

Groundwater Transfer Review Summary Form

Transfer/PA # T- 13749

GW Reviewer Joe Kemper Date Review Completed: 8/14/2025

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 – Re-Review**
☐ **Permit Amendment**
☐ **GR Modification**
☐ **Other**

Application: T-13749

Applicant Name: Big Falls Ranch

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

Reviewer(s): Joe Kemper

Date of Review: 8/14/2025

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: The application proposes to move 1.89 cfs of irrigation use authorized under Certificate 76372 from the surface water POD on McKenzie Canyon spring/stream to four (4) groundwater PODs: DESC0002100, DESC0002087, DESC0002098, DESC0000768 (the four wells are labeled wells 1, 3, 4, 7, respectively, on the application).

Certificate 44283 was the original water right and was subsequently split under T-6854 into Certificate 87655 (2.61 cfs on 206.6 acres) and Certificate 76372 for 4.5 cfs. T-12651 is a SW-GW transfer that moved Certificate 87655 (McKenzie Canyon POD) to the same four POAs that are proposed here.

2. Will the proposed POA develop the same aquifer (source) as the existing authorized POA?
☒ Yes ☐ No Comments: The Deschutes regional aquifer begins to discharge to surface water in the Lower Bridge, which includes the McKenzie Canyon spring POD at an approximate elevation of 2440 feet amsl. The applicant's wells all produce groundwater from the Deschutes regional aquifer and have similar water level elevations.

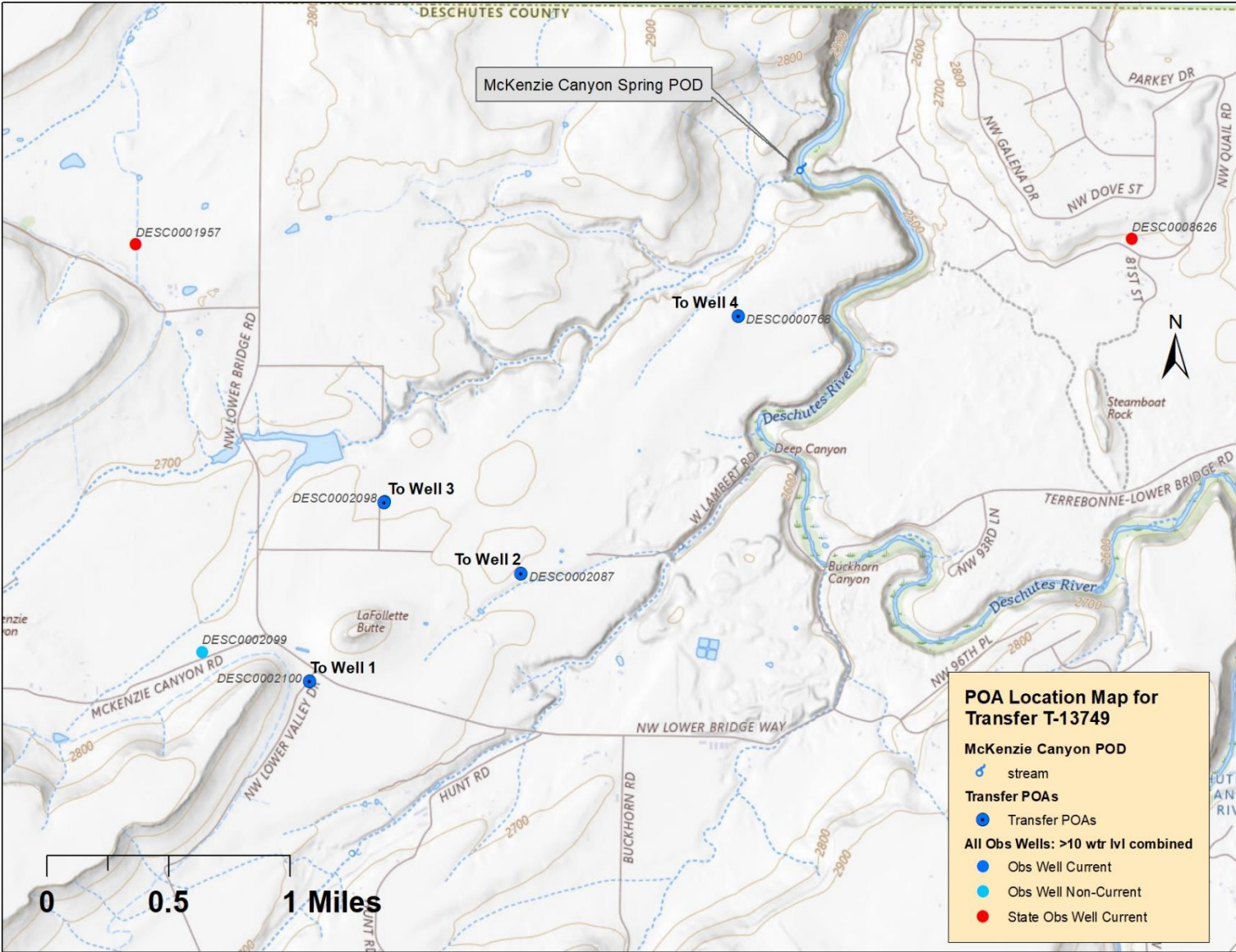
a) Is the existing authorized POA subject to a water level decline condition?

☐ Yes ☒ No Comments: The original POD is a surface water source.

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: NA

3. 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.): NA
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 changes would increase groundwater pumpage at the applicant's wells and thus increase any resulting well-to-well interference.
- 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: Considering the high permeability and storage of the Deschutes Formation as well as the considerable saturated thickness, it is not likely that the proposed changes would increase well-to-well interference enough to be considered injury to another groundwater user.
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: _____
- 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: McKenzie Canyon Spring ☐ Minimal ☐ Significant
Stream: Deschutes River ☐ Minimal ☐ Significant
Provide context for minimal/significant impact: Impacts to surface water are expected as a result of a SW-GW.
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: OAR 690-380-2130(3) indicates that SW-GW transfers in the DGWSA must have POAs that are hydraulically connected to the authorized surface water source but may not require that the POAs will affect the surface water source "similarly". The proposed POAs are located upgradient of and have similarly water level elevations to the McKenzie Canyon spring. These wells meet the requirements for a SW-GW transfer in the DGWSA.
7. What conditions or other changes in the application are necessary to address any potential issues identified above: _____
8. Any additional comments: OWRD staff measured discharge at McKenzie Canyon spring at 3.22 cfs on 4/1/2022 and 3.78 cfs on 7/31/2025. The amount of water that is available at the original POD is less than the amount of water authorized originally under Certificate 44283 and collectively under Certificates 87655 and 76372. Because the amount of water available at the original POD (McKenzie Canyon springs) is less than the total rate (4.5 cfs), the proposed changes in this transfer may meet the definition of enlargement per OAR 690-380-0100(2)(d).

Transfer Map



Water Levels in Nearby Observation Wells

