

Dear OWRD,

As a Wallowa County irrigator and a supporter of agriculture I am so glad that OWRD is moving to update rules for new groundwater applications. OWRD needs to protect existing irrigation rights and all of Oregon from interests that don't care about our future.

I spent more than a decade working with farmers and ranchers in Wallowa, Lake, Morrow, Tillamook, and Deschutes Counties helping them with improving their operations. Many of those operators have spent significant time and money to make their irrigation systems more efficient and ensure that they will still be able to irrigate in a future with tighter water budgets. Allowing groundwater applications to undercut the work they have put in is unjust and panders to those who do not care about the future of Oregon.

Please adopt these rule changes to protect those who have worked hard and protect their existing water rights.

Sincerely,

J. Johansen