

## Groundwater Transfer Review Summary Form

Transfer/PA # T- 12359

GW Reviewer D. Boschmann Date Review Completed: 06/07/2019

### Summary of Enlargement (Same Source) Review:

[ ] The proposed transfer fails to keep the original place of use from receiving water from the same source.

### Summary of Injury Review:

☒ The proposed transfer will result in another, existing water right not receiving previously available water to which it is legally entitled.

### Summary of Well Construction Assessment:

[ ] The proposed POA does not have a well log.

[ ] The proposed POA does not appear to meet current well construction standards. Route through Well Construction and Compliance Section.

*This is only a summary. Documentation is attached and should be read thoroughly to understand the basis for determinations.*





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## Ground Water Review Form:

- ☒ **Water Right Transfer**  
☐ **Permit Amendment**  
☐ **GR Modification**  
☐ **Other**

Application: T-12359

Applicant Name: Rattlesnake Creek Land & Cattle

Proposed Changes: ☒ POA ☒ APOA ☐ SW→GW ☐ RA  
☒ USE ☒ POU ☐ OTHER

Reviewer(s): Darrick E. Boschmann

Date of Review: 06/07/2019

Date Reviewed by GW Mgr. and Returned to WRSD: 6/16/19

The information provided in the application is insufficient to evaluate whether the proposed transfer may be approved because:

- ☐ The water well reports provided with the application do not correspond to the water rights affected by the transfer.
- ☐ The application does not include water well reports or a description of the well construction details sufficient to establish the ground water body developed or proposed to be developed.
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

1. Basic description of the changes proposed in this transfer: \_\_\_\_\_

This review supersedes the original review dated 01/04/2017.

Transfer application T-12359 is related to **certificate 90309**.

**Certificate 90309** authorizes groundwater pumping from 1 well (POD 1 = HARN 50176) for primary irrigation of 6.7 acres, supplemental irrigation of 446.8 acres, and year-round industrial use in the Malheur Lake Basin

This transfer seeks the following changes to cert 90309:

1. Change the type of use for the industrial portion to primary irrigation.
2. Change the POA.
2. Add 11 APOAs (applicant will tie into existing irrigation system)
3. Transfer to a POU ~12 miles south.

