

EMERGENCY DROUGHT APPLICATION: GROUNDWATER REVIEW

TO: Water Rights Section Date 5/27/2026  
 FROM: Groundwater Section Grayson Fish  
 Reviewer's Name

SUBJECT: Application G- 19533

**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: Rachel A Dotson County: Jackson

A1. Applicant(s) seek(s) 0.044 cfs from 1 well(s) in the Rogue Basin,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ subbasin

A2. Proposed use Irrigation (5 acres) Seasonality: 4/1/2026 – 12/31/2026

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	JACK0057572	1	Bedrock	0.044	34S/4W-15 SW-NE	42.61567790	-123.15798390

\* 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	1518	95	11	7/28/2005	250	0-18	+1-250	--	230-250	7	--	Air

Use data from application for proposed wells.

A4. **Comments:** The applicant requests a rate of 0.044 cfs for 5 acres of irrigation and a total volume of 4.5 AF during the irrigation season from a single POA (JACK 57572). This emergency drought application is supplemental to surface water Certificate 35858.

**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: The applicant’s well draws water from fractures within the Grayback Plutons (Wiley, T.J., 2006). Groundwater near the applicant’s POA is likely hydraulically connected to Pleasant Creek, located approximately 800 feet to the west. Because the requested pumping rate and total volume are low, the fractured-rock aquifer has low transmissivity, and the emergency groundwater use will be short-term, senior spring and surface water rights are unlikely to be injured during the drought declaration period.

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: The closest wells to the applicant’s POAs are likely exempt wells used for domestic purposes. Because the requested pumping rate and total volume are low it is unlikely that the proposed groundwater use will injure a senior groundwater right during the duration of the drought declaration. However, the magnitude of well-to-well interference is difficult to predict in fractured rock aquifers, the permit conditions listed in section B8 of this review form are intended to protect senior water right holders in the event that acute well-to-well interference does occur due to use under this proposed use.

- B3. Has the requested groundwater reservoir or part thereof **Declined Excessively**?  
 Yes  No If yes, explain: There are 5 wells with groundwater level data within ~4 miles of the applicants proposed POA. Available groundwater data suggest that the requested groundwater reservoir has not Declined Excessively.
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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: 4 of the 5 wells with groundwater level within ~4 miles of the applicants proposed POA have insufficient data to determine Reasonably Stable Groundwater Levels. One well (JACK 4688) located ~4 miles away meets the definition of Reasonable stable Groundwater Levels.
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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 well log for JACK 57572 notes a well yield of 7 gallons per minute as determined by air test. The requested rate of 0.044 cfs (~20 gpm) is over two times that of the well yield stated on the well log.
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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: Groundwater near the applicant's POA is likely hydraulically connected to Pleasant Creek located approximately 800 feet to the west. However, given depth of the fractures accessed and the low transmissivity of the fractured rock aquifer there is not a preponderance of evidence to suggest that groundwater pumping from this well would result in stream depletion during the duration of this emergency drought permit.
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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: The OWRD Water Availability Reporting System (WARS) has determined that groundwater use has already measurably reduced the surface flows necessary for the Rogue Scenic Waterway from the Applegate River to Lobster Creek as per ORS 390.835. The groundwater use proposed here would further reduce surface water flow to this Scenic Waterway.
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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.
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B9.

**References Used:**

OWRD Groundwater Information System (GWIS) Database – Accessed 5/27/2026

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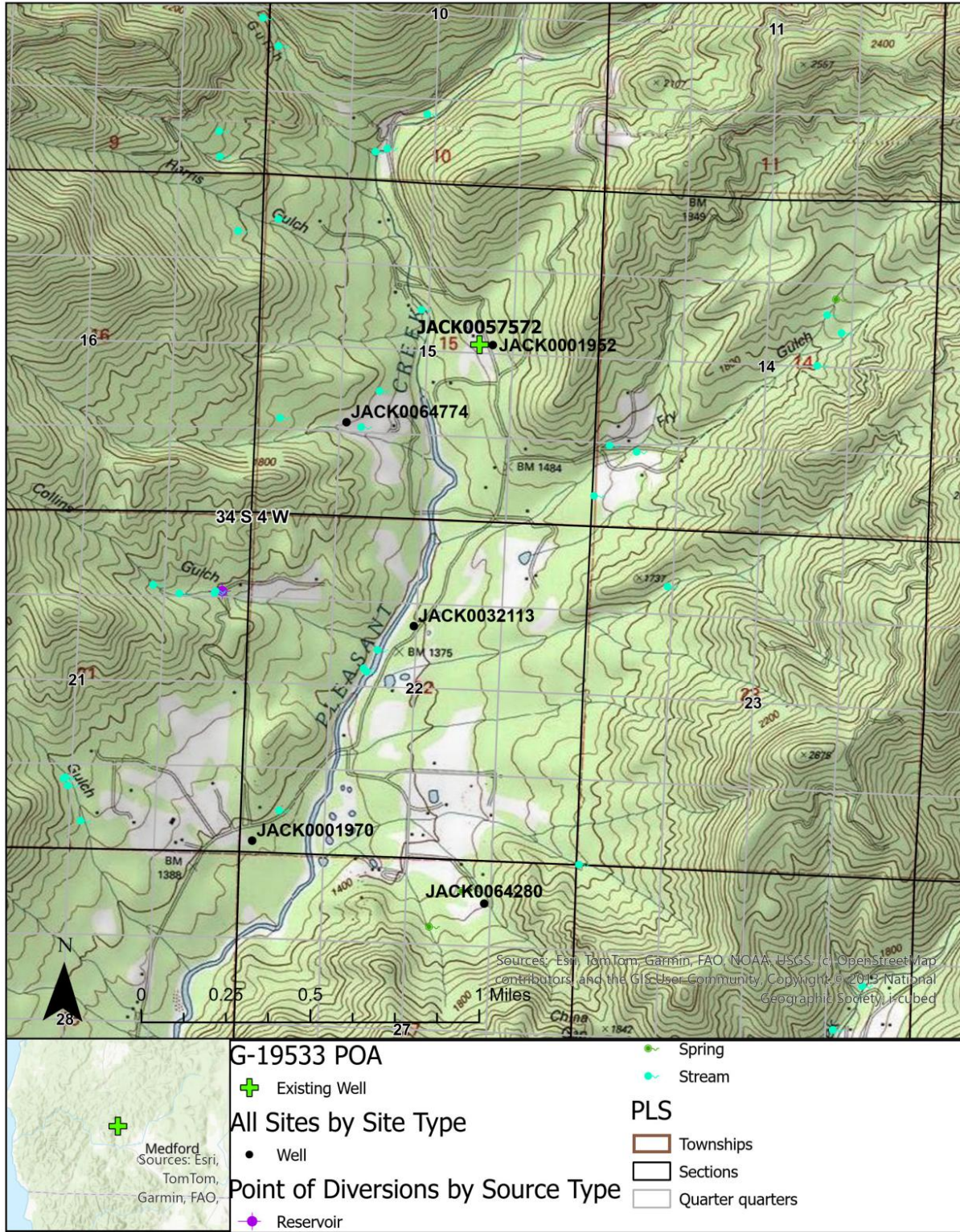
OWRD Water Availability Reporting System (WARS) – Accessed 5/27/2026

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Wiley, T.J., 2006, Preliminary geologic map of the Wimer and McConville Peak 7.5' quadrangles, Jackson and Josephine Counties, Oregon: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Open-File Report O-06-05, scale 1:24,000.

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# G-19533 Drought Application



# Water-Level Measurements in Nearby Wells

## Observation Well Data

