

EMERGENCY DROUGHT APPLICATION: GROUNDWATER REVIEW

TO: Water Rights Section Date 05/08/2026
 FROM: Groundwater Section Phillip I. Marcy
 Reviewer's Name

SUBJECT: Application G- 19530

DROUGHT MITIGATION; GROUNDWATER

This review is based on authorities laid out in OAR 690-019 Drought Mitigation rules. This is an expedited review to evaluate an emergency request for groundwater use for one season under a Governor’s drought declaration. Notwithstanding groundwater availability (OAR 690-300 and -310) and State Scenic Waterway considerations, the Department may issue a drought permit for short-term emergency use provided that there is no injury and that the use is within the public interest as per OAR 690-019-0040(3). **This review is based upon available information and agency policies in place at the time of evaluation.**

A. GENERAL INFORMATION: Applicant’s Name: Baker City Cattle Feeders County: Baker

A1. Applicant(s) seek(s) 0.9 cfs from 1 well(s) in the Powder Basin,
 _____ subbasin

A2. Proposed use Supplemental Irrigation (70.0 acres) Seasonality: May 1st – October 31st (184 days)

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)	Latitude	Longitude
1	BAKE 52876	1	Volcanics	0.9	9S/40E-1 SW-NW	44.81391	-117.76336
2							
3							
4							

* 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	3394	95	0.0	08/02/2022	125	0-18	-2-95	85-105	105-125	40	NA	Air

Use data from application for proposed wells.

A4. **Comments:** Proposed POA well was reported as flowing artesian when drilled in 2022 with no shut-in pressure given.

B. GROUNDWATER/SURFACE WATER CONSIDERATIONS:

B1. Is there information that this drought groundwater use will **injure senior spring or surface water rights** during the duration of the drought declaration?
 (Yes) (No) If yes, explain: NA

B2. Is there information that this drought groundwater use will **injure senior groundwater rights** during the duration of the drought declaration?
 (Yes) (No) If yes, explain: NA

