

HARTT Laura A * WRD

From: George Hutchinson <gbhutch@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 7:57 PM
To: WRD_DL_rule-coordinator
Subject: Support letter for revised groundwater allocation rules

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Dear Oregon Water Resources Department decision makers:

The new rules will result in more sustainable management of Oregon's groundwater. The new rules will ensure better protection of streamflows and cold water inputs to Oregon rivers and streams from the impacts of over-pumping hydraulically-connected groundwater. Challenges associated with the impacts of climate change make it even more important for the state to stop over-issuing groundwater permits. The new rules will end the practice of "defaulting to yes" to new groundwater rights when the state lacks data to determine whether it has already over-appropriated groundwater in a particular area, and whether a proposed new use is within the capacity of a water resource. The method by which Oregon issues new groundwater permits has long been in need of an overhaul, and we look forward to the adoption of the proposed rules.

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