

# Reconnaissance of Hydrologic Monitoring Sites and Preliminary Monitoring Plan for the Vale, Oregon, Geothermal Area

U.S. Geological Survey  
Open-File Report 95-384

Prepared in cooperation with  
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION



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By MARSHALL W. GANNETT and RODNEY R. CALDWELL

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For additional information  
write to:

District Chief  
U.S. Geological Survey, WRD  
10615 S.E. Cherry Blossom Drive  
Portland, OR 97216

Copies of this report can be  
purchased from:

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## CONVERSION FACTORS AND VERTICAL DATUM

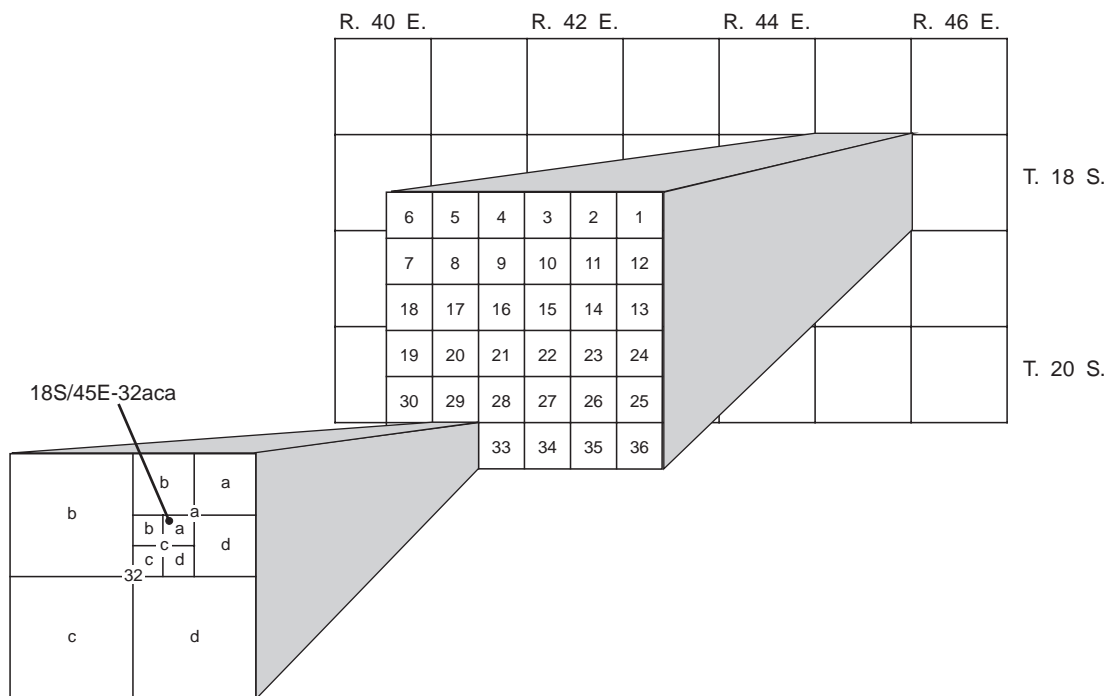
Multiply	By	To obtain
Length		
inch	25.4	millimeter
foot	0.3048	meter
mile	1.609	kilometer
Area		
acre	4,047	square meter
acre	d 0.4047	hectare
square mile	259.0	hectare
square mile	2.590	square kilometer
Flow		
cubic foot per second	0.02832	cubic meter per second
gallon per minute	0.06309	liter per second
gallon per minute	0.002228	cubic foot per second

Temperature		
degrees Fahrenheit (°F)	(°F – 32) / 1.8 = °C	degrees Celsius (°C)

**Sea level:** In this report “sea level” refers to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD of 1929)--a geodetic datum derived from a general adjustment of the first-order level nets of both the United States and Canada, formerly called Sea Level Datum of 1929.

## WELL-NUMBERING SYSTEM

The well- and spring-numbering system used in this report is based on the rectangular system for subdivision of land. Each well “number” indicates the location of the well with respect to township, range, and section. Well 18S/45E-32aca is in T.18 S., R.45 E., sec. 32. Townships shown in this region are numbered south and east of the Willamette Baseline and Meridian (for example 18S/45E). The letters show the location within the section; the first letter (a) identifies the quarter section (160 acres); the second letter (c) identifies the quarter-quarter section (40 acres); and the third letter (a) identifies the quarter-quarter-quarter section (10 acres). Well 32aca is in the NE quarter of the SW quarter of the NE quarter of section 32, township 18 south, range 45 east (see figure below).



