

Onsite Program Wildfire Recovery and the Three Basin Rule

Deb Mailander and Mike Kucinski
Water Quality Division

May 19, 2023

Environmental Quality Commission Meeting

Onsite Program Wildfire Recovery and the Three Basin Rule

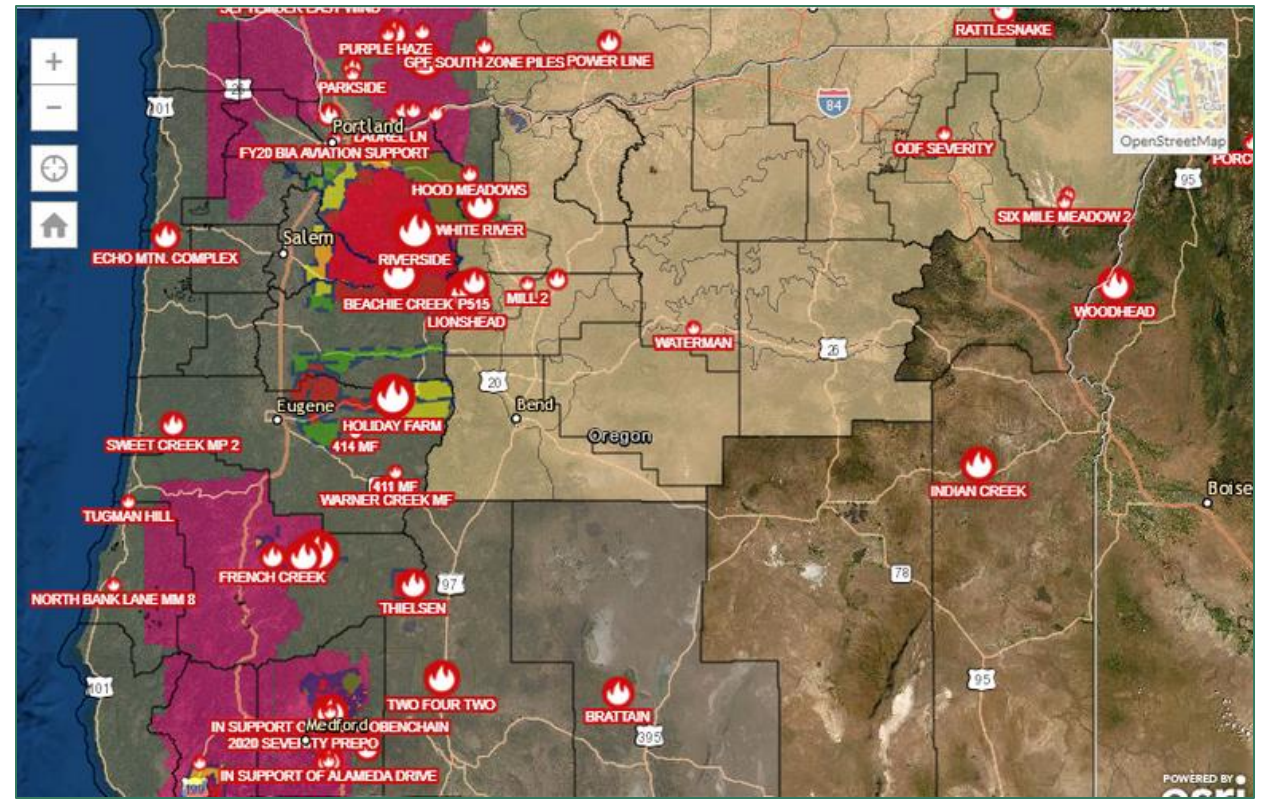
Presentation Outline

- 2020 Wildfire Impacts
- Onsite Program Response
- Financial Aid for Wildfire Recovery
- Natural Disaster Preparedness
- Overview of the Three Basin Rule
- Onsite Program and the Three Basin Rule



2020 Wildfire Impacts

- Catastrophic wildfires across Western Oregon
- Over 4,000 properties damaged
- Federal Emergency Declared September 15, 2020
- Oregon Executive Order No. 20-60



