

Approved:



MEMO

To: Kristopher Byrd, Well Construction Section Manager
From: Tommy Laird, Well Construction Program Coordinator
Subject: Review of Water Right Application G-18851
Date: October 19, 2023

The attached application was forwarded to the Well Construction Section by the Groundwater Section. Grayson Fish reviewed the application. Please see Grayson's Groundwater Review.

Applicant's Well #1 (Proposed Well): Well #1 is a proposed well, therefore it cannot be reviewed for construction. Construction of this proposed well shall be completed in a manner that protects ground water resources as required under Oregon Administrative Rules 690-200 through 690-240. During construction of this well, specific attention should be paid to ensure sealing requirements are met and that the well does not commingle aquifers.

The construction of proposed Well #1 may not satisfy hydraulic connection issues.

Applicant's Well #2 (Proposed Well): Well #2 is a proposed well, therefore it cannot be reviewed for construction. Construction of this proposed well shall be completed in a manner that protects ground water resources as required under Oregon Administrative Rules 690-200 through 690-240. During construction of this well, specific attention should be paid to ensure sealing requirements are met and that the well does not commingle aquifers.

The construction of proposed Well #2 may not satisfy hydraulic connection issues.

Groundwater Application Review Summary Form

Application # G- 18851

GW Reviewer Grayson Fish Date Review Completed: 7/28/2023

Summary of GW Availability and Injury Review:

Groundwater for the proposed use is either over appropriated, will not likely be available in the amounts requested without injury to prior water rights, OR will not likely be available within the capacity of the groundwater resource per Section B of the attached review form.

Summary of Potential for Substantial Interference Review:

There is the potential for substantial interference per Section C of the attached review form.

Summary of Well Construction Assessment:

The well does not appear to meet current well construction standards per Section D of the attached review form. Route through Well Construction and Compliance Section.

This is only a summary. Documentation is attached and should be read thoroughly to understand the basis for determinations and for conditions that may be necessary for a permit (if one is issued).

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

MEMO

July 28, 2023

TO: **Application G- 18851**

FROM: **GW: Grayson Fish**
 (Reviewer's Name)

SUBJECT: Scenic Waterway Interference Evaluation

YES The source of appropriation is hydraulically connected to a State Scenic
 NO Waterway or its tributaries

YES
 NO Use the Scenic Waterway Condition (Condition 7J)

Per ORS 390.835, the Groundwater Section is **able** to calculate ground water interference with surface water that contributes to a Scenic Waterway. The calculated interference is distributed below
See attached memo “Analysis of Groundwater Pumping Impacts on Scenic Waterway Flows” dated: February 19, 2013

Per ORS 390.835, the Groundwater Section is **unable** to calculate ground water interference with surface water that contributes to a scenic waterway; **therefore, the Department is unable to find that there is a preponderance of evidence that the proposed use will measurably reduce the surface water flows necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of a scenic waterway**

DISTRIBUTION OF INTERFERENCE

Calculate the percentage of consumptive use by month and fill in the table below. If interference cannot be calculated, per criteria in 390.835, do not fill in the table but check the "unable" option above, thus informing Water Rights that the Department is unable to make a Preponderance of Evidence finding.

Exercise of this permit is calculated to reduce monthly flows in **Klamath** Scenic Waterway by the following amounts expressed as a proportion of the consumptive use by which surface water flow is reduced.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
See attached memo “Analysis of Groundwater Pumping Impacts on Scenic Waterway flows” dated: February 19, 2013											

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FOR GROUNDWATER APPLICATIONS

TO: Water Rights Section Date 7/28/2023
 FROM: Groundwater Section Grayson Fish
 Reviewer's Name
 SUBJECT: Application G- 18851 Supersedes review of 6/16/2020
 Date of Review(s)

PUBLIC INTEREST PRESUMPTION; GROUNDWATER

OAR 690-310-130 (1) *The Department shall presume that a proposed groundwater use will ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health as described in ORS 537.525. Department staff review groundwater applications under OAR 690-310-140 to determine whether the presumption is established. OAR 690-310-140 allows the proposed use be modified or conditioned to meet the presumption criteria. This review is based upon available information and agency policies in place at the time of evaluation.*

A. GENERAL INFORMATION: Applicant's Name: Five Mile Ranch County: Klamath

A1. Applicant(s) seek(s) 3.95 cfs from 2 well(s) in the Klamath Basin,
Sprague subbasin

