

EMERGENCY DROUGHT APPLICATION: GROUNDWATER REVIEW

TO: Water Rights Section Date 6 June 2015 Supersedes 22 May 2015
 FROM: Groundwater Section Gerald H. Grondin
Reviewer's Name
 SUBJECT: Application G- 18085

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, stability of the groundwater resource, and surface water and 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).

A. GENERAL INFORMATION: Applicant's Name: Henry C. G. Cheyne County: Klamath

A1. Applicant(s) seek(s) (1100 gpm) 2.45 cfs from 1 well(s) in the Klamath Basin,
Lost River subbasin Quad Map: Lorella

A2. Proposed use Irrigation 147 acres Seasonality: 20 June to 1 September

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	KLAM 10364	Smith	Basalt	2.45	40S/13E-sec 02 aaa	40' S, 275' W fr NE cor S 02
2						

- Alluvium, CRB, Bedrock, Volcanics

Fill out the following from the application for each well not yet drilled or no log available; otherwise, attached well reports

Well	Well Depth (ft)	Seal Interval (ft)	Casing Intervals (ft)	Liner Intervals (ft)	Perforations Or Screens (ft)	Well Yield (gpm)
1	524	0 to 129	+1 to 129	None	None	1,900
2						

Comment:

The proposed maximum pumping rate (1,100 gpm, 2.45 cfs) is greater than typically allowed for 147 acres (1.84 cfs, 825 gpm).

The application has two different proposed total maximum annual volumes: 220 ac-ft and 367 ac-ft. Both are within the total maximum annual volume typically allowed for 147 acres (441 ac-ft).

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 proposed POA well is connected to surface water in the long-term. However, its connection to surface water, including springs, is indirect (not direct). Shutting off the well will not bring timely and effective relief to the surface water resource.

The proposed POA well is in the Lorella sub-area. It is completed in a compartmentalized, canal influenced, shallower basalt water bearing zone above a deeper, more regional basalt water bearing zone. Data in an adjoining compartment indicates the deeper, more regional basalt water bearing zone is hydraulically connected to Bonanza Big Springs. Data in the adjoining compartment indicates pumping the upper basalt zone has a fractional (small) influence on the groundwater level in the deeper basalt (see Gannett and others 2007, figure 29, page 54). Bonanza Big Springs is about 8.6 miles northwest of the well. ADR wells in the Bonanza sub-area have been regulated to protect spring discharge. The potential seasonal impact to Bonanza Big Springs by pumping the proposed POA well will be significantly less than pumping a well within the Bonanza sub-area given the proposed POA well is inefficiently hydraulically connected to Bonanza Big Springs: there are two hydraulic dampeners between the proposed POA well and Bonanza Big Springs. The first dampener is between the shallower compartmentalized, canal influenced, basalt water bearing zone and the deeper, more regional basalt water bearing zone. The second dampener is between the Lorella sub-area and the Bonanza sub-area. The relationship between the sub-areas is explained in Grondin (2004).

Other springs closer to the proposed POA well appear to be perched above the valley floor and stratigraphically controlled rather than fault controlled. Pumping the proposed POA well should have minimal impact on those springs which are likely intermittent.

The well is about 1.6 miles from the Lost River. Groundwater discharge to the nearest Lost River reach is via seepage through the stream-bed. Groundwater discharge to the river via seepage is inefficient, significantly less than the much more efficient discharge to the river via fault controlled springs present in other sub-areas. Consequently, pumping the proposed POA well should have minimal seasonal impact on the river when compared to pumping wells efficiently hydraulically connected to fault controlled springs that discharge to the river.

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.

Decreased seasonal canal leakage and increased groundwater use will likely lower the groundwater level in the Lorella sub-area compartmentalized upper basalt water bearing zone. Senior water right irrigation wells in the area should be able to accommodate the seasonal decline and pump groundwater.

Groundwater (is) (is not) available within the capacity of the resource.

The decadal trend indicates the groundwater level in Lorella sub-area is in gradual decline since the mid-1980s. Part of the decline may be climate driven.

Is any proposed POA adjacent or within a delineated area in the Klamath Basin where the 2001 to 2011 long-term groundwater decline was 20 feet or more? (Yes) (No) See attached map.

Groundwater level declines in the Upper Lost River sub-basin from 1998 to present ranges from 5 to nearly 10 feet depending upon the sub-area. The decline within the Lorella sub-area varies by compartment.

There (is) (is not) a preponderance of evidence that the proposed short-term emergency groundwater use will measurably reduce the surface water flows necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of a scenic waterway.

Groundwater interference with the Klamath scenic water way under existing permits has exceeded the 1 cfs limit. Short term emergency groundwater uses will be an addition. The timing and degree (amount) of additional impact from the proposed short-term emergency groundwater use is beyond the scope of this review.

Proposed Permit Conditions: _____

If a permit is issued, include: _____

Condition 7B (interference condition). Note that drought permits are very junior rights and highly vulnerable to regulation.

Condition 7P (well tag)

“Large” water use condition (totalizing flowmeter required). Note that “The readings must be reported to the Department by 15 November.”

Special condition: “Prior to use, the well shall be configured to allow a strictly clean water (no oil) static water level measurements with an electric-tape. That can include measurement access via an unobstructed vertical discharge pipe that allows the groundwater level to fluctuate freely within the discharge pipe (no valves, etc.). Otherwise, a dedicated measuring tube must be installed prior to use. The tube must be unobstructed, have a diameter of ¾ inch (0.75 inch) or greater, and pursuant to figure 200-5 in OAR 690-200.”

Special condition for drought static groundwater level measurement and reporting: “The static groundwater level at the well(s) must be measured to the nearest 0.10 foot and recorded and reported to the Department within 7 days prior to drought groundwater pumping at the well(s) begins, and subsequently measured to the nearest 0.10 foot (inch), recorded, and reported to the Department at the end of drought groundwater pumping at the well(s). The last measurement must be reported to the Department by 15 November of the same year.”

Special condition: “Groundwater pumping under this permit shall discontinue or be reduced if Lorella sub-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 under this permit without adversely impacting the resource or without causing substantial interference with senior water rights.”
