

# Harney Groundwater RAC Discussion Group: Feedback on Proposed Management Scenario

At the April 16, 2025 RAC meeting, OWRD offered their [revised management scenario](#) and full set of [draft rules](#) (although the RAC didn't have time to discuss every element).

This form is intended to help RAC members and others provide specific feedback to OWRD as they try to revise the draft rule language with the RAC prior to offering a version for broader public comment this summer.

Could you please take 20-60 minutes, review the proposed rule elements here, and then provide us some feedback? The Discussion Group on **April 28 and May 5** will focus on this feedback. There will be opportunity for more feedback there too. And of course, the RAC meeting on May 15 will have more opportunity for discussion as the RAC makes its recommendations to OWRD on draft rule language.

Bobby will not share individual responses unless you ask Bobby to send your responses to OWRD. Anything Bobby sends to OWRD is not formal public comment. He can help you get a copy of your response to send as formal public comment if you'd like. We do ask for your name, so Bobby can follow up if he has questions. If it's easier to tell Bobby what you think, give him a call at 503-334-6872.

Thank you all for all your engagement!!!

## 1. Name

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2. **Are you a RAC Member?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes, I am a RAC Member
- ☐ No, I am a Member of the Public

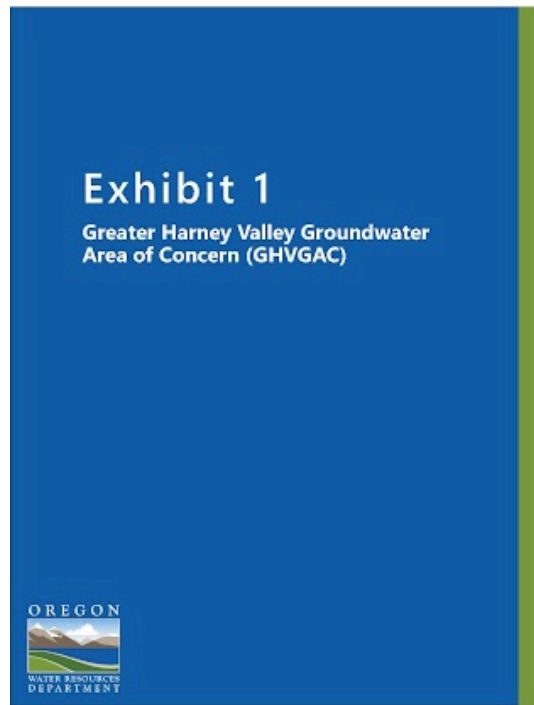
3. **If you are a RAC member, do you want Bobby to share your individual response with OWRD?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes , please share with OWRD
- ☐ No thank you, I'll send my feedback directly to Kelly at OWRD
- ☐ No thank you, my feedback is just for the discussions
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Critical Groundwater Area Rule Language**

## Proposed Critical Areas Designation Map



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4. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **CGWA boundary rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**

(Proposal: Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern, GHVGAC, is the boundary)

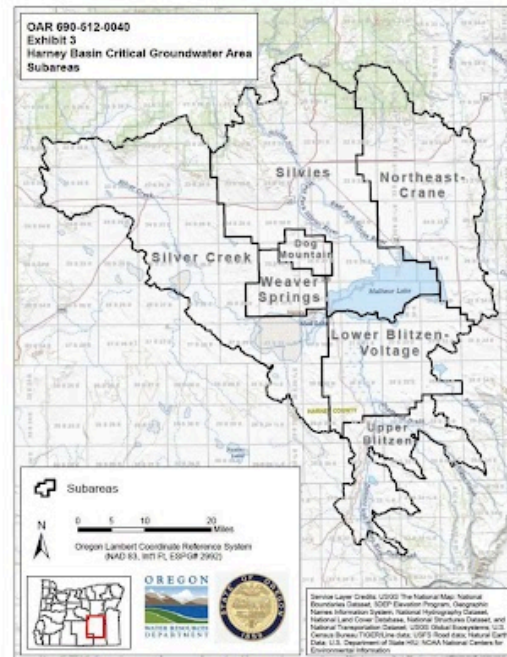
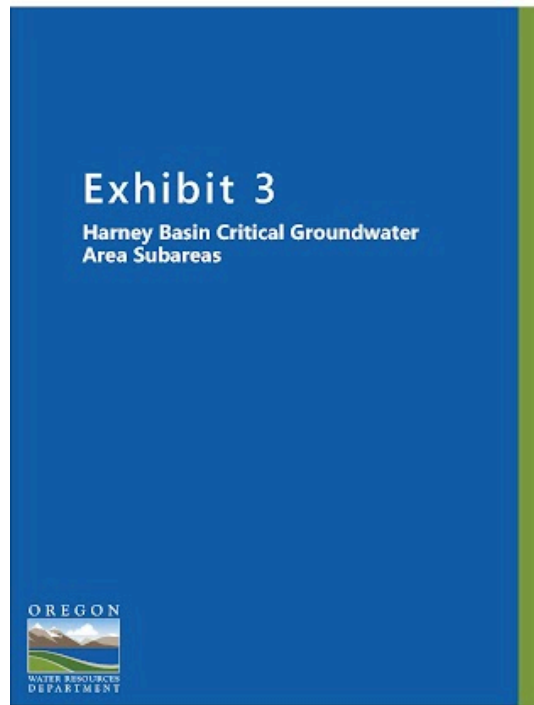
## Proposed Management Scenario