A2. Proposed use Irrigation (243.11 ac); Suppl. (72.6 ac) Seasonality: Mar. 1 – Oct. 31 (244d)

A3. Well and aquifer data (attach and number logs for existing wells; mark proposed wells as such under logid):

Well	Logid	Applicant's Well #	Proposed Aquifer*	Proposed Rate(cfs)	Location (T/R-S QQ-Q)	Location, metes and bounds, e.g. 2250' N, 1200' E fr NW cor S 36
1	PROP	1	Bedrock	2.45	35S/13E-28 NWSE	2139'N, 1401'W of SE cor S28
2	PROP	2	Bedrock	1.49	35S/13E-28 NESE	1728'N, 1071'W of SE cor S28
3						

* Alluvium, CRB, Bedrock

Well	Well Elev ft msl	First Water ft bls	SWL ft bls	SWL Date	Well Depth (ft)	Seal Interval (ft)	Casing Intervals (ft)	Liner Intervals (ft)	Perforations Or Screens (ft)	Well Yield (gpm)	Draw Down (ft)	Test Type
1	4500	-	150-200*	-	360	0-300	0-300	-	-	-	-	-
2	4500	-	150-200*	-	360	0-300	0-300	-	-	-	-	-

Use data from application for proposed wells.

A4. **Comments:** * the applicant's wells are proposed: based on review from well logs nearby. SWL will likely be between 150 and 200 ft BLS.
The applicant has proposed well specific rates in the application.

A5. **Provisions of the** _____ Basin rules relative to the development, classification and/or management of groundwater hydraulically connected to surface water **are**, or **are not**, activated by this application. (Not all basin rules contain such provisions.)
 Comments: _____

A6. **Well(s) #** _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, tap(s) an aquifer limited by an administrative restriction.
 Name of administrative area: _____
 Comments: _____

B. GROUNDWATER AVAILABILITY CONSIDERATIONS, OAR 690-310-130, 400-010, 410-0070

B1. **Based upon available data**, I have determined that groundwater* for the proposed use:

- a. is over appropriated, is not over appropriated, or cannot be determined to be over appropriated during any period of the proposed use. * This finding is limited to the groundwater portion of the over-appropriation determination as prescribed in OAR 690-310-130;
- b. will not or will likely be available in the amounts requested without injury to prior water rights. * This finding is limited to the groundwater portion of the injury determination as prescribed in OAR 690-310-130;
- c. will not or will likely to be available within the capacity of the groundwater resource; or
- d. will, if properly conditioned, avoid injury to existing groundwater rights or to the groundwater resource:
 - i. The permit should contain condition #(s) 7N (Annual SWL); 7T(Measuring Tube); Large Water-Use Reporting;
 - ii. The permit should be conditioned as indicated in item 2 below.
 - iii. The permit should contain special condition(s) as indicated in item 3 below;

- B2. a. Condition to allow groundwater production from no deeper than _____ ft. below land surface;
- b. Condition to allow groundwater production from no shallower than 300 ft. below land surface;
- c. Condition to allow groundwater production only from the _____ groundwater reservoir between approximately _____ ft. and _____ ft. below land surface;
- d. Well reconstruction is necessary to accomplish one or more of the above conditions. The problems that are likely to occur with this use and without reconstructing are cited below. Without reconstruction, I recommend withholding issuance of the permit until evidence of well reconstruction is filed with the Department and approved by the Groundwater Section.

Describe injury –as related to water availability– that is likely to occur without well reconstruction (interference w/ senior water rights, not within the capacity of the resource, etc): _____

B3. **Groundwater availability remarks:** The applicants proposed wells would develop water from the crystalline volcanic aquifer that underly the Sprague River valley. There are limited water level data in the vicinity of the applicant’s proposed POA. The closest observation wells **KLAM 1621** and **KLAM 10343** are over 3 miles away in the westerly direction; however, these wells extend into the volcanic rock at depths greater than 300 feet below land surface and groundwater elevations are likely be similar to the proposed well. Similarly, observation wells **KLAM 2129**, **KLAM 10603** and **KLAM 2145** are over six miles to the southeast but have similar groundwater elevations (within 5 feet) as **KLAM 1621** and **KLAM 10343**. In general, the hydrographs follow climatic trends with approximately 5 feet of decline over the period of record. The hydrograph of **KLAM 10343** shows similar groundwater elevations as the other wells considered through 2005. However, between 2005 and 2023, groundwater elevation in **KLAM 10343** declined approximately 20 feet. The groundwater declines observed in **KLAM 10343** do appear to be anomalous compared to other wells in this portion of the Sprague River Valley. Available groundwater level data in the noted wells do not display excessive declines or excessively declining trends, therefore there is not a preponderance of evidence that groundwater of the target aquifer is over appropriated. Similarly, there is not a preponderance of evidence that the proposed use would not be within the capacity of the resource and so conditions in B1(d) are recommended.

