# BEFORE THE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of Transfer Application	)	FINAL ORDER APPROVING A CHANGE
T-11553, Umatilla County	)	IN POINT OF DIVERSION TO REFLECT
	)	HISTORIC USE AND PARTIAL
	)	CANCELLATION OF A WATER RIGHT

#### **Authority**

ORS 540.505 to 540.580 establishes the process in which a water right holder may submit a request to transfer the point of diversion, place of use, or character of use authorized under an existing water right. OAR Chapter 690, Division 380 implements the statutes and provides the Department's procedures and criteria for evaluating transfer applications.

ORS 540.621 establishes the process for the owner of land to which a water right is appurtenant to certify under oath that the water right, or a portion thereof, has been abandoned and to voluntarily request that it be cancelled.

## **Applicant**

THOMAS E. STRAUGHAN 71592 STRAUGHAN RD. PENDLETON, OR 97801

#### **Findings of Fact**

- 1. On March 25, 2013, F.E. Straughan filed a transfer application for authorization of an historic point of diversion under Certificates 2622 and 12380. The Department assigned the application number T-11553.
- 2. Notice of the application for transfer was published on April 2, 2013, pursuant to OAR 690-380-4000. No comments were filed in response to the notice.
- 3. On October 27, 2014, the Department assigned Transfer Application T-11553 to Thomas E. Straughan.

This is a final order in other than a contested case. This order is subject to judicial review under ORS 183.484. Any petition for judicial review must be filed within the 60-day time period specified by ORS 183.484(2). Pursuant to ORS 536.075 and OAR 137-004-0080, you may petition for judicial review or petition the Director for reconsideration of this order. A petition for reconsideration may be granted or denied by the Director, and if no action is taken within 60 days following the date the petition was filed, the petition shall be deemed denied.

4. The portion of the first right to be transferred is as follows:

Certificate: 12380 in the name of E.F. STRAUGHAN (perfected under Permit

S-12045)

Use: IRRIGATION OF 22.20 ACRES

Priority Date: JANUARY 22, 1936

Rate: 0.28 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Limit/Duty: The amount of water used for irrigation, together with the amount secured

under any other right existing for the same lands, shall be limited to ONE-EIGHTIETH of one cubic foot per second per acre, or its equivalent for each acre irrigated, and shall be further limited to a diversion of not to exceed 3.0 acre-feet per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation

season of each year.

Source: BIRCH CREEK, tributary of the UMATILLA RIVER

### **Authorized Point of Diversion:**

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
2 N	32 E	WM	33	SW NW

#### **Authorized Place of Use:**

	IRRIGATION							
Twp Rng Mer Sec Q-Q Acres								
2 N	32 E	WM	NW SE	4.50				
2 N 32 E WM 29 SW SE 17.70								
				TOTAL:	22.20			

5. Transfer Application T-11553 proposes to change the point of diversion to reflect historic use approximately 1¼ miles downstream from the original point of diversion to:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances	
2 N	32 E	WM	29	NW SE	POD No. 1 – GPS Coordinates: N. 45.6203°, W118.8358°	

6. The portion of the second right to be transferred is as follows:

**Certificate:** 

2622 in the name of AMANDA J. SOUTHWELL AND HEIRS OF JOHN

SOUTHWELL (confirmed by decree of the Circuit Court of the State of

Oregon for Umatilla County)

Use:

**IRRIGATION OF 29.02 ACRES AND STOCK USE** 

**Priority Date:** 

1895

Rate/Limit:

0.362 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND, subject to the provisions of paragraph 33 of said decree and all other conditions and limitations

contained in said decree

Source:

BIRCH CREEK, tributary of the UMATILLA RIVER

#### **Authorized Places of Use:**

	IRRIGATION AND STOCK USE							
Twp Rng Mer Sec Q-Q Acres								
2 N	32 E	WM	29	NW SE	20.00			
2 N	32 E	WM	29	SW SE	4.52			
2 N	32 E	WM	29	SE SE	4.50			
-	TOTAL: 29.02							

7. Certificate 2622 does not describe the location of the point of diversion for this water use. However information is available from the Birch Creek map of the Umatilla River basin adjudication indicating that the original point of diversion on Birch Creek is better described and located as follows:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Diversion Name
2 N	32 E	WM	33	SW NW	PRIVATE DITCH

8. Transfer Application T-11553 proposes to change the point of diversion to reflect historical use approximately 1¼ miles downstream from the original point of diversion to:

Tv	p Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances	
2 1	V 32 E	WM	29	NW SE	POD No. 1 – GPS Coordinates: N. 45.6203°, W118.8358°	

9. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has determined that a fish screen is necessary at the new point of diversion to prevent fish from entering the diversion and that the diversion is not currently equipped with an appropriate fish screen. This diversion may be eligible for screening cost-share funds.

