



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1266
503-986-0900
FAX 503-986-0904

Contact: Racquel Rancier
Telephone: 503-986-0828
Cell Phone: 503-302-9235
E-mail: racquel.r.rancier@wrđ.state.or.us

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OPEN HOUSE AND RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS GROUNDWATER IN THE UPPER KLAMATH BASIN

Members of the Public are Encouraged to Attend

The Oregon Water Resources Department will hold an open house at the Sprague River Community Center from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on November 18, 2014. The purpose of the open house is to provide an opportunity for members of the community to interact with Department groundwater staff and ask questions about groundwater-related activities in the basin.

Earlier that day, the Department will also hold its second meeting with a rules advisory committee (RAC) that has been convened to assist the Department in developing rules regarding the regulation of groundwater users to benefit senior water right holders. Although the Department already has rules that govern the regulation of groundwater and surface water, the Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement calls for the development of groundwater rules for the Upper Klamath Basin within the Sprague, Williamson, and Wood river drainages, consistent with the agreement.

The meeting of the RAC will be held in the Mt. McLoughlin Room at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The public is invited to listen; however, the purpose of the meeting is to get feedback from members of the RAC in order to prepare a draft of the rules that can then be published for public comment. The public will have an opportunity to provide input on the rules at public hearings held later in the winter and spring.

The Department would like to invite all persons interested in this rulemaking to sign up to receive email updates to stay informed about meetings, open houses, and opportunities for public comment.

To sign up, please visit: http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/owrd_klamath_gw_rulemaking.

Overview of the Rulemaking Process

The rulemaking process involves several steps. First, an initial draft of the rules is developed by Department staff. After that, a RAC composed of members of the public provides staff with input on the initial draft rules and the costs associated with the rules. The RAC will include several upper basin water right holders, as well as individuals from the Klamath Water Users Association, U.S. Geological Survey, The Klamath Tribes, Water for Life, WaterWatch, City of Klamath Falls, The Nature Conservancy, and Crater Lake National Park.

Based on the feedback received from the RAC, Department staff will revise the initial draft rules and release a draft for public comment. The public will have the opportunity to provide written comments or to provide comments during public hearings. Department staff will review all comments received. Following the public comment period, staff will develop a report and proposed final rules for consideration and adoption by the Oregon Water Resources Commission.

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