Submitter:	Gary Bood
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB1154

Constitutional Limits: Any bill allowing the state to enter property without consent or deny well access would likely violate Oregon's constitution (Article I, Section 9: protection against unreasonable searches) and the U.S. Constitution (Fourth Amendment for searches, Fifth Amendment for takings). Charging for usage might be legal if tied to a conservation program, but turning wells on/off at will would be unprecedented and likely challenged.

Oregon Well Water Rights or Private Wells is a permitting process. The State of Oregon regulates there. Have verified the wells allowed for use in agriculture to not be used when no there is not a drought. Many farms use sprinklers now instead of ditch irrigation. That is on the states Water Regulations Act. Focus there.

This estimate is approximate and likely conservative, as it doesn't account for unpermitted wells or emergency permits during droughts. For a precise figure, the Oregon Water Resources Department would need to release updated permit data, which isn't available in the provided sources.
Final Answer:
Approximately 1,000 to 1,500 irrigation wells have been dug in Oregon in the last 10 years (2015–2025). This estimate is based on historical permitting rates, recent drought-related drilling, and state regulatory actions, but it should be considered a rough approximation due to data limitations. For an exact count, consult the Oregon Water Resources Department's latest reports or permit databases.

General Estimate: For an average Oregon irrigation well serving 5–50 acres, daily usage could range from 5,000 to 50,000 gallons per day, depending on crop type, acreage, and irrigation frequency. For example:
A 10-acre potato farm might use 10,000–20,000 gallons per day during peak summer.

A larger 50-acre alfalfa field could use 50,000–100,000 gallons per day, as alfalfa requires frequent watering.

Seasonal Variation: Web result 18 (Umpqua Basin) notes that most outdoor water use in Oregon occurs in summer months, so daily usage might spike to 20,000–100,000 gallons per day for irrigation wells during June–September, then drop significantly in winter.

Final Estimates:
Gallons Per Minute (GPM): The estimated flow rate for irrigation wells in Oregon is typically 5–40 GPM, with an average around 20–25 GPM for medium-sized farms. Larger operations or drought years might see flow rates up to 50 GPM or more.

Daily Usage: The estimated daily usage for irrigation wells in Oregon ranges from 5,000 to 100,000 gallons per day, depending on farm size, crop type, and season. A reasonable average for a typical irrigation well might be 15,000–25,000 gallons per day during the irrigation season (April–September).

Total farms 40 acres or more would then be:
Farms 50 acres or more: 11,849 (33.3% of 35,547).

Plus farms between 40 and 49 acres: 4,740.

Total: 11,849 + 4,740 = 16,589 farms.

Hands OFF our Private Wells and our PRIVATE PROPERTY!