There are no permitted groundwater rights within 1 miles of the applicants proposed POA and the nearest is 1.2 miles away. At this distance, and given the nature of the aquifer system in the area (high-transmissivity, high-yield), it is unlikely that the applicant’s use would result in injury to these permitted water rights. However, standard interference conditions should be applied.

C. GROUNDWATER/SURFACE WATER CONSIDERATIONS, OAR 690-09-040

C1. **690-09-040 (1):** Evaluation of aquifer confinement:

Well	Aquifer or Proposed Aquifer	Confined	Unconfined
1	Crystalline Rocks associated with Winema Volcanics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Crystalline Rocks associated with Winema Volcanics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Basis for aquifer confinement evaluation: The crystalline volcanic aquifers (“basalts”) that the wells are proposed to be completed in are overlain by up to 200 ft of sedimentary material (“Yonna Fm.”) frequently referred to as “clay” on drillers’ logs. The Presence of a thick clay-rich layer will increase confinement of the underlying rock units.

C2. **690-09-040 (2) (3):** Evaluation of distance to, and hydraulic connection with, surface water sources. All wells located a horizontal distance less than ¼ mile from a surface water source that produce water from an unconfined aquifer shall be assumed to be hydraulically connected to the surface water source. Include in this table any streams located beyond one mile that are evaluated for PSI.

Well	SW #	Surface Water Name	GW Elev ft msl	SW Elev ft msl	Distance (ft)	Hydraulically Connected?			Potential for Subst. Interfer. Assumed?	
						YES	NO	ASSUMED	YES	NO
1	1	Fivemile Creek	4350	4350	19100*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	1	Fivemile Creek	4350	4350	18600	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	2	Snake Creek	4350	4350	22500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	2	Snake Creek	4350	4350	22650	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Basis for aquifer hydraulic connection evaluation: SWLs reported for well logs nearby are 150-200 ft BLS; distances measured are to the nearest point where the streambed crosses the estimated groundwater elevation.

Water Availability Basin the well(s) are located within: N FK SPRAGUE R > SPRAGUE R – AT MOUTH (ID# 70816)
And hydraulically connected to: SYCAN R > SPRAGUE R – AT MOUTH (ID# 70823)

C3a. **690-09-040 (4):** Evaluation of stream impacts for each well that has been determined or assumed to be **hydraulically connected and less than 1 mile** from a surface water (SW) source. Limit evaluation to instream rights and minimum stream flows that are pertinent to that SW source, not lower SW sources to which the stream under evaluation is tributary. Compare the requested rate against the 1% of 80% *natural* flow for the pertinent Water Availability Basin (WAB). If Q is not distributed by well, use full rate for each well. Any checked box indicates the well is assumed to have the potential to cause PSI.

Well	SW #	Well < ¼ mile?	Qw > 5 cfs?	Instream Water Right ID	Instream Water Right Q (cfs)	Qw > 1% ISWR?	80% Natural Flow (cfs)	Qw > 1% of 80% Natural Flow?	Interference @ 30 days (%)	Potential for Subst. Interfer. Assumed?
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

C3b. **690-09-040 (4):** Evaluation of stream impacts by total appropriation for all wells determined or assumed to be **hydraulically connected and less than 1 mile** from a surface water source. **Complete only if Q is distributed among wells.** Otherwise same evaluation and limitations apply as in C3a above.

SW #	Qw > 5 cfs?	Instream Water Right ID	Instream Water Right Q (cfs)	Qw > 1% ISWR?	80% Natural Flow (cfs)	Qw > 1% of 80% Natural Flow?	Interference @ 30 days (%)	Potential for Subst. Interfer. Assumed?
	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: No streams were evaluated within 1 mile of the proposed POA.

