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10:00 am
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Find the crossword puzzle on page A6

E	D	I	T	M	I	D	A	S	X	M	A	S			
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WALLOWA COUNTY SENIOR MEAL MENU

Meal sites are open for in-dining!
Meal site information: Wallowa 886-8971, Enterprise 426-3840, Home delivered meals 426-3840.

Mon. Apr. 11: Roast beef, mashed red potatoes & gravy, buttered carrots, mixed fruit & apple crisp (sponsored by Wallowa Assembly of God)

Wed. Apr. 13: Baked ham, roasted red potatoes, seasoned green beans, broccoli salad & strawberry shortcake (sponsored by Rotary Club)

Fri. Apr. 15: Chicken fajita with salsa & sour cream, Spanish rice, green salad, pears & brownie (Thank you volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers)

ENTERPRISE SCHOOLS
(Milk, fruit & vegetables served with all meals)

Mon. Apr. 11: Breakfast: Bacon & eggs
Lunch: Pork chops w/mashed potatoes & corn

Tue. Apr. 12: Breakfast: Ham & potatoes
Lunch: Tacos & refried beans

Wed. Apr. 13: Breakfast: Pancakes
Lunch: Mac & cheese and broccoli

Thur. Apr. 14: Breakfast: Biscuits & gravy
Lunch: Corn dogs & fries

Fri. Apr. 15: Breakfast: Waffles
Lunch: Pizza

To sponsor a senior meal, call 426-3840 or stop by the Community Connection office.

Bon Appétit



Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press

Irrigation systems on a farm near Mount Hood.

Nine water rights tools for Oregon farms and ranches facing drought

By **SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN**
Capital Press

SALEM — As much of Oregon faces another year of drought, water experts say farmers and ranchers should be aware of all the tools available to them under the state's water laws.

At a seminar Tuesday, March 31, Elizabeth Howard, Oregon water law attorney, and Lindsay Thane, natural resources attorney, both of Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, spoke about nine tools for farmers through the state Water Resources Department, or OWRD.

"There are tools available to water users, especially in drought years," said Thane.

Drought transfers: If Oregon's governor issues a drought declaration for a county, water users in that county can then access emergency water use tools, one of which is a "drought transfer."

According to Thane, a farmer can apply for an expedited, short-term drought transfer of their water right to change its type of use, place of use or location of the point of diversion.

Temporary emergency water use permits: This tool is also only available to drought-declared counties.

According to Thane, if an existing surface water right doesn't have enough water during drought — for example, a stream dries up — then the farmer can apply for an emergency permit to temporarily tap into groundwater.

These expedited applications should take 10 days to process.

Temporary transfers: A temporary transfer allows farmers to move water to areas of critical need.

Applicants need not come from a drought-declared county.

A farmer can change the place of use, point of diversion or type of use of a certified water right and can move water on their own property or temporarily transfer to another farmer.

Unlike the first two tools, a temporary transfer takes longer to apply for and process.

"This isn't a particularly speedy process most of the time," said Thane.

Howard said this tool "is really good to think about for long-term planning."

Agriculture water use transfers: Howard said an agriculture water use transfer can be useful during hot and dry years.

The tool enables a farmer with an existing irrigation water right to use that right for purposes other than irrigation — "incidental agricultural uses" including dust control, keeping farm animals cool or giving drinking water to livestock within limitations.

Limited licenses: A limited license is a short-

term tool for a farmer who does not have water right.

According to Howard, a farmer can apply for a limited water license to establish a crop for which further irrigation won't be required, such as a vineyard or hazelnut orchard, or to mitigate the impacts of drought when water is needed "to avoid irreparable damage to the user's crop."

Exempt water uses: Howard said it's also useful for farmers to be aware of exempt water uses in Oregon — opportunities to use water within limitations without applying for a permit.

Farms may qualify for the surface water stock water exemption, commercial and industrial uses exemption and domestic water rights exemption.

Conserved water rights: A conserved water right allows a farmer to shrink a water right temporarily and move the balance to other places, such as to in-stream flows that benefit fish.

New water right: A farmer can also apply for a new water right, but these are difficult to get.

"It's pretty much impossible to get a surface water right in Oregon right now because basically all the water has been allocated," said Howard.

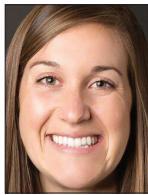
Thane said getting a new groundwater right is more plausible, but OWRD has labeled some parts of Oregon as "groundwater restricted areas" where new wells can't be drilled.

Stored water right: The final tool is called a stored water right, enabling a farmer to create a

pond or reservoir.

For this tool, said Howard, a farmer needs two rights — the right to store water and the right to remove

water from a reservoir or pond for a specific purpose. The right to store water is separate from the right to use the stored water.



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