

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

In the Matter of Transfer Application)	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
T-14030, Wallowa County)	PROPOSING APPROVAL FOR AN
)	ADDITIONAL POINT OF DIVERSION AND A
)	CHANGE IN PLACES OF USE

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.

Applicant

BILL AND JUDY ABLES
61413 LIME QUARRY RD
ENTERPRISE, OR 97828

Findings of Fact

1. On June 13, 2022, Bill and Judy Ables filed an application for an additional point of diversion and to change the place of use under Certificate 3041, and a change the place of use under Certificate 3568. The Department assigned the application number T-14030.
2. Notice of the application for transfer was published on June 21, 2022, pursuant to OAR 690-380-4000. No comments were filed in response to the notice.
3. On May 2, 2024, the Department sent a copy of the draft Preliminary Determination proposing to approve Transfer Application T-14030 to the applicants. The draft Preliminary Determination cover letter set forth a deadline of June 1, 2024, for the applicants to respond. The applicants requested that the Department proceed with issuance of a Preliminary Determination and provided the necessary information to demonstrate that the applicants are authorized to pursue the transfer.

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

Certificate: 3041 in the name of J. R. HAMMACK (confirmed by WALLOWA RIVER Decree)
Use: IRRIGATION of 2.25 ACRES of LAND, DOMESTIC and STOCK USE
Priority Date: 1885
Limit/Duty: 1 acre foot per acre during any period of 30 days prior to July 31st of each year; and thereafter not to exceed 1 acre foot per acre during the entire remainder of the irrigation season; and said right shall be subject to all other conditions and limitations contained in said decree.
Source: SPRING BRANCH near W line of NW¼ of Section 17, Township 2 South, Range 44 East and SPRING BRANCH, tributaries of WALLOWA RIVER

Authorized Points of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
Not specified in certificate				

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION, DOMESTIC AND STOCK USE					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
2 S	44 E	WM	17	NE NE	2.25

5. Certificate 3041 does not describe the location of Point of Diversion (POD#1), however the Department has received information from the applicant indicating that the point of diversion is located as follows:

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
2 S	44 E	WM	17	NE NE	POD #1 - 650 FEET SOUTH AND 890 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 17

6. Transfer Application T-14030 proposes an additional point of diversion approximately 550 feet upstream to:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
2 S	44 E	WM	17	NW NE	POD #2 - 1260 FEET SOUTH AND 1440 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 17

7. Transfer Application T-14030 also proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

IRRIGATION, DOMESTIC AND STOCK USE					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
2 S	44 E	WM	17	NE NE	2.25

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

Certificate: 3568 in the name of SILVER CREEK DITCH COMPANY (perfected under Permit S-2749)
Use: IRRIGATION OF 2.25 ACRES
Priority Date: DECEMBER 6, 1915

Rate: 0.03 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Source: SILVER CREEK, a tributary of SOUTH FORK WALLOWA RIVER

Authorized Points of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
Not specified in certificate				

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
2 S	44 E	WM	17	NE NE	2.25

9. The Department has received information from the applicant that better describes the authorized point of diversion under Certificate 3568, as follows:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
2 S	44 E	WM	30	NE SW

10. Transfer Application T-14030 proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
2 S	44 E	WM	17	NE NE	2.25

Transfer Review Criteria [OAR 690-380-0100(14), 690-380-4010(2), 690-380-2110(2), and 690-380-2200]

11. Water has been used within the five-year period prior to submittal of Transfer Application T-14030 according to the terms and conditions of the right. There is no information in the record that would demonstrate that the rights are subject to forfeiture under ORS 540.610.
12. A water delivery system sufficient to use the full amount of water allowed under the existing rights was present within the five-year period prior to submittal of Transfer Application T-14030.
13. The water rights are subject to transfer as defined in ORS 540.505(4) and OAR 690-380-0100(14).
14. The proposed point of diversion diverts water from the same source of surface water as the authorized point of diversion, as required by OAR 690-380-2110(2).
15. The proposed changes would not result in enlargement of the rights.
16. The proposed changes would not result in injury to other existing water rights.
17. All other application requirements are met.

Determination and Proposed Action

The additional point of diversion and change in places of use proposed in Transfer Application T-14030 appear to be consistent with the requirements of ORS 540.505 to 540.580 and OAR 690-380-5000. If protests are not filed pursuant to OAR 690-380-4030, the transfer application will be approved.

If Transfer Application T-14030 is approved, the final order will include the following:

- 18. The additional point of diversion and change in places of use proposed in Transfer Application T-14030 are approved.*
- 19. 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 3041, 3568, and any related decree.*
- 20. 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 point of diversion or the new places of use.*
- 21. Water right Certificates 3041 and 3568 are cancelled. New certificates will be issued describing those portions of the rights not affected by this transfer.*
- 22. Under Certificate 3041, the quantity of water diverted at the new additional point of diversion (POD #2), together with that diverted at the original point of diversion (POD #1), shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original point of diversion (POD #1).*
- 23. Water shall be acquired from the same source of surface water as the original point of diversion.*
- 24. The former place of use of the transferred rights shall no longer receive water under the rights.*
- 25. Full beneficial use of the water shall be made, consistent with the terms of this order, on or before **October 1, 2026**. 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.*

26. *After satisfactory proof of beneficial use is received, new certificates confirming the rights transferred will be issued.*

Dated in Salem, Oregon on

MAR 07 2025


Lisa J. Jaramillo, Transfer and Conservation Section Manager, for
IVAN GALL, DIRECTOR
Oregon Water Resources Department

This Preliminary Determination was prepared by Dante Luongo. If you have questions about the information in this document, you may reach me at 971 304-5006 or Dante.J.Luongo@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 Service Members: Active-duty service members have a right to stay proceedings under the federal Service Members Civil Relief Act. 50 U.S.C. App. §§501-597b. You may contact the Oregon State Bar or the Oregon Military Department for more information. The toll-free telephone number for the Oregon State Bar is: 1 (800) 452-8260. The toll-free telephone number for the Oregon Military Department is: 1 (800) 452-7500. The Internet address for the United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Legal Services Locator website is: <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 503-986-0801.

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.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Water Resources Department

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March 7, 2025

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND E-MAIL

BILL & JUDY ABLES
61413 LIME QUARRY RD
ENTERPRISE, OR 97828

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Application T-14030

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to approve application T-14030. 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 don't hesitate to contact me at 971 304-5006 or Dante.J.Luongo@water.oregon.gov, if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Dante Luongo
Transfer Specialist
Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: Transfer Application file T-14030
David D. Bates, District 7 Watermaster (*via e-mail*)