# Reconnaissance of Hydrologic Monitoring Sites and Preliminary Monitoring Plan for the Vale, Oregon, Geothermal Area

By Marshall W. Gannett *and* Rodney R. Caldwell

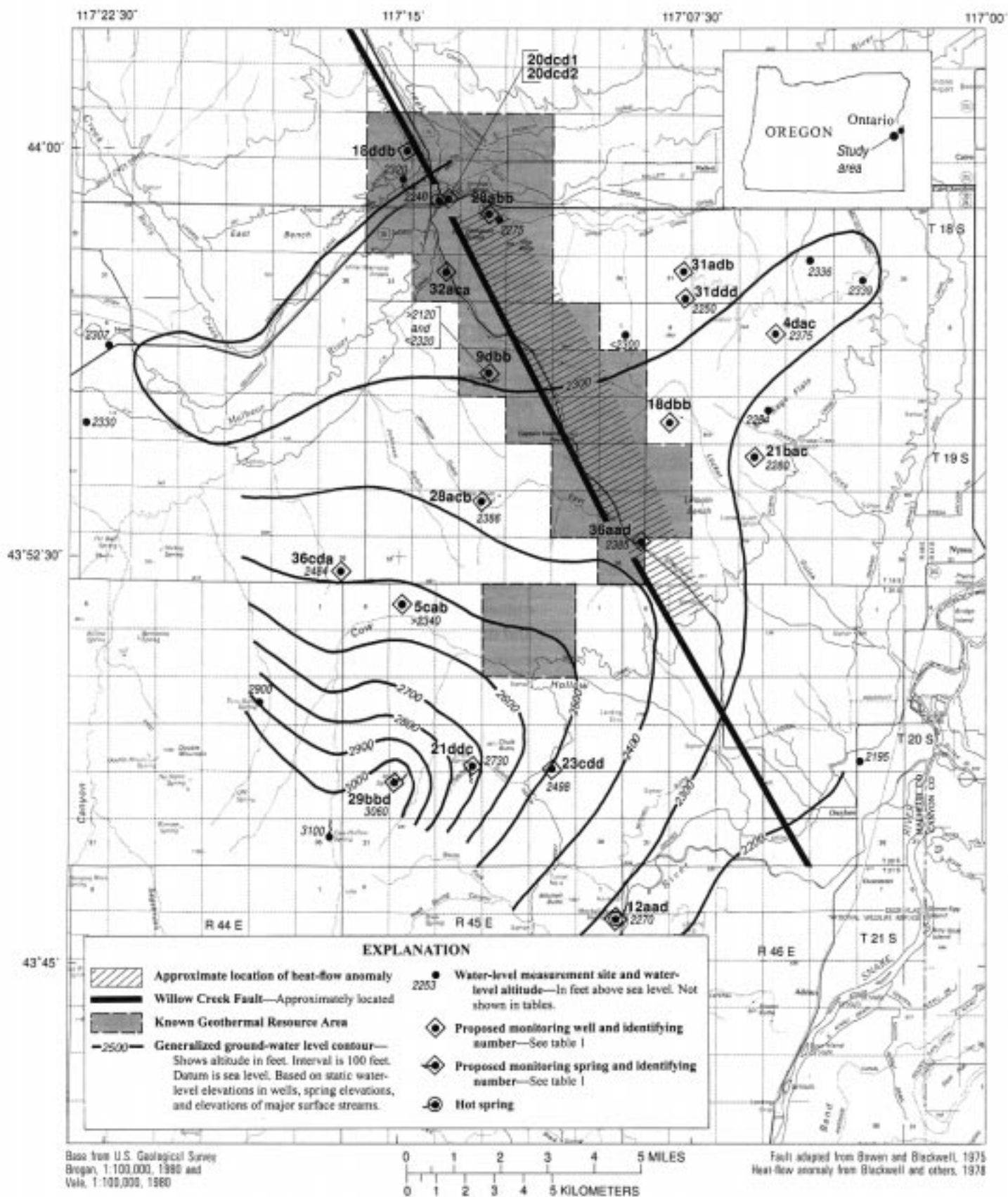
## Abstract

The Bonneville Power Administration is working with private industry to develop a geothermal demonstration project in the Known Geothermal Resources Area (KGRA) near Vale, Oregon. Hydrologic monitoring in the area is planned in order to evaluate any impacts from the proposed development. The hydrology in and around the Vale KGRA is not well known. Additionally, little is known about the targeted geothermal reservoir and the nature of its connection to the shallow ground-water system. Given this uncertainty, a variety of features were selected to ensure adequate monitoring coverage. Wells and springs in and around the geothermal area were evaluated, and 19 were selected as potential monitoring sites. In selecting wells and springs for monitoring, particular emphasis was placed on those with a known or probable connection with the geothermal system because they would most likely be the first to show any effects from development. The selected features include thermal wells in the hot-spring area near the town of Vale and a hot spring south of the KGRA. Several warm wells (70 to 90°F) near the KGRA were also selected because it is likely that the water produced from these wells includes a component of geothermal water. In order to identify any effects of development, it is necessary to have an understanding of natural and man-caused variations and trends prior to development. A quarterly measurement schedule is proposed to help characterize these variations and trends. It is anticipated that the proposed monitoring plan will be modified as exploration and development proceed and more is learned about the geothermal system.