## Proposed Management Parameters

Parameter	Proposed Management Scenario
Spatial extent	7 subareas
Stability success metric	Durable, Median (50 <sup>th</sup> percentile) of well-cells - Fixed PTW in Weaver Springs, 75% reduction
Timeline to achieve goal	30 years
Frequency of adaptation	Every 6 years
Timeline for reductions	24 years with frontloading of reductions - 40%, 30%, 15%, 10%, and 5% of total - In Weaver Springs, 75% and 25%
Discharge to streams and springs	Not used to constrain PTW; limit impact with frontloading of curtailment
Natural evapotranspiration	
Dry domestic wells	



## Proposed Subarea Map



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5. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **subarea rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**

(Proposal: 7 subareas: Silver Creek, Weaver Springs, Dog Mountain, Silvies, Northeast-Crane, Upper Blitzen, Lower Blitzen-Voltage)

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6. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **target groundwater level trend and the date to achieve the target groundwater level trend rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**

(Proposal: A median groundwater level decline rate of no more than 0 feet per year in each subarea. The target would need to be achieved by 2058.)

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7. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **proposed permissible total withdrawal for subareas rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**

(Proposal:

Silver Creek – 15,200 acre feet per year (28% reduction from 2018)

Weaver Springs – 4,800 acre feet per year (75% reduction from 2018)

Dog Mountain – 4, 200 acre feet per year (9% reduction from 2018)

Silvies – 21,200 acre feet per year (15% reduction from 2018)

Northeast-Crane – 35,000 acre feet per year (34% reduction from 2018)

Upper Blitzen – 76 acre feet per year (0% reduction from 2018)

Lower Blitzen-Voltage – 8,300 acre feet per year (39% reduction from 2018)

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8. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **determination of initial allocation for groundwater rights rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**

(Proposal: Irrigation rights would have a duty of 2.7 acre feet per year, with acres adjusted based on historical beneficial use. Municipal and quasi-municipal rights would have 110% of the greatest single year in the previous 6 years. Other groundwater uses would take into consideration historical beneficial use and whether the water could be pumped and put to use.)

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## Proposed Reduction Schedule

## Proposed Reductions by Subarea at Each Check-In (as a % from 2018)

Subarea	2028 (40%)	2034 (30%)	2040 (15%)	2046 (10%)	2052 (5%)	Total Reduction
Dog Mountain	-4%	-3%	-1%	-1%	-0.5%	-9%
Lower Blitzen-Voltage	-16%	-12%	-6%	-4%	-2%	-39%
Northeast-Crane	-14%	-10%	-5%	-3%	-2%	-34%
Silver Creek	-11%	-8%	-4%	-3%	-1%	-28%
Silvies	-6%	-5%	-2%	-2%	-1%	-15%
Upper Blitzen	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Weaver Springs*	-56%	-19%	-	-	-	-75%
Overall	-18%	-10%	-4%	-2%	-1%	-35%



\*Water use in the Weaver Springs subarea will be reduced to PTW with 75% of the total reduction in 2028 and 25% of the total reduction in 2034.



