

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

In the Matter of Transfer Application)	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
T-14208, Crook County)	PROPOSING APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN
)	POINTS OF DIVERSION, AN ADDITIONAL
)	POINT OF DIVERSION AND CHANGES IN
)	PLACE 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

WILLIAM SIGMAN
SIGMAN RANCH LLC
10501 NW O'NEAL HWY
PRINEVILLE, OR 97754

Findings of Fact

1. On April 3, 2023, WILLIAM SIGMAN and SIGMAN RANCH LLC filed an application for an additional point of diversion and to change the places of use under Certificates 72947 and 72948; to change the point of diversion and the place of use under Certificates 90397, 94170 and 94171; and to change the place of use under Certificate 83858. The Department assigned the application number T-14208.
2. Notice of the application for transfer was published on April 11, 2023, pursuant to OAR 690-380-4000. No comments were filed in response to the notice.
3. On August 19, 2024, the Department received correspondence from Josh Newton, Attorney for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (Tribe). The Tribe does not object to the Department processing the Transfer Application T-14208, in accordance with applicable law, and the Department's customary practice.

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. On July 21, 2025, the Department sent a copy of the draft Preliminary Determination to the applicant, proposing to approve Transfer Application T-14208. The draft Preliminary Determination cover letter provided a deadline of August 21, 2025, for the applicant to respond and submit the required information. 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.

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

Certificate: 72947 in the name of CROOKED RIVER CENTRAL DITCH COMPANY
(confirmed by Crooked River (F) Decree)

Use: IRRIGATION OF 15.1 ACRES AND STOCK USE

Priority Date: 1904/1910

Rate: 0.20 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 (or its equivalent) and 4.0 acre-feet per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season of each year.

Source: CROOKED RIVER, a tributary of the DESCHUTES RIVER

Authorized Points of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
14 S	15 E	WM	27	NW NE	CROOKED RIVER CENTRAL DITCH COMPANY CANAL (POD #2) - 80 FEET SOUTH AND 1240 FEET EAST FROM THE N1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 27
15 S	16 E	WM	8	NW SW	PEOPLES DITCH COMPANY CANAL (POD #1)- 730 FEET SOUTH AND 330 FEET EAST FROM THE W1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 8

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION AND STOCK USE					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SE SW	12.5
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW SE	0.7
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SE SE	1.9
TOTAL					15.1

6. Transfer Application T-14208 proposes an additional point of diversion located:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances	Approximate Distance from Authorized Point of Diversion
14 S	14 E	WM	24	SE SW	POD MA - 350 FEET NORTH AND 2000 FEET EAST FROM THE SW CORNER OF SECTION 24	1.85 MILES DOWNSTREAM

7. Transfer Application T-14208 also proposes to change a portion of the place of use of the right to:

IRRIGATION AND STOCK USE					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SE SW	2.5
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW SE	11.9
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SE SE	0.7
TOTAL					15.1

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

Certificate: 72948 in the name of CROOKED RIVER CENTRAL DITCH COMPANY and U.S.A. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ACTING THROUGH THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR (perfected by Permit S-25991)

Use: SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION OF 10.9 ACRES

Priority Date: APRIL 8, 1914

Rate: 0.27 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-FORTIETH of one cubic foot per second (or its equivalent) and 4.0 acre-feet per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season of each year from direct flow and storage from the reservoir constructed under permit R-2223.

Source: PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR, constructed under Permit R-2223, and the CROOKED RIVER, tributaries of the DESCHUTES RIVER

Authorized Points of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
14 S	15 E	WM	27	NW NE	CROOKED RIVER CENTRAL DITCH COMPANY CANAL (#3) - 80 FEET SOUTH AND 1240 FEET EAST FROM THE N1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 27
15 S	16 E	WM	8	NW SW	PEOPLES DITCH COMPANY CANAL (#2) - 730 FEET SOUTH AND 330 FEET EAST FROM THE W1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 8
17 S	16 E	WM	11	SW NW	BOWAN DAM (#1) - 1650 FEET SOUTH AND 300 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 11

Authorized Place of Use:

SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SE SW	10.9

9. Transfer Application T-14208 proposes an additional point of diversion located:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances	Approximate Distance from Authorized Point of Diversion
14 S	14 E	WM	24	SE SW	POD MA - 350 FEET NORTH AND 2000 FEET EAST FROM THE SW CORNER OF SECTION 19	1.85 MILES DOWNSTREAM

10. Transfer Application T-14208 also proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NE SW	6.9
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW SE	4.0
TOTAL					10.9

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

Certificate: 83858 in the name of H. L. CORBETT (perfected under Permit S-3397)

Use: SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION OF 23.2 ACRES

Priority Date: MAY 21, 1917

Rate: 0.29 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, or its equivalent for each acre irrigated.