## INTRODUCTION

In order to evaluate the practicality and economic viability of geothermal resources as an energy source for the Pacific Northwest, the Bonneville Power Administration is participating with private industry in developing a number of geothermal demonstration projects in Oregon. To assess the environmental impacts of geothermal development and to ensure that the proposed development proceeds in an environmentally responsible manner, environmental monitoring (including hydrologic monitoring) is either being conducted or is planned at each of the sites prior to development. Collection of predevelopment baseline data and monitoring data during exploration and development at the proposed demonstration projects will allow regulatory agencies to recognize and assess any effects of development, as well as the effects of any mitigation efforts.

The Known Geothermal Resources Area (KGRA) near Vale, Oregon, is one of the sites in the State selected for a demonstration project. The Vale geothermal area is in Malheur County in the far eastern part of Oregon, about 10 to 15 miles from the Oregon-Idaho border (fig. 1). The KGRA encompasses 36 square miles and includes a northwest-trending area of elevated crustal heat flow approximately 10 miles long and 2 miles wide (Blackwell and others, 1978). An area of hot springs occurs at the northern end of the heat flow anomaly immediately east of Vale (fig. 1). The maximum reported temperature at the hot springs is 194°F. This hot-spring area is the only natural hydrologic surface manifestation of the geothermal system in the KGRA; however, additional hot springs occur to the south of the KGRA. A shallow thermal aquifer that underlies an area of several acres near the Vale hot springs has been developed for a variety of uses, including domestic heating, grain drying, mushroom growing, and as a source of hot water for a slaughterhouse.



**Figure 1.** Location of the Vale, Oregon, Known Geothermal Resource Area; approximate location of the Willow Creek fault and associated heat-flow anomaly; generalized ground-water level contours; and proposed monitoring sites.

Production temperatures in wells in this aquifer are as high as 223°F (Gannett, 1988). The hot springs and the adjacent shallow thermal aquifer are thought to represent outflow from a deeper, and presumably hotter, geothermal system. The presence of such a system is suggested by chemical geothermometry, which indicates reservoir temperatures in excess of 300°F (Brown and others, 1980; Gannett, 1988), and by the size of the heat-flow anomaly. This deeper system is the target of proposed exploration and development.

The purpose for hydrologic monitoring in the vicinity of the Vale geothermal area is to detect any effects of geothermal development should they occur. In order to recognize such effects, the magnitude of preexisting or background variations in the hydrologic system must be known. Therefore, sufficient monitoring should take place prior to development to allow characterization of the preexisting variations and trends.

The purpose of this report is to describe the hydrologic features in and around the Vale KGRA suitable for hydrologic monitoring, describe the methodology used to select those features, report preliminary data collected during the process of locating the features, and present a preliminary monitoring program.

The project scope included a review of the literature on the Vale geothermal area, compilation of existing hydrologic information (particularly ground-water information), and 2 weeks of field reconnaissance to locate features that may serve as monitoring sites (in order to assess site suitability and collect preliminary data). This information was used to develop a preliminary hydrologic monitoring plan for the Vale geothermal area. The monitoring program will likely be refined as exploration and development proceed and more information on the geology and hydrology of the area becomes available. Additionally, as geothermal operations develop and other activities are planned, such as pumping of nonthermal water for cooling and reinjection of cooling water or geothermal effluent, additional monitoring will likely be required.

## Data Collection Methods

Springs and wells were plotted on 1:24,000-scale topographic maps, and their locations are reported by

township, range, section, and 10-acre subdivision within a section. The locations of some features were determined using a global positioning system (GPS) receiver with an accuracy of about 100 feet. Water levels were measured with either steel surveyor's tapes or calibrated electric tapes. Specific conductances were measured with an Orion conductivity meter that was calibrated to standard solutions. Temperatures were measured with either a mercury thermometer or a digital electronic thermometer. Information on field-located wells and springs was entered into the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Information System.

