



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Pullman Unveils Aquifer-Themed Bus to Boost Water Conservation Awareness

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PULLMAN – The city of Pullman announced the addition of a new hybrid bus to the Pullman Transit fixed-route service. The bus features a stunning external wrap that reflects our region’s unique hydrogeology and landscape. Messaging displayed inside and outside the bus will spread awareness about our regional dependence on the Grande Ronde Aquifer for potable water.

The new aquifer-themed bus is scheduled to begin serving Pullman residents on August 24, 2020. An unveiling ceremony will take place on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 (limited to 10 people in keeping with Washington’s current Phase 3 social gathering guidelines). **The new bus will be available for viewing at Pullman Transit (located at 775 Guy Street) by any interested media outlets on August 5 between 10 and 11 a.m.** City of Pullman representatives will be on-hand to answer any questions and/or provide additional information.

The Grande Ronde Aquifer is the source of drinking water for Pullman, providing (on average) 2.5 million gallons of water to residents each day. This critical water resource is part of the Palouse Groundwater Basin and is shared regionally by four major water suppliers (Pullman, Moscow, WSU, and UI), as well as other nearby towns and rural businesses/residents, who all pull groundwater from the basin. Over the last 85 years, the Grande Ronde Aquifer water level has receded by more than 100 feet, and it continues to decline. If left uncorrected, this trend could drastically affect the region and our ability to obtain and provide fresh, potable water.

The bus wrap (designed locally by Dave Hoyt and installed by SpeedPro of Spokane) abstractly depicts the Grande Ronde Aquifer, situated underneath the characteristic rolling hills of Pullman and the greater-Palouse, populated with distinctive landmarks and geographic features (including Kamiak Butte, Moscow Mountain, the Bryan Clock Tower, and the Greystone Church). The interior of the bus houses a number of posters aimed to not only educate riders about the Grande Ronde Aquifer and the city of Pullman’s water usage, but also provide specific examples of ways to help conserve water. Suggested conservation measures focus on habit-changing practices (on both an individual and community-wide level) with the anticipated water savings identified numerically and also in terms of how much resulting water would fit inside WSU’s Martin Stadium. For example, decreasing your showers by just three minutes daily could save approximately 4,200 gallons per year; if one out of two Pullman residents were successful in this effort, the amount of water saved annually could fill Martin Stadium three times. This is a substantial amount of water savings when you consider that the City of Pullman annually pumps enough water to fill Martin Stadium forty-four times.