

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FOR GROUNDWATER APPLICATIONS

TO: Water Rights Section Date September 12, 2025
 FROM: Groundwater Section J. Hackett
 Reviewer's Name
 SUBJECT: Application G- 18771 Supersedes review of August 12, 2025
 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: Crum Ranch, LLC County: Gilliam

A1. Applicant(s) seek(s) 0.76 cfs from 1 well(s) in the Umatilla Basin,
 _____ subbasin

A2. Proposed use Irrigation Seasonality: March 1 – November 1

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	GILL 50156	1	CRB	0.76	2N/22E-20 SW-SE	45' N, 1470' W fr SE cor S 20
2						
3						
4						
5						

* 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	582	285	353.65	2/19/2019	570	0-18, 295-310	0-310			300		A

Use data from application for proposed wells.

A4. **Comments:** Section B1 was left blank on original review. This review completes section B1.

A5. ☒ **Provisions of the** Umatilla 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) 7RLN, 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 _____ 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 applicant's well is located in an area that is underlain by more than 6000 feet of basalt flows of the Columbia River Basalt Group (CRBG) and interbedded sedimentary deposits. Within the CRBG, most water occurs in confined aquifers that occupy thin rubble zones (interflow zones) at the contacts between lava flows. The interiors of the basalt flows generally have low porosity and permeability and act as confining beds. This geometry generally produces a stack of thin aquifers (interflow zones) separated by thick confining beds (flow interiors). The low permeability of the basalt flow interiors typically limits the natural vertical connection between overlying aquifers. Local geologic mapping (Swanson and others, 1981; Anderson, unpublished mapping) indicates the applicant's well likely produces from the Frenchman Springs Member of the Wanapum Basalt Formation.

Long-term water level trends in nearby wells are presented in Figures 2 and 3. Well locations are shown in Figure 1. In the applicant's well, water levels have declined 14.7 feet since 2010 (rate of 1.6 feet per year) (Figure 2). (JTI, 8/15/25, updated look at GILL 50156 Hydrograph shows wls have declined 34.3 feet from 2010 to 2025, averaging 2.3 feet per year.) Water level elevations in the applicant's well are very similar to water levels in City of Arlington wells (Figure 2). Water levels in Arlington wells rose about 80 feet in the late 1960s in response to construction of the John Day Dam and consequent rise in elevation of the John Day pool behind the dam. Water levels remained stable from the late 1960s until the mid-2000s. Since the mid-2000s, however, water levels in these wells have declined by 15-20 feet, a rate of 1.5-2.0 feet per year (Figure 2).

The applicant's well is also located about 2 miles west of the Ella Butte Groundwater Classified Area. Water levels in many Ella Butte wells have declined up to 200 feet since 1980 (Figure 3). Currently, water level elevations in several wells near the western border appear to trend with those in the applicant's well (Figure 3).

Similarities in elevations and trends between water levels in the applicant's well, City of Arlington wells, and select Ella Butte wells suggest they may produce from the same aquifer. Long-term water level declines in these wells also suggests the aquifer cannot support the additional use requested by this application.

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	CRBG	☒	☐
		☐	☐
		☐	☐
		☐	☐
		☐	☐

Basis for aquifer confinement evaluation: Nearby CRBG well logs report static water levels above the water-bearing zone, indicating a confined aquifer system.

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
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Basis for aquifer hydraulic connection evaluation: The applicant's well is not located within 1 mile of any perennial streams. Additionally, water-bearing zones are well below the elevation of nearby stream reaches. These factors indicate the well is not hydraulically connected to local surface water sources.

