

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

In the Matter of Transfer Application)	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
T-14348, Harney County)	PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A CHANGE IN
)	POINTS OF APPROPRIATION, ADDITIONAL
)	POINTS OF APPROPRIATION, AND A
)	CHANGE IN PLACES OF USE

Authority

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 537.705 and 540.505 to 540.580 establish the process in which a water right holder may submit a request to transfer the point of appropriation, place of use, or character of use authorized under an existing water right. Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 690, Division 380 implements the statutes and provides the Department's procedures and criteria for evaluating transfer applications.

Applicant

RATTLESNAKE CREEK LAND AND CATTLE CO.
ANDY ROOT
524 HWY 20 N
HINES, OR 97738

Findings of Fact

1. On November 2, 2023, Rattlesnake Creek Land and Cattle Co./Andy Root filed an application for additional points of appropriation and to change places of use under Certificates 50685, 50686, 50981, and 87453. The Department assigned the application number T-14348.
2. Notice of the application for transfer was published on November 14, 2023, pursuant to OAR 690-380-4000. No comments were filed in response to the notice.
3. On June 2, 2025, the Department contacted the applicant's agent regarding inconsistencies in the proposed and authorized wells listed in the application and inconsistencies in the acres listed in the application as compared to the transfer maps.
4. On June 3, 2025, the Department received revised application pages resolving the inconsistencies.

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 18, 2025, The Department contacted the applicant's agent requesting revised application tables to clarify which acres were involved in the change in place of use only for both certificates and to correct the type of changes proposed for Certificate 50685.
6. On August 29, 2025, the Department received revised application pages clarifying the acres involved in the place of use change and correcting the type of change proposed for Certificate 50685, which includes a change in point of appropriation.
7. Sufficient proof of evidence of use for Certificates 50981 and 87453, as required by OAR 690-380-3000(12), was not submitted with the application. The applicant requested to remove Certificates 50981 and 87453 from the transfer application, resolving the issue.
8. On September 18, 2025, the Department mailed a copy of the draft Preliminary Determination proposing to approve Transfer Application T-14348 to the applicant. The draft Preliminary Determination cover letter set forth a deadline of October 18, 2025, 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.
9. The first right to be transferred is as follows:

Certificate: 50685 in the name of JACK G. and BONNIE J. SMITH (perfected under Permit G-7693)

Use: IRRIGATION of 12.5 ACRES and SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION of 67.5 ACRES

Priority Date: JULY 14, 1977

Rate: 1.0 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 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: A WELL a tributary of COW CREEK

Authorized Point of Appropriation:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NE NE	S2 - 225 FEET SOUTH AND 730 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 35

Authorized Place of Use:

PRIMARY IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres	Proposed Change
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SW NE	7.6	POU/POA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SW NE	4.9	POU/APOA

SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres	Proposed Change
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SW NE	27.5	APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NW SE	12.0	POU/APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NW SE	28.0	APOA
Total					67.5	

10. Transfer Application T-14348 proposes a change in point of appropriation for a 7.6 acre portion to:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances	Approximate distance from authorized point of appropriation (S2) in miles (mi.)
22 S	32.5 E	WM	28	NW SW	M2 - 1200 FEET SOUTH AND 1220 FEET EAST FROM THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 28	2.7 mi. Northwest
22 S	32.5 E	WM	29	NE SE	M1 - 1420 FEET NORTH AND 100 FEET WEST FROM THE SE CORNER OF SECTION 29	2.9 mi. Northwest

11. Transfer Application T-14348 proposes an additional point of appropriation located:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances	Approximate distance from authorized point of appropriation (S2) in miles (mi.)
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SE NW	S1 - 2200 FEET SOUTH AND 1420 FEET EAST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 35	0.7 mi. Southwest

12. Transfer Application T-14348 also proposes a change in place of use for a portion of the right to:

PRIMARY IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres	POA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	28	SW SE	7.6	M1 & M2
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NW NE	3.2	S1 & S2
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SW SW	1.7	S1 & S2
Total					12.5	

SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres	POA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NE NE	5.0	S1 & S2
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NW NE	7.0	S1 & S2
Total					12.0	

13. The second right to be transferred is as follows:

Certificate: 50686 in the name of JACK G. AND BONNIE J. SMITH (perfected under Permit G-7694)

Use: IRRIGATION OF 187.0 ACRES

Priority Date: JULY 14, 1977

Rate: 2.34 CUBIC FEET 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 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: A WELL a tributary of COW CREEK

Authorized Point of Appropriation:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SE NW	S1 - 2200 FEET SOUTH AND 1420 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 35