C4a. **690-09-040 (5):** Estimated impacts on **hydraulically connected surface water sources greater than one mile** as a percentage of the proposed pumping rate. Limit evaluation to the effects that will occur up to one year after pumping begins. This table encompasses the considerations required by 09-040 (5)(a), (b), (c) and (d), which are not included on this form. Use additional sheets if calculated flows from more than one WAB are required.

Non-Distributed Wells													
Well	SW#	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
Distributed Wells													
Well	SW#	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %
Well Q as CFS		0	0	0	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.45	0	0
Interference CFS		<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02
2	2	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %
Well Q as CFS		0	0	0	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	0	0
Interference CFS		<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
(A) = Total Interf.		<0.03	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03
(B) = 80 % Nat. Q		34.3	43.3	64.4	128	136	56.2	31.4	28.3	27.1	26.8	33.8	33.3
(C) = 1 % Nat. Q		0.03	0.04	0.06	1.28	1.36	0.56	0.31	0.28	0.27	0.27	0.34	0.33
(D) = (A) > (C)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(E) = (A / B) x 100		<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %

(A) = total interference as CFS; (B) = WAB calculated natural flow at 80% exceed. as CFS; (C) = 1% of calculated natural flow at 80% exceed. as CFS; (D) = highlight the checkmark for each month where (A) is greater than (C); (E) = total interference divided by 80% flow as percentage.

Basis for impact evaluation: Stream-depletion was estimated for each well to Snake Creek (which has the lower WAB flows) using the Hunt (2003) stream-depletion model with parameter values informed by Gannett et al. (2012) and using methods previously used by the Department for estimating stream-depletion in the Klamath Basin. The main control on stream-depletion for this application is the distance to the nearest, hydraulically-connected stream reach, which is based on assumed static water levels and on proposed construction. Stream-depletion estimates are assumed to be different if the well is not constructed as proposed.

C4b. **690-09-040 (5) (b)** The potential to impair or detrimentally affect the public interest is to be determined by the Water Rights Section.

- C5. **If properly conditioned**, the surface water source(s) can be adequately protected from interference, and/or groundwater use under this permit can be regulated if it is found to substantially interfere with surface water:
- i. The permit should contain condition #(s) _____;
 - ii. The permit should contain special condition(s) as indicated in "Remarks" below;

C6. **SW / GW Remarks and Conditions:** The applicant's proposed POA would be producing from an aquifer that has been found to be hydraulically connected to surface water – specifically Fivemile Creek and Snake Creek – at distances of over 3 miles. Stream-depletion was estimated using standards practices of the department and the proposed rate and level of impact does not reach the level where PSI is assumed.

References Used:

Gannett, M. W., B. J. Wagner, and K. E. Lite. 2012. *Groundwater Simulation and Management Models for the Upper Klamath Basin, Oregon and California*. USGS Scientific Investigations report 2012-5062.

Gannett, M. W., K. E. Lite, J. L. LaMarche, B. J. Fisher, and D. J. Polette. 2007. *Ground-water Hydrology of the Upper Klamath Basin, Oregon and California*. USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2007-5050

Hunt, B. 2003. *Unsteady Stream Depletion when Pumping from a Semiconfined Aquifer*. Journal of Hydrologic Engineering. Vol 8(1), pp 12-19

Leonard, A. R. and A. B. Harris. 1974. *Ground Water in Selected Areas in the Klamath Basin, Oregon*. Ground Water Report No. 21. Oregon State Engineer

Sherrod, D. R., and L. B. G. Pickthorn. 1992. *Geologic Map of the West Half of the Klamath Falls 1° by 2° Quadrangle, South-Central Oregon*. USGS Miscellaneous Investigations Series Map I-2182.