## Hydrogeology

The Vale geothermal area lies near the western margin of the Snake River Plain geologic province near its boundary with the Owyhee uplands. The geology of the Vale geothermal area is dominated by fine-grained sedimentary rocks deposited in a lake that occupied part of the western Snake River Plain during the Pliocene epoch (Brown, 1982; Ferns and Urbanczyk, 1990; Gannett, 1990). These rocks are underlain by basalt at a depth of approximately 650 feet beneath the Vale area (Brown, 1982); the depth increases to 1,000 feet in the southern part of the KGRA (Ferns and Urbanczyk, 1990). The geothermal area encompasses a series of normal faults that are part of a larger fault zone that extends at least 30 miles from the area of Adrian, Oregon, northwest through the geothermal area and up the Willow Creek Valley 20 miles northwest of Vale. Bowen and Blackwell (1975) refer to the main fault along this trend as the Willow Creek Fault (fig. 1). Blackwell and others (1978) show that the heat flow anomaly in the Vale area is coincident with the Willow Creek Fault, which suggests that the fault may provide a conduit for upward flow of thermal water.

Little information is available on the regional hydrogeology in the Vale area. A contour map showing a generalized water-level surface drawn from water-level elevations in wells and springs (fig. 1) indicates that ground water in the area of the KGRA flows north and east toward the Malheur and Snake Rivers from topographically high areas between the two rivers. This suggests that shallow thermal water flows northeastward from the Willow Creek Fault.



That hypothesis is supported by the presence of several wells that produce warm water (70 to 80°F) to the east of the fault zone. The general lack of wells and well temperature data to the west of the fault zone, however, make this observation inconclusive. Most of the wells shown in figure 1 are completed in either lacustrine sedimentary rock or alluvium.

## **HYDROLOGIC MONITORING**

Selection of potential monitoring sites was based on a careful review of information on wells and springs in and around the KGRA. Sources of information included published geologic reports and maps, topographic maps (with spring locations), Oregon water-well reports (well logs), and project files in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office in Vale. Candidate sites were visited in the field during the summer of 1992, and their suitability for long-term monitoring was determined on the basis of characteristics such as access, existence of pumps for sampling (wells only), possibility of obtaining accurate flow measurements (springs only), and representativeness.

The Vale KGRA includes both developed and undeveloped land. The northern one-third includes the city of Vale and the surrounding farmland. The southern two-thirds consists largely of rangeland managed by the BLM. Most of the wells available for monitoring are located in the northern part of the KGRA. The southern two-thirds of the KGRA has few suitable monitoring sites.

The nature of the hydrothermal system at Vale and its relationship to the surrounding regional and local ground-water flow systems are largely unknown. In light of this general lack of understanding, it was considered prudent to monitor a variety of features, both thermal and nonthermal. Because any effects of geothermal development are most likely to be seen first in the geothermal system itself, particular attention was focused on wells and springs with known or apparent close connections to the geothermal system. A list of proposed monitoring sites and preliminary field data are shown in table 1. The locations of the proposed sites are shown in figure 1. The main objective during this reconnaissance field work was to locate features and determine their suitability for monitoring purposes; few field data and no water

samples were collected. Additional information on selected wells and springs is presented in tables 2 and 3, respectively.

The only opportunities in the KGRA for directly monitoring geothermal fluids are in the hot-spring area east of Vale. Until the mid 1980's, hot water discharged from a series of small springs along the bank of the Malheur River. The hot springs no longer flow above river level, and the only natural discharge is presently from the banks below river level. Gannett (1988) attributed the decrease in hot-spring discharge and temperature to head losses caused by pumping of thermal water from the adjacent shallow aquifer. Existing geothermal test wells and production wells in the hot-spring area (table 2) now provide the best opportunities for sampling geothermal water and measuring temperature and water levels. Should the flow of thermal water to the shallow thermal water in the hot-spring area from the deep geothermal system be effected by development, temperatures and pressures in wells in the hot-spring area would respond accordingly. Monitoring wells in the hot-spring area would provide a qualitative check on flow to the hot-spring area, but only if pumping of water from the shallow thermal aquifer in the hot-spring area is carefully monitored also.

Monitoring the total discharge of thermal fluids from the geothermal system at Vale would be desirable; however, such measurement would be problematic because much of the discharge occurs directly to the stream. Measuring the flux of a conservative component of the geothermal water, such as chloride, into the Malheur River may provide an estimate of the total thermal water flow from the hot-spring area. This technique has been used in other geothermal areas in the Western United States, including several locations in the Oregon Cascade Range (Ingebritsen and others, 1989), Yellowstone (Norton and Friedman, 1985), and Long Valley California (Farrar and others, 1985). In the Vale geothermal area, estimation of the chloride flux would be accomplished by measuring the stream-flow and chloride concentrations in the river upstream and downstream of the hot-spring area and in Willow Creek, which enters the Malheur River at the hot-spring area. Testing the feasibility of this technique was beyond the scope of this reconnaissance study but would be informative.

