

## HARTT Laura A \* WRD

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**From:** Maynard Freemole <maynardfreemole@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2024 3:21 PM  
**To:** WRD\_DL\_rule-coordinator  
**Subject:** Groundwater allocation rule revisions

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Oregon Water Resources Department:

Please institute the revisions currently proposed for the Groundwater Allocation Rules. These proposed revisions seem long overdue, a condition that news of difficulties with the groundwater supply in the Bend area highlight and reinforce. It appears that lack of data about use and overuse of this resource has been an issue because it led to granting new allocations that overtaxed the groundwater capacity in the area. The proposed rules offer an opportunity to correct this situation, and to gather and provide essential data for making decisions.

Data-supported decisions based on these revisions should not only help recover groundwater supplies, they should protect the stream flows and cold water inputs that are vital to so many of Oregon's fish and wildlife stocks. Furthermore, we cannot ignore the increasing effects of climate change on this vital resource. Due to the climate challenge, it is more important than ever to stop issuing water use permits that could, clearly, tax our groundwater resources beyond possible recovery in our time. The city of Bend is not unique in facing this challenge to conserve and maintain the quality and availability of groundwater in Oregon.

Please institute the proposed revisions of this rule.

Thank you.  
Maynard Freemole