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. *Geologic Map of Oregon*. <http://www.oregongeology.org/geologicmap/>

OWRD Well Log Database – Accessed 07/28/2023

D. WELL CONSTRUCTION, OAR 690-200

D1. Well #: _____ Logid: _____

D2. **THE WELL does not appear to meet current well construction standards based upon:**

- a. review of the well log;
- b. field inspection by _____;
- c. report of CWRE _____;
- d. other: (specify) _____

D3. **THE WELL construction deficiency or other comment is described as follows:** _____

D4. **Route to the Well Construction and Compliance Section for a review of existing well construction.**

Water Availability Tables

Water Availability Analysis Detailed Reports

N FK SPRAGUE R > SPRAGUE R - AT MOUTH
KLAMATH BASIN

Water Availability as of 7/28/2023

Watershed ID #: 70816 ([Map](#))

Date: 7/28/2023

Exceedance Level: 80%

Time: 9:01 AM

Water Availability Calculation

Consumptive Uses and Storages

Instream Flow Requirements

Reservations

Water Rights

Watershed Characteristics

Water Availability Calculation

Monthly Streamflow in Cubic Feet per Second
Annual Volume at 50% Exceedance in Acre-Feet

Month	Natural Stream Flow	Consumptive Uses and Storages	Expected Stream Flow	Reserved Stream Flow	Instream Flow Requirement	Net Water Available
JAN	67.20	0.12	67.10	0.00	50.00	17.10
FEB	77.80	0.15	77.60	0.00	50.00	27.60
MAR	102.00	3.40	98.60	0.00	50.00	48.60
APR	157.00	12.00	145.00	0.00	74.00	71.00
MAY	183.00	30.40	153.00	0.00	246.00	-93.40
JUN	113.00	24.80	88.20	0.00	127.00	-38.80
JUL	59.50	7.15	52.40	0.00	57.00	-4.65
AUG	47.20	3.65	43.60	0.00	47.00	-3.45
SEP	52.70	3.78	48.90	0.00	49.00	-0.08
OCT	62.90	1.85	61.00	0.00	54.00	7.05
NOV	64.20	0.11	64.10	0.00	50.00	14.10
DEC	65.90	0.12	65.80	0.00	50.00	15.80
ANN	86,800.00	5,300.00	81,500.00	0.00	54,700.00	26,700.00

Water Availability Analysis Detailed Reports

SYCAN R > SPRAGUE R - AT MOUTH
KLAMATH BASIN

Water Availability as of 7/28/2023

Watershed ID #: 70823 ([Map](#))