**Table 1.** Description of and preliminary data from proposed monitoring sites in the vicinity of the Vale, Oregon, geothermal area  
[°F, degrees Fahrenheit; μ/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25° Celsius; psi, pounds per square inch; --, no data; KGRA, Known Geothermal Resource Area; BLM, Bureau of Land Management; >, greater than; NA, not applicable]

Location	Name of Feature	Description	Temperature (°F)	Specific conductance (μ/cm)	Depth of well (feet)	Depth to water (feet below land surface)
18S/45E 18ddb	Charles Burden Well	Domestic well 1 mile north of Vale	71	909	260	<sup>1</sup> 33
18S/45E 20dcd1	Oregon Trail Mushroom Company Production Well (Hammond Well 1)	Geothermal well in the Vale hot-spring area	223 (in 76 psi discharge line)	1,750	125	--
18S/45E 20dcd2	Robert Butler Geothermal Test Well 2	Unused geothermal test well in the Vale hot-spring area.	<sup>2</sup> 229	--	140	22.87
18S/45E 28abb	Robert Butler Well	Domestic well 1 mile east of the Vale hot-spring area	98.3	1,500	265	<sup>1</sup> 45
18S/45E 32aca	James Linville Well	Domestic well 1 mile south of Vale	78	1,515	213	<sup>1</sup> 155
18S/46E 31adb	Betty Wendt Well	Irrigation well 2 miles east of the KGRA	90	1,233	887	<sup>1</sup> 200
18S/46E 31ddd	Betty Wendt Well	Unused irrigation well 2 miles east of the Vale KGRA	<sup>1</sup> 76	--	757	<sup>1</sup> 355
19S/44E 36cda	Russell Land Co. Well	Stock well 3 miles west of the KGRA. One of few wells in the area	--	--	400	96.35
19S/45E 9dbb	BLM North Harper Well	Unused stock well near center of KGRA. One of few wells in the area	--	--	695	> 500
19S/45E 28acb	BLM Page Well	Unused stock well 1.5 miles west of the KGRA. One of few wells in the area.	"warm" <sup>1</sup>	--	622	463.60
19S/45E 36aad	County Landfill Well	Industrial well in southern part of KGRA. Only operating well in southern part of the KGRA	--	--	310	175.26
19S/46E 4dac	Rodger Finley Well	Domestic well 3 miles east of the Vale KGRA	79	767	575	<sup>1</sup> 400
19S/46E 18dbb	Martin Sayers Well	Stock well of unknown depth and temperature one half mile east of the KGRA. One of few wells in this area. Should be sampled and evaluated	--	--	--	490.12
19S/46E 21bac	Beef Northwest Well	Stock well 1.5 miles east of the KGRA	77	1,005	865	<sup>1</sup> 360
20S/45E 5cab	Russell Land Co. Well	Stock well 1.5 miles west of the southern KGRA. One of few wells in the area	--	--	320	--

**Table 1.** Description of and preliminary data from proposed monitoring sites in the vicinity of the Vale, Oregon, geothermal area—Continued

[°F, degrees Fahrenheit; μ/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25° Celsius; psi, pounds per square inch; --, no data; KGRA, Known Geothermal Resource Area; BLM, Bureau of Land Management; >, greater than; NA, not applicable]

Location	Name of Feature	Description	Temperature (°F)	Specific conductance (μ/cm)	Depth of well (feet)	Depth to water (feet below land surface)
20S/45E 21ddc	Chalk Spring	Nonthermal spring 2 miles south of the KGRA. One of the only hydrologic features in the area	70	817	NA	NA
20S/45E 23cdd	Magnas Ekangar Well	68 degree irrigation well 2 miles south of the KGRA	<sup>1</sup> 71	--	256	<sup>1</sup> 100
20S/45E 29bbd	Mud Spring	Nonthermal spring 3 miles southwest of the KGRA. One of the only hydrologic features in the area	67–70	307–322	NA	NA
21S/45E 12aad	Mitchell Butte Hot Spring	Hot spring 5 miles south of the KGRA. The closest geothermal feature outside of the KGRA	134–143	556	NA	NA

<sup>1</sup> Data from water well reports.

<sup>2</sup> Data from Gannett (1988).

