

## HARTT Laura A \* WRD

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**From:** Micah Wait <micah@wildfishconservancy.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024 3:56 PM  
**To:** WRD\_DL\_rule-coordinator  
**Cc:** Emma Helverson  
**Subject:** OWRD Proposed Groundwater Allocation Rule Revisions

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To: Laura Hartt, Oregon Water Resources Department  
From: Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy  
Re: OWRD Proposed Groundwater Allocation Rule Revisions

**Wild Fish Conservancy supports the OWRD's proposed groundwater allocation rule revisions.** Wild Fish Conservancy is a nonprofit conservation organization headquartered in Washington State and dedicated to preserving, protecting and restoring the northwest's wild fish and the ecosystems they depend on, through science, education, and advocacy.

Wild Fish Conservancy supports the OWRD's proposed groundwater allocation rule revisions for a number of reasons. We believe these revisions are an improvement to the existing regulations, which have resulted in an over-issuance of groundwater permits. Under the existing rules groundwater rights can be issued even when they may negatively affect surface water flows. By determining reasonably stable groundwater levels, the proposed revisions will improve protections for stream flows and cold water inputs in systems where the groundwater is hydrologically connected to surface water. These rule changes will help to protect valuable fish habitat threatened by climate change and population growth.

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Micah Wait  
Wild Fish Conservancy  
(206)953-9305

[www.wildfishconservancy.org](http://www.wildfishconservancy.org)