

Emergency-use drought permit requests received

Permits required for anyone needing, seeking secondary water source

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April 8, 2010

So far, 16 requests for emergency-use drought permits totaling 12,900 acres have been received by the Water Resources Department, according to Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski's office. Determinations are made within eight to 10 days of receipt, meaning those who have applied should begin hearing back this week.

The permits are necessary for anyone whose primary water source is unavailable and a secondary source, such as groundwater or stored water, is available. Those already holding a supplemental permit do not need an emergency-use permit as long as the water is applied to the permitted lands.

Emergency-use permits will expire at the end of the irrigation season or whenever the governor declares the drought has ended, whichever comes sooner. Anyone with questions about applying for an emergency-use permit should call 541- 883 - 4182 to reach the Klamath Falls watermaster's office.

Groundwater pumping from wells is expected to increase this year, which may affect shallow wells. Anyone experiencing water supply problems should contact the local watermaster's office or the regional Water Resources Department in Bend at 541-388-6669.

Public meeting to discuss federal assistance

The U. S. Department of Agriculture will hold a public meeting at 1 p.m. April 15 at the Merrill Civic Center to talk about federal assistance programs. State agencies also will be represented. For more information, contact Evelyn Conrad with the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 541-883-6932, ext. 118.

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