The nearest geothermal features outside of the KGRA are 5 to 7 miles to the south along the Owyhee River. These include Mitchell Butte Hot Spring, Snively Hot Spring, the unnamed hot spring in T21S/R45E sec. 14, informally referred to as Siphon Hot Spring, and the shallow hot well at the ethanol plant in T21S/R45E sec. 13. The nature of the connection (if any) of these distant thermal springs to the geothermal system at Vale is not known. Given this uncertainty, some monitoring of these features is deemed appropriate. Because of its proximity to the Vale KGRA, Mitchell Butte Hot Spring (table 3) was chosen for monitoring.

There are a number of water wells around the KGRA that produce 70 to 90°F water from aquifers in the Tertiary sedimentary rocks (table 2). Many of these wells lie east of the heat-flow anomaly, and the water they produce may include some component of outflow from the geothermal system; therefore, some of these wells have been selected for monitoring. Evaluating the geochemistry of water from these wells may help determine the nature of any connection.

No wells are known to produce thermal water from aquifers in the shallow Quaternary alluvial gravels that cover the valley floors in the area.

Gannett (1990) showed that the source of recharge to the shallow alluvial gravel is predominantly a combination of irrigation canal leakage and deep percolation of irrigation water applied to fields. It is possible, however, that thermal water upwelling from underlying Tertiary sediments may be locally providing some recharge to shallow gravel aquifers. Although there are no anomalous temperatures reported in wells producing from the shallow gravel, elevated arsenic concentrations in some shallow wells in the Vale area suggest some localized contribution of thermal water to this aquifer. Because of this, some wells in the shallow alluvial aquifer in the vicinity of the KGRA should be monitored. Specific wells were not identified in this reconnaissance study.

Two nonthermal springs located south of the KGRA were selected for monitoring (table 3). These springs are the only features available in that area, and they may provide information on the chemistry of nonthermal ground water in the area and possibly on the isotopic composition of local precipitation.

**Table 2.** Data from selected wells in the vicinity of the Vale, Oregon, geothermal area  
[Primary use codes: D, domestic; G, geothermal; I, irrigation; IN, industrial; S, stock; U, unused. NA, not available]

Location	Owner	Date constructed	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude of land surface (feet)	Depth of well (feet)	Depth of casing or liner (feet)	Diameter of casing or line (inches)	Open interval	Primary use of well	Reported yield (gallons per minute)
18S/45E 18ddb	Charles Burden Well	8/89	43°59'56"	117°14'52"	2,370	260	260	4	160–260	D	100
18S/45E 20dcd1	Oregon Trail Mushroom Company	10/82	43°58'57"	117°13'50"	2,250	125	40	12	40–125	G	550
18S/45E 20dcd2	Robert Butler	9/83	43°58'57"	117°13'52"	2,250	140	39	8	39–140	U	125
18S/45E 28abb	Robert Butler	8/79	43°58'50"	117°12'46"	2,320	265	42	10	42–265	D	12
18S/45E 32aca	James Linville	9/91	43°57'49"	117°13'51"	2,290	213	213	4	143–153 163–183	D	15
18S/46E 31adb	Betty Wendt	12/74	43°57'49"	117°07'43"	2,490	887	60	16	60–887	I	50
18S/46E 31ddd	Betty Wendt	4/75	43°57'12"	117°07'34"	2,570	757	225	12	225–757	U	800
19S/44E 36cda	Russell Land Co.	9/78	43°52'09"	117°16'32"	2,580	400	40	10	40–400	S?	300
19S/45E 9dbb	Bureau of Land Management	NA	43°55'52"	117°12'49"	2,820	695	NA	8	NA	U	7
19S/45E 28acb	Bureau of Land Management	9/67	43°53'30"	117°12'52"	2,850	622	620		540–620	U	12
19S/45E 36aad	Malheur County Landfill	6/82	43°52'41"	117°08'43"	2,550	310	119	6	113–310	IN	50
19S/46E 4dac	Rodger Finley	8/79	43°56'34"	117°05'17"	2,610	575	205	8	205–575	D	15
19S/46E 18dbb	Martin Sayers	1920's	43°55'01"	117°08'00"	2,780	NA	NA	NA	NA	S	NA
19S/46E 21bac	Beef Northwest	12/89	43°54'23"	117°05'53"	2,640	865	617	12	360–420 460–480 560–580	S	400
20S/45E 5cab	Russell Land Co.	1958?	43°51'35"	117°14'54"	2,660	320	90	NA	NA	S	NA
20S/45E 23cdd	Magnas Ekangar Well	7/92	43°48'35"	117°11'12"	2,540	256	90	12	70–90	I	1,400

**Table 3.** Data from selected springs in the vicinity of the Vale, Oregon, geothermal area  
[°F, degrees Fahrenheit]

Location	Spring name	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude of land surface (feet)	Discharge (gallons per minute)	Temperature (°F)	Comments
20S/45E 21ddc	Chalk Spring	43°48'40"	117°13'05"	2,735	<sup>1</sup> 0.1	70	Spring modified for stock watering, discharges from pipe into trough
20S/45E 29bbd	Mud Spring	43°48'25"	117°15'02"	3,060		70	Diffuse discharge, may be difficult to measure flow rate
21S/45E 12aad	Mitchell Butte Hot Spring	43°45'47"	117°09'20"	2,270	<sup>2</sup> 16	143	Discharges from multiple orifices, flow measurement will be difficult

<sup>1</sup> Includes flow from pipe only, additional seepage occurs in streambed.

