



Water Resources Department 725 Summer St NE, Suite A Salem, OR 97301 (503) 986-0900 Fax (503) 986-0904

October 26, 2015

WILLIAM AND JANELL BUERMANN PO BOX 69 BURNS, OR 97720

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Application T-11936

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to approve application T-11936. This document is an intermediate step in the approval process; water may not be used legally as proposed in the transfer application until a Final Order has been issued by the Department. Please read this entire letter carefully to determine your responsibility for additional action.

A public notice is being published in the Department's weekly publication and in the Burns Times Herald newspaper, simultaneously with issuance of the Preliminary Determination. The notice initiates a period in which any person may file either a protest opposing the decision proposed by the Department in the Preliminary Determination or a standing statement supporting the Department's decision. The protest period will end 30 days after the last date of newspaper publication.

If no protest is filed, the Department will issue a Final Order consistent with the Preliminary Determination. You should receive a copy of the Final Order about 30 days after the close of the protest period.

If a protest is filed, the application may be referred to a contested case proceeding. A contested case provides an opportunity for the proponents and opponents of the decision proposed in the Preliminary Determination to present information and arguments supporting their position in a quasi-judicial proceeding.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 503-986-0886 or <u>Patrick.K.Starnes@wrd.state.or.us</u> if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely

Kelly Starnes Transfer Program Analyst Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: Transfer Application T-11936
J R. Johnson, District 10 Watermaster (via e-mail)
Scott D. Montgomery, Agent/CWRE for the applicant (via e-mail)

# BEFORE THE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

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In the Matter of Transfer Application T-11936, Harney County PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A CHANGE IN POINT OF APPROPRIATION AND PLACE OF USE

#### Authority

ORS 537.705 and 540.505 to 540.580 establish the process in which a water right holder may submit a request to transfer the point of appropriation, 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.

## Applicant

WILLIAM AND JANELL BUERMANN PO BOX 69 BURNS, OR 97720

## **Findings of Fact**

- 1. On December 1, 2014, WILLIAM AND JANELL BUERMANN filed an application to change the point of appropriation and to change the place of use under Certificate 85943. The Department assigned the application number T-11936.
- 2. Notice of the application for transfer was published on December 9, 2014, pursuant to OAR 690-380-4000. No comments were filed in response to the notice.
- 3. On August 25, 2015, the Department sent a copy of the Draft Preliminary Determination proposing to approve Transfer Application T-11936 to the agent. The Draft Preliminary Determination cover letter set forth a deadline of September 25, 2015, for the applicants to respond. The applicants requested that the Department proceed with issuance of a Preliminary Determination and provided the necessary information to demonstrate that the applicant is authorized to pursue the transfer.
- 4. The portion of the right to be transferred is as follows:

Certificate:85943 in the name of RILEY AND SEWELL (perfected under Permit<br/>U-259)Use:SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION OF 63.6 ACRESPriority Date:AUGUST 26, 1948Rate:0.75 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Pursuant to OAR 690-380-4030, any person may file a protest or standing statement within 30 days after the last date of publication of notice of this preliminary determination.

Limit/Duty: The amount of water used for irrigation, together with the amount secured under any other right existing for the same lands, is limited to a diversion of ONE-EIGHTIETH of one cubic foot per second, 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. The use shall conform to such reasonable rotation system as may be ordered by the proper state officer.

Source: A WELL within the FOLEY SLOUGH BASIN

#### Authorized Point of Appropriation:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
23 S	31 E	WM	1	SW SW

**Authorized Place of Use:** 

	SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION							
Twp	Rng	Mer Sec		Q-Q	Acres			
23 S	31 E	WM	1	NE NE	7.6			
23 S	31 E	WM	1	NW NE	8.4			
23 S	31 E	WM	1	SW NE	8.6			
23 S	31 E	WM	1	SE NE	39.0			
				Total	63.6			

5. Transfer Application T-11936 proposes to move the authorized point of appropriation approximately 1 mile from the existing point of appropriation to:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
23 S	31 E	WM	1	NW NE	WELL 2 (HARN 326) - 300 FEET SOUTH AND 1625 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 1