Source: CROOKED RIVER, tributary to the DESCHUTES RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW SE

Authorized Place of Use:

SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SE SW	21.1
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW SE	2.1
TOTAL					23.2

12. Transfer Application T-14208 proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW SW	3.6
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NE SE	16.0
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW SE	0.7
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SE SE	2.9
TOTAL					23.2

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

Certificate: 90397 in the name of PEOPLES IRRIGATION CO. (confirmed by Crooked River (F) Decree)
Use: IRRIGATION OF 1.0 ACRE, LIVESTOCK AND DOMESTIC
Priority Date: 1904/1910
Rate: 0.01 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, or its equivalent for each acre irrigated, and shall be further limited to a diversion of not to exceed 4.0 acre-feet per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season of each year.
Source: CROOKED RIVER, a tributary of the DESCHUTES RIVER

Authorized Point of Diversion:

POD	Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
5	14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW NW	PUMP - 1000 FEET NORTH AND 1400 FEET WEST FROM C1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 23

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION, LIVESTOCK AND DOMESTIC						
POD	Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
4	14 S	14 E	WM	23	NE NW	1.0

14. Transfer Application T-14208 proposes to change the point of diversion located:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances	Approximate Distance from Authorized Point of Diversion
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW SE	POD 2 - LOW LINE DITCH	0.68 MILES DOWNSTREAM

15. Transfer Application T-14208 also proposes to change the place of use of the right to:

IRRIGATION, LIVESTOCK AND DOMESTIC					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW SE	1.0

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

Certificate: 94170 in the name of PEOPLES IRRIGATION COMPANY (confirmed by Crooked River Decree)
Use: IRRIGATION OF 65.6 ACRES, LIVESTOCK AND DOMESTIC USE
Priority Date: 1904/1910
Rate: 0.94 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, or its equivalent for each acre irrigated, and shall be further limited to a diversion of not to exceed 4.0 acre-feet per acre for each acre irrigated during the irrigation season of each year.

Source: CROOKED RIVER, tributary of the DESCHUTES RIVER

Authorized Points of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW NE	POD 4 (ORIGINAL) – 1020 FEET NORTH AND 500 FEET EAST FROM THE C1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 23
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW NW	POD 8 (ADDITIONAL) – 1450 FEET NORTH AND 2500 FEET WEST FROM THE C1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 23
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW NW	POD 9 (ADDITIONAL) – 565 FEET NORTH AND 1700 FEET WEST FROM THE C1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 23
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW NW	POD 5 (ORIGINAL) – 1000 FEET NORTH AND 1400 FEET WEST FROM THE C1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 23
14 S	14 E	WM	24	SE SW	POD 11 (ADDITIONAL) – 1915 FEET SOUTH AND 845 FEET WEST FROM THE C1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 24

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION, LIVESTOCK AND DOMESTIC USE						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres	POD
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW NE	8.9	11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW NW	6.0	5, 8, 9 & 11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SE NW	21.5	4, 5, 8 & 11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW SW	29.2	11
TOTAL					65.6	

17. Transfer Application T-14208 proposes to change the place of use and points of diversion, as follows:

IRRIGATION, LIVESTOCK AND DOMESTIC USE						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres	POD*
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SE NW	0.7	11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NE SW	30.9	4, 5, 8, & 11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW SW	29.3	5, 8, 9, & 11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW SE	3.9	11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW SW	0.8	11
TOTAL					65.6	

*The authorized points of diversion (PODs) are not changing physical location. Certificate 94170 authorizes specific PODs for certain acres, and the acres are changing POD for the proposed place of use.

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

Certificate: 94171 in the name of SYLVAIN LLC (perfected under Permit S-3397)
Use: SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION OF 66.6 ACRES
Priority Date: MAY 21, 1917
Rate: 0.83 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, shall be limited to ONE-EIGHTIETH of one cubic foot per second per acre, or its equivalent in case of rotation.
Source: CROOKED RIVER, a tributary of DESCHUTES RIVER

Authorized Points of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW NE	POD 4 - 1020 FEET NORTH AND 500 FEET EAST FROM THE C1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 23
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW NW	POD 8 - 1450 FEET NORTH AND 2500 FEET WEST FROM THE C1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 23
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW NW	POD 9 (PORTABLE PUMPIN) - 565 FEET NORTH AND 1700 FEET WEST FROM THE C1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 23
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW NW	POD 5 - 1000 FEET NORTH AND 1400 FEET WEST FROM THE C1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 23
14 S	14 E	WM	24	SE SW	POD 11 - 1915 FEET SOUTH AND 845 FEET WEST FROM THE C1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 24

Authorized Place of Use:

SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres	POD
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW NE	8.9	11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NE NW	1.0	11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW NW	6.0	5, 8, 9, & 11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SE NW	21.5	4, 5, 9, & 11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW SW	29.2	11
TOTAL					66.6	

19. Transfer Application T-14208 proposes to change the place of use and points of diversion, as follows:

SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres	POD*
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW SE	15.4	11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NE SW	24.0	4, 5, 9, & 11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	NW SW	25.7	5, 8, 9, & 11
14 S	14 E	WM	23	SW SW	0.8	11
TOTAL					66.6	

*The authorized points of diversion (PODs) are not changing physical location. Certificate 94171 authorizes specific PODs for certain acres, and the acres are changing POD for the proposed place of use.

20. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has determined that a fish screen is necessary at the new point of diversion to prevent fish from entering the diversion and that the diversion is not currently equipped with an appropriate fish screen. This diversion may be eligible for screening cost-share funds.

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

21. Water has been used within the last five years 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.
22. 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-14208.
23. The water rights are subject to transfer as defined in ORS 540.505(4) and OAR 690-380-0100(14).
24. The proposed points of diversion divert water from the same source of surface water as the authorized points of diversion, as required by OAR 690-380-2110(2).
25. The proposed changes, as conditioned, would not result in enlargement of the rights.
26. The proposed changes, as conditioned, would not result in injury to other existing water rights.
27. All other application requirements are met.

Determination and Proposed Action

The changes in points of diversion, the additional point of diversion, and the changes in place of use proposed in Transfer Application T-14208 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-14208 is approved, the final order will include the following:

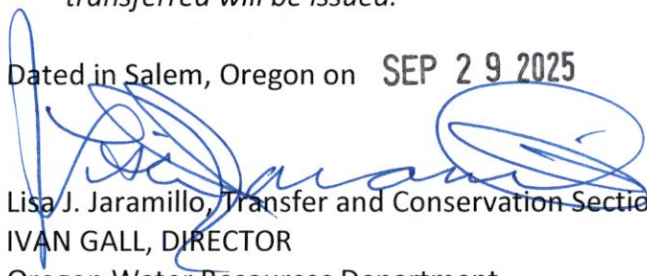
1. *The changes in points of diversion, the additional point of diversion, and the changes in place of use proposed in Transfer Application T-14208 are approved.*
2. *The right to the use of the water is restricted to beneficial use at the place of use described and is subject to all other conditions and limitations contained in Certificates 72947, 72948, 90397, 83858, 94170 and 94171 and any related decree.*

3. *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 points of diversion or the new place of use.*
4. *Water right Certificates 72947, 72948, 90397, 83858, 94170 and 94171 are cancelled. New certificates will be issued describing that portion of the rights not affected by this transfer.*
5. *Under Certificate 90397, the quantity of water diverted at the new point of diversion (POD 2) shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original point of diversion (POD 5).*
6. *Under Certificate 72947, the quantity of water diverted at the new additional point of diversion (POD MA), together with that diverted at the original points of diversion (POD 1 and POD 2), shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original points of diversion (POD 1 and POD 2).*
7. *Under Certificate 72948, the quantity of water diverted at the new additional point of diversion (POD MA), together with that diverted at the original points of diversion (POD 1, POD 2, and POD 3), shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original points of diversion (POD 1, POD 2, and POD 3).*
8. *Water shall be acquired from the same source of surface water as the original points of diversion.*
9. *The former place of use of the transferred rights shall no longer receive water under the rights.*
10. *Water use measurement conditions:*
 - a. *Before water use may begin under this order, the water user shall install a totalizing flow meter, or, with prior approval of the Director, another suitable measuring device, at each point of diversion (new and existing).*
 - b. *The water user shall maintain the meters or measuring devices in good working order.*
 - c. *The water user shall allow the Watermaster access to the meters or measuring devices; provided however, where the meters or measuring devices are located within a private structure, the Watermaster shall request access upon reasonable notice.*
11. *Prior to diverting water, the water user shall install an approved fish screen at the new point of diversion and shall provide to the OWRD a written statement from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) that the installed screen meets the state's criteria, or that ODFW has determined a screen is not necessary.*

The water user shall operate and maintain the fish screen at the new point of diversion consistent with ODFW's operational and maintenance standards. If ODFW determines the screen is not functioning properly and is unsuccessful in working with the water user to meet ODFW standards, ODFW may request that OWRD regulate the use of water until OWRD receives notification from ODFW that the fish screen is functioning properly

12. *Full beneficial use of the water shall be made, consistent with the terms of this order, on or before **October 1, 2027**. 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.*
13. *After satisfactory proof of beneficial use is received, new certificates confirming the rights transferred will be issued.*

Dated in Salem, Oregon on **SEP 29 2025**


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

This Preliminary Determination was prepared by Kim French. If you have questions about the information in this document, you may reach me at 503-979-9607 or Kim.R.French@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 \$720.00 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If you are not the applicant, a protest fee of \$1425.00 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. 50 U.S.C. App. §§501-597b. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 971-355-4127, or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <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 503-507-2749.

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

September 29, 2025

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND E-MAIL

WILLIAM SIGMAN
SIGMAN RANCH LLC
10501 NW O'NEAL HWY
PRINEVILLE, OR 97754

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Application T-14208

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to approve application T-14208. 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 and in the Woodburn Independent, 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 last date of newspaper publication.

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 503 979-9607 or Kim.R.French@water.oregon.gov, if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Kim French
Transfer Specialist
Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: Transfer Application file T-14208
Bill D. Nashem, District 24 Watermaster (*via e-mail*)
Gabe Williams, Agent for the applicant (*via e-mail*)

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