



State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

# Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Jan. 11, 2024

Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin TMDL

This package contains the following documents:

- Notice of Rulemaking (with Fiscal Impact Statement, Racial Equity Statement and Environmental Justice Considerations)
- Links to draft TMDLs and WQMP reports, for adoption by reference, and draft TMDL Technical Support Document
- Draft Rules

## Note for Readers:

This package contains multiple documents. If you want to read more than one document at a time, you can open multiple copies of this PDF by downloading the PDF and then opening it in Adobe. You can then either:

- Click on the “Windows” item in the top ribbon
- Click on “New Window”
- A second copy of the PDF will open in a new window

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# Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Introduction .....                                     | 1  |
| Request for Other Options .....                        | 1  |
| Overview .....   | 1  |
| Procedural Summary.....                                | 2  |
| Statement of need.....                                 | 4  |
| Rules affected, authorities, supporting documents..... | 5  |
| Documents relied on for rulemaking.....                | 5  |
| Fee Analysis.....                                      | 6  |
| Statement of fiscal and economic impact.....           | 7  |
| Housing cost .....                                     | 17 |
| Racial equity.....                                     | 17 |
| Environmental justice considerations .....             | 17 |
| Federal relationship.....                              | 19 |
| Land use .....   | 20 |
| EQC Prior Involvement.....                             | 21 |
| Advisory Committee .....                               | 22 |
| Public Engagement .....                                | 24 |
| Accessibility Information.....                         | 25 |
| Supporting documents .....                             | 26 |
| Draft Rules .....                                      | 27 |

# Introduction

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites public input on proposed permanent rule amendments to chapter 340 of the Oregon Administrative Rules.

## Request for Other Options

During the public notice period, DEQ asks for public comment on whether there are other options for achieving the rules' substantive goals while reducing the rules' negative economic impact on business.

## Overview

Consistent with Oregon Revised Statute 468B.110 and OAR chapter 340 division 42, DEQ proposes the draft Total Maximum Daily Load and Water Quality Management Plan for the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin to address temperature impairments. Following public comment, the TMDL and Water Quality Management Plan will be proposed for adoption by Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission, by reference, into OAR 340-042-0090. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will review the TMDL by September 15, 2024, after the commission adopts the rule.

DEQ is under a court order to update and replace this temperature TMDL to be consistent with the current temperature standards. This TMDL must be updated because it was based, in part on the Natural Conditions Criterion, a section of the temperature standard that was subject to litigation and has since been disapproved by EPA. The court order identifies the schedule for EPA approval or disapproval of the replacement TMDL. This temperature TMDL replacement for the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin replaces the current Sandy Subbasin 2005 temperature TMDL to be consistent with the current temperature standards.

The Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin Water Quality Management Plan proposed for adoption will include bacteria management actions included in the 2005 Sandy River Basin TMDL document. The Water Quality Management Plan will not include any new requirements associated with the bacteria management. Entities identified in the 2005 document as responsible for implementing bacteria management actions will continue to implement those actions. This addition is a housekeeping item for efficiency and convenience.

The federal Clean Water Act and implementing regulations require Oregon to biennially submit, for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval, a list of all impaired waterways in the state. The act also requires Oregon to establish TMDLs for pollutants in waters listed as impaired. The biennial list submittal must include a priority ranking of TMDL development and identify waters targeted for TMDL development within the next two years.

# Procedural Summary

## More information

Information about this rulemaking is on this rulemaking's web page: [Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin TMDL](#)

## Public Hearings

DEQ plans to hold one public hearing. Anyone can attend a hearing in person, or by webinar or teleconference.

Temperature TMDL Replacement: Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin public hearing

**Date:** Friday, Feb. 16, 2024

**Start time:** 1:30 p.m.

### [Join via Zoom](#)

Click on the link above or copy and paste to your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84456976921>

### **Join by phone:**

Call-in number: 1-719-359-4580

Meeting ID: 844 5697 6921

Instructions on how to join webinar or teleconference: [Instructions](#)

## How to comment on this rulemaking proposal

DEQ is asking for public comment on the proposed rules. Anyone can submit comments and questions about this rulemaking. DEQ will accept comments by email, postal mail or verbally at the public hearing.

