

Groundwater Transfer Review Summary Form

Transfer/PA # T- 14704

GW Reviewer Darrick E. Boschmann Date Review Completed: 09/17/2025

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-14704

Applicant Name: Golden Rule Farms

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

Reviewer(s): Darrick E. Boschmann

Date of Review: 09/17/2025

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 essentially identical to drought transfer application T-13766 and temporary transfer application T-13743.

This application is related to certificates 90409 and 90408.

Certificate 90409 authorizes groundwater pumping from 5 wells (POD 1 = HARN 51265; POD 2 = HARN 51253; POD 3 = HARN 51256; POD 4 = HARN 51317; POD 5 = HARN 51260) for primary irrigation of 59.6 acres in the Malheur Lake Basin. The following changes are proposed:

1. Add 4 APOA wells (HARN 50358; HARN 51784; HARN 50777; HARN 50501).
2. Transfer 35.5 acres to a new POU located ~0.5 miles to the south.

Certificate 90408 authorizes groundwater pumping from 5 wells (POD 1 = HARN 51265; POD 2 = HARN 51253; POD 3 = HARN 51256; POD 4 = HARN 51317; POD 5 = HARN 51260) for primary irrigation of 274.9 acres in the Malheur Lake Basin. The following changes are proposed:

1. Add 4 APOA wells (HARN 50358; HARN 51784; HARN 50777; HARN 50501).
2. Transfer 110.7 acres to a new POU located ~1 mile to the southwest

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 ~1.5 miles in the Weaver Springs area 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: _____

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: _____

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: _____

The proposed wells are located up to 1.5 miles southwest of the currently authorized wells. This will result in an incremental increase in seasonal interference to the southwest.

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: _____

The nearest authorized well to the proposed wells (under different ownership) is ~1.5 miles to the west. 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: _____

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.

