



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Water Resources Department

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November 10, 2023

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND E-MAIL

### Applicant

RICK HUFSTADER  
CYNTHIA STRICKLAND  
PO BOX NK116  
NAUKATI, AK 99950

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Application T-14103

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to approve application T-1410314103. 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.

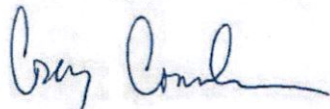
A public notice is being published in the Department's weekly publication, simultaneously with issuance of the Preliminary Determination. The notice initiates a period in which any person may file either a protest opposing the decision proposed by the Department in the Preliminary Determination or a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

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 [corey.a.courchane@water.oregon.gov](mailto:corey.a.courchane@water.oregon.gov) or (503) 979-3917, if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Corey Courchane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Corey" and last name "Courchane" clearly distinguishable.

Corey Courchane  
Allocation of Conserved Water  
Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: Transfer Application file T-1410314103  
Eric W. Julsrud, District 4 Watermaster (*via e-mail*)  
Kyle Sullivan, Agent for the applicant (*via e-mail*)

encs

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

In the Matter of Transfer Application	)	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
T-14103, Grant County	)	PROPOSING APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN
	)	PLACE OF USE AND PARTIAL
	)	CANCELLATION OF A WATER RIGHT
	)	CERTIFICATE

**Authority**

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 540.505 to 540.580 establish 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. Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 690, Division 380 implement 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**

RICK HUFSTADER  
CYNTHIA STRICKLAND  
PO BOX NK116  
NAUKATI, AK 99950

**Findings of Fact**

1. On October 3, 2022, RICK HUFSTADER and CYNTHIA STRICKLAND filed an application to change the place of use under Certificates 25216, 90318, and 90320. The Department assigned the application number T-14103.
2. Notice of the application for transfer was published on October 11, 2022, pursuant to OAR 690-380-4000. No comments were filed in response to the notice.
3. On April 14, 2023, the Department mailed a copy of the draft Preliminary Determination proposing to deny Transfer Application T-14103 to the applicants. The Department identified potential non-use issues under Certificate 25216, and enlargement under Certificate 90320. The draft Preliminary Determination cover letter set forth a deadline of May 15, 2023, for the applicants to respond.

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 the newspaper notice or the Department's weekly notice as prescribed by OAR 690-380-4020, whichever is later, of this preliminary determination.

4. On May 5, 2023, after discussion with the District 4 Watermaster, the Department extended the deadline for resolving the issues in the draft Preliminary Determination proposing to deny Transfer Application T-14103 to July 31, 2023.
5. On July 24, 2023, the Department received a revised application, resolving the issues identified in the draft Preliminary Determination proposing to deny Transfer Application T-14103.
6. The portion of the first right to be transferred is as follows:

**Certificate:** 25216 in the name of KATHERINE GEISLER (confirmed by JOHN DAY RIVER (F) Decree)

**Use:** IRRIGATION OF 3.5 ACRES

**Priority Date:** 1885

**Rate:** 1/40 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND PER ACRE IRRIGATED TO JUNE 1 AND 1/80 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND PER ACRE THEREAFTER; FURTHER LIMITED TO ONE ACRE-FOOT PER CALENDAR MONTH TO JUNE 1 AND FOUR ACRE-FEET PER ACRE DURING SEASON APRIL 1 TO SEPT. 30, MEASURED AT POINT OF DIVERSION

**Period of Use:** APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

**Source:** BELSHAW CREEK

**Authorized Point of Diversion:**

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
<i>Not specified in certificate</i>				

**Authorized Place of Use:**

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
13 S	29 E	WM	18	SW SE	3.5

7. The Department received information from the applicant that better describes the location of the authorized point of diversion for Certificate 25216. The application map indicates the location as follows:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot
13 S	29 E	WM	18	NW NW	1

8. Transfer Application T-14103 proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	GLot	Acres
13 S	29 E	WM	18	SW NE	1	0.1
13 S	29 E	WM	18	SE NW	1	0.5
13 S	29 E	WM	18	NE SW	1	0.4
13 S	29 E	WM	18	NW SE	1	2.5
					Total	3.5

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

**Certificate:** 90318 in the name of RICK A. HUFSTADER AND CYNTHIA STICKLAND (perfected under Permit S-18828)  
**Use:** IRRIGATION of 3.5 ACRES  
**Priority Date:** JUNE 28, 1949  
**Rate:** 0.0875 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, is limited to ONE-FORTIETH 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 5.0 ACRE-FEET per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season from April 1 to September 30 of each year.  
**Period of Use:** APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30  
**Source:** JOHN DAY RIVER, a tributary of COLUMBIA RIVER

**Authorized Point of Diversion:**

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
13 S	29 E	WM	18	SW SE	590 FEET NORTH AND 1980 FEET WEST FROM THE SE CORNER OF SECTION 18

**Authorized Place of Use:**

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
13 S	29 E	WM	18	SW SE	1.8
13 S	29 E	WM	19	NW NE	1.7
Total					3.5

