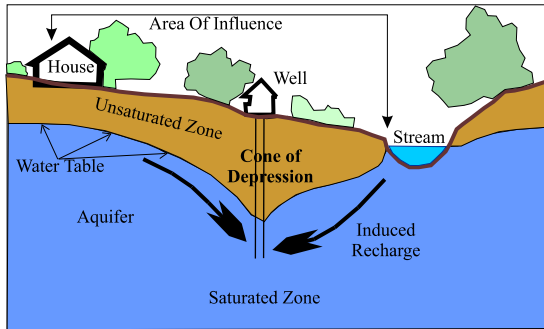


What Is Well Interference?

Water is one of our most essential resources. Without an adequate supply of good water, all life in Hugo, Oregon would soon vanish. Proper location, construction, and maintenance of wells are essential for reliable, safe water supplies for both you and your neighbor.



Cone of Depression: One Well

There are a variety of reasons for the many standards applying to the placement of wells. They include septic tanks, drainfields, sewer lines, underground fuel tanks, sewage disposal areas, ease of access and repairs and boundary line inaccuracies. For well interference, however, interference investigations after the fact appear to be the only standard.

Ground water, like surface water, has priority rights. Senior water rights, ground or surface, are those earliest in priority - they win..

Water Rights & Water Well Permits

Under Oregon law, all ground water is considered a public resource. With some exceptions, anyone intending to use ground water from a well in excess of the following exempted uses must first obtain a permit from the Oregon Water Resources Department (ORS 537.545). This means that if a well is shared by more than one family the exempted uses are divided among the families.



- Group and single-family domestic use up to 15,000 gallons per day.
- Stock watering.
- Watering any lawn and/or non-commercial garden totaling one-half acre or less in area.
- Down-hole heat exchangers.
- Any single industrial or commercial development up to 5,000 gallons per day.
- Land application concerning ground water uses for: 1. a water right issued for industrial purposes, or a water right authorizing use of water for confined animal feeding purposes, 2. water reused for irrigation purposes, 3. for operating a disposal system or a confined animal feeding operation.

While exempted ground water uses do not require a water right, the use is only allowed if the water is used for a “beneficial purpose without waste” [ORS 535.525(3)] and may be subject to regulation when there is interference among wells, or in times of water shortage [ORS 535.525(9)].

More Information & Well Interference Investigations

If you need assistance about whether you need a water well permit, or wish to have a well interference investigation, please contact your Regional Hydrogeologist.

Ivan Gall, Regional Hydrogeologist
Oregon Southwest Region
Water Resources Department
942 SW 6th Street, Suite E
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541-471-2886 Ext. 230
Email: Ivan.K.Gall@wrdd.state.or.us

The well interference investigation process will consider any well, including those exempted under ORS 537.545. Possible outcomes for interfering wells are discontinuance of use, or conditions on use (ORS 537.629, ORS 537.775, OAR 690-250-0110, and OAR 690-250-0130). Ground water, like surface water, has priority rights. Senior water rights, ground or surface, are those earliest in priority - they win..

The Water Resources Department has an *Interference Flow Chart* that demonstrates the technical factors considered in an investigation. They include well logs, static water levels for potentially interfering wells, lithology, well construction, well depth, saturated thickness, aquifer fully developed and junior wells versus senior wells.

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can get involved in the land use or history of your area.

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

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.

Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

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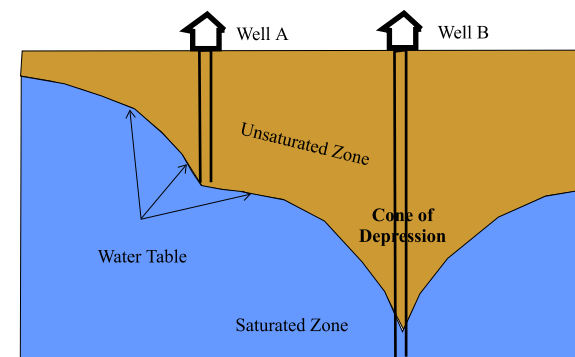
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Well Interference



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Land Use Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society