



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department
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June 14, 2018

ANDREAS AND CAROLE BLECH
1867 WILLIAMS HWY #260
GRANTS PASS, OR 97527

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Application T-12837

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department has concluded that approval of the changes in points of diversion proposed in T-12837 would result in injury to instream water right 72697. Consistent with your request that we seek a recommendation from the Department of Fish and Wildlife on whether we should consent to the injury to the instream water right, we are proceeding with that process concurrently with issuance of the preliminary determination.

The Water Resources Department holds instream water rights in trust for the benefit of the people of Oregon. Under ORS 540.530(c), we may approve the transfer only if the agency that requested the instream water right concludes that the changes proposed will result in net benefits to the resources protected by the instream water right, and recommends that we consent to the injury of the right. Please contact the agency staff person to whom the agency review letter has been sent, to discuss whether you may be able to assist in providing information needed for the analysis.

After we have received a recommendation from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on whether to consent to the injury, provided no protests have been filed, we will issue an order either:

- Approving the transfer with conditions, if any, identified in the agency recommendations as necessary to ensure that the change will result in net benefits, or
- Reaffirming our decision that the instream water right would be injured and denying the transfer.

The timing for issuance of the order will depend on the availability of information needed by ODFW to perform the net benefits analysis upon which their recommendation must be based, and the time necessary to allow public review and comment on the recommendation. You are not authorized to use water from the proposed points of diversion pending a final decision by the Department on your transfer application.

A public notice is being published in the Department's weekly publication and in the Grants Pass Daily Courier 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 503-986-0814 or Jessica.L.Joye@oregon.gov, if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Jessica Joye
Reimbursement Authority Transfer Specialist
Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: Transfer Application file T-12837
Jake Johnstone, District 14 Watermaster (*via e-mail*)
Shonee Langford, Agent for the applicant (*via e-mail*)
Elizabeth Howard, Agent for the applicant (*via e-mail*)
Steve Bruce, CWRE #439 (*via e-mail*)
Confederated Tribes of Siletz (*via e-mail*)
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, (*via e-mail*)
Cow Creek band of Umpqua tribe of Indians, (*via e-mail*)

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