

EMERGENCY DROUGHT APPLICATION: GROUNDWATER REVIEW

TO: Water Rights Section Date 7/27/2026
FROM: Groundwater Section Grayson Fish
SUBJECT: Application G- 19546
Reviewer's Name

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: Grayson Fish County: Jackson

A1. Applicant(s) seek(s) 0.0356 cfs from 1 well(s) in the Rogue Basin,
subbasin

A2. Proposed use Supplemental Irrigation (20 acres) Seasonality: July 20 – October 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	JACK 63222	1	Bedrock	0.0356	35S/4W-22 SW-SW	42.50771	-123.16837

* 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	1101	47	12	9/22/2017	240	36	+2-58	2-240	47-56, 220-240	16	--	Air

Use data from application for proposed wells.

A4. **Comments:** The applicant requests 0.0356 cfs (16 gpm) for supplemental irrigation of 20 acres with a maximum expected volume of 8.5 acre-feet. The groundwater drought permit applied for is supplemental to surface water right C-48874.

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 accesses an aquifer hosted in the secondary fractures in granites of the Grayback Plutons. The target aquifer is likely hydraulically connected to Evans Creek located approximately 1,300 feet to the west of JACK 63222. The proposed use would likely result in some degree of depletion of water flowing in or towards this stream. However, there is either insufficient information available to determine that the proposed use will injure surface water rights during the duration of the drought declaration or the likelihood of injury is deemed acceptable considering the need for water because of the drought emergency and the short-term nature of the proposed emergency use as per OAR-690-019.
- 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 adjacent tax lots are likely supplied by exempt-use wells, which may be impacted by well-to-well interference from the applicant's well. However, considering the low requested rate (0.0356 cfs) and volume of water, the proposed groundwater use is not likely to result in interference to adjacent groundwater users that would meet the

definition of injury. 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 if acute well-to-well interference does occur due to this proposed use.

- B3. Has the requested groundwater reservoir or part thereof **Declined Excessively**?
(☐Yes) (☒No) If yes, explain: Groundwater level data from observation wells located in the Pleasant and Evans Valley indicate that the groundwater reservoir within the Grayback Pluton has not declined excessively. See attached area hydrograph.
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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: There are 5 observation wells with longer term groundwater level data that source water from the Grayback Pluton and are located within 4 miles of the applicants proposed POA. Of the 5 wells with groundwater level data in the Pleasant and Evans Valleys, only JACK 4688 located ~3.8 miles north of the applicant's well has sufficient data to determine that groundwater levels meet the definition of Reasonably Stable. For the purpose of this drought emergency groundwater review, groundwater levels are considered to meet the definition of Reasonable Stable. See attached area hydrograph.
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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 report for JACK 63222 notes a well yield of 16 gpm, matching the applicants requested rate.
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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 Evans Creek located approximately 1,300 feet to the west. However, given the 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.

B9. **References Used:**

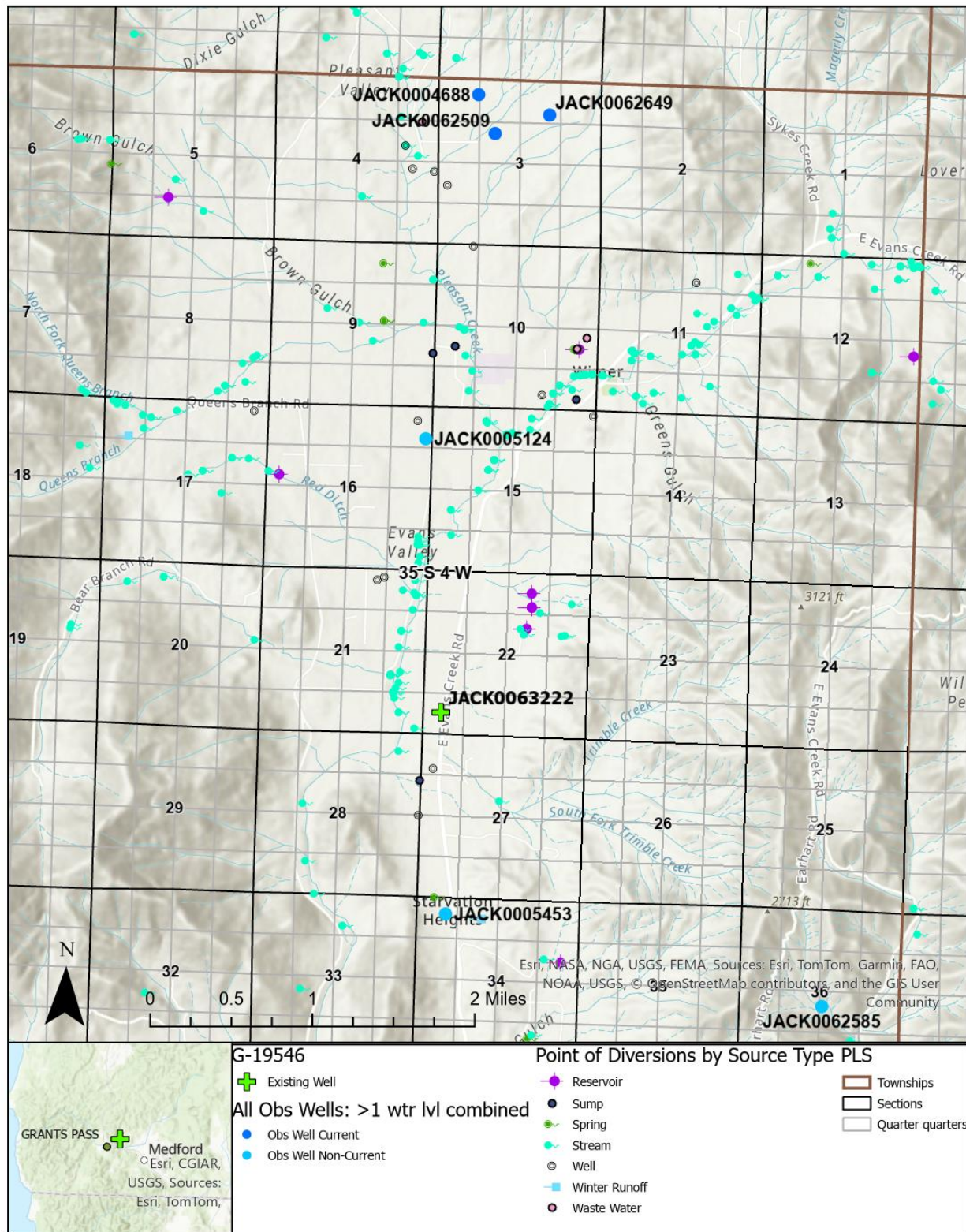
OWRD Groundwater Information System (GWIS) Database – Accessed 7/27/2026

OWRD Water Availability Reporting System (WARS) – Accessed 7/27/2026

OWRD Water Rights Information System (WRIS) Database – Accessed 7/27/2026

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.

G-19546 - 2026 Jackson County Drought



Water-Level Measurements in Nearby Wells

Observation Well Data