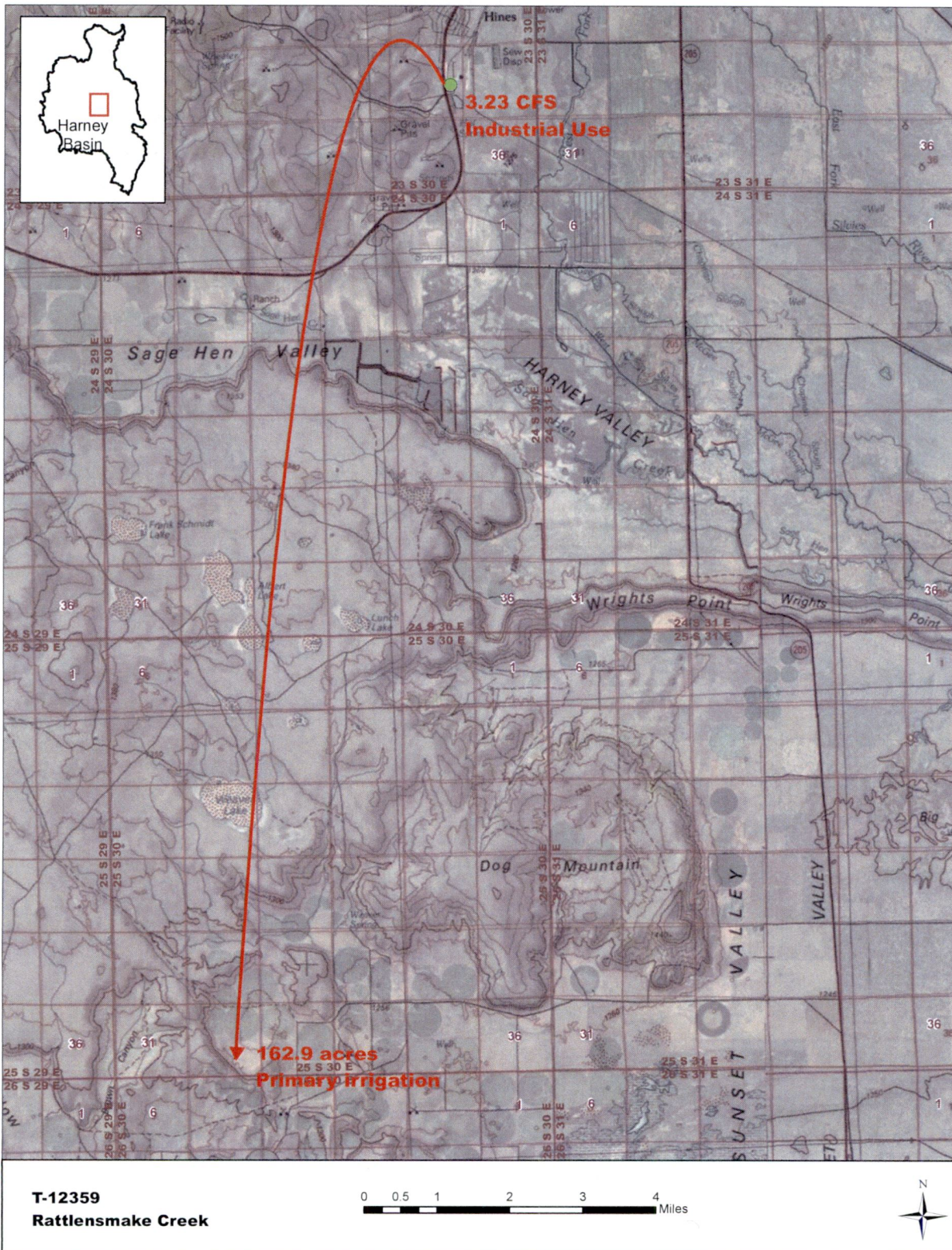
2. Will the proposed POA develop the same aquifer (source) as the existing authorized POA?  
☒ Yes ☐ No Comments: Available data indicates a predominantly volcanic/volcaniclastic unit occurs beneath a predominantly basin fill sediment unit. Reports for the Malheur Lake Basin indicate groundwater occurs in both the basin fill and underlying volcanic rocks. The groundwater is likely hydraulically connected, making a single groundwater system occurring in different geologic units. Leonard (1970) found that near the edges of the valley there is likely good interconnection between individual water-bearing beds in the valley fill and those in the adjacent and underlying tertiary rocks.
3. a) Is there more than one source developed under the right (e.g., basalt and alluvium)?  
☐ Yes ☒ No See comment in 2 above.
- b) If yes, estimate the portion of the right supplied by each of the sources and describe any limitations that will need to be placed on the proposed change (rate, duty, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_
4. a) Will this proposed change, at its maximum allowed rate of use, likely result in an increase in interference with **another ground water right**?  
☒ Yes ☐ No Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

The proposed APOAs are located ~12 miles south of the currently authorized well. Consequently, groundwater withdrawals at this proposed location will result in an increase in interference with groundwater rights near that location. Additionally, the proposed APOAs are located in the Weaver Springs area; an area within the Harney Basin that has well documented year-to-year water level declines. The declines documented in the Weaver Springs area are up to 5 feet and greater per year since the late 1990s – the highest rate of decline of any area in the Harney Basin.

- b) If yes, would this proposed change, at its maximum allowed rate of use, likely result in another groundwater right not receiving the water to which it is legally entitled?  
☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain: The proposed use will result in additional water level declines in the Weaver Springs area. Existing junior rights in this area have decline conditions, which will be triggered earlier if this transfer is approved. All existing groundwater users in this area will be negatively impacted by any increased authorized groundwater pumping.
5. a) Will this proposed change, at its maximum allowed rate of use, likely result in an increase in interference with **another surface water source**?  
☒ Yes ☐ No Comments: The proposed APOAs are closer to Harney Lake than the currently authorized POAs. This will result in an incremental increase in interference with this surface water source. Previous analyses indicate the increase in interference with this surface water source resulting from this will be minimal.
- b) If yes, at its maximum allowed rate of use, what is the expected change in degree of interference with any **surface water sources** resulting from the proposed change?  
Stream: Harney lake ☒ Minimal ☐ Significant  
Stream: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Minimal ☐ Significant  
Provide context for minimal/significant impact: The proposed wells are ~5 miles north of Harney Lake. Previous analyses indicate that at this distance interference will be minimal.

6. What conditions or other changes in the application are necessary to address any potential issues identified above: none.
7. Any additional comments: Analysis of Landsat imagery clearly indicates that the proposed POU has been irrigated without the benefit of a water right since 2014, contributing to the long term year-to-year water level declines in this area.





Weaver Springs area Hydrograph