10. Transfer Application T-14103 proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
13 S	29 E	WM	18	SW SE	3.5

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

**Certificate:** 90320 in the name of RICK A. HUFSTADER AND CYNTHIA STICKLAND (perfected under Permit S-18828)  
**Use:** IRRIGATION of 0.3 ACRE  
**Priority Date:** JUNE 28, 1949  
**Rate:** 0.0075 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-FORTIETH 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 FIVE ACRE-FEET per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season from April 1 to September 30 of each year.  
**Period of Use:** APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

**Source:** JOHN DAY RIVER, a tributary of COLUMBIA RIVER

**Authorized Point of Diversion:**

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
13 S	29 E	WM	18	SW SE	590 FEET NORTH AND 1980 FEET WEST FROM THE SE CORNER OF SECTION 18

**Authorized Place of Use:**

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
13 S	29 E	WM	18	SW SE	0.3

12. Transfer Application T-14103 proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
13 S	29 E	WM	18	SW SE	0.3

**Transfer Review Criteria [OAR 690-380-0100(14), 690-380-4010(2) and 690-380-2110(2)]**

13. 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 rights are subject to forfeiture under ORS 540.610.
14. A water delivery 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-14103.
15. The water rights are subject to transfer as defined in ORS 540.505(4) and OAR 690-380-0100(14).
16. On August 17, 2023, the Department determined that there is potential for water authorized under Certificate 25216 reaching the "FROM" lands under Certificates 90318 and 90320. A cut off ditch or other methodology to keep the sources separate will need to be required. A simple cut off ditch would suffice to keep Belshaw Creek water off of John Day River lands after the places of use of the two sources are moved as proposed.
17. The proposed changes, as conditioned, would not result in enlargement of the rights.
18. The proposed changes, as conditioned, would not result in injury to other existing water rights.
19. All other application requirements are met.

**Partial Cancellation of a Water Right**

20. On July 24, 2023, an affidavit certifying that a portion of a water right has been abandoned and requesting cancellation of a portion of the right was received from Kyle Sullivan, authorized agent. The right to be cancelled is as follows:

**Certificate:** 25216 in the name of KATHERINE GEISLER (confirmed by JOHN DAY RIVER (F) Decree)  
**Use:** IRRIGATION of 4.3 ACRES  
**Priority Date:** 1885  
**Rate:** 1/40 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND PER ACRE IRRIGATED TO JUNE 1 AND 1/80 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND PER ACRE THEREAFTER; FURTHER LIMITED TO ONE ACRE-FOOT PER CALENDAR MONTH TO JUNE 1 AND FOUR ACRE-FEET PER ACRE DURING SEASON APRIL 1 TO SEPT. 30, MEASURED AT POINT OF DIVERSION  
**Period of Use:** APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30  
**Source:** BELSHAW CREEK

**Authorized Point of Diversion:**

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
Not specified in certificate				

**Authorized Place of Use:**

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q - Q	Acres
13 S	29 E	WM	18	SW SE	4.3

**Determination and Proposed Action**

The changes in place of use proposed in Transfer Application T-14103 appears to be consistent with the requirements of ORS 540.505 to 540.580 and OAR 690-380-5000 and the abandoned right should be cancelled. If protests are not filed pursuant to OAR 690-380-4030, the transfer application will be approved and the abandoned right will be cancelled.

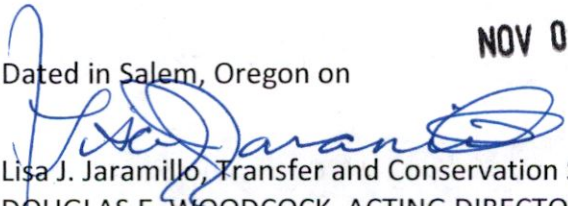
*If the issues identified above are resolved and Transfer Application T-14103 is approved, the final order will include the following:*

1. *The changes in place of use proposed in Transfer Application T-14103 are approved. The portion of the right that has been abandoned is 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 Certificates 25216, 90318, and 90320, and any related decree.*
3. *Approval of this transfer application does not constitute nor grant legal access onto or through another person's property for purposes of accessing the new place of use.*

4. *Water right Certificates 25216, 90318, and 90320 are cancelled. New certificates will be issued describing that portion of the rights not affected by this transfer and cancellation.*
5. *The former places of use of the transferred rights shall no longer receive water under the rights.*
6. *Water use measurement conditions:*
  - a. *Before water use may begin under this order, the water user shall install a totalizing flow meter or weir, or, with prior approval of the Director, another suitable measuring device, at each point of diversion (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.*
7. *Prior to water use on the proposed lands, a cut off ditch or other methodology must be installed to keep Belshaw Creek water off the lands receiving water from the John Day River.*
8. *Full beneficial use of the water shall be made, consistent with the terms of this order, on or before **October 1, 2025**. 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, new certificates confirming the rights transferred will be issued.*

**NOV 06 2023**

Dated in Salem, Oregon on



Lisa J. Jaramillo, Transfer and Conservation Section Manager, for  
DOUGLAS E. WOODCOCK, ACTING DIRECTOR  
Oregon Water Resources Department

This Preliminary Determination was prepared by Corey Courchane. If you have questions about the information in this document, you may reach me at 971 979-3107 or Corey.A.Courchane@water.oregon.gov.



