

Groundwater Transfer Review Summary Form

Transfer/PA # T- 14543

GW Reviewer Darrick E. Boschmann Date Review Completed: 4/11/2025

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.



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Ground Water Review Form:

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

Application: T-14543

Applicant Name: Rattlesnake Creek Land Holdings

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

Reviewer(s): Darrick E. Boschmann

Date of Review: 4/25/2025

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 certificates 94899 and 94961.

Certificate 94899 authorizes groundwater pumping from three wells (POD 1 = HARN 51275; POD 2 = HARN 51475*; POD 3 = HARN 51823) for primary irrigation of 113.2 acres in the Malheur Lake Basin. The following changes are proposed:

- _____
1. Add two APOA (HARN 51987; HARN 53138).

Certificate 94961 authorizes groundwater pumping from four wells (POD 1 = HARN 51475*; POD 2 = HARN 51823; POD 3 = HARN 51987; POD 4 = HARN 51275) for primary irrigation of 125.2 acres in the Malheur Lake Basin. The following changes are proposed:

- _____
1. Add one APOA (HARN 53138).

*Note: The location for HARN 51475 provided in the application and on the application map is incorrect. This well has been field located by survey grade GPS by OWRD staff and well tag L-93564 confirmed at the well attached to the 8" casing. It is located in 22S/32.5E-36 NE-NE, approximately 1,300 feet west of the authorized well location. It is likely that POD 2 under certificate 94899 and POD 1 under certificate 94961 correlates to HARN 206, which has a 12" casing and was previously authorized as POD 4 under permit G-12931 and POD 1 under permit G-13602. HARN 206 was tagged by the applicant in 1999 with well tag L-35540.

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

☒ Yes ☐ No Comments: _____

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. 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). 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 POA and the proposed wells are all located within the northern part of Harney Valley and are located along groundwater flow paths receiving recharge from a similar source.

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments: _____

Both certificates are subject to a water level decline condition, including annual measurement and reporting.

- 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: _____

The permit decline condition has not been exceeded at the authorized wells, however, groundwater levels in this area are declining (see hydrograph), and at the current rate of decline the condition may be exceed within a period of several years.

Certificate 94899

POD	Log ID	Reference Level	March 2025	Decline	Exceeded?
1	HARN 51275	26.1	47.3	21.2	No
2	HARN 51475*	23.58	46.2	22.62	No
3	HARN 51823	23.22	44.3	21.08	No

Certificate 94961

POD	Log ID	Reference Level	March 2025	Decline	Exceeded?
1	HARN 51475*	26.15	46.2	20.05	No
2	HARN 51823	26	44.3	18.3	No
3	HARN 51987	23.2	44.4	21.2	No
4	HARN 51275	25.2	47.3	22.1	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: _____

Pumping at the proposed APOA under Certificate 94899 will authorize pumping under this certificate up to ~4,700 feet south of the currently authorized wells. This will result in an incremental increase in interference with wells to the south.

- 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 will not meet the standard for substantial or undue interference given the thickness of the aquifer system in the Harney Basin.

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: _____

The nearest perennial reaches of any surface water sources are over two miles to the northwest and up gradient from the authorized and 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: _____

The well log correlation for POD 2 under certificate 94899 and POD 1 under certificate 94961 is unlikely given the known location of HARN 51475. Field confirmation of casing size and well tag number at the well in use for these POD would help resolve this discrepancy.