6. Transfer Application T-11936 also proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

	SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres		
23 S	31 E	WM	1	NE NE	36.8		
23 S	31 E	WM	1	NW NE	8.4		
23 S	31 E	WM	1	SW NE	3.8		
23 S	31 E	WM	1	SE NE	14.6		
				Total	63.6		

#### Transfer Review Criteria (OAR 690-380-4010)

- 7. Water has been used within the last five years according to the terms and conditions of the rights. There is no information in the record that would demonstrate that the right is subject to forfeiture under ORS 540.610.
- 8. A pump, pipeline, and sprinkler system sufficient to use the full amount of water allowed under the existing rights were present within the five-year period prior to submittal of Transfer Application T-11936.
- 9. The proposed changes would not result in enlargement of the right.

- 10. The proposed changes would not result in injury to other water rights.
- 11. All other application requirements are met.

## **Determination and Proposed Action**

The change in point of appropriation and change in place of use proposed in Transfer Application T-11936 appears to be consistent with the requirements of ORS 537.705 and 540.505 to 540.580 and OAR 690-380-5000. If protests are not filed pursuant to OAR 690-380-4030, the application will be approved.

If Transfer Application T-11936 is approved, the final order will include the following:

- 1. The change in point of appropriation and change in place of use proposed in Transfer Application T-11936 are approved
- 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 85943 and any related decree.
- 3. Water right certificate 85943 is cancelled. A new certificate will be issued describing that portion of the right not affected by this transfer.
- 4. The quantity of water diverted at the new point of appropriation, shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original point of appropriation.
- 5. Water use measurement conditions:

a. Before water use may begin under this order, the water user shall install a totalizing flow meter, or, with prior approval of the Director, another suitable measuring device at each new and existing points of appropriation.

b. The water user shall maintain the meter or measuring device in good working order.

c. The water user shall allow the Watermaster access to the meter or measuring device; provided however, where the meter or measuring device is located within a private structure, the Watermaster shall request access upon reasonable notice.

- 6. If substantial interference with a senior water right occurs due to withdrawal of water from any well listed on this transfer, then use of water from the wells shall be discontinued or reduced and/or the schedule of withdrawal shall be regulated until or unless the Department approves or implements an alternative administrative action to mitigate the interference. The Department encourages junior and senior appropriators to jointly develop plans to mitigate interferences.
- 7. If the number, location, source, or construction of any well deviates from that proposed in this transfer application or required by transfer application conditions, this transfer may be subject to cancellation, unless the Department authorizes the change in writing.

- 8. Prior to using water from any well listed in this transfer, the permittee shall ensure that the well has been assigned an OWRD Well Identification Number (Well ID tag), which shall be permanently attached to the well. The Well ID shall be used as a reference in any correspondence regarding the well, including any reports of water use, water level, or pump test data.
- 9. Dedicated Measuring Tube: Wells with pumps shall be equipped with a minimum 3/4-inch diameter, unobstructed, dedicated measuring tube pursuant to figure 200-5 in OAR 690-200. If a pump has been installed prior to the issuance of this transfer, and if static water levels and pumping levels can be measured using an electrical tape, then the installation of the measuring tube can be delayed until such time that water levels cannot be measured or the pump is repaired or replaced.
- 10. Water shall be acquired from the same aquifer (water source) as the original point of appropriation.
- 11. The former place of use of the transferred right shall no longer receive water under the right.
- 12. Full beneficial use of the water shall be made, consistent with the terms of this order, on or before **October 1, 2017**. A Claim of Beneficial Use prepared by a Certified Water Right Examiner shall be submitted by the applicant to the Department within one year after the deadline for completion of the changes and full beneficial use of the water.
- 13. After satisfactory proof of beneficial use is received, a new certificate confirming the right transferred will be issued.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this 27 day of October, 2015.

Dwight French, Water Right Services Administrator, for Thomas M. Byler, Director Oregon Water Resources Department

This Preliminary Determination was prepared by Marcy Osborn. If you have questions about the information in this document, you may reach me at 541-523-8224 ext.228 or marcy.j.osborn@wrd.state.or.us.

Protests should be addressed to the attention of Transfer and Conservation Section, Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite A, Salem, OR 97301-1266.