Water Availability Basin the well(s) are located within: _____

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 source. Limit evaluation to instream rights and minimum stream flows that are pertinent to that surface water source, and 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?
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐

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 #		Q _w > 5 cfs?	Instream Water Right ID	Instream Water Right Q (cfs)	Q _w > 1% ISWR?	80% Natural Flow (cfs)	Q _w > 1% of 80% Natural Flow?	Interference @ 30 days (%)	Potential for Subst. Interfer. Assumed?
			☐			☐		☐		☐
			☐			☐		☐		☐
			☐			☐		☐		☐
			☐			☐		☐		☐

Comments: _____

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
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
(A) = Total Interf.													
(B) = 80 % Nat. Q													
(C) = 1 % Nat. Q													
(D) = (A) > (C)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(E) = (A / B) x 100		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Basis for impact evaluation:

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;

[illegible]

Version: 05/07/2018

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.**

Figure 1. Well Location Map

G-18771, Crum Ranch, LLC

1:100,000 scale

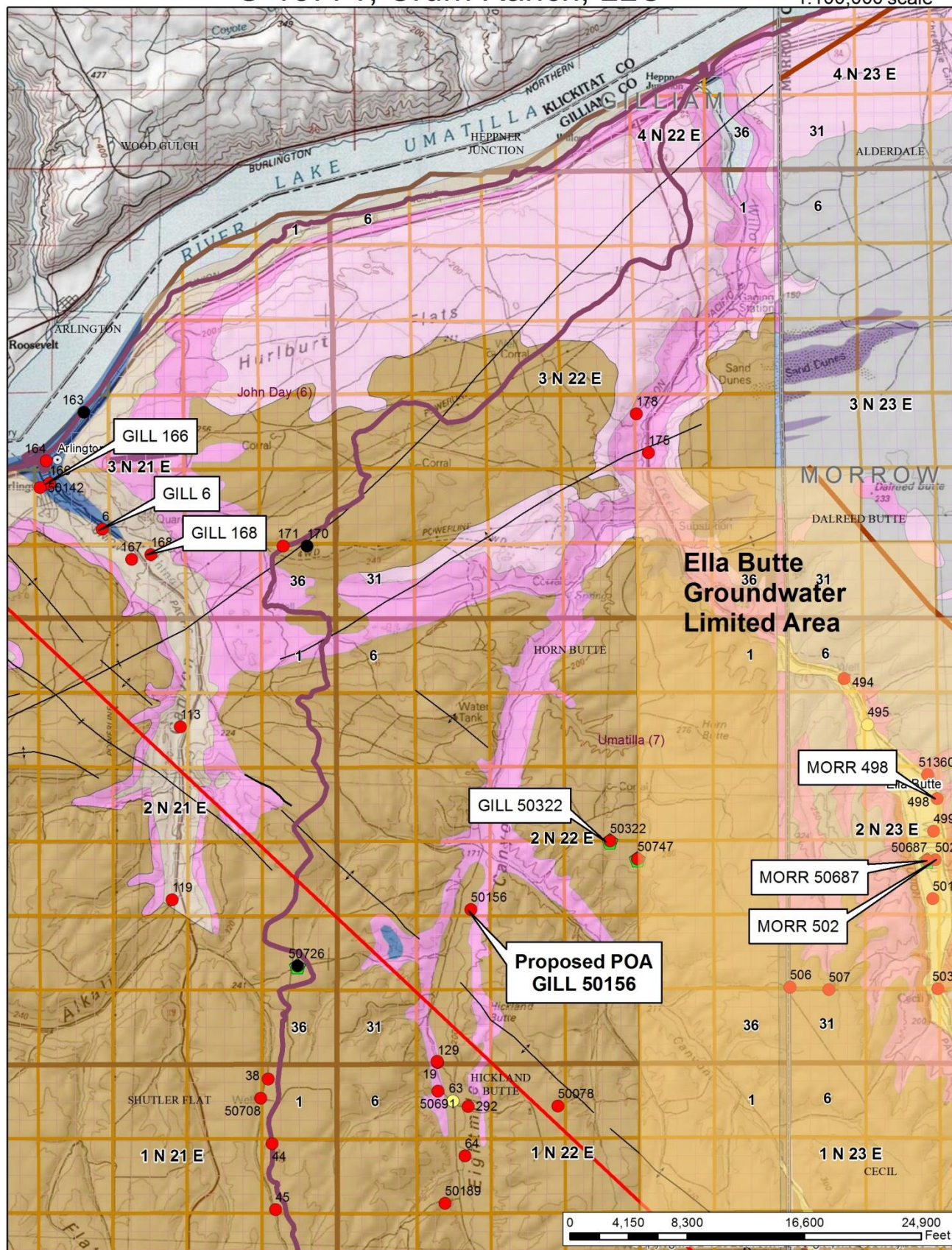


Figure 2. Water-Level Elevation Trends in GILL 50156 and City of Arlington Wells

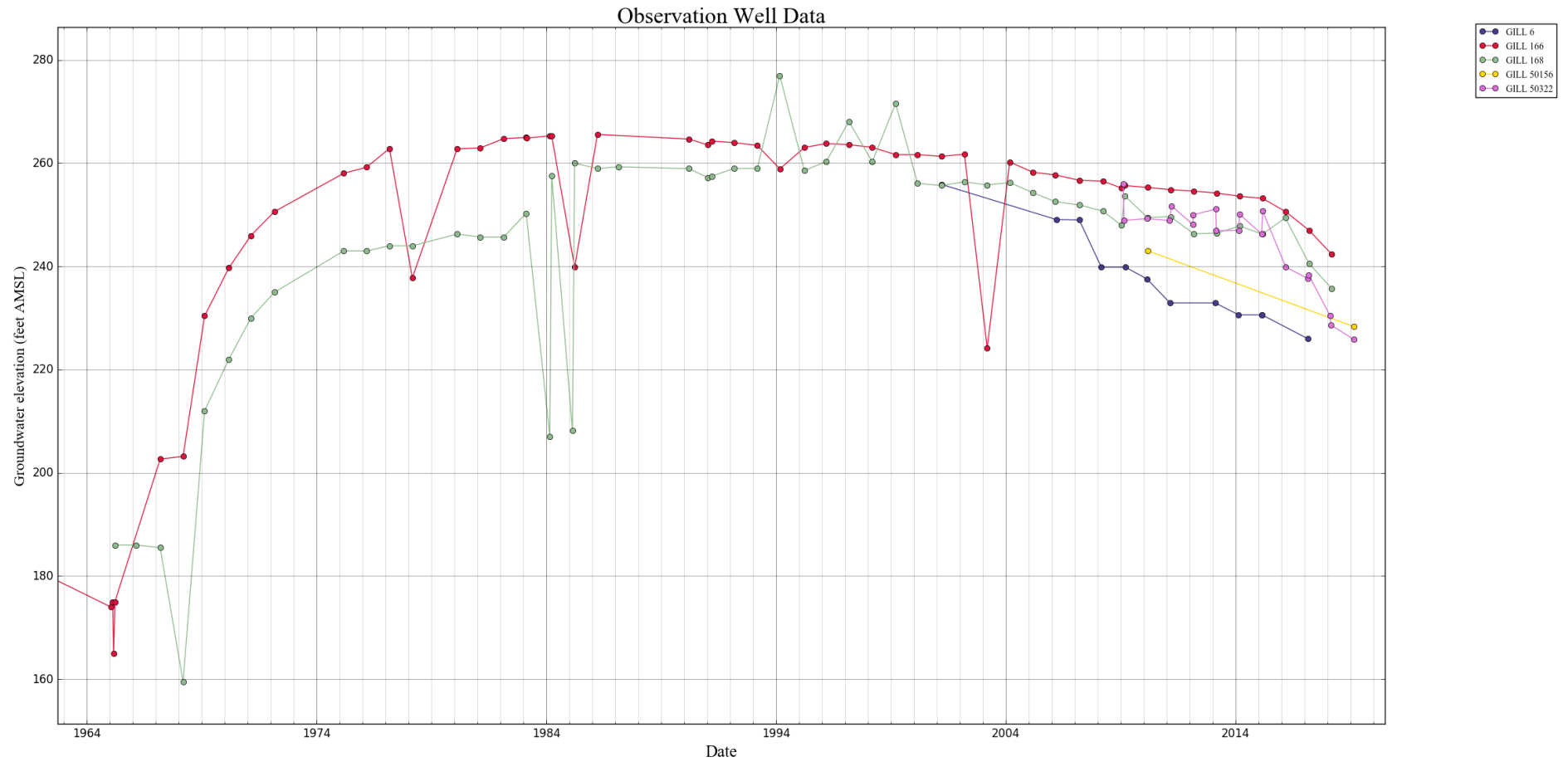


Figure 3. Water level elevations in select Ella Butte Wells, City of Arlington Wells, and GILL 50156