

HARTT Laura A * WRD

From: Dean Runyan <runyan@easystreet.net>
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To: WRD_DL_rule-coordinator
Subject: Groundwater rules

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It is absolutely imperative that Oregon adopt the strongest possible groundwater management rules. Climate change will challenge Southern, Central and Eastern Oregon in particular, reducing recharge rates and surface flows, while at the same time increasing demand for agricultural and municipal water. Oregon must get in front of this situation as quickly as possible, and in particular should not continue using rules that approve water withdrawals that deplete available water resources. Making hard choices in the face of lobbying pressures will be difficult, but we must do it, or face even more dire consequences in the years ahead.