Authorized Place of Use:

IRRIGATION						
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres	Proposed Change
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NE NE	2.0	POU/APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NE NE	2.6	APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NW NE	3.0	POU/APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NW NE	16.5	APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NE NW	0.3	POU/APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NE NW	12.4	APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NW NW	3.4	POU/APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NW NW	30.6	APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SW NW	5.0	POU/APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SW NW	34.2	APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SE NW	3.7	POU/APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SE NW	30.2	APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NE SW	1.5	POU/APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NE SW	1.6	APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NW SW	4.5	POU/APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NW SW	34.7	APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SW SW	0.2	POU/APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SW SW	0.5	APOA
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SE SW	0.1	POU/APOA
Total					187.0	

14. Transfer Application T-14348 proposes an additional point of appropriation located:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances	Approximate Distance from the Authorized Point of Appropriation
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NE NE	S2 - 225 FEET SOUTH AND 730 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 35	0.7 mi Northeast

15. Transfer Application T-14348 also proposes to change the place of use for a portion of the right to:

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NE NW	21.1
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NW NW	0.8
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	SE NW	1.3
22 S	32.5 E	WM	35	NE SW	0.5
Total					23.7

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

16. Water has been used within the last five years. There is no information in the record that would demonstrate that the rights are subject to forfeiture under ORS 540.610.

17. 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-14348.

18. The water rights are subject to transfer as defined in ORS 540.505(4) and OAR 690-380-0100(14).

19. The proposed points of appropriation develop groundwater from the same aquifer as the authorized points of appropriation, as required by OAR 690-380-2110(2).

20. The proposed changes, as conditioned, would not result in enlargement of the rights.

21. The proposed change, as conditioned, would not result in injury to other existing water rights.

22. All other application requirements are met.

Determination and Proposed Action

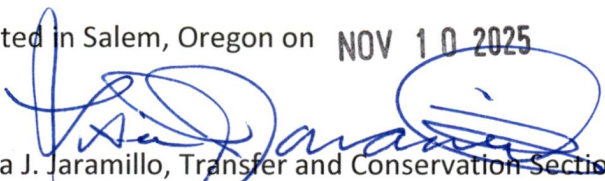
The change in point of appropriation, additional points of appropriation, and change in places of use proposed in Transfer Application T-14348 appear to be not consistent with the requirements of ORS 537.705 and 540.505 to 540.580 and OAR 690-380-5000. If protests are not filed pursuant to OAR 690-380-4030, the application will be approved.

If Transfer T-14348 is approved, the final order will include the following:

- 1. The change in point of appropriation, additional points of appropriation, and change in places of use proposed in Transfer Application T-14348 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 50685 and 50586 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 appropriation or the new places of use.*
- 4. Water right Certificates 50685 and 50586 are cancelled.*
- 5. For Certificate 50685, the quantity of water diverted at the new points of appropriation (M1 and M2), shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original point of appropriation (S2).*
- 6. For Certificate 50685, the quantity of water diverted at the new additional point of appropriation (S1), together with that diverted at the original point of appropriation (S2), shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original point of appropriation (S2).*
- 7. For Certificate 50686, the quantity of water diverted at the new additional point of appropriation (S2), together with that diverted at the original point of appropriation (S1), shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original point of appropriation (S1).*
- 8. Water shall be acquired from the same aquifer (water source) as the original points of appropriation.*
- 9. The former places 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 appropriation (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. *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.*
12. *After satisfactory proof of beneficial use is received, new certificates confirming the rights transferred will be issued.*

Dated in Salem, Oregon on **NOV 10 2025**


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

This Preliminary Determination was prepared by Elyse Hennen. If you have questions about the information in this document, you may reach me at 971-701-5485 or at elyse.d.hennen@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 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If you are not the applicant, a protest fee of \$1425 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

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725 Summer St NE, Suite A

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www.oregon.gov/owrd

NOV 10 2025

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND E-MAIL

RATTLESNAKE CREEK LAND AND CATTLE CO.

ANDY ROOT

524 HWY 20 N

HINES, OR 97738

SUBJECT: Water Right Transfer Application T-14348

Please find enclosed the Preliminary Determination indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to approve application T-14348. 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 Burns Times Herald newspaper, 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 971-701-5485 or at elyse.d.richman@water.oregon.gov, if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Water Rights Transfer Specialist
Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: Transfer Application file T-14348
Donald (Dally) S. Swindlehurst, District 10 Watermaster (*via e-mail*)
Scott Montgomery, Agent for the applicant (*via e-mail*)

encs