

EMERGENCY DROUGHT APPLICATION: GROUNDWATER REVIEW

TO: Water Rights Section Date 8/21/2026
FROM: Groundwater Section Grayson Fish
SUBJECT: Application G- 19550
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: Bounds Hay Company LLC County: Jefferson

A1. Applicant(s) seek(s) 1.83 cfs from 1 well(s) in the Deschutes Basin,
Lower Deschutes subbasin

A2. Proposed use Supplemental Irrigation Seasonality: 4/1/2026 – 10/31/2026

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	JEFF 51858	1	Deschutes Fm	1.83	12S/13E-22 SW-SW	44.50760000	-121.16467000

* 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	2839	310	310	7/2/2026	705	200	+2-705	--	565-585, 625-645, 685-705	500	--	Air

Use data from application for proposed wells.

A4. **Comments:** The applicant requests 1.83 cfs from 1 well to irrigate 146.7 acres for a total annual volume of 251.4 ac-ft. This emergency drought use would be supplemental to water rights Certificate 72279, 72281 and Permit S-55394.

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: Although the proposed POD is within the Deschutes Ground Water Study Area (OAR 690-505-0600) and hydraulically-connected to surface water within the Deschutes Basin, there is not a preponderance of evidence that the use will injure specific surface water rights during the duration of the drought declaration.

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 target aquifer is highly transmissive and has a likely saturated thickness of 500-1000 feet. Any expected well-to-well interference is not expected to result in injury to adjacent groundwater users.

B3. Has the requested groundwater reservoir or part thereof **Declined Excessively**?
(☐Yes) (☒No) If yes, explain: The water level from nearby wells with water level data range from 1974 to 1998 and do not provide sufficient evidence to determine that groundwater levels have Declined Excessively.

- B4. Groundwater levels **do NOT meet the definition of Reasonably Stable Groundwater Levels** (including insufficient data):
(☒ **Yes**) (☐ **No**) If yes, explain: The water levels from nearby wells with water level data range from 1974 to 1998. There is insufficient data to determine if water levels meet the definition of Reasonably Stable.
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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 applicant requests 1.83 cfs (820 gpm) and the well log for JEFF 51858 notes a well yield of 500 gpm. While the noted yield is less than the requested rate, it is likely the applicant would be able to obtain sufficient water to satisfy this supplemental emergency drought permit.
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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: Per OAR 690-505-0600(1) the Department has determined that ground water appropriations within the Deschutes Ground Water Study Area have the potential for substantial interference with surface water rights.
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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: OAR 690-505-0600 states that “ground water appropriations within the Deschutes Ground Water Study Area...will measurably reduce scenic waterway flows as defined in OAR 380-835 unless mitigation is provided”. At this time, it is current OWRD policy that Mitigation is not required for emergency drought permits due to the urgency and short-term nature of the use.
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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:**

Gannett, M. W., Lite Jr, K. E., Morgan, D. S., and Collins, C. A., 2001, Ground-Water Hydrology of the Upper Deschutes Basin, Oregon, USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 00-4162, 74 p., <https://pubs.usgs.gov/wri/wri004162/pdf/WRIR004162.pdf>

