

**Crook/ Wheeler County Farm Bureau**  
**498 South East Lynn Blvd. Prineville, OR 97754**

Oregon DEQ  
Water Quality Division  
811 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

DEQ  
APR 14 2011  
Water Quality

ATT: Andrea Matzke

Ms. Matzke:

Crook-Wheeler County Farm Bureau represents farmers who want to protect our land and water so it will be profitable for generations to come. To do this we participate in Water Shed Council, NRCS programs, Soil and Water Conservation District programs and committees such as the LAC, we get continued education on pesticide and fertilizer use and application and participate in a host of other boards or committees to be proactive in sustaining agriculture for the future. We want the water quality to be of beneficial use for others and ourselves. We believe Area Plans and Rules have beneficially improved water quality in Oregon.

It is critical to us that any water quality regulation of farming practices remain under the direction and enforcement of the Department of Agriculture. All Area Plans and Rules must be economically reasonable, we are concerned that these new rules would regulate farmers and ranchers out of business in Oregon. This seems to be counterintuitive to producing the best quality food and fiber, not only for Oregon but for the US. We are opposed to any attempt by DEQ to directly regulate farming practices through any mechanism, particularly "Implementation-Ready" TMDLs. Any changes to water quality management needs to be based on best available soil, crop, and animal science that is reasonable and practical to modern production agriculture.

We support the formal comments and suggested rule language changes submitted by the Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB). As OFB is an active participant in the DEQ stakeholder group, we know they seek to find a positive balance between the need to maintain water quality standards in Oregon and keeping farm and ranch families in business.

Thank you for taking into consideration all written and oral comments as we are all very effected by your decisions.

Sincerely,

*Doug Bacon Pres*

Crook-Wheeler County Farm Bureau