Rebuilding Efforts

Permitting and Technical Assistance



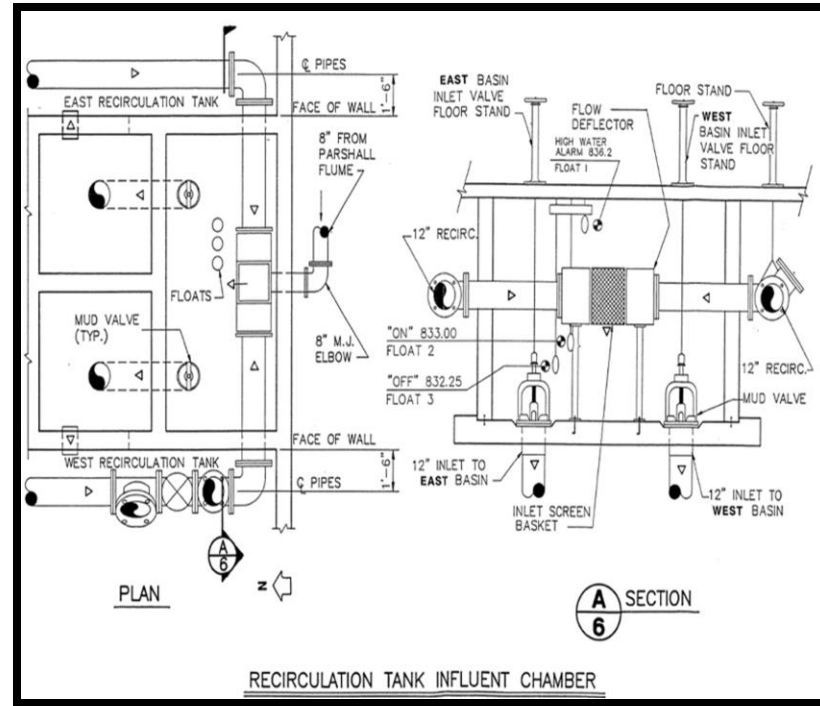
Disaster Recovery

[After the 2020 Wildfires](#)

[After the Fire: Septic Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Después del Incendio: Sistemas Sépticos Preguntas frecuentes](#)

[Disaster Planning and Response Handbook for Onsite Septic Systems](#)



Financial Assistance for Recovery

\$15M funding for Septic Repair & Replacement

Onsite Septic Financial Aid Program - 2021



- Recovery assistance for victims of the 2020 Wildfires.
- Economic hardship relief for low and moderate income households and property owners.
- Water quality improvements for impaired waterbodies.

Onsite Septic Financial Aid Program

Round 1 Wildfire Awards

Funding Recipient	Funding allocated	Estimated new or repaired septic systems	Location and purpose
Craft 3	\$2,155,000.00	160	Counties identified in Executive Order 20-60
Eugene Water and Electric Board	\$1,592,410.00	115	Lane County Holiday Farm Fire
Homes for Good	\$575,431.00	1 new system serving 30 households	Lane County Lazy Days Manufactured Home Park to provide 20 permanent affordable housing sites and additional short term rental sites
Lincoln County	\$1,164,924.00	150	Lincoln County Echo Mountain Fire
Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments	\$2,000,000.00	200	Santiam Canyon Fire Recovery