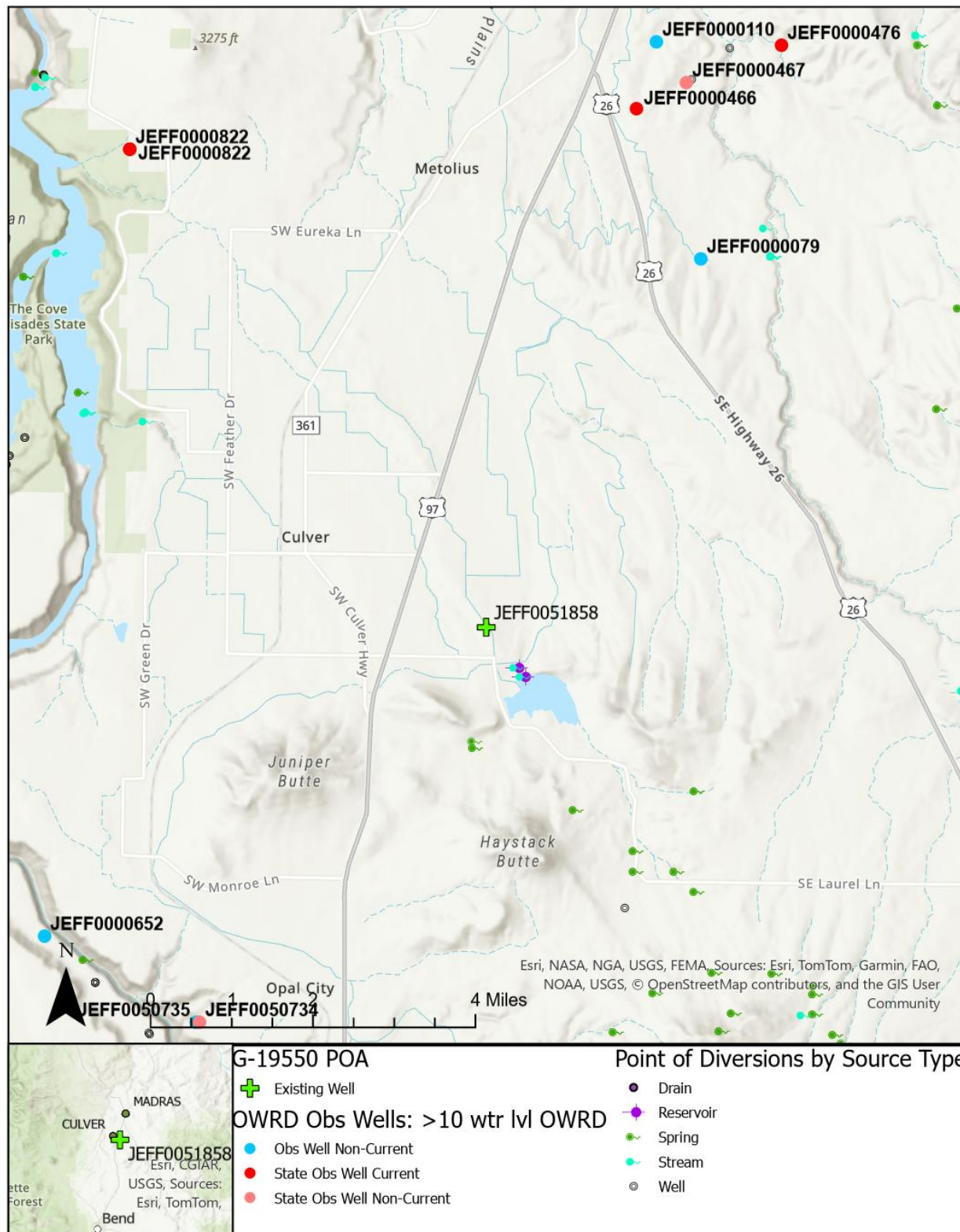
Lite, K. E. and Gannett, M. W., 2002, Geologic Framework of the Regional Ground-Water Flow System in the Upper Deschutes Basin, Oregon. USGS Water-Resources Investigation Report 02-4015, 44 p., <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/wri024015>

Gannett, M. W. and Lite, K. E., 2004, Simulation of Regional Ground-Water Flow in the Upper Deschutes Basin, Oregon, USGS Water Resources Investigation Report 2003-4195, 84 p., <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/wri034195>

Gannett, M.W., Lite, K.E., Jr., Risley, J.C., Pischel, E.M., and La Marche, J.L., 2017, Simulation of groundwater and surface-water flow in the upper Deschutes Basin, Oregon: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2017–5097, 68 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20175097>.

Sherrod, D. R., Taylor, E. M., Ferns, M. L., Scott, W. E., Conrey, R. M. and Smith, G. A., 2004, Geologic Map of the Bend 30-x-60-Minute Quadrangle, Central Oregon. U. S. Geological Survey Geologic Investigations Series Map I-2683. 49p., <https://pubs.usgs.gov/imap/i2683/>

G-19550 - Jefferson County Drought



Water-Level Measurements in Nearby Wells