Date: 7/28/2023

Exceedance Level: 80%

Time: 9:02 AM

Water Availability Calculation

Consumptive Uses and Storages

Instream Flow Requirements

Reservations

Water Rights

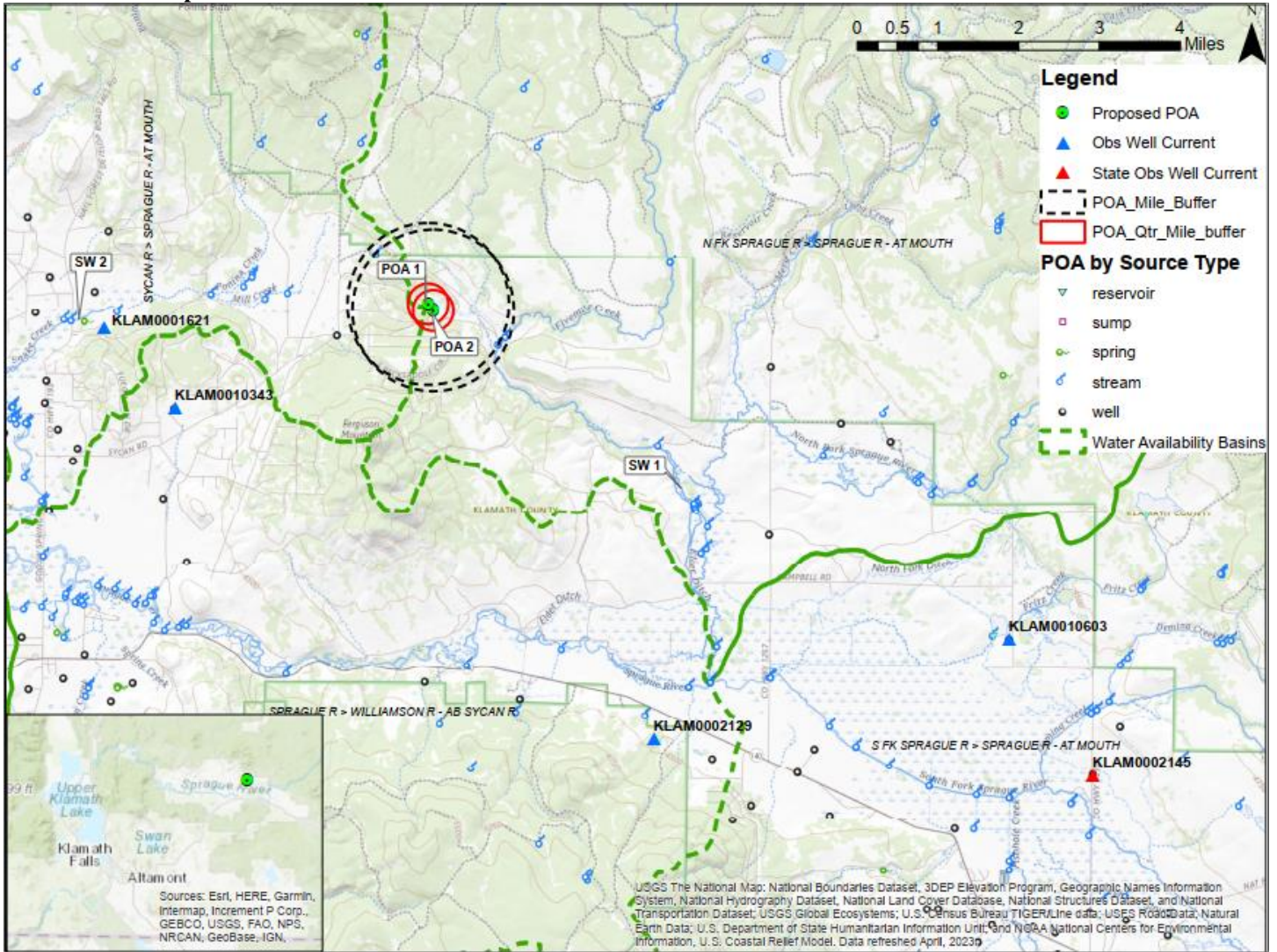
Watershed Characteristics

Water Availability Calculation

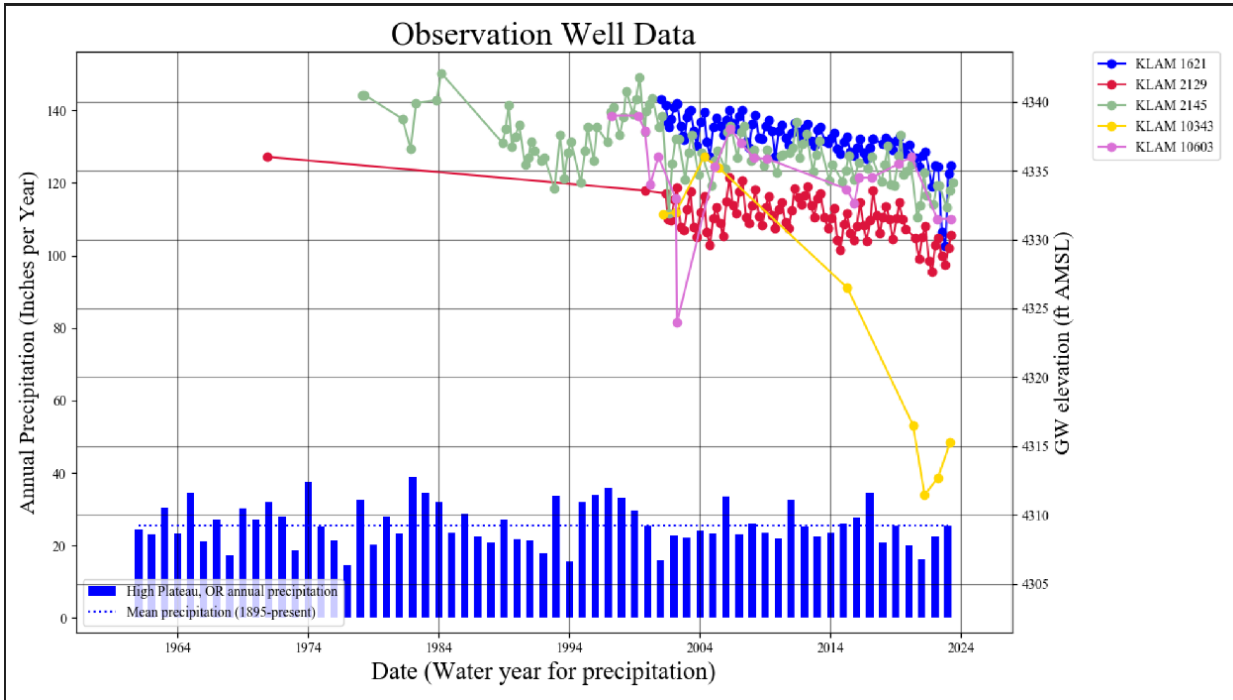
Monthly Streamflow in Cubic Feet per Second
Annual Volume at 50% Exceedance in Acre-Feet

