

HARTT Laura A * WRD

From: GONZALEZ Danielle L * WRD
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 9:31 AM
To: WRD_DL_rule-coordinator
Subject: Fw: Ground Water Availability Allocation Rule Making Bend

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From: Christine Larson <brookslarson1205@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 12:54 PM
To: WRD_DL_waterstrategy <WRD_DL_waterstrategy@water.oregon.gov>
Subject: Ground Water Availability Allocation Rule Making Bend

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Hello,

I wanted to inform you about the water allocation issue and my concerns.

Efficiency and Conservation Efforts.

We live in a farming area that supplies meat, vegetables, eggs, hay, etc.

The current system, Tumalo Irrigation District, needs to be fixed.

We pay for a certain amount of water for irrigation, which has been cut back substantially.

In addition, we have seven days off and seven days on at the end of the system, which is not sufficient for production.

Priority should be given to the farmer who provides food for the consumer and has domestic livestock.

It is disheartening to see that golf courses, which cater to a leisurely activity, and resorts, which are primarily for the comfort of tourists, are given priority over the livelihood of farmers and the sustenance of our community. This is particularly evident in our proximity to the Thornburgh Resort, which seems to contribute to our water shortage despite its water studies claiming responsible usage.

Any resort should be required to eliminate grass and water-gobbling plants and adhere to stricter water use laws.

The transfer of water rights through buying and selling is not working. Citizens without deep pockets can not compete with developers who purchase existing rights to increase water usage.

Eliminating transfer will allow those who depend on groundwater and water provided through wells to continue receiving their current share without penalizing other users.

Someone not using their water could transfer it to the neighbor but not transfer large amounts of water rights to developers who create a more significant need elsewhere in the area.

Current residents could utilize water sharing with an existing need, not a mass of new homes that will continue to need more. The watering of any new golf course, housing in desert areas, and new resorts should be eliminated, not approved to use water transfer.

Aquifer storage and recovery are changing. In Deschutes County, our canals are being piped.

While this reduces evaporation, our aquifers will not benefit from water returning to the aquifer.

Ten years ago, many thought the aquifer was plentiful. Some still do. However, with the canal piping and rural subdivisions being approved, those who rely on well water are already challenged with dry wells. Imagine being a resident who bought in a rural community and running out of well water while the newly approved resort or sub-division comes in and starts using massive amounts of water, forcing you to drill new wells. Transferring water rights to developers is threatening our storage and recovery.

Christine Larson

Managing Partner for B&C Development, LLC

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