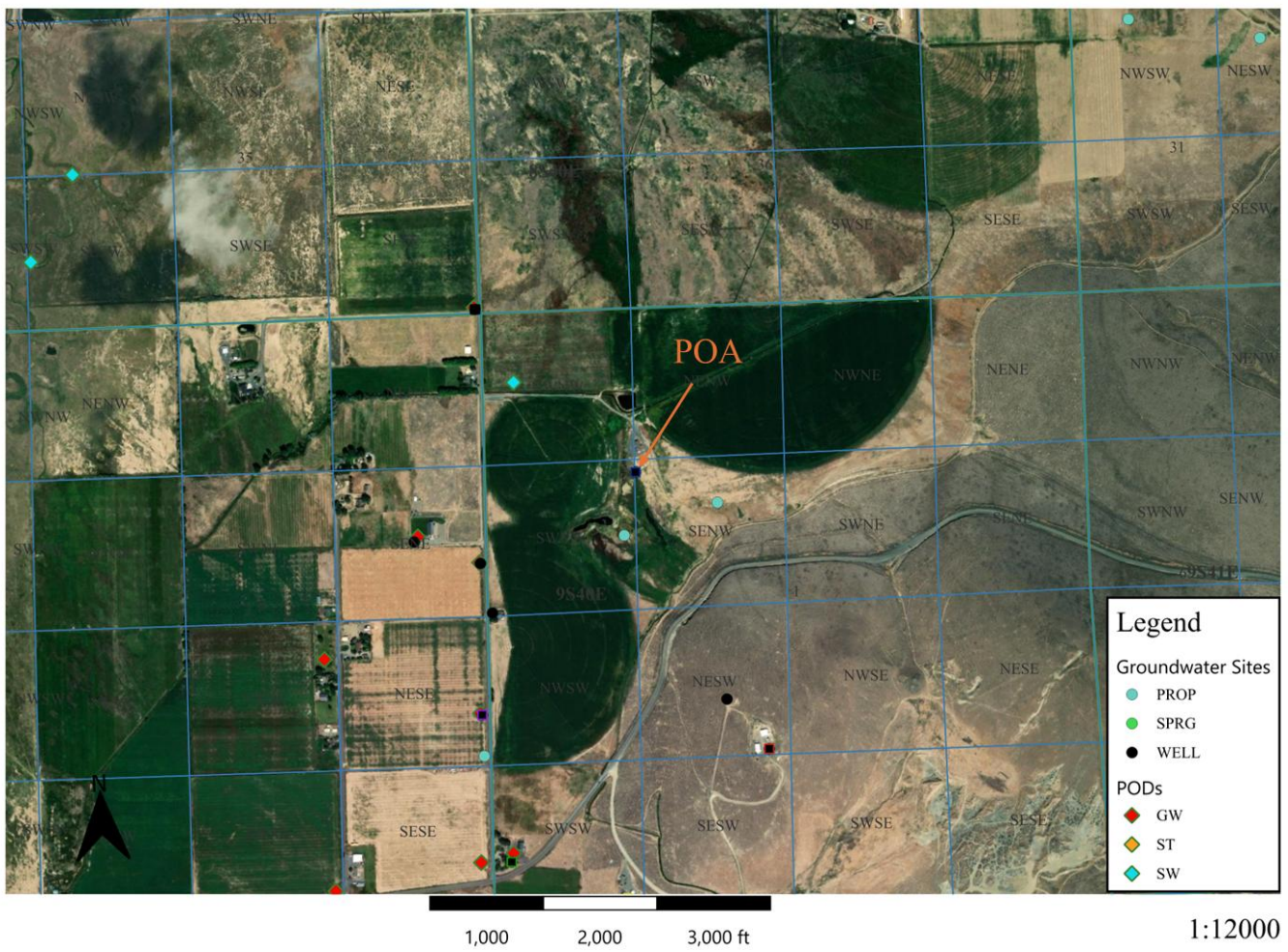
- B3. Has the requested groundwater reservoir or part thereof **Declined Excessively**?
Yes) No) If yes, explain: NA
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- B4. Groundwater levels **do NOT meet the definition of Reasonably Stable Groundwater Levels** (including insufficient data):
 Yes) No) If yes, explain: Groundwater levels in the proposed aquifer have been sparsely monitored in recent decades, leaving room for doubt when correlating more recent measurements to historical values. The proposed POA well reports production of groundwater from volcanic rock subjacent to the overlying alluvium, but in our conceptual model is hydraulically connected to the alluvial valley-fill sequence. Nearby water level measurements represent conditions in wells with varying construction and reporting production from a variety of materials. More data is necessary to reach a verifiable conclusion regarding stability of the proposed aquifer in the area surrounding the POA well.
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- B5. Will the total requested rate of groundwater allocation **exceed what is obtainable by the expected yield of the well(s)** proposed in the application given best available information?
Yes) No) If yes, explain: The driller's well log reports a yield of 40 GPM. The proposed rate on this application is 0.9 CFS, or 404 GPM.
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- B6. There is the **Potential for Substantial Interference** with surface water (if yes, list nearest or likely most-impacted stream)
 Yes) No) If yes, explain: Considering the productive aquifer, limited duration of use and pumping rate likely limited to 40 GPM or less, there is not anticipated to be Substantial Interference within this irrigation season. However, continued production of groundwater from the proposed POA well beyond the proposed season of emergency use is likely to exacerbate streamflow depletion by intercepting groundwater previously destined to provide discharge to the Powder River and its tributaries.
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- B7. 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 **State Scenic Waterway**.
 Yes) No) If yes, explain: NA
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- B8. **Proposed Permit Conditions:** *If a permit is issued, include:*
- Condition 7B** (Interference Condition): Drought permits are junior to existing water rights and are subject to regulation
- Condition 7P** (Well Tag): If there is no existing OWRD Well ID Tag on the well, one shall be attached
- Large Water Use Reporting Condition:** totalizing flowmeter and reporting required. Include condition that "the readings must be reported to the Department by December 31, 2026."
- Special Condition - Regulation:** "Groundwater pumping under this permit shall discontinue or be reduced if area wells with permanent primary and/or supplemental groundwater rights are being regulated off due to groundwater level decline or interference with senior water rights unless the Department determines no action is necessary (pumping under this permit can continue) because the groundwater resource can sustain continued groundwater pumping without causing substantial interference with senior water rights."
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- Special Condition – Static Water Level Measurement Access:** The permittee shall allow Department staff, upon reasonable notice, to access the permitted well(s) during the period of use to take static water level measurements to monitor the impact of use on the resource. To ensure accurate measurements, the permittee may be required to stop use of the well for up to 24 hours before a water level measurement.

Special Condition – Dedicated Measuring Tube - If the applicant is constructing one or more new wells for this requested use, the well(s) with shall be equipped with a minimum 3/4-inch diameter, unobstructed, dedicated measuring tube pursuant to figure 200-5 in OAR 690-200.

B9. **References Used:**
OWRD GWIS database, accessed 05/06/2026.

G-18107 Application Review

Well Location Map



Water-Level Measurements in Nearby Wells

