

Secretary of State
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING HEARING*
A Statement of Need and Fiscal Impact accompanies this form

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Water Resources Department Agency and Division	690 Administrative Rules Chapter Number
Diana Enright Rules Coordinator	(503) 986-0874 Telephone
Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 Address	

RULE CAPTION

Walla Walla Subbasin Serious Water Management Problem Area, Classification and Updates

Not more than 15 words that reasonably identifies the subject matter of the agency's intended action.

Hearing Date	Time	Location	Hearings Officer
3-22-17	5:00 p.m.	Milton-Freewater Community Building, 109 NE 5th St., Milton-Freewater,	Commissioner Eric

RULEMAKING ACTION

Secure approval of rule numbers with the Administrative Rules Unit prior to filing.

ADOPT:

AMEND:

690-507-0010 to 690-507-0640; 690-507-0647 to 690-507-0690; 690-507-0790

REPEAL:

RENUMBER: Secure approval of new rule numbers with the Administrative Rules Unit prior to filing.

AMEND AND RENUMBER: Secure approval of new rule numbers with the Administrative Rules Unit prior to filing.

Statutory Authority:

ORS 536, 537 and 540

Other Authority:

OAR 690 Division 85

Statutes Implemented:

ORS 536.220, 536.300, 536.310, 536.340, 537.535, 537.545 and 540.435

RULE SUMMARY

The Water Resources Commission is charged with developing basin program rules with consideration to the multiple aspects of the beneficial use and control of such water resources to best protect and promote the public welfare of Oregon's citizens generally, including the environmental health of Oregon's watersheds and basins. Available groundwater data show groundwater level declines occurring across the Walla Walla Subbasin of the Umatilla Basin, indicating groundwater use in excess of recharge. Senior groundwater users have reported that they are not able to pump their usual and accustomed rate or volume of water.

The Department is proposing to classify groundwater in the Walla Walla Subbasin for new exempt uses only, as defined in ORS 537.545. This classification is intended to limit new use of the groundwater resource and prevent chronic declining water level trends from getting worse.

The Department is also proposing to establish a Serious Water Management Problem Area (SWMPA) per ORS 540.435. Owners of permitted basalt aquifer wells within the SWMPA will be required to install a totalizing flow meter on each well, measure and record water use on a monthly basis, and report monthly water use to the Department annually. Measurement and reporting of use will eventually allow the Department to determine how much, if any, reduction in current pumping may need to occur to stabilize observed groundwater level declines.

In addition, proposed changes include spell out acronyms, correct spelling, and grammar.

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

<u>03-31-2017 5:00 p.m.</u>	<u>Diana Enright</u>	<u>diana.m.enright@wrd.state.or.us</u>
Last Day (<i>m/d/yyyy</i>) and Time for public comment	Rules Coordinator Name	Email Address

*The Oregon Bulletin is published on the 1st of each month and updates the rule text found in the Oregon Administrative Rules Compilation.