

Groundwater Transfer Review Summary Form

Transfer/PA # T- 14766

GW Reviewer Andrew Wentworth Date Review Completed: 07/08/2026

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-14766

Applicant Name: Threemile Canyon Farms

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

Reviewer(s): Andrew Wentworth

Date of Review: 07/08/2026

Date Reviewed by GW Mgr. and Returned to WRSD: 07/08/2026

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 _____

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1. Basic description of the changes proposed in this transfer: Permit G-18411 authorizes two wells: MORR 635/Well H-1 and MORR 52892/Well H-2/Well 8. Transfer T-14766 proposes to change the name of MORR 52892 from "Well H-2" to "Well 8" and amend its location to reflect where the well was actually drilled. Transfer T-14766 also proposes adding a proposed 845 foot-deep well (PROP 848/Well 10) as an additional Point of Appropriation (POA).

Well name	Log ID	Current POA	Proposed POAs	Well depth (ft)	Seal Depth (ft)
Well H-1	MORR 635	x		875	85
Well H-2/ Well 8	MORR 52892	x		845	660
Well 10	PROP 848		x	845	660

2. Will the proposed POA develop the same aquifer (source) as the existing authorized POA?

☒ Yes ☐ No Comments: The applicant's existing well and the proposed APOA will produce from one or more water-bearing zones in the Columbia River Basalt Group (CRBG), a series of lava flows with a combined thickness greater than 10,000 feet in the Columbia Plateau. Each flow is characterized by a series of internal features, which generally include a thin rubble zone at the contact between flows and a thick, dense, low-permeability flow interior zone. In some cases, sedimentary layers (interbeds) were deposited during the time between basalt flow emplacements. A flow top, sedimentary interbed (if present), and flow bottom are collectively referred to as an interflow zone. Unconfined groundwater often occurs in the weathered top of the uppermost basalt flow, but deeper interflow zones usually exhibit confined conditions. CRBG flow features result in a series of stacked, thin aquifers that are confined by dense flow interiors. The low permeability of the basalt flow interiors restricts connection between stacked aquifers, resulting in distinct tabular aquifers with unique water level heads (Reidel et al., 2002).

Well logs for MORR 635 and MORR 52892 describe static water levels in the target aquifer at higher elevations than the reported depth to the top of the associated water-bearing zone, indicating a confined aquifer.

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

☒ Yes ☐ No Comments: Permit G-18411 states that the Department may require the discontinuance of groundwater use, or reduce the rate or volume of withdrawal if any of the following events occur:

- a. Annual water-level measurements reveal a water-level decline of three or more feet per year for five consecutive years; or
- b. Annual water-level measurements reveal a water-level decline of 15 or more feet in fewer than five consecutive years; or
- c. Annual water-level measurements reveal a water-level decline of 25 or more feet; or
- d. Hydraulic interference leads to a decline of 25 or more feet in any neighboring well with senior priority.

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: MORR 635 (Well H-1) has a reference level of 336.07 feet bls based on the estimated groundwater level on 03/01/2016. This estimate was calculated from the groundwater-level trend observed between when the well was constructed (281 feet bls [228.4 feet amsl]) and the first static water level measurement taken on 05/01/2023 (348.50 feet bls [160.90 feet amsl]).

MORR 52892 (Well 8) has a reference level of 368.67 feet bls based on the estimated groundwater level on 03/01/2016. Although MORR 52892 was not constructed until 05/31/2023, this estimate represents the water level in the target aquifer, which was calculated based on the groundwater-level trend observed in MORR 635. The most recent static water level measurement was 390.25 feet bls (151.75 feet amsl) on 03/20/2025.

Neither well has exceeded applicable permit decline conditions. Static water level measurements are not available for MORR 635. Instead, the 2.40 ft/yr declining water level trend at MORR 52892 from 2016 to 2025 is assumed to represent the water level in the target aquifer at both wells. As of March 2026, the water level in MORR 52892 is estimated to have declined 23.97 feet, from the 2016 reference level of 368.67 feet bls to 393.67 feet bls.