Onsite Septic Financial Aid

Round 2 Statewide Awards

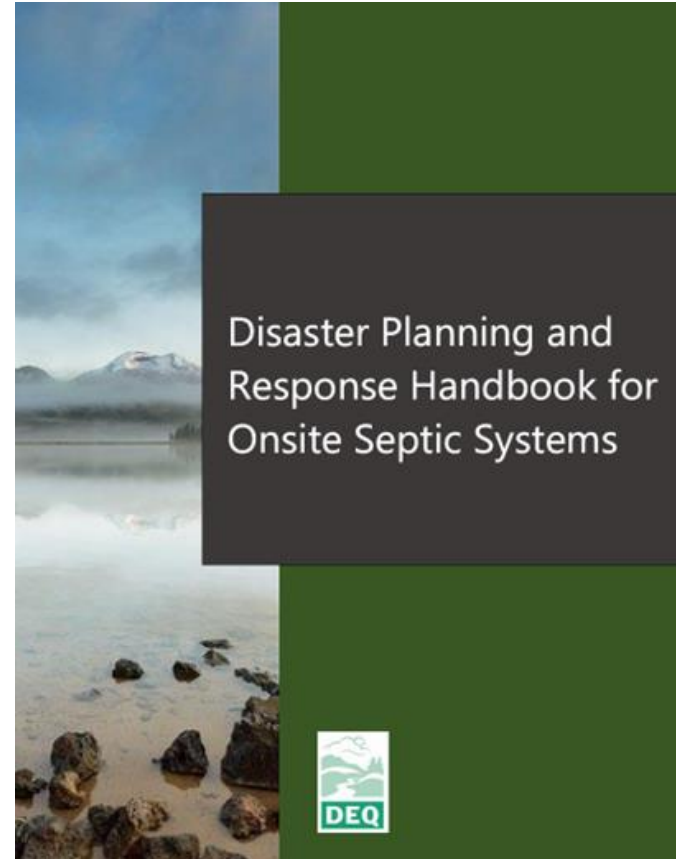
Organization	Funding Allocated	Geographic Area
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council	\$1,500,000	Jefferson, Crook, Deschutes counties
Tillamook County	\$1,500,000	Tillamook, Columbia, Clatsop counties
Craft3	\$1,200,000	Statewide
Clean Water Services	\$1,000,000	Washington county
Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District	\$800,000	Clackamas county



Onsite Program Disaster Preparation and Response

Lessons Learned from the 2020 Wildfires

- Coordinate and Provide Technical Assistance
- Assess and Communicate Funding Needs
- Plan and Prepare: Natural Disaster Handbook

