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March 27, 2026

VIA E-MAIL: MWATSON@COID.ORG

Mikaela Watson
Water Rights Project Assistant
Central Oregon Project Assistant
1055 SW Lake Rd
Redmond, OR 97756

Received by OWRD
March 30, 2026
Salem, OR

Re: COID-2026-05 Instream Lease

Dear Ms. Watson:

We represent the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (“Tribe”). Central Oregon Irrigation District (“COID”) has provided the Tribe with certain information concerning the COID-2026-05 Instream Lease, identified in **Appendix A** hereto (the “Application”).

The Tribe has reviewed the information about the Application provided by COID. The Tribe is relying in good faith upon the information provided by COID. Based on that information, the Tribe does not object to the Department of Water Resources (“Department”) processing the Application in accordance with applicable law, and the Department’s customary practice. The Tribe, however, expressly reserves, and does not waive, all rights, claims, and defenses that it may possess in connection with the Application, including, but not limited to, whether the Application violates the Treaty of June 25, 1855, with the Tribes of Middle Oregon, 12 Stat. 963, or the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation Water Rights Settlement Agreement, dated November 17, 1997, as amended.

Sincerely,

Alison K. Toivola
of BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

Mikaela Watson
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AKT:akt

Attachment

cc: Robert A. Brunoe
Austin Smith, Jr.
Brad Houslet
David Filippi, Esq.
Josh Newton, Esq.
Jeremy Giffin, Oregon Water Resources Department
Jessi Talbott
Gen Hubert, Deschutes River Conservancy
Alex Ehrens, Deschutes River Conservancy

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INSTRUCTIONS:

This checklist is intended to facilitate the Department of Water Resources' ("Department") processing of water rights transfer applications within the Deschutes Basin for the 2026 calendar year. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon ("Tribe") has reviewed this checklist. The Tribe does not object to the Department's processing of any water rights transfer applications that meets a "Yes" of all applicable checklist items, and therefore satisfies the "Meets Requirements" category at the top of this checklist. When the checklist is so satisfied, the Department may process the application in accordance with applicable law, and the Department's customary practice.

Water rights transfer applications that meet all of the checklist criteria appear to present a low risk of injury to the Tribal Reserved Water Right as defined in the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation Water Rights Settlement Agreement, dated November 17, 1997, as amended. The Tribe does not waive its right to dispute or challenge any transfer application, whether or not they satisfy this checklist, on the basis that the transfer injures the Tribal Reserved Water Right or other federally-reserved water right held by the Tribe. The Tribe expressly reserves, and does not waive, all rights, claims, and defenses that it may possess in connection with the application, including, but not limited to, whether the application violates the Treaty of June 25, 1855, with the Tribes of Middle Oregon, 12 Stat. 963, or the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation Water Rights Settlement Agreement, dated November 17, 1997, as amended.

The Tribe further reserves the right to conduct additional analysis on any transfer that is submitted to the Department with a completed checklist. The Tribe reserves the right to consider, among other things, the risk of localized impacts, cumulative impacts, water quality, return flows, groundwater recharge, Habitat Conservation Plan flow augmentation agreements, water bank transactions, and additional analyses received from the Tribe's staff, Department, applicant, or third party.

A "temporary instream lease" is any instream lease lasting five (5) years or less.

This checklist applies to surface water transfers only. This checklist does not apply to groundwater transfers.

If you have any questions about this checklist, please contact:

Jessi Talbott or Mikaela Watson, on behalf of Central Oregon Irrigation District, via e-mail at:

jtalbott@coird.org
mwatson@coird.org

Alison K. Toivola or Josh Newton of Best Best & Krieger, LLP, on behalf of the Tribe, via e-mail at:

Alison.Toivola@bbklaw.com
Josh.Newton@bbklaw.com

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CTWS Low-Risk Transfer Checklist Requirements

Patron Name/Applicant Name :

Meets Requirements:

Transfer Type:

Does Not Meet Requirements:

Transfer #:

Review Date:

Checklist Completed By:

Water Right Transfer - Check Applicable Transfer Type

Own Lands Transfer

Water Right Sale

	YES	NO	Comments:
Transfer Within Same District Boundary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
On/Off Lands Balance			
On/Off Lands Within Five (5) Miles			
No Increase in Diversion Amount			
No Change in Type of use			
No Change in Point of Diversion or Appropriation			
On/Off Lands Served by Same Canal			
NOT a Multi-Step Transfer			
NOT a Mitigation Credit			
			Identify Canal:

Temporary Instream Lease	YES	NO	Comments:
Decrease in Diversion - Increased River Flows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Transfer of Surface Water ONLY			
No Potential for Measurable Impact to Crooked River			
No Potential for Measurable Impact to Whychus Creek			
No Potential for Measurable Impact to Deschutes River			

Summary of Transfer:

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