

# Groundwater Transfer Review Summary Form

Transfer/PA # T- 14226

GW Reviewer Darrick E. Boschmann Date Review Completed: 12/08/2023

## Summary of Same Source Review:

☐ The proposed change in point of appropriation is not within the same aquifer as per OAR 690-380-2110(2).

## 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 or result in significant interference with a surface water source as per 690-380-0100(3).

## Summary of GW-SW Transfer Similarity Review:

☐ The proposed SW-GW transfer doesn't meet the definition of "similarly" as per OAR 690-380-2130.

*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-14226

Applicant Name: Riverbottom Farms

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

Reviewer(s): Darrick E. Boschmann

Date of Review: 12/08/2023

Date Reviewed by GW Mgr. and Returned to WRSD: \_\_\_\_\_

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 application is related to certificate 95966 which authorizes groundwater pumping from three wells (POD 1 = HARN 51764; POD 2 = HARN 51069; POD 3 = HARN 51541) for primary irrigation of 126.7 acres in the Malheur Lake Basin. The following changes are proposed:

1. Change HARN 51069 to HARN 52418

2. Change HARN 51764 to HARN 50318

2. Move 11.3 acres of the POU.

2. Will the proposed POA develop the same aquifer (source) as the existing authorized POA?

☒ Yes   ☐ No   Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

The authorized and proposed wells develop groundwater occurring in the Younger basin fill and Voltage basalt hydrostratigraphic units. Groundwater occurs in multiple hydrostratigraphic units, and groundwater within these units is hydraulically connected, making a single groundwater system composed of multiple hydrostratigraphic units (Gingerich and others, 2022).

In general, groundwater in the Harney Basin flows from several upland recharge areas to a common discharge area near Malheur and Harney Lakes, with some apparent discharge to the Malheur Basin through one area along the eastern margin. While the rocks and sediments making up the aquifer system in the Harney Basin do constitute a single groundwater flow system, sub-watersheds within the basin contribute recharge to different parts of the system depending on groundwater flow-paths from recharge to discharge areas. In general, within these sub-watersheds water within the aquifer system is sourced from a common recharge area and can therefore be considered a single source. The currently authorized wells and the proposed wells are all within the Virginia Valley area, where groundwater is flowing to the southeast toward the Malheur River basin .

3. a) Is there more than one source developed under the right (e.g., basalt and alluvium)?

☐ Yes   ☒ No \_\_\_\_\_

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 wells are located up to 2+ miles east of the currently authorized wells. This will result in an incremental increase in interference with wells to the east.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Any increase in interference with existing wells in these locations will not meet the standard for substantial or undue interference given the thickness of the aquifer system in the Harney Basin.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
There are no perennial surface water sources in the vicinity of the authorized or proposed wells.  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Minimal    ☐ Significant

Stream: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Minimal    ☐ Significant

Provide context for minimal/significant impact: \_\_\_\_\_

6. For SW-GW transfers, will the proposed change in point of diversion affect the surface water source similarly (as per OAR 690-380-2130) to the authorized point of diversion specified in the water use subject to transfer?

☐ Yes    ☐ No    Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

7. What conditions or other changes in the application are necessary to address any potential issues identified above: none.

8. Any additional comments: none.

