



Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department
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December 13, 2016

GOLDEN RULE FARMS, INC.
PO BOX 255
CHRISTMAS VALLEY OR 97641

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Applications T-12336, 12337, and 12338

Please find enclosed Preliminary Determinations indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to approve Transfer Applications T-12336, 12337, and 12338. These documents are an intermediate step in the approval process; water may not be used legally as proposed in the transfer applications until Final Orders have been issued by the Department. Please read this entire letter carefully to determine your responsibility for additional action.

Public notices are being published in the Department's weekly publication and in the Burns Times-Herald newspaper, simultaneously with issuance of the Preliminary Determinations. The notices initiate periods 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 periods will end 30 days after the last date of newspaper publication.

If no protests are filed, the Department will issue Final Orders consistent with the Preliminary Determinations. You should receive a copies of the Final Orders about 30 days after the close of the protest periods.

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 Patrick.K.Starnes@ wrd.state.or.us if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Kelly Starnes
Transfer Program Analyst
Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: Transfer Application files T-12336, 12337, and 12338
J.R. Johnson, District 10 Watermaster (*via e-mail*)
John Short, Agent for the applicant

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**BEFORE THE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OF THE
STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of Transfer Application)
T-12338, Harney County)
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)
)

**PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A
CHANGE IN POINT OF
APPROPRIATION AND A CHANGE IN
PLACE OF USE**

Authority

Oregon Revised Statutes (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. Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 690, Division 380 implement the statutes and provides the Department’s procedures and criteria for evaluating transfer applications.

Applicant

GOLDEN RULE FARMS, INC.
PO BOX 255
CHRISTMAS VALLEY, OR 97641-0255

Findings of Fact

1. On April 12, 2016, GOLDEN RULE FARMS, INC. filed an application to change the point of appropriation to change the place of use under Certificate 82390. The Department assigned the application number T-12238.
2. Notice of the application for transfer was published on April 26, 2016, pursuant to OAR 690-380-4000.
3. On April 12, 2016, Transfer Applications T-12336 and T-12337 were filed. This transfer modifies the same right, described by Certificate 82390, that has been proposed to be modified in T-12336 and T-12337. Certificate 82390 shall be cancelled after all three transfer applications are processed.
4. On September 30, 2016, the Department sent a copy of the draft Preliminary Determination proposing to approve Transfer Application T-12338 to the applicant. The draft Preliminary Determination cover letter set forth a deadline of October 31, 2016, for the applicant to respond. The applicant 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. The applicant requested that the completion date be extended to October 1, 2022.

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.

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

Certificate: 82390 in the name of CARPENTER RANCH LLC (perfected under Permit G-10397)

Use: IRRIGATION OF 17.3 ACRES

Priority Date: SEPTEMBER 29, 1983

Rate: 0.22 CUBIC FEET 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: ONE WELL, in the MALHEUR LAKE BASIN

Authorized Point of Appropriation:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
25 S	31 E	WM	33	NW NW	770 FEET SOUTH AND 1320 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 33

Authorized Place of Use:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
25 S	31 E	WM	28	SW SW	9.4
25 S	31 E	WM	28	SE SW	7.9
Total					17.3

6. Transfer Application T-12338 proposes to move the authorized point of appropriation approximately 23.6 miles southeast from the existing point of appropriation to:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot	Measured Distances
27 S	34 E	WM	6	NW NE	2	1300 FEET SOUTH AND 1340 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 6

7. Transfer Application T-12338 also proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot	Acres
27 S	34 E	WM	6	NE NE	1	17.3

Transfer Review Criteria (OAR 690-380-4010)

8. Water has been used within the last five years according to the terms and conditions of the right. There is no information in the record that would demonstrate that the right is subject to forfeiture under ORS 540.610.
9. A pump, pipeline, and sprinkler system sufficient to use the full amount of water allowed under the existing right was present within the five-year period prior to submittal of Transfer Application T-12338.
10. The proposed changes would not result in enlargement of the right.
11. The proposed changes would not result in injury to other water rights.

12. All other application requirements are met.

Determination and Proposed Action

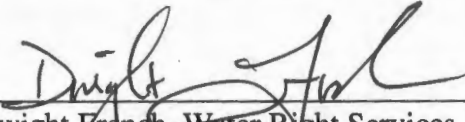
The change in point of appropriation and change in place of use proposed in Transfer Application T-12338 appear to be consistent with the requirements of ORS 537.705 and 540.505 to 540.580 and OAR 690-380-5000. If protests are not filed pursuant to OAR 690-380-4030, the application will be approved.

If Transfer Application T-12338 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-12338 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 82390 and any related decree.*
3. *Water Right Certificate 82390 is modified and will be cancelled upon approval or denial of T-12336 and T-12337.*
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 point of appropriation (new and existing)*
 - b. *The water user shall maintain the meters or measuring devices in good working order.*
 - c. *The water user shall allow the Watermaster access to the meters or measuring devices; provided however, where the meters or measuring devices are located within a private structure, the Watermaster shall request access upon reasonable notice.*
6. *Water shall be acquired from the same aquifer (water source) as the original point of appropriation.*
7. *The former place of use of the transferred right shall no longer receive water under the right.*
8. *Full beneficial use of the water shall be made, consistent with the terms of this order, on or before **October 1, 2022**. 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.*

9. *After satisfactory proof of beneficial use is received, a new certificate confirming the right transferred will be issued.*

Dated at Salem, Oregon this 15 day of December, 2016.



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

This Preliminary Determination was prepared by Kelly Starnes. If you have questions about the information in this document, you may reach me at 503-986-0886 or Patrick.K.Starnes@wr.d.state.or.us.

Protests should be addressed to the attention of Water Rights Services Division, Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite A, Salem, OR 97301-1266.

Notice Regarding Service Members: Active duty service members have a right to stay proceedings under the federal Service Members Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. §§501-597b. You may contact the Oregon State Bar or the Oregon Military Department for more information. The toll-free telephone number for the Oregon State Bar is: 1 (800) 452-8260. The toll-free telephone number of the Oregon Military Department is: 1 (800) 452-7500. The Internet address for the United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Legal Services Locator website is: <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>