<sup>2</sup> From Brown and others (1980).

To aid in differentiating development-related changes in the hydrologic system from natural changes due to climate, it would be desirable to monitor water levels in a few wells clearly outside of the influences of the geothermal system. Such wells would preferably be completed in bedrock units and located at least 10 to 15 miles from the KGRA. These wells also should be located away from the influence of any high-volume ground-water pumping. Suitable wells were not located as part of this project.

The chemical parameters for which monitoring is recommended are listed in Appendix 1. These parameters are, for the most part, those recommended in the "Guidelines for Acquiring Environmental Baseline Data on Federal Geothermal Leases," developed by the U.S. Department of the Interior Geothermal Environmental Advisory Panel (1977). The recommended parameters include the major ions and minor constituents commonly found in thermal and nonthermal waters, as well as selected trace elements. Limited stable isotope data also should be collected to help characterize different types of water in the area. After the initial sampling periods and evaluation of the data, a smaller number of parameters may be selected for long-term monitoring. Temperature/depth profiles should be measured periodically in wells intersecting thermal aquifers. All sampling and data collection should be conducted according to U.S. Geological Survey standards and protocols, paying particular attention to special requirements for thermal waters.

Meteorological data must be available in order to assess trends in hydrologic data. A long-term weather station is operated about 10 miles east of Vale at the Oregon State University Malheur [Agricultural] Experiment Station. Data from this weather station should suffice for the Vale KGRA; however, the list of parameters collected at this station should be checked for completeness when hydrologic monitoring begins.

## Monitoring Schedule

The primary objective of hydrologic monitoring in the Vale geothermal area is to detect any effects that development of the geothermal system might have on the hot spring in the area, on the existing geothermal users in the hot-spring area near Vale, and on users of domestic and irrigation wells that may have an indirect connection to the geothermal system. To recognize effects of development, it is necessary to have a firm understanding of the range of variations and long-term trends in the monitored parameters prior to development. Data presented by Gannett (1988) show both seasonal variability and long-term trends in water levels in the hot-spring area. Previous data collected from other thermal features near the Vale geothermal area have not been analyzed, and the variation in data collection techniques may make comparisons problematic.

The proposed quarterly data collection schedule is designed to provide information on seasonal variability as well as on long-term trends (table 4). Data collection can be less frequent if no seasonal variations are observed, or they are characterized to the point where annual or semiannual monitoring is sufficient.

Well operation must be taken into consideration when scheduling water-level measurements or sampling. Water-level measurements are best taken when the well has been idle for some period of time. In contrast, wells must be pumping to obtain water samples. Domestic, stock, irrigation, and industrial wells were selected for sampling. The pumps of most domestic wells and many stock wells can be operated to obtain water samples at any time. Some stock wells may have the pump motors or generators removed during the winter.

The pumping rates of stock and domestic wells are low and pumping is discontinuous, so residual draw-down effects are minimal and reasonable water levels can be obtained any time. Two of the wells proposed for monitoring are irrigation wells that are operated for only a few months each year. It may be impractical to sample these wells outside of the regular irrigation season because of electrical demand charges. Conversely, water levels may be questionable during the irrigation season due to residual drawdown effects.

Two of the wells selected, the North Harper Well and the Page Well, are unused stock wells on BLM land. These are considered critical as they are the only wells in or near the central part of the KGRA. In order to sample these wells, it will be necessary to install pumps. Installation of permanent dedicated sampling pumps in these wells would be desirable.