4. a) Is there more than one source developed under the right (e.g., basalt and alluvium)?
☐ Yes ☒ No Comments: see section 2.
- 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.):
n/a
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: PROP 848 (Well 10), the proposed APOA would be farther away from the nearest wells that access the same basalt aquifer. The APOA, PROP 848, is approximately 3.9 miles away from MORR 50821. The approved POA, MORR 52892, is approximately 3.8 miles away from the closest POA. The change will decrease 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: n/a
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: Several hundred feet of CRBG rock lies between nearby creek beds and the water bearing zones accessed by the subject wells. The proposed APOA will affect surface water similarly to the authorized POA.
- 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: n/a
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: n/a

8. What conditions or other changes in the application are necessary to address any potential issues identified above: none
9. Any additional comments: If the groundwater level trend observed since 2016 continues at the current rate or accelerates, it is likely that the permit decline condition will be exceeded in 2027. It should also be noted that the proposed APOA will have a reference level based on the estimated water level elevation in 2016, similar to MORR 635 and MORR 52892.

References

Oregon Water Resources Department, Groundwater Information System,
https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/gw/gw_info/gw_info_report/Default.aspx, accessed 06/12/2026.

Reidel, Stephen P., Frank A. Spane, and Vernon G. Johnson. 2002. *Natural Gas Storage in Basalt Aquifers of the Columbia Basin, Pacific Northwest USA: A Guide to Site Characterization*. PNNL-13962, 15020781.
<https://doi.org/10.2172/15020781>.

Theis, C.V., 1941, The effect of a well on the flow of a nearby stream: Am. Geophys. Union Trans., v. 22, pt.3, p. 734-738.