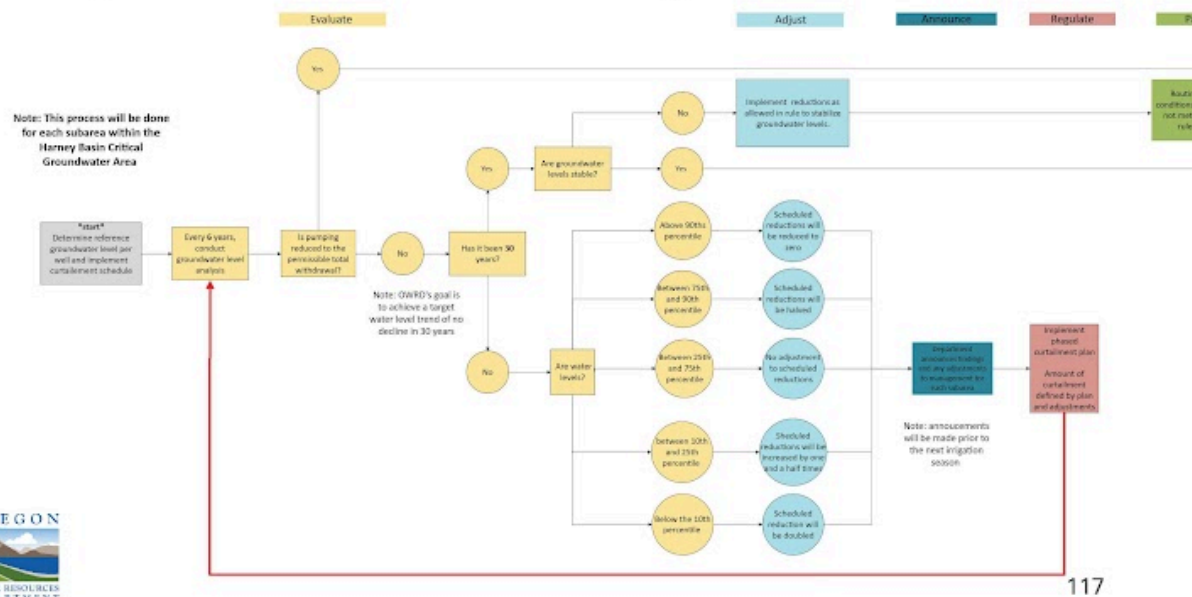
9. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **proposed reduction schedule rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**

(Proposal: 40% of reductions would be initiated in 2028 (after a contested case hearing), 30% of reductions would be initiated in 2034, 15% of reductions would be initiated in 2040, 10% of reductions would be initiated in 2046, and 5% of reductions would be initiated in 2052. For Weaver Springs 75% of reductions would be initiated in 2028 and the remaining 25% of reductions would be initiated in 2034. This would be affected by the adaptive management plan.)

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Proposed Adaptive Management Process Flow ([higher resolution image here](#))

# Proposed Adaptive Management Plan



10. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **proposed adaptive management rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**

(Proposal: At six-year intervals the Department will evaluate the trajectory of groundwater level trends to determine if they are on track to achieve a target groundwater level trends of 0 by 2058. The adaptive management plan would adjust reductions up or down depending on the median groundwater level trend for that subarea.)

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11. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **proposed reduction schedule changes in the adaptive management rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**

(Proposal: At each checkpoint, the Department will compare the median groundwater level change for each subarea with the groundwater level change envelope. If the median groundwater level change for a subarea is:

- a. Below the 10th percentile, the scheduled quantity of reduction will be doubled.
  - b. Between the 10th and 25th percentiles, the scheduled quantity of reduction will be increased by one and a half times.
  - c. Between the 25th and 75th percentiles, no adjustment will be made.
  - d. Between the 75th and 90th percentiles, the scheduled quantity of reduction will be halved.
  - e. Above the 90th percentile, the scheduled quantity of reduction will be reduced to zero.)
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12. Any other changes to **Critical Groundwater Area rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**
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## Classification Rule Language

13. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **proposed classification for new uses rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**

(Proposal: No new permitted uses would be allowed and only new exempt uses would be allowed.)

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14. What changes, if any, would you make to: Other **Classification rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**

(Proposal: Classification Boundary is the Harney Basin Groundwater Study Area .)

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## Serious Water Management Problem Area Rule Language

15. What changes, if any, would you make to: Other **Serious Water Management Problem Area (SWMPA) rule language**? **Please include specific language that you would like to see in rule, if possible.**
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## Questions about Implementation outside the rules

16. **Outside of the rules**, what are other important elements of adaptive management? And what commitments are needed from OWRD or others on those?

For example, sharing annual monitoring data? Doing more research to address uncertainties (e.g., upland recharge and spring discharges)? Delivering voluntary programs (e.g., CREP, domestic well mitigation)?

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