**Table 4.** Measurement and sampling schedule for monitoring in the Vale, Oregon, geothermal area

[Frequency of measurement or sample collection: Q, quarterly; S, semiannually; A, annually; \*, measurement or sampling will be done if well can be pumped; --, measurement or sample not applicable or practicable]

Location	Name of feature	Water level	Temperature conductance	Discharge	Chemical sample
18S/45E 18ddb	Charles Burden Well	Q	Q	--	A
18S/45E 20dcd1	Oregon Trail Mushroom Company Production Well (Hammond Well #1)	--	Q	--	A
18S/45E 20dcd2	Robert Butler Geothermal Test Well #2	Q	--	--	--
18S/45E 28abb	Robert Butler Well	Q	Q	--	A
18S/45E 32aca	James Linville Well	Q	Q	--	A
18S/46E 31adb	Betty Wendt Well	--	--	--	A
18S/46E 31ddd	Betty Wendt Well	Q	--	--	--
19S/44E 36cda	Russell Land Co. Well	Q	S*	--	A
19S/45E 9dbb	BLM North Harper Well	Q	Q	--	S
19S/45E 28acb	BLM Page Well	Q	Q	--	S
19S/45E 36aad	County Landfill Well	Q	Q	--	S
19S/46E 4dac	Rodger Finley Well	Q	Q	--	A
19S/46E 18dbb	Martin Sayers Well	Q	S*	--	A
19S/46E 21bac	Beef Northwest Well	Q	Q	--	A/S
20S/45E 5cab	Russell Land Co. Well	Q	S*	--	A
20S/45E 21ddc	Chalk Spring	--	Q	Q	A/S
20S/45E 23cdd	Magnas Ekangar Well	Q	Q*	--	A/S
20S/45E 29bbd	Mud Spring	--	Q	Q	A/S
21S/45E 12aad	Mitchell Butte Hot Spring	--	Q	Q	Q

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## APPENDIX 1

Physical parameters, chemical constituents and isotopes for monitoring sites (includes analytical methods and detection limits for laboratory analyses).

### A. Field parameters

1. pH, alkalinity, temperature, conductivity
2. dissolved oxygen, when feasible (for instance, dissolved oxygen is not meaningful when samples are obtained from wells equipped with air-jet pumps)

### B. Major chemistry (dissolved unless otherwise stated) and physical parameters (concentration or unit values listed by each parameter are the minimum detection levels that will be used)

#### 1. Major ions:

Ca, atomic absorption, 0.1 mg/L

Mg, atomic absorption, 0.1 mg/L

Na, atomic absorption, 0.1 mg/L

K, atomic absorption, 0.1 mg/L

HCO<sub>3</sub>, titration, 1 mg/L

Cl, ion chromatography, 1 mg/L

SO<sub>4</sub>, ion chromatography, 1 mg/L

F, ion chromatography, 10 µg/L

#### 2. Minor constituents:

SiO<sub>2</sub>, colorimetry, molybdate blue, 0.1 mg/L

Al, atomic emission, DG plasma, 10 µg/L

Fe, atomic absorption, 10 µg/L

Mn, atomic absorption, 10 µg/L

#### 3. Nutrients:

total P, colorimetry, 10 µg/L

ortho P, colorimetry, 10 µg/L

NO<sub>2</sub> + NO<sub>3</sub>, colorimetry, 0.1 mg/L

NH<sub>4</sub>, colorimetry, 0.01 mg/L

#### 4. Dissolved solids, residue on evaporation, 1 mg/L

#### 5. Turbidity, nephelometry, 0.1 NTU

### C. Isotopes (dissolved):

1. oxygen-18/oxygen-16, mass spectrometry, +/- 0.15 o/oo
2. deuterium/protium, mass spectrometry, +/- 1.5 o/oo

### D. Trace elements (dissolved):

1. As, atomic absorption, 1 µg/L
2. Ag, atomic absorption, graphite furnace, 1 µg/L
3. B, atomic emission, DC plasma, 10 µg/L
4. Ba, atomic absorption, 100 µg/L
5. Cd, atomic absorption, 10 µg/L
6. Cr, DC plasma, 1 µg/L
7. Cu, atomic absorption, 10 µg/L
8. Hg, atomic absorption, flameless, 0.1 µg/L
9. Li, atomic absorption, 10 µg/L
10. Mo, atomic absorption, 1 µg/L
11. Pb, atomic absorption, graphite furnace, 1 µg/L
12. Se, atomic absorption, 1 µg/L
13. Sr, atomic absorption, 10 µg/L
14. Zn, atomic absorption, 10 µg/L

### E. Dissolved gases

1. CO<sub>2</sub>, calibrated from alkalinity titration
2. H<sub>2</sub>S, calculated from total recoverable sulfide; total recoverable sulfide determined by iodometric titrimetry with detection limit of 0.5 mg/L as S
3. NH<sub>3</sub>, calculated from ammonium ion concentration

### F. Radon-222 (dissolved), liquid scintillation, 70 pCi/L

### G. Gross radioactivity (dissolved):

gross alpha, residue proc., 0.4 µg/L (U),  
0.4 pCi/L (Th-230)

gross beta, residue proc., 0.4 pCi/L  
(Sr-90/Y-90, Cs-137)

### H. Vertical temperature profiles in wells