

2/25/08

Dear Water Resource Commissioners:

The following comments are for the scheduled meeting on 2/28 and or 2/29/08 or later if these meetings are postponed. Upon reading the draft report of the 5 year evaluation of Deschutes Ground Water presented on 1/18/2008, my husband and I and many neighbors have some clarifying questions and some thoughts.

1. Can you please provide a list to the Central Oregon community of the "stakeholders" who participated in the Deschutes Basin Steering Committee as it was stated in the document that they "represented a broad spectrum of basin interests".
2. Can you please further explain Figure 13, as it relates to the massive growth, and therefore water consumption of Central Oregon?
3. How many areas in the 10,700 square miles of the Deschutes basin are currently being tested for sufficient ground water to sustain not only the previous habitat, but current habitat, and all the future growth?
4. The USGS study was done in 1993, over a full 10 years before the Central Oregon growth boom.
5. In 1998, again before substantial growth in Central Oregon, it was "determined that ground water use had potential for substantial interference with surface water".
6. How was the cap of 200 cfs identified as the limit for new ground water permit approvals?
7. What number of existing wells that are used for human consumption, have needed to be lowered at home owner expense at the 5, 10 and 15 year intervals since 1993 and which agency is charged to monitor wells on the local level? Should this agency find a trend of lowering wells, to whom is this agency to report? Also at what threshold will new wells be allowed if older wells are being drilled deeper?
8. What is the acceptable rate or percent identified by the Water Resource Commission of human consumption wells that need to be drilled deeper, before the Commission believes there is a need for concern in Central Oregon regarding growth and shortage of water to sustain such growth?
9. Since these audits appear to be retrospective and not concurrent, what is the probability that Central Oregon as a High Desert area could follow in the steps of Lake Mead, San Francisco and other areas of severe water shortage?
10. What would be needed to identify all or part of Deschutes Basin a "critical ground water area"?

Most Sincerely

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