## Transfer Review Criteria (ORS 540.532 and OAR 690-380-2120)

- 10. Pursuant to OAR 690-380-2120(2)(a), evidence has been submitted that the actual, current point of diversion for the water right in question, as described in Finding No. 8, has been in use for more than 10 years.
- 11. Pursuant to OAR 690-380-2120 (3), the Department provided the applicant a list of the affected water right and a copy of the notice to be provided to the affected water right holder. On October 22, 2014, the applicant hand delivered to the Department written proof of service of notice of the proposed transfer on the affected water right holder.
- 12. Water has been used within the last five years according to the terms and conditions of the right. However, the applicant has provided information as to the abandonment of 1.48 acres around the immediate farm complex and the use of water for Domestic uses out of Birch Creek. These abandoned portions are further described below in Findings of Fact #16 and #17. There is no other evidence available that would demonstrate that any other portions of the rights are subject to forfeiture under ORS 540.610.
- 13. A diversion structure, pump, pipeline, and sprinkler system sufficient to use the full amount of water allowed under the existing rights are present.
- 14. The proposed change would not result in enlargement of the rights.
- 15. The proposed change would not result in injury to other water rights.

## Partial Cancellation of a Water Right

- 16. The Department has determined that the use of water for Domestic use under Certificate 2622 has not been exercised for a great many years and asked the landowner to concur. The landowner also acknowledged that some lands have not been irrigated around the farm complex and are now a road, various out-buildings and storage area. The "evidence of use" form and map accompanying the application also did not describe the Domestic use and/or identify a delivery system describing such use. These portions of the water right should likely be cancelled. To accomplish this, the Department has provided the applicant a "Partial Cancellation of a Water Right" voluntary cancellation affidavit for his concurrence.
- 17. On November 10, 2014, the Department received a voluntary cancellation affidavit from Thomas E. Straughan, requesting to cancel portions of Certificate 2622 appurtenant to Tax Lot 2600, within Section 29, Township 1 North, Range 32 East, WM. The request to cancel the domestic portion only includes the use, and no quantity of water is associated with it.

The portions of the right proposed to be cancelled are described as follows:

Certificate: 2622 in the name of AMANDA J. SOUTHWELL AND HEIRS OF JOHN

SOUTHWELL (confirmed by decree of the Circuit Court of the State of

Oregon for Umatilla County)

Uses: IRRIGATION OF 1.48 ACRES AND DOMESTIC

**Priority Date:** 1895

Rate/Limit: 0.018 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND (for irrigation portion only)

Source: BIRCH CREEK, tributary to the Umatilla River

#### **Authorized Uses to be Cancelled:**

IRRIGATION									
Twp Rng Mer Sec Q-Q Acres									
2 N	2 N 32 E WM 22 SW SE 1.48								

DOMESTIC								
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Footprint (acres)			
2 N	32 E	WM	29	NW SE	20.00			
2 N	32 E	WM	29	SW SE	6.00			
2 N	32 E	WM	29	SE SE	4.50			

#### **Conclusions of Law**

The proposed change in points of diversion to reflect historical use in Transfer Application T-11553 is consistent with the requirements of ORS 540.505 to 540.580, and OAR 690-380-5000 and the abandoned portions of the right described by Certificate 2622 are cancelled.

## Now, therefore, it is ORDERED:

1. The change in points of diversion to reflect historical use proposed in Transfer Application T-11553 are approved and effective immediately. The portions of Water Right Certificate 2622 that have been abandoned are cancelled.

- 2. The right to the use of the water is restricted to beneficial use at the place of use described, and is subject to all other conditions and limitations contained in Certificate 2622 and 12380 and any related decree.
- 3. Water right Certificates 2622 and 12380 are cancelled. Certificates 89756 and 89757 will be issued to describe the change in points of diversion to reflect historical use for the rights included in T-11553. Certificate 89755 shall be issued to describe the portion of Certificate 12380 not modified by this order. Together, the new certificates shall supersede Certificates 2622 and 12380.
- 4. The quantity of water diverted at the new point of diversion shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original points of diversion.
- 5. Prior to October 1, 2016, the water user shall install and maintain a headgate, an in-line flow meter, weir, or other suitable device for measuring and recording the quantity of water diverted. The type and plans of the headgate and measuring device must be approved by the Department prior to beginning construction and shall be installed under the general supervision of the Department.
- 6. Prior to October 1, 2016, the water user shall install an approved fish screen at the new point of diversion and shall provide to the OWRD a written statement from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) that the installed screen meets the state's criteria, or that ODFW has determined a screen is not necessary.

The water user shall operate and maintain the fish screen at the new point of diversion consistent with ODFW's operational and maintenance standards. If ODFW determines the screen is not functioning properly, and is unsuccessful in working with the water user to meet ODFW standards, ODFW may request that OWRD regulate the use of water until OWRD receives notification from ODFW that the fish screen is functioning properly.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this 15 day of December, 2014.

Dwight French-Water Right Services Administrator, for

Thomas M. Byler, Director

Oregon Water Resources Department

Mailing date: DEC 2 4 2014