

Groundwater Transfer Review Summary Form

Transfer/PA # T- 14525

GW Reviewer Darrick E. Boschmann Date Review Completed: 12/20/2024

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 Water Level Decline Condition Review:

☐ Water levels at the original point(s) of appropriation have exceeded the allowed decline threshold defined by conditions in the originating water right.

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.



Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301-1271
(503) 986-0900
www.wrd.state.or.us

Ground Water Review Form:

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

Application: T-14525

Applicant Name: Rattlesnake Creek Land and Cattle

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

Reviewer(s): Darrick E. Boschmann

Date of Review: 12/20/2024

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 97215 which authorizes groundwater pumping from 7 wells for primary irrigation of 1772.6 acres and supplemental irrigation of 590.4 acres in the Malheur Lake basin.

POD 1 = HARN 52754

POD 2 = HARN 52765

POD 3 = HARN 52708

POD 4 = HARN 52767

POD 5 = HARN 226 (HARN 52783 deepening log)

POD 6 = HARN 52805

POD 7 = HARN 52789

POD 8 = HARN 52189 (observation well)

The following changes are proposed:

Add 3 APOA (HARN 52834; HARN 52827; HARN 52187).

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 Older basin fill hydrostratigraphic unit. 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 northern part of Harney Valley and are located along groundwater flow paths flowing generally southwestward toward Malheur Lake.

3. a) Is the existing authorized POA subject to a water level decline condition?

☒ Yes ☐ No Comments: _____

b) If yes, for each POA identify the reference level, most recent spring-high water level, and whether an applicable permit decline condition has been exceeded: _____

LOG ID	Reference Level	2024 Spring High	Exceeded?
HARN 52754	42.65	45.75	no
HARN 52765	42.15	45.3	no
HARN 52708	41.3	47.09	no
HARN 52767	39.07	46.1	no
HARN 226	39.76	43.1	no
HARN 52805	36.3	41.7	no
HARN 52789	32.39	37.95	no
HARN 52189	22.88	41.69	no

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

☐ Yes ☒ No Comments: _____

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.): _____

5. 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: _____

Most of the lands and authorized POA within the vicinity of the authorized and proposed wells are under the same ownership as the applicant. Proposed well HARN 52827 is located within the overall footprint of the currently authorized wells. Proposed wells HARN 52187 and HARN 52834 are located approximately 2.5 miles north, on and surrounded by lands under the same ownership as the applicant, with no other nearby POA.

- 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: _____

6. 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: _____

7. 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: _____

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

9. Any additional comments: none.

