

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

In the Matter of Transfer Application)	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
T-13782, Lane and Linn Counties)	PROPOSING APPROVAL OF 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

KNEE DEEP CATTLE CO.
MIKE STEVENSON
33401 VAN DUYN RD
EUGENE, OR 97408

Findings of Fact

1. On July 29, 2021, KNEE DEEP CATTLE CO. and MIKE STEVENSON filed an application to change the place of use under Certificates 80835, 86338, and 91761. The Department assigned the application number T-13782.
2. Notice of the application for transfer was published on August 17, 2021, pursuant to OAR 690-380-4000. No comments were filed in response to the notice.
3. Transfer Application T- 13782 proposes to transfer water rights within the boundaries of Muddy Creeks Irrigation Project (District) involving the certificates held by the District. On July 26, 2021, the District certified that they consented to the applicant's proposed water right transfer application and maps.
4. After proof of completion, any water right certificate issued to confirm or to describe confirmed changes to Certificates 80835, 86338, and 91761 under Transfer T-13782 are to remain in the name of the Muddy Creeks Irrigation Project.

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.

5. On August 8, 2024, the Department sent a copy of the draft Preliminary Determination to the applicant, proposing to approve Transfer Application T-13782. The draft Preliminary Determination cover letter set forth a deadline of September 7, 2024, for the applicant to respond. The applicant requested that the Department proceed with issuance of a Preliminary Determination and provided the necessary information to demonstrate that the applicant is authorized to pursue the transfer.
6. On November 6, 2024, the Department determined that the portion of the rate to be transferred under Certificate 80835 was less than originally proposed. Therefore, the Department determined that a revised draft Preliminary Determination should be issued.
7. On December 26, 2024, the Department sent a revised draft Preliminary Determination to the applicant, proposing to approve Transfer Application T-13782. The revised draft Preliminary Determination cover letter set forth a deadline of January 25, 2025, for the applicant to respond. The applicant requested that the Department proceed with issuance of a Preliminary Determination.

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

Certificate: 80835 in the name of MUDDY CREEKS IRRIGATION DISTRICT (perfected under Permit S-50921)

Use: IRRIGATION OF 82.9 ACRES

Priority Dates and Rates: AUGUST 13, 1986 for 0.038 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND, AND OCTOBER 2, 1986 FOR 0.998 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-EIGHTIETH 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 2.5 acre-feet for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season of each year.

Source: MCKENZIE RIVER, a tributary of the WILLAMETTE RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
17 S	3 W	WM	9	NE NE	4440 FEET SOUTH AND 5250 FEET EAST FROM THE SE CORNER OF DLC 79

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
16 S	3 W	WM	33	NE NE	60	5.8
16 S	3 W	WM	33	NE SE	37	2.8
16 S	3 W	WM	33	SE SE	37	3.1
16 S	3 W	WM	34	NE NW	44	1.5
16 S	3 W	WM	34	NW NW	61	6.3
16 S	3 W	WM	34	SW NW	37	11.5

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
16 S	3 W	WM	34	SW NW	62	7.3
16 S	3 W	WM	34	SE NW	62	1.7
16 S	3 W	WM	34	NW SW	37	21.4
16 S	3 W	WM	34	SW SW	37	21.5
TOTAL						82.9

9. Transfer Application T-13782 proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
16 S	3 W	WM	27	NE NW	63	29.7
16 S	3 W	WM	27	SW NW	63	2.7
16 S	3 W	WM	27	SW NW	62	17.8
16 S	3 W	WM	27	SE NW	63	18.3
16 S	3 W	WM	27	SE NW	62	11.2
16 S	3 W	WM	27	NE SW	62	3.2
TOTAL						82.9

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

Certificate: 86338 in the name of MUDDY CREEKS IRRIGATION PROJECT (perfected under Permit S-17510)

Use: IRRIGATION OF 27.8 ACRES

Priority Date: FEBRUARY 9, 1939

Rate: 0.358 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 a diversion of ONE-EIGHTIETH 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 3.0 acre-feet per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season of each year.

Source: MCKENZIE RIVER and MUDDY CREEK, tributaries of the WILLAMETTE RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Measured Distances
16 S	3W	WM	34	NW SW	37	MUDDY CREEK – 2800 FEET SOUTH AND 1940 FEET EAST FROM THE SE CORNER OF VAN DUYN DL 61
17 S	3 W	WM	9	NE NE	38	MCKENZIE RIVER - 4440 FEET SOUTH AND 5250 FEET EAST FROM THE SE CORNER OF MANSFIELD DL 79

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION						
MCKENZIE RIVER AND MUDDY CREEK						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
16 S	3 W	WM	33	SE NE	62	0.4