Month	Natural Stream Flow	Consumptive Uses and Storages	Expected Stream Flow	Reserved Stream Flow	Instream Flow Requirement	Net Water Available
JAN	34.30	0.10	34.20	0.00	71.00	-36.80
FEB	43.30	0.10	43.20	0.00	106.00	-62.80
MAR	64.40	2.42	62.00	0.00	237.00	-175.00
APR	128.00	4.88	123.00	0.00	342.00	-219.00
MAY	136.00	11.70	124.00	0.00	357.00	-233.00
JUN	56.20	15.70	40.50	0.00	150.00	-109.00
JUL	31.40	9.94	21.50	0.00	45.00	-23.50
AUG	28.30	5.89	22.40	0.00	30.00	-7.59
SEP	27.10	5.48	21.60	0.00	25.00	-3.38
OCT	26.80	3.57	23.20	0.00	28.00	-4.77
NOV	33.80	0.10	33.70	0.00	48.00	-14.30
DEC	33.30	0.10	33.20	0.00	65.00	-31.80
ANN	80,400.00	3,630.00	76,700.00	0.00	90,800.00	2,560.00

Well Location Map



Water-Level Measurements in Nearby Wells



Stream-Depletion Model Results

76 PyHunt stream depletion analysis tool

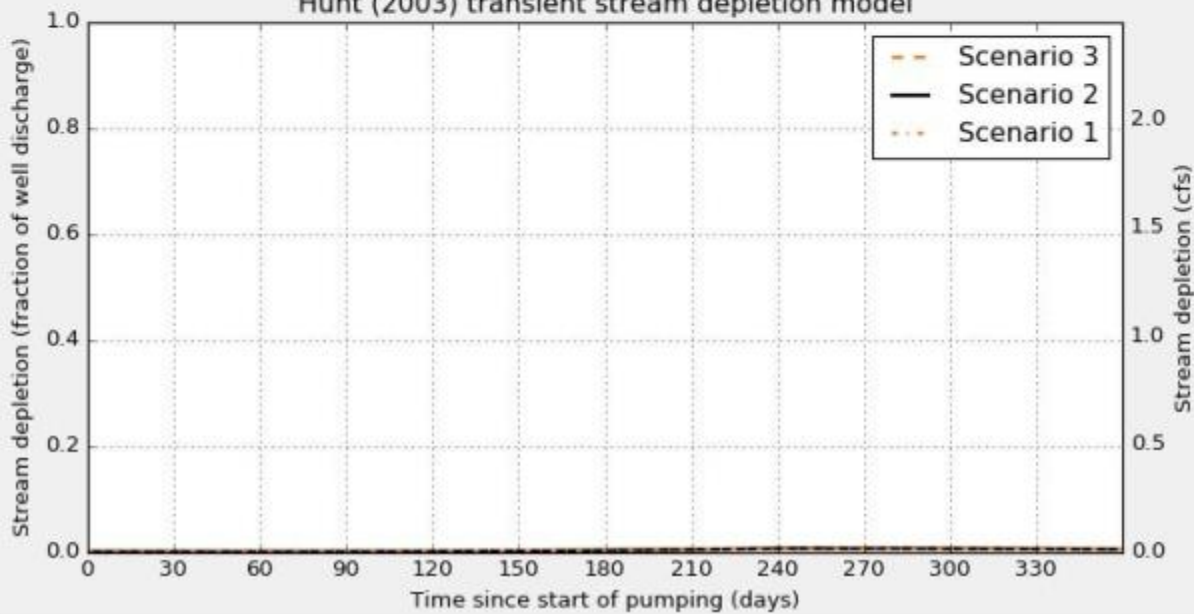
Application type:	G
Application number:	18851
Well number:	1
Stream Number:	1
Pumping rate (cfs):	2.45
Pumping duration (days):	214
Pumping start month number (3=March)	4