- **Email:** Send comments by email to: [Sandy.SubbasinTMDL@DEQ.oregon.gov](mailto:Sandy.SubbasinTMDL@DEQ.oregon.gov)
- **Postal mail:** Oregon DEQ, Attn: Michele Martin, Water Quality, 700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600, Portland, Oregon 97232-4100
- **At public hearing:** 1:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 16, 2024

## Comment deadline

DEQ will only consider comments on the proposed rules that DEQ receives by 4 p.m., on Feb. 26, 2024.

## **Note for public university students:**

ORS 192.345(29) allows Oregon public university and OHSU students to protect their university email addresses from disclosure under Oregon’s public records law. If you are an Oregon public university or OHSU student, notify DEQ that you wish to keep your email address confidential.

## **Sign up for rulemaking notices**

Get email or text updates about this rulemaking by either:

- Signing up through this link: [GovDelivery](#) or
- Signing up on the rulemaking web site: [Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin TMDL](#).

## **What will happen next?**

DEQ will include a written response to comments in a staff report DEQ will submit to the Environmental Quality Commission, DEQ’s governing body. DEQ may modify the rule proposal based on the comments.

Proposed rules only become effective if the Environmental Quality Commission adopts them. DEQ intends to submit the proposed rule changes to the commission at their meeting on July 30-31, 2024. DEQ intends to submit the proposed rule changes to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency following the commission’s adoption.

# **Bacteria management actions**

The Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin Water Quality Management Plan proposed for adoption will include bacteria management actions included in the 2005 Sandy River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load document. The WQMP will not include any new requirements associated with the bacteria management. Entities identified in the 2005 document that are responsible for implementing bacteria management actions will continue to implement those actions. This addition is a housekeeping item for efficiency and convenience.

## **Statement of need**

### **What need would the proposed rule address?**

In 2013, the United States Environmental Protection Agency disapproved the Natural Conditions Criterion contained in Oregon's water quality standard for temperature due to the 2012 U.S. District Court decision for *NWEA v. EPA*, 855 F. Supp. 2d 1199 (D. Or., 2012). This portion of the temperature water quality standard was used in most temperature TMDLs issued from 2003 through 2012. On Oct. 4, 2019, the U.S. District Court issued a judgment for *NWEA v. EPA*, No. 3:12-cv-01751-HZ (D. Or., Oct. 4, 2019) and required DEQ and USEPA to replace 15 Oregon temperature TMDLs that were based on the Natural Conditions Criterion and to reissue the temperature TMDLs based on the remaining elements of the temperature water quality standard. This temperature TMDL replacement for the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin is one of the required TMDLs to be replaced for temperature.

### **How would the proposed rule address the need?**

The proposed rule would meet the requirements of temperature replacement according to the court order.

### **How will DEQ know the rule addressed the need?**

The rule will be adopted by the Environmental Quality Commission and DEQ would submit the TMDL to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval or disapproval by Sept. 15, 2024.

# Rules affected, authorities, supporting documents

## Lead division

Water Quality

## Program or activity

Watershed Management

## Chapter 340 action

Adopt: 340-042-0090

| Statutory Authority - ORS |         |          |          |          |
|---------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 468.020                   | 468.065 | 468B.020 | 468B.030 | 468B.035 |
| 468B.110                  |         |          |          |          |

| Statutes Implemented - ORS |          |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|
| 468B.020                   | 468B.110 |  |  |  |

## Documents relied on for rulemaking

| Document title   | Document location   |
|--|---|
| DEQ's Oregon Administrative Rules 340-042-0080 Implementing a Total Maximum Daily Load | <a href="https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=1459">secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=1459</a> |
| Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin TMDL Replacement rulemaking webpage                      | <a href="https://www.oregon.gov/deq/rulemaking/Pages/sandytempTMDL.aspx">https://www.oregon.gov/deq/rulemaking/Pages/sandytempTMDL.aspx</a>                                       |

# Fee Analysis

This rulemaking does not involve fees.