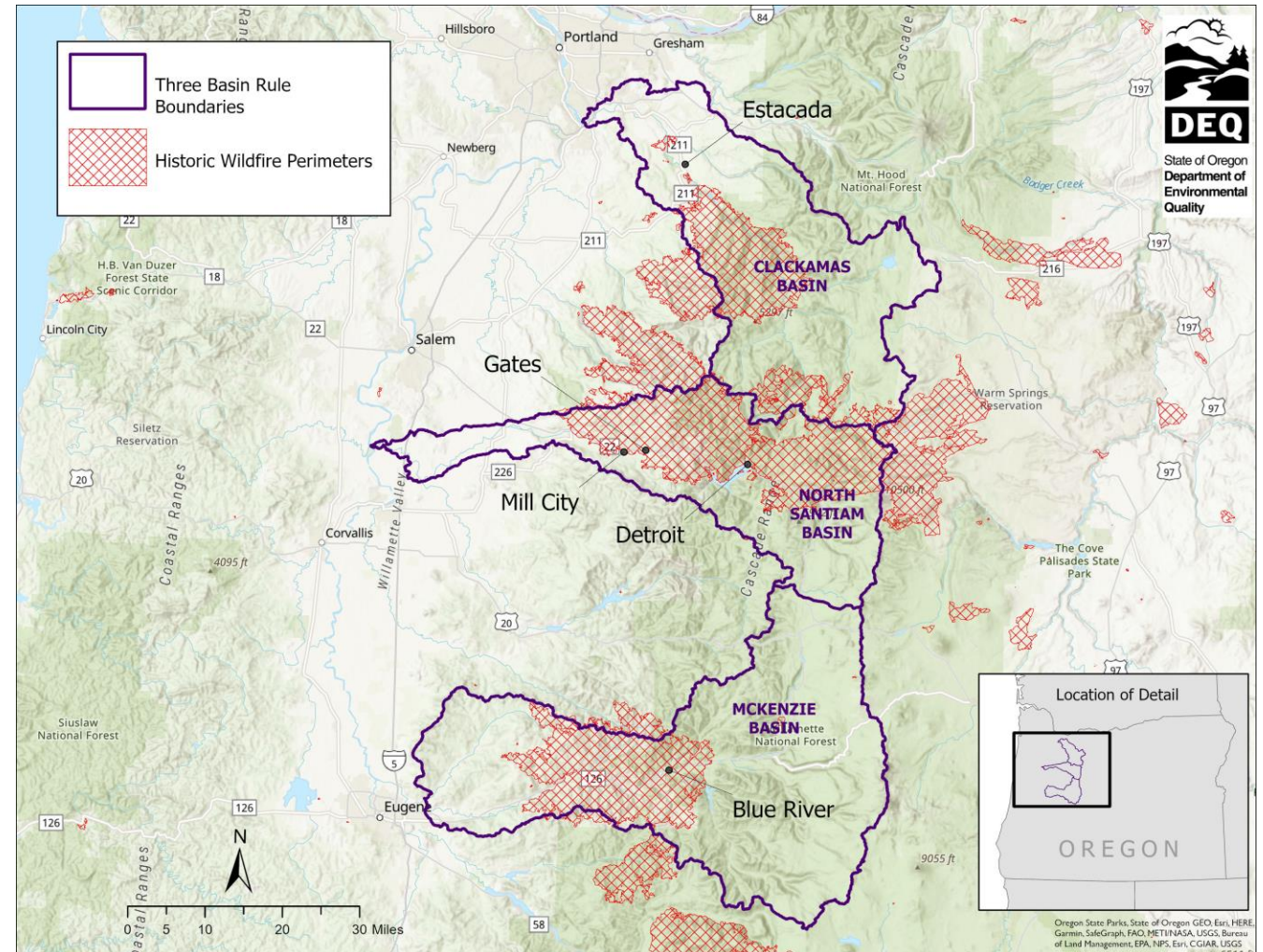


Your Wildfire Checklist

- Flag or fence off all system components.
- Communicate with emergency response teams and homeowners to prevent septic system damage during cleanup.
- Avoid exposure to toxic materials such as asbestos.
- Keep protective gear on hand before they are needed.

Three Basin Rule

- OAR 340-041-0350
- Originally adopted in 1976
- Drinking water source protection
 - Clackamas
 - North Santiam
 - McKenzie
- Significantly amended in 1995



Three Basin Rule

- EQC engagement
- Examples of EQC actions
- Wildfire recovery and affordable housing



Overview of Onsite Septic Permitting

Small Systems up to 2,500 GPD

- Permits issued at county level
- Small systems with residential waste strength
- Site evaluations required
- Construction and installation permits: no ongoing monitoring or reporting
- Does not require Three Basin Rule evaluation

Large Systems over 2500 GPD

- Permits issued by DEQ
- Larger systems or systems with high waste
- Site evaluation and groundwater review required
- 10-year permits with annual reporting requirements
- ** Three Basin Rule applies if 5,000 GPD or larger for new or expanded systems.

Onsite Systems That Do Not Require Three Basin Rule Consideration

- Individual family residences
- Other systems that are typically under 5,000 GPD
 - Full-service restaurant with seating for 120 people
 - Mobile home park with 19 spaces
 - Shopping center with small shops and restaurants
 - Campgrounds