Parameter	Symbol	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Units
Distance from well to stream	a	22500	22500	22500	ft
Aquifer transmissivity	T	3450	3450	3450	ft ² /day
Aquifer storativity	S	0.00002	0.00002	0.00002	-
Aquitard vertical hydraulic conductivity	Kva	0.5	0.5	0.5	ft/day
Aquitard saturated thickness	ba	30	30	30	ft
Aquitard thickness below stream	babs	30	30	30	ft
Aquitard specific yield	Sya	0.1	0.1	0.1	-
Stream width	ws	10	10	10	ft

Stream depletion for Scenario 2:

Days	10	300	330	360	30	60	90	120	150	180	210	240	270
Depletion (%)	0	1	1	0	-0	-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Depletion (cfs)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

Hunt (2003) transient stream depletion model



Appendix Memo: Analysis of Groundwater Pumping Impacts on Scenic Waterway Flows

State of Oregon
Water Resources Department

Memorandum

To: Barry Norris – Administrator, Technical Services Division
Dwight French – Administrator, Waterrights Division
Tom Paul – Deputy Director
Doug Woodcock – Administrator, Field Services Division

From: Ivan Gall – Manager, Groundwater Section *I.G.*

Date: February 19, 2013

Subject: Analysis of Groundwater Pumping Impacts on Klamath Scenic Waterway Flows

In 1971 the Oregon Legislature created the Scenic Waterway Act, codified by Oregon Revised Statutes 390.805 to 390.925, to preserve for the benefit of the public Waldo Lake and selected parts of the state's free-flowing rivers. The Klamath Scenic Waterway was part of the Act and includes the Klamath River from the John Boyle Dam powerhouse downstream to the Oregon-California border. Under the Act, the Water Resources Commission is allowed to allocate small amounts of surface water for human consumption and livestock watering, as long as issuing the water right does not significantly impair the free-flowing character of these waters in quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife, and the amount allocated may not exceed a cumulative total of one percent of the average daily flow or one cubic foot per second (cfs), whichever is less.

In 1995 the Scenic Waterway Act was modified to address the impact of groundwater uses that, based upon a preponderance of evidence, would measurably reduce the surface water flows within a scenic waterway. "Measurably reduce" means that the use authorized will individually or cumulatively reduce surface water flows within the scenic waterway in excess of a combined cumulative total of one percent of the average daily flow or one cfs, whichever is less.

In 2012 the United States Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with OWRD and the US Bureau of Reclamation, completed groundwater flow and management models for the Upper Klamath Basin. The 2012 groundwater flow model uses generally accepted hydrogeologic methods and the relevant field data to model the cumulative effects of groundwater pumping within the Klamath Scenic Waterway, and provides a comprehensive methodology for analyzing the relevant field data necessary to determine whether the cumulative use of groundwater in the Klamath Basin will measurably reduce the surface water flow necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of the Klamath Scenic Waterway.

In September 2012 the OWRD Groundwater Section conducted two model simulations. The two simulations used the 2012 USGS flow model, incorporating groundwater permits issued (61.96 cfs) since adoption of the 1995 Scenic Waterway Act amendment up through 2004. Each simulation was run to steady-state, where inflows and outflows for that model run balanced. An evaluation of the water budgets showed that groundwater discharge to the Klamath Scenic Waterway decreased by 5.88 cfs as a result of the 61.96 cfs of groundwater uses issued between 1995 and 2004. These results indicate to the OWRD that a preponderance of evidence exists to establish that groundwater development occurring in the Upper Klamath Basin in Oregon since 1995 has "measurably reduced" surface water flows within the Klamath Scenic Waterway.

In January 2013 the OWRD Groundwater Section conducted flow model simulations to evaluate impacts to streams from pumping groundwater within the Lost River subbasin. Groundwater pumping was simulated by placing wells in the model that correspond to the center of 39 townships in the southeast part of the Klamath Basin in Oregon. Each of the simulations was run to steady-state, where inflows and outflows for that model run balanced. These results indicate that the scenic waterway is impacted by pumping groundwater in all of the townships evaluated in Oregon in the Lost River subbasin. In summary, a preponderance of evidence exists to establish that groundwater development occurring in Oregon since 1995 in the Upper Klamath Basin and Lost River subbasin has "measurably reduced" surface water flows within the Klamath Scenic Waterway.

References:

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