# Statement of fiscal and economic impact

## Fiscal and economic impact overview

The federal Clean Water Act requires states, or EPA, to develop a TMDL for each water body on the state's polluted waters list, also known as the 303(d) list. The TMDL process is one strategy used to clean up polluted waters. Issuance and subsequent implementation for the proposed TMDL and WQMP may have fiscal or economic impacts (both positive and negative) on businesses, farms and ranches, forestlands, and federal, state, county, and city lands or operations in the Lower Columbia-Sandy River Subbasin. DEQ is not able to quantify costs, but generally, the costs of meeting the water quality standard for temperature, and associated TMDL load and wasteload allocations will be minimal for those responsible persons, including Designated Management Agencies that have been implementing existing TMDLs for temperature. Requirements in the WQMP that existing DMAs have not previously implemented may result in additional costs. New DMAs that will be required to develop plans will likely incur costs to develop and implement a plan, report annually, and conduct a review every five years, according to the requirements in the WQMP.

This fiscal impact statement does not quantify the costs of on-going water quality impairment to beneficial uses of waters of the state, nor the potential economic or ecosystem service benefits of improving water quality and attaining beneficial uses. Implementation of these TMDLs is intended to address water pollution, as required by the relevant sections of the federal Clean Water Act. The negative economic and health impacts of water pollution potentially affect all those who live, work, and recreate within the watershed, as well as those downstream, including commercial, recreational and subsistence fishing communities. The externalized costs of water pollution may disproportionately negatively affect poor, rural, indigenous and minority communities in Oregon.

In contrast, direct economic costs of TMDL implementation are borne only by those entities contributing excess pollutants to waterways. These costs can be reduced by choosing pollutant control or reduction strategies or options that align with their circumstance, perspective and/or business needs. The potential economic and ecosystem service benefits of improved water quality and beneficial use access may be realized by all those who live, work, and recreate within and downstream of the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin.

The Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin TMDL also applies to individual and general permit holders that have thermal impacts. The degree to which these permits are affected by this TMDL will depend on whether they can meet wasteload allocations for temperature.

## Statement of cost of compliance

Costs of compliance with this TMDL rule can include administrative and implementation costs. DEQ did not receive specific information for potentially affected operations within the watershed to determine economic impacts to landowners or business operators. DEQ expects costs of compliance to vary for one or more of the following reasons:

- Whether the responsible person, including DMAs are already implementing a temperature TMDL, or they are a new DMA.
- Strategies may already be in place in some locations that prevent or reduce exceedances of temperature water quality standards.
- Costs vary to implement different temperature control strategies in the WQMP.
- Multiple temperature pollution controls may be needed at some locations.
- The presence of buildings or transportation infrastructure may preclude the ability to implement temperature control strategies in some locations.
- DEQ does not have information to determine all potential sources or what actions are currently occurring that could be modified or enhanced to prevent exceedances of temperature criteria.
- Temperature load allocations are calculated by source sector, not individual property or activity.
- A range of organizational capacity and funding exists for implementation plan development and there are varying levels of complexity needed in plans.

The fiscal impact of the new waste load allocations (WLAs) on point source discharge will be variable. In the event the WLA becomes more stringent, the point source may incur additional capital improvement or other costs necessary to achieve compliance with the new WLA.

Where investments are necessary to meet TMDL targets and implementation requirements, DEQ identifies potential funding resources in the WQMP and online that include, but are not limited, to state and federal grants (including Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Clean Water Act Section 319 nonpoint source implementation grants) and below-market interest rate loans for public entities (that can include principal forgiveness) through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program. Other state and federal opportunities are provided on [DEQ's water quality funding resource web page](#).

