

The Chehalem Mountain fire of 2020 came within ¼ mile of my house. If the fire had advanced to my property the trees would likely be lost and with that the value of the property would be severely diminished...not even considering the value of my home. The fire was brought under control only after water bomber dumps sourced from Haag Lake. There is no significant source of water to fight fires any closer. The existence of a cannabis growing and processing plant in the wooded land of Chehalem Mountain exacerbates the chance that an explosive fire could cause a replay of the 2020 fire.

Water for properties on Chehalem Mountain comes from the Chehalem Mountain Limited Ground Water Area which has specific restrictions as stated on the Washington County's Water Master website page focused on Chehalem Mountain. The page states:

Ground water in the basalt aquifers of the Chehalem Mountain Ground Water Limited Area is classified for exempt uses, irrigation, and rural fire protection systems only.

Exempt uses include:

- 1) Stock watering
- 2) Lawn or non-commercial garden watering of not more than 1/2 acre
- 3) Single or group domestic purposes for no more than 15,000 gallons per day
- 4) Single industrial or commercial purposes not exceeding 5,000 gallons per day
- 5) Down-hole heat exchange uses

None of the above uses shall include the irrigation or landscape maintenance of more than 1/2 acre.

Clearly, the 21 acre feet of water per year that has been requested for the cannabis growing and processing facility proposed at the top of Chehalem Mountain far exceeds ALL of these parameters and would severely impact ground water quality and availability on Chehalem Mountain.

A hydrogeologist who testified at the first hearing in front of the Yamhill Board of Commissioners regarding this facility stated that "the water yield in the area is small". He stated that he is "very concerned" about the impact the hemp/marijuana facility's water use would have on surrounding residential wells due to the estimated high usage. He stated that running the hemp/marijuana facility well at the anticipated capacity will "instantly draw the water levels down in the neighboring wells...it's going to happen within a year". He went on to say that the "hemp facility drawing 50,000 gallons per day will ruin [the aquifer]" and will cause "long term decline if allowed to continue". He said that when people in the neighboring area "turn their wells on they will pump air and a little water and probably some red, brown, or grey mud". This knowledgeable hydrogeologist is intimately familiar with the Chehalem Mountain Limited Ground Water Area.

Facilities like this MUST be sited in industrial areas that have access to needed water, rapidly available emergency services, appropriate general infrastructure, and are remote from residential and high fire risk areas. It is inconceivable that a cannabis processing facility would be allowed to be sited in such non-industrial, heavily forested, rural residential areas.