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## Aquifer Carrying Capacity & Hugo Neighborhood

There is no long-term ground water availability information in the Hugo region, and it is difficult to determine how long the ground water resource will sustain present and future demands. When ground water is being mined, long-term ground water levels decline for a given aquifer when the ground water withdrawal rate exceeds the ground water recharge rate. As additional domestic (exempt) ground water users increase in the region, it is likely that well interference complaints will increase, and the already over-appropriated surface water (stream flows) will continue to further decrease during the dry season months.



The shape and slope of the water table is estimated by measuring static water levels in wells. Static water levels are the levels of water in your wells under non-pumping conditions. The water level (elevation level) is the ground elevation at your well minus the distance between the ground surface and the static water in your well.

The *Hugo Neighborhood* has serious concerns about the availability of ground water for development due to the unknown carrying capacity of the region to supply water and the unknown effects of development. It believes there is potential for significant cumulative adverse impacts to existing water users and land owners.

You can help by contributing to the community's ground water database by having your well water levels measured.

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## Volunteer Well Monitoring & OR Water Resources Department

Hugo neighbors can help by participating in the Oregon Water Resources Department's (OWRD) informal volunteer well monitoring program. The process for Hugo will be in two phases: 1. a scoping or interest identification phase, and 2. a monitoring phase. In the first phase the *Hugo Neighborhood* would contact folks in the community, explain the issue and the opportunity, and gain permission from interested neighbors to measure water levels in their wells. Outreach will include word of mouth, a newsletter to community email list, articles and brochures published on the *Hugo Neighborhood's* web site, handout brochures to selected individuals, and perhaps home meetings for information sharing.

During the monitoring phase, participating individuals would measure their well's static water levels (no pumping) and provide the data to the OWRD. If there is enough interest, motivated individuals might coordinate the effort with OWRD and/or periodically take this information for others, and add it to the community's public water level database.

In either case training would be provided by OWRD, including a notebook or notesheet for the water level information. The neighbors would be provided data plots and an analysis of the data. The OWRD would discuss with the land owners ground water level trends, how precipitation impacts the water levels, and any evident long-term trends such as drought or ground water mining. Details on this volunteer program, including training, measurement standards, and quality control, would be provided on the *Hugo Neighborhood's* web site.

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## Value Of A Community Baseline For Quantity Of Groundwater

Josephine County has become a popular place to live and in the foreseeable future there is probably no end to new neighbors in rural areas that will be dependent upon domestic wells — groundwater will be the primary source of water for all residents in this area.

Participating in this simple monitoring program would provide landowners insight into their well's



*Gall, ODWD, Talking To Hugo Neighbors*

production capabilities. The neighbors' water level data would also help establish a baseline against which future changes could be compared. This data would provide insight into the quantity of groundwater that could be developed without injury to other existing groundwater users. This type of information would be valuable to county planning needs to help guide them in implementing and monitoring development densities.

This is a volunteer program and can be discontinued by the land owner at any time. This is a permission program and water levels will not be measured without land owner consent as to time and place volunteers are on private property. This is a public program and all water information gathered will be available to the general public.

**Want more information?** Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood*, or a member of OWRD.

## Mission's of *Hugo Neighborhood & OWRD*

The *Hugo Neighborhood* is a nonprofit association composed of a voluntary group of citizens interested in both the land use and history of the Hugo area. Its land use mission is to promote the social welfare of the citizens of the area by working to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and by preserving, protecting, and enhancing the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors.

The Oregon Water Resources Department's (*OWRD*'s) mission is to serve the public by practicing and promoting wise long-term water management through two key goals: 1. to directly address Oregon's water supply needs, and 2. to restore and protect streamflows and watersheds in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Make checks to the *Hugo Neighborhood* and send them to our Treasurer. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

*Hugo Neighborhood*

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## Volunteer Well Monitoring Program



**“Participating in this simple monitoring program would provide landowners insight into their well’s production capabilities.”**

**September 6, 2005**

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society**

**Oregon Water Resources Department**