Item 1.**

(a) **Name of Issuer.**

NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY

(b) **Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices.**

200 SW MARKET STREET  
PORTLAND, OR 97201

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**Item 2.**

(a) **Name of Person Filing.**

WILLIAM R. TAGMYER

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(b) **Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence.**

200 SW MARKET STREET  
PORTLAND, OR 97201

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(c) **Citizenship.**

USA

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(d) **Title of Class of Securities.**

COMMON STOCK

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(e) **CUSIP Number.**

667746101

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**Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to Rules 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:**

- (a)  Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act;
  - (b)  Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act;
  - (c)  Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Act;
  - (d)  Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act;
  - (e)  An Investment Adviser under Section 203 of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940;
  - (f)  An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
  - (g)  A parent holding company, in accordance with Rule 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
  - (h)  A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);
  - (i)  A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940;
  - (j)  Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).
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**Item 4. Ownership.**

(a) Amount beneficially owned:

336,598\*

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(b) Percent of class:

5.1%

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(c) Number of shares as to which the person has:

(i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote:

336,598\*

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(ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote:

0

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(iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

336,598\*

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(iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

0

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\* Includes 140,066 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options.

**Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.**

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following.

**Item 6. Ownership of More Than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.**

NOT APPLICABLE

**Item 7. Identification and Classification of The Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.**

NOT APPLICABLE

**Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.**

NOT APPLICABLE

**Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.**

NOT APPLICABLE

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**Item 10. Certification**

By signing below, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

**SIGNATURE**

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I hereby certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Edgar Filing: NORTHWEST PIPE CO - Form SC 13G

Dated: April 11, 2002.

/s/ WILLIAM R. TAGMYER

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William R. Tagmyer

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QuickLinks

SIGNATURE