- [EPA's funding resources for watershed protection and restoration web page](#)
- [EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Best Practices Guide for Financing Nonpoint Source Solutions web page](#)

## **Federal agencies**

The proposed rule will have an impact on some federal agencies named as DMAs in the TMDL. Costs by federal agencies for TMDL implementation may be required for compliance with DEQ's federal Clean Water Act requirement to issue a TMDL. Federal agencies will be assigned responsibility for revising existing TMDL implementation plans or for developing a new TMDL implementation plan. Federal agencies may incur administrative costs associated with TMDL implementation development or revision. DEQ does not know the exact costs for the previously described reasons above. The following federal agencies will need to develop or revise a TMDL implementation plan.

**U.S. Forest Service** is responsible for developing plans for management strategies and implementing and reporting on practices to achieve nonpoint source pollutant load allocations on lands owned or managed by the federal government. The Forest Service's jurisdiction makes up approximately 70 percent of the land area within the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin. The Forest Service's current Resource Management Plan dictates how riparian reserves are managed. The Forest Service will incur administrative costs for development of a TMDL implementation plan and reporting costs associated with this TMDL. Additionally, DEQ expects to require the Forest Service to participate in stream monitoring as part of the Monitoring Strategy identified in the WQMP. The Forest Service may incur additional costs associated with this monitoring effort; however, these costs may be alleviated depending on how existing Forest Service monitoring efforts align with TMDL monitoring needs.

**U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** is responsible for developing plans for management strategies and implementing practices to achieve nonpoint source pollutant load allocations on lands owned or managed by the federal government, which makes up approximately 4.2 percent of the land area within the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin. The BLM's current Resource Management Plans dictate how riparian reserves are managed. Administrative costs for implementing these existing rules and programs are not dependent on TMDLs, but BLM will incur administrative costs for development and reporting on a TMDL implementation plan. Additionally, DEQ expects to require the BLM to participate in stream monitoring as part of the Monitoring Strategy identified in the WQMP. The BLM may incur additional costs associated with this monitoring effort; however, these costs may be alleviated depending on how existing BLM monitoring efforts align with TMDL monitoring needs.

### **State agencies**

Under the proposed rule, some state agencies will be assigned responsibility for developing TMDL implementation plans and implementing management strategies to achieve cumulative pollutant load reductions, specified in the draft TMDL and WQMP.

### **Except for DEQ, the following state agencies will need to develop or revise a TMDL implementation plan:**

**Oregon Department of Environmental Quality** implements pollutant waste load allocations through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. The proposed rule will have an impact on DEQ through ongoing work to ensure elements of the TMDL are adopted into regulatory documents such as permits, or TMDL implementation plans to achieve water quality standards and to ensure permits and plans are implemented. Because allocations are applied in permits upon evaluation for renewal or new applications, this does not represent additional fiscal impact to DEQ for the draft TMDL implementation.

**Oregon Department of Forestry** will be responsible for developing plans for management strategies of forest lands and overseeing implementation of the state Forest Practices Act rules to achieve nonpoint source pollutant load allocations, and to meet water quality

standards on non-federal forestlands (state, county, and private), which make up approximately 12.9 percent of the land area within the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin. ODF maintains the standards within the basin, performs annual reporting, and participates in monitoring and progress reviews. ODF state statutes and rules include a mix of existing practices, programs and voluntary measures that are promoted to landowners and other partners for restoration activities to improve or protect water quality, land condition and aquatic habitat on non-federal forestlands. ODFs administrative costs for implementing existing rules and programs are not dependent solely on meeting TMDL requirements, but ODF may incur administrative costs for development of a TMDL implementation plan. Additionally, DEQ expects to require ODF to participate in stream monitoring as part of the Monitoring Strategy identified in the WQMP. ODF may incur additional costs associated with this monitoring effort. Financial incentives and technical assistance programs are available to assist private forest landowners or operators to support implementation of assessment, pollution controls, watershed restoration activities or land condition improvements that may be necessary to meet TMDL requirements.

