Harney Groundwater RAC Discussion Group: Feedback on Proposed Management Scenario

At the January 22, 2025 RAC meeting, OWRD offered a proposed management scenario. Those inputs would allow OWRD to run the USGS model to quantify the allowable amount of groundwater use ("permissible total withdrawal") and the resultant reductions in groundwater use to incorporate into rules.

This form is intended to help RAC members and others provide specific feedback to OWRD as they try to finalize a proposed management scenario.

Could you please take 10-30 minutes, review the Scenario parameters here. And then provide us some feedback? The Discussion Group on February 3 will focus on this feedback. There will be opportunity for more feedback there too. And of course, the RAC meeting in March will have more opportunity for discussion as the RAC makes its recommendations to OWRD on model scenario.

Responses will be confidential to Bobby. 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!!!

Proposed Management Scenario

Department Proposed Management Scenario

Parameter	Proposed Management Scenario
Spatial extent	7 subareas
Stability success metric	Median (50th percentile) of well-cells
Timeline to achieve goal	30 years
Phasing timeline	24 years
Frequency of adaption	Every 6 years
Discharge to streams and springs	At least 50-70% of 2022 rates
Natural evapotranspiration	At least 60% of 2018 rates
Dry domestic wells	No more than 170% of 2018 counts

1. Name

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2. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **number of subareas**? (Proposal: 7 subareas)

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3. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **stability success metric**? (Proposal: Median/50th percentile of wells)

4. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **phasing timeline**? (Proposal: Reductions are phased in every 6 years for 24 years).

5. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **timeline to achieve stability goal**? (Proposal: 30 years to achieve the goal)

6. How would you incorporate or address **discharge to streams and springs?** (Proposal: Permissible total withdrawals are constrained in each subarea to maintain more than 50-70% of discharge to streams and springs from a a 2022 baseline)**.**

7. How would you incorporate or address **changes in natural evapotranspiration?** (Proposal: permissible total withdrawals are constrained in each subarea to maintain more than 60% of native vegetation maintains access to groundwater from a 2018 baseline)**.**

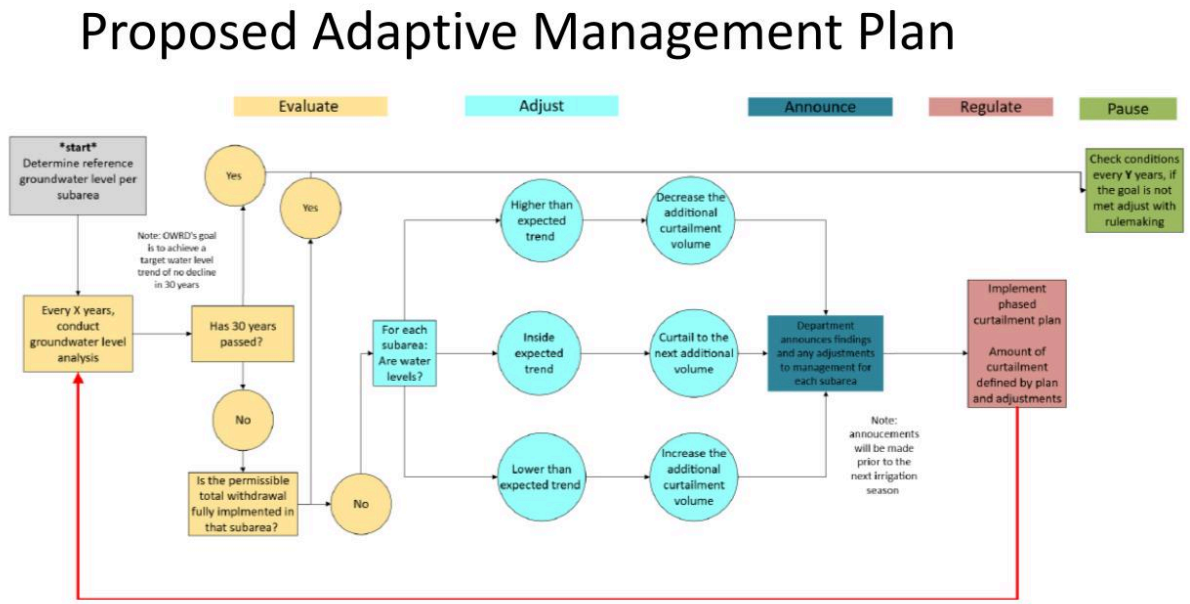
8. How would you incorporate or address **changes in natural evapotranspiration?** (Proposal: Permissible total withdrawals are constrained in each subarea so that less than 170% of domestic wells lose access to water at their current depth from a 2018 baseline).

9. How would you incorporate or address **changes in agricultural production?** (Proposal: 24yrs of phasing, 30 years to achieve stability, and using subareas are designed to help reduce impacts to farms and associated small businesses; But agricultural production would be reduced by ~38% over 24 years under this scenario).

10. How would you incorporate or address **economic impacts associated with lost agricultural production from proposed reductions?** (Proposal: There are economic impacts for all groundwater uses, losses in agricultural production result in a losses to farm revenue [~38%] and tax revenue [still being assessed]).

11. How would you incorporate or address **subarea specific considerations?** For example, the sequencing of actions in various subareas or important considerations for different subareas (Proposal: All subareas have 24 years to implement reductions and 30 years to achieve stable conditions and the permissible total withdrawals are constrained by different factors depending on what has the highest impact [impacts to domestic wells, discharge to springs and streams, or impacts to native vegetation]).

Proposed Adaptive Management Process Flow



12. What changes, if any, would you make to: The **adaptive management plan**? (Every 6 years, adjust based on groundwater levels only)

    What timing considerations are important for planning (e.g., purchasing power, crop rotations, equipment loans)? What other factors should influence the decision to slow or speed up curtailment schedules? How do you want the community/public involved in shaping decisions on adaptive management?

13. **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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14. What other feedback would you like to give us right now on the proposed management scenario?

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