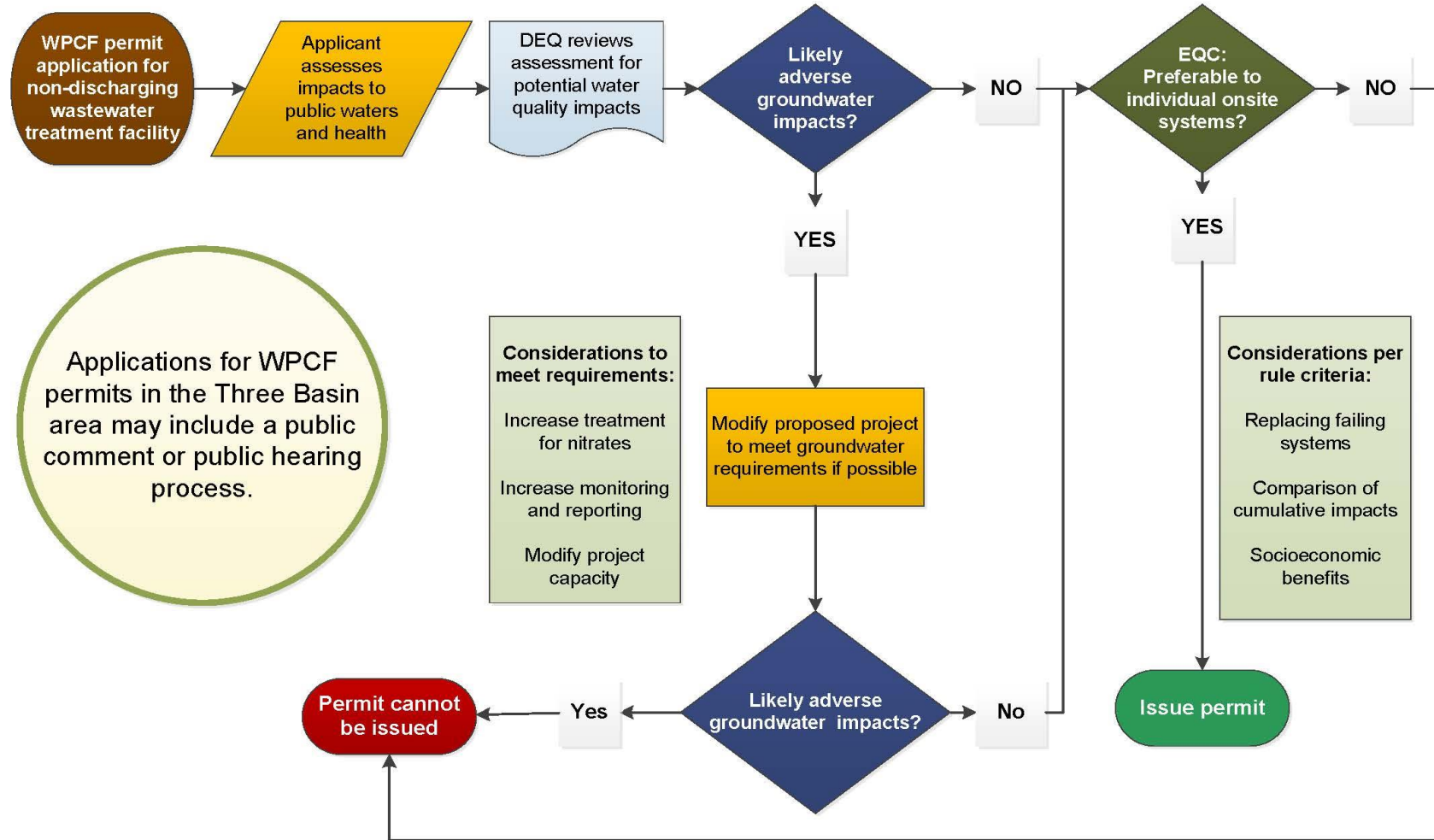
Three Basin Rule – Onsite Program

- Applies within the three designated subbasins of the North Santiam, McKenzie and Clackamas Rivers to new or expanded septic systems that add 5,000 gallons per day or more of wastewater treatment
- Three main protections under the rule
 - Ensuring that groundwater requirements are met and no surface discharges
 - Ensuring best practices in permitting including certified maintenance operator and monitoring and reporting requirements
 - EQC finding that benefits of a wastewater treatment facility are preferable to multiple individual onsite systems
- DEQ will bring detailed proposals and recommendations to the EQC for consideration
 - Draft permit and application
 - Groundwater and other technical reports
 - Summary of public engagement and any comments
 - Any water quality and public health considerations

Onsite Septic Water Pollution Control Facility Permits & Three Basin Rule

OAR 340-041-0350

The Three Basin Rule applies to the North Santiam, McKenzie, and Clackamas basins, for wastewater facilities treating 5,000 or more gallons per day.



Three Basin Rule – Next Steps

- DEQ anticipates receiving the first application late summer: Homes for Good development at Lazy Days Manufactured Home Park
- Additional applications may come in for Blue River on the McKenzie River or for the Santiam Canyon communities in late 2023 or 2024
- Each site and application will have unique factors depending on flow, system type and distance to ground and surface waters. DEQ will provide details and request an action item on regularly scheduled EQC meeting agenda
- **Questions?**