## **Protests**

Under the provisions of ORS 540.520(6) & (7) and OAR 690-380-4030, within 30 days after the last date of publication of the newspaper notice or the Department's weekly notice as prescribed by OAR 690-380-4020, whichever is later, any person may file, jointly or severally, a protest expressing opposition of approval of the transfer application and disagreement with this Preliminary Determination or a standing statement in support of this Preliminary Determination. If this Preliminary Determination determines that a change in point of diversion or appropriation would result in injury, the applicant may file a notification of intent to pursue approval of the transfer under OAR 690-380-5030 to 690-380-5050. Protests and standing statements must be received by the Water Resources Department within 30 days after the last date of publication of the newspaper notice or the Department's weekly notice as prescribed by OAR 690-380-4020, whichever is later.

Protests must be in writing and received in hard copy form with the appropriate statutory protest filing fee; protests cannot be filed by electronic mail. [OAR 690-002-0025(3) and 690-380-0100(9)]. The protest must include the following:

- The person's name, address, and telephone number;
- All reasonably ascertainable issues and all reasonably available arguments supporting the person's position by the close of the protest period. Failure to raise a reasonably ascertainable issue in a protest or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the Department an opportunity to respond to the issue may preclude consideration of the issue during the hearing;
- If you are the applicant, a protest fee of \$480 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If you are not the applicant, a protest fee of \$950 required by ORS 536.050 and proof of service of the protest upon the applicant.

## **Requests for Standing**

Under the provisions of OAR 690-380-4030(5), the Department shall provide to persons who have filed standing statements as defined under OAR 690-380-0100(11) notice of any differences between the Department's Preliminary Determination and the Final Order, notice of a hearing on the application under OAR 137-003-0535, and an opportunity to request limited party status or party status in the hearing.

Requests for standing must be received in the Water Resources Department no later than 30 days after the last date of publication of the newspaper notice or the Department's weekly notice as prescribed by OAR 690-380-4020, whichever is later. Requests for standing must be in writing, and must include the following:

- The requester's name, mailing address and telephone number;
- If the requester is representing a group, association or other organization, the name, address and telephone number of the represented group;
- A statement that the requester supports the preliminary determination as issued.

After the protest period has ended, the Director will either issue a Final Order or schedule a contested case hearing. The contested case hearing will be scheduled only if a protest has been filed under OAR 690-380-4030. In accordance with OAR 690-380-4200, notice and conduct of the hearing shall:

- Be under the applicable provisions of ORS 183.310 to 183.550, pertaining to contested cases, and the hearing shall be held in the area where the rights are located unless all parties stipulate otherwise; and
- If a protest has asserted that a water right to be transferred has been forfeited through non-use, include the notice and procedures described in OAR 690-017-0500 to 690-017-0900.

If after hearing the Department issues a proposed Final Order finding that a change in point of diversion or appropriation will result in injury, the applicant may file a notification of intent to pursue approval of the transfer under OAR 690-380-5030 to 690-380-5050 within 15 days of receipt of the proposed order. Notwithstanding 690-002-0175, if the applicant files a notification of intent to pursue approval of the transfer under 690-380-5030 to 690-380-5050, the deadline for filing exceptions to the proposed order shall be 30 days after the Department provides notice to the parties that the transfer does not meet the requirements of 690-380-5030 to 690-380-5050.

If you do not request a hearing within 30 days after the close of the protest period, or if you withdraw a request for a hearing, notify the Department or the administrative law judge that you will not appear, or fail to appear at a scheduled hearing, the Director may issue a final order by default. If the Director issues a Final Order by default, the Department designates the relevant portions of its files on this matter, including all materials that you have submitted relating to this matter, as the record for purpose of proving a *prima facie* case upon default.

You may be represented by an attorney at the hearing. Legal aid organizations may be able to assist a party with limited financial resources. Generally, partnerships, corporations, associations, governmental subdivisions, or public or private organizations are represented by an attorney. However, consistent with OAR 690-002-0020 and OAR 690-137-0555, an agency representative may represent partnerships, corporations, associations, governmental subdivisions or public, or private organizations if the Department determines that appearance of a person by an authorized representative will not hinder the orderly and timely development of the record in this case.

**Notice Regarding Servicemembers:** Active-duty servicemembers have a right to stay proceedings under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. 50 U.S.C. App. §§501-597b. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 971-355-4127, or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>.

If you have questions about how to file a protest or if you have previously filed a protest and you want to know the status, please contact Will Davidson at 503-507-2749.

If you have questions about the Department or any of its programs, please contact our Water Resources Customer Service Group at 503-986-0900.

Address any correspondence to: Oregon Water Resources Department, Transfer and Conservation Section, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem OR 97301-1266.