

The Butlers
5353 SW Loma Linda Dr.
Redmond, OR

Laura Hartt,
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem, OR 97301

Dear Ms. Hartt,

We would like to comment on the proposed new OWRD rule concerning groundwater in the state of Oregon. Since we live east of the Cascade Mountains, groundwater is a critical concern to us. We have friends whose well has gone dry. They share the well with a neighbor who can't afford the cost of a new well. Now both property owners pay to have water trucked to their properties in order to continue to live in their homes. This is not an uncommon occurrence in Central Oregon because older wells are shallower and newer wells are deeper. Shallow wells run dry.

Groundwater in Central Oregon is derived from snow pack in the Cascades. Most groundwater pumped in Central Oregon is at least 15 to 20 yrs old. The impact of declining snowpacks will not be felt for at least 15 yrs. Meanwhile, more wells are drilled to support development. We are essentially burning the candle at both ends.

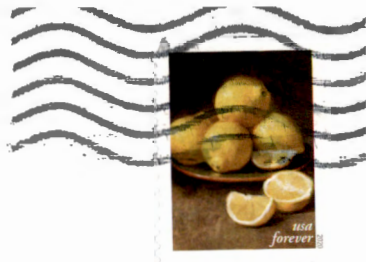
It is long overdue for OWRD to comply with the mandate to permit new wells only in areas of stable water tables. Starting today will be a significant change, but it is the only way to have a sustainable future.

John and Diane Butler

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