

HARTT Laura A * WRD

From: Rich Thompson <richsthompson364@gmail.com>
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To: WRD_DL_rule-coordinator
Subject: New Groundwater Allocation Rules

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I have resided in the Ground Water Limited Area at the 1,100 level on Chehalem Mountain for 35 years and therefore, have concerns about certain of the policies and methods OWRD uses to approve WATER RIGHTS for surface water, especially for ground water use. YES, I do rely on a well for water.

While travelling into Newberg during late summer months and seeing the condition of Chehalem Creek with NO visible water, I feel certain that STE fish species can-not pass in many areas. More and more agricultural activities (hazelnuts, grapes, even cannabis) must be using much of the water that use to flow in Chehalem Creek. I can see the same with water that originates in the creeks that cross my property.

I Assume such commercial activities require water rights that must be approved by OWRD. However, to approve these applications without information and data to support approval of these uses is pure folly in my opinion.

In conclusion, I urge the OWRD Commission to improve and approve the way business is done, especially defaulting to a "YES" to new groundwater rights when data on the capacity of a water resource is lacking.

Thank You for the opportunity to comment on this situation.

Richard Thompson
Newberg, Oregon