16 S	3 W	WM	33	SE NE	37	4.0
16 S	3 W	WM	33	NE SE	37	2.4
16 S	3 W	WM	34	SW NW	62	1.1
16 S	3 W	WM	34	SW NW	37	9.7
16 S	3 W	WM	34	NW SW	37	10.2
TOTAL						27.8

10. Transfer Application T-13782 proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

IRRIGATION						
MCKENZIE RIVER AND MUDDY CREEK						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
16 S	3 W	WM	22	SE SW	63	3.6
16 S	3 W	WM	22	SW SW	63	4.5
16 S	3 W	WM	27	NW NW	63	12.1
16 S	3 W	WM	27	SW NW	63	7.6
TOTAL						27.8

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

Certificate: 91761 in the name of MUDDY CREEKS IRRIGATION DISTRICT (perfected under Permit S-42759)

Use: IRRIGATION OF 42.4 ACRES

Priority Date: MARCH 1, 1978

Rate: 0.53 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-EIGHTIETH 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 2.5 acre-feet per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season of each year.

Source: MCKENZIE RIVER, a tributary to the WILLAMETTE RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Measured Distances
17 S	3 W	WM	9	NE NE	SPORES 38	4440 FEET SOUTH AND 5250 FEET EAST FROM THE SE CORNER OF MANSFIELD DLC 79

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
16 S	3 W	WM	21	SE SE	63	6.2
16 S	3 W	WM	21	SE SE	63	2.6
16 S	3 W	WM	21	SW SE	63	5.1
16 S	3 W	WM	21	SW SE	63	1.1
16 S	3 W	WM	22	SW SW	63	1.3
16 S	3 W	WM	28	NE NE	63	4.5
16 S	3 W	WM	28	NW NE	63	14.9

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
16 S	3 W	WM	28	SW NE	63	6.2
16 S	3 W	WM	28	SE NE	63	0.5
TOTAL						42.4

12. Transfer Application T-13782 proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Acres
16 S	3 W	WM	27	SW NW	63	2.6
16 S	3 W	WM	27	NW SW	62	15.5
16 S	3 W	WM	28	SE NE	63	6.6
16 S	3 W	WM	28	SE NE		10.1
16 S	3 W	WM	28	SE NE	62	3.1
16 S	3 W	WM	28	NE SE		2.4
16 S	3 W	WM	28	NE SE	62	2.1
TOTAL						42.4

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

13. Water has been used the five-year period prior to submittal of Transfer Application T-13782 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 was present within the five-year period prior to submittal of Transfer Application T-13782.
15. The water rights are subject to transfer as defined in ORS 540.505(4) and OAR 690-380-0100(14).
16. The proposed changes, as conditioned, would not result in enlargement of the rights.
17. The proposed changes would not result in injury to other existing water rights.
18. All other application requirements are met.

Determination and Proposed Action

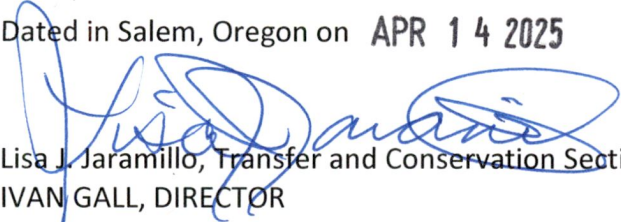
The change in places of use proposed in Transfer Application T-13782 appears to be consistent with the requirements of ORS 540.505 to 540.580 and OAR 690-380-5000. If protests are not filed pursuant to OAR 690-380-4030, the transfer application will be approved.

If Transfer Application T-13782 is approved, the final order will include the following:

1. *The change in places of use proposed in Transfer Application T-13782 is approved.*

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 80835, 86338, and 91716 and any related decree.*
3. *Water right Certificates 91716, 86338, and 80835 are cancelled. New certificates will be issued describing that portion of the rights not affected by this transfer.*
4. *The former place of use of the transferred rights shall no longer receive water under the rights.*
5. *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.*
6. *After satisfactory proof of completion has been determined by the Department, superseding water right certificates confirming the rights transferred will be issued in the name of Muddy Creeks Irrigation Project.*

Dated in Salem, Oregon on **APR 14 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 Servicemembers: Active duty servicemembers have a right to stay proceedings under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 1-800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 971-355-4420, or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>. The Oregon Military Department does not have a toll free number.

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 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.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building
725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301
Phone 503 986-0900
Fax 503 986-0904
www.oregon.gov/owrd

April 14, 2025

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND E-MAIL

KNEE DEEP CATTLE CO.
MIKE STEVENSON
33401 VAN DUYN RD
EUGENE, OR 97408

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Application T-13782

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to approve application T-13782. 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-13782
Lanaya F. Blakely, District 2 Watermaster (*via e-mail*)
Hailey Rice, Agent for the applicant (*via e-mail*)