T-14766 Threemile Canyon Farms

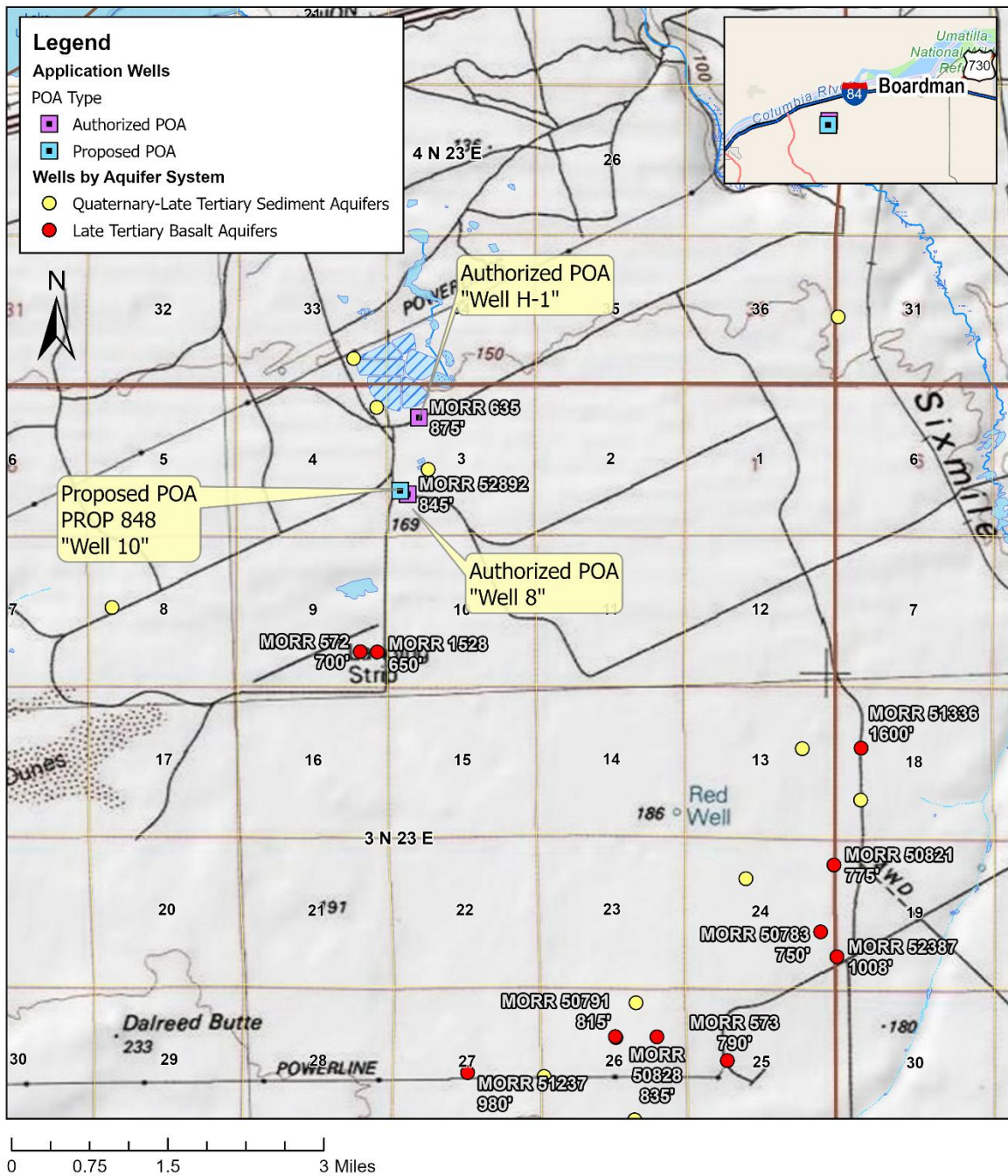


Figure 1. Map of well locations.

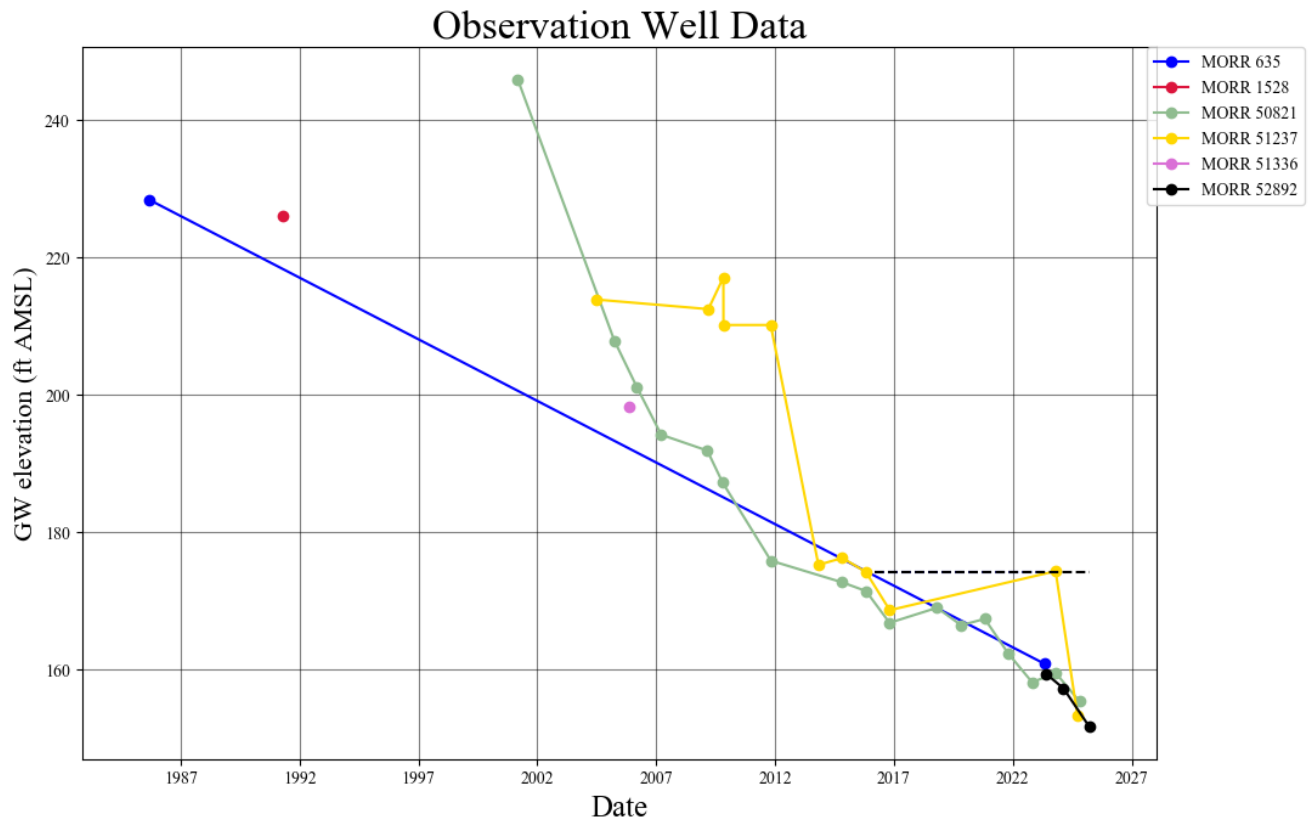


Figure 2. Hydrograph of groundwater-level elevations from select wells representing the basalt aquifer accessed by the authorized POAs.