Comment from the rule advisory committee in the February 22, 2023, meeting acknowledged that financial incentive programs can be challenging for individual landowners or operators to navigate, and a local ODF stewardship forester, watershed council, or soil and water conservation district may be able to provide landowner assistance.

**Oregon Department of Agriculture** will be responsible for developing management plans for implementation of practices to achieve nonpoint source pollutant load allocations, meet water quality standards on private lands for agricultural activities within the watershed, annual reporting, and to participate in monitoring and periodic progress reviews. ODA's jurisdiction includes approximately 3.8 percent of the land area within the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin. ODA state statutes and rules are a mix of existing regulatory programs and voluntary measures used for implementation to improve or protect water quality and land conditions on agricultural lands or related to agricultural activities. ODA does this work in partnership with local Soil Water Conservation Districts and Local Advisory Committees. ODA's administrative costs for implementing existing rules and programs are not dependent solely on meeting TMDL requirements, but ODA may incur administrative costs for development and reporting on a TMDL implementation plan. Additionally, DEQ expects to require ODA to participate in stream monitoring as part of the Monitoring Strategy identified in the WQMP. ODA may incur additional costs associated with this monitoring effort. Financial incentives and technical assistance programs are available to assist private landowners. Grant and low interest loan funding (for public entities) is available to ODA, Soil Water Conservation Districts, and individual landowners or operators to support implementation of assessment, pollution controls, and watershed restoration actions or land condition improvements that may be necessary to meet TMDL requirements.

**Oregon Department of Transportation** is responsible for implementing practices to achieve pollutant allocations related to highways within the subbasin. ODOT jurisdiction includes less than one percent of the land area within the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin. ODOT is required to comply with its DEQ-issued Municipal Stormwater Permit, including

development of a statewide TMDL implementation plan. The plan must include practices to achieve Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin temperature TMDL allocations related to stormwater discharges and nonpoint sources of excess solar radiation.

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department** is responsible for implementing practices to achieve pollutant allocations related to state park lands within the subbasin. OPRD jurisdiction includes less than one percent of the land area within the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin. OPRD will incur administrative costs for development of a TMDL implementation plan, and reporting costs associated with this TMDL.

**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife** is responsible for implementing practices to achieve pollutant allocations related to lands managed by ODFW within the subbasin. ODFW may incur costs related to development of reservoir management plans and implementation of reservoir management strategies, including temperature monitoring and modeling at reservoirs.

### **Local governments**

Financial incentives and technical assistance programs are available to assist local governments and private landowners within cities and counties. Grants or low interest loan funding (for public entities) are available to support implementation of assessment, pollution controls and watershed restoration actions or landscape improvements that may be necessary to meet TMDL requirements.

**Clackamas and Multnomah counties** are responsible for developing or revising plans and implementing practices to achieve pollutant load allocations for rural residential planning and development, building code administration and enforcement, onsite septic system permitting and compliance and operation of the county transportation systems within the subbasin. The counties may incur administrative costs for development or revision of a TMDL implementation plan.

**The cities of Portland, Gresham, Troutdale, and Sandy** are responsible for developing or revising implementation plans and implementing practices to achieve pollutant allocations related to areas in the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin for which they have jurisdiction. The cities may incur administrative costs for development or revision of a TMDL implementation plan. The City of Portland may also incur costs related to development of reservoir management plans and implementation of reservoir management strategies, including temperature monitoring and modeling at reservoirs. Additionally, DEQ expects to require the City of Portland to participate in stream monitoring as part of the Monitoring Strategy identified in the WQMP. The City may incur additional costs associated with this monitoring effort.

### **Special districts**

**Clackamas Water Environment Services** is responsible for developing or revising implementation plans and implementing practices to achieve pollutant allocations related to areas in the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin for which it has jurisdiction. WES may incur administrative costs for development or revision of a TMDL implementation plan.

## Public

The proposed rule does not have a direