

BEFORE THE WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF THE WITHDRAWAL )	
FROM FURTHER APPROPRIATION OF )	RULE FOR A
UNAPPROPRIATED WATER OF THE )	WITHDRAWAL ORDER
POMONA AQUIFER NEAR MOSIER )	

The Pomona aquifer near Mosier includes all water contained within the Pomona Member of the Columbia River Basalt. The spring water level altitudes in wells open only to this aquifer are approximately 400 feet above mean sea level at present. The spring water level in these wells currently declines approximately 6.9 feet per year, and the water level seasonally fluctuates more than 30 feet. The exterior boundaries of the proposed withdrawal area are mostly unseen geological features. For administrative purposes, precise boundaries have been designated to approximate the irregular natural boundaries. The precise boundaries are all within Wasco County and are described as follows:

Beginning at the northwest corner of the SW quarter of 2N/11E-12, then south to the southwest corner of the NW quarter of 2N/11E-24, then east to the southeast corner of the NW quarter of 2N/12E-19, then north to the northeast corner of the NW quarter of 2N/12E-19, then east to the northeast corner of 2N/12E-19, then north to the southwest corner of the NW quarter of the NW quarter of 2N/12E-17, then east to the southeast corner of the NW quarter of the NW quarter of 2N/12E-17, then north to the northeast corner of the NW quarter of the NW quarter of 2N/12E-17, then east to the northeast corner of 2N/12E-17, then north to the southeast corner of the NE quarter of the NE quarter of 2N/12E-8, then west to the southwest corner of the NE quarter of the NE quarter of 2N/12E-8, then north to the northwest corner of the NE quarter of the NE quarter of 2N/12E-8, then west to the northwest corner of the NE quarter of 2N/12E-8, then north to the northeast corner of the SE quarter of the SW quarter of 2N/12E-5, then west to the northeast corner of the SW quarter of the SW quarter of 2N/12E-6, then south to the northeast corner of the SE quarter of the SW quarter of the SW quarter of 2N/12E-6, then west to the northwest corner of the SE quarter of the SW quarter of the SE quarter of 2N/11E-1, then south to the southwest corner of the SE quarter of the SW quarter of the SE quarter of 2N/11E-1, then west to the northwest corner of the NE quarter of 2N/11E-12, then south to the southeast corner of the NE quarter of the NW quarter of 2N/11E-12, then west to the southwest corner of the NE quarter of the NW quarter of 2N/11E-12, then south to the southeast corner of the SW quarter of the NW quarter of 2N/11E-12, then west to the northwest corner of the SW quarter of 2N/11E-12 to close the boundary.

## FINDINGS

1. The Pomona aquifer near Mosier is a primary source of ground water in that area.
2. Irrigation is the primary use of the Pomona aquifer.
3. Water levels in observation wells are currently declining approximately 6.9 feet per year.
4. The water level in a state observation well declined approximately 2.0 feet per year from 1963 and 1971 and approximately 6.5 feet per year from 1976 to 1986.
5. Estimated total annual discharge from the Pomona aquifer is 676 acre-feet.
6. Estimated total annual recharge to the Pomona aquifer is 560 acre-feet.
7. At least 28 percent of total recharge to the Pomona aquifer comes from the Priest Rapids aquifer through interconnecting wells.
8. Pumping water levels in the aquifer may intercept and begin draining the aquifer within five years.
9. In view of the current land use plan within the proposed withdrawal area, some new exempt water uses (ORS 537.545) could be allowed.
10. The proposed withdrawal is consistent with the purposes and standards as provided in Sections 3 and 6(d) of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, P.L. 99-663, and the interim guidelines or the scenic area management plan.

## CONCLUSION

The Pomona aquifer is currently being overdrafted. The issuance of additional ground water rights would increase the overdraft of the Pomona aquifer. Withdrawal of the Pomona aquifer from further appropriation near Mosier is necessary to meet the statutory water resources policies to:

- a. Protect existing rights to appropriate ground water;
- b. Limit beneficial use to the capacity of available sources;
- c. Assure adequate and safe supplies of ground water for human consumption;
- d. Prevent overdrawing of ground water supplies while conserving maximum supplies of ground water for agricultural, commercial, industrial, recreational and other beneficial uses.

## RULE

1. Except for uses listed in (2) of this rule, the unappropriated waters of the Pomona aquifer near Mosier are withdrawn from further appropriation.
2. Future appropriation of waters of the Pomona aquifer near Mosier for the following uses is not subject to this withdrawal:

- a. Stockwatering purposes;
  - b. Watering any lawn or non-commercial garden not exceeding one-half acre in area;
  - c. Single or group domestic purpose not exceeding 15,000 gallons a day;
  - d. Down-hole heat exchange purposes; or
  - e. Industrial or commercial purposes not exceeding 5,000 gallons a day.
3. This withdrawal shall be in effect until this rule is modified or revoked by the Commission.
  4. This withdrawal applies to all ground water permit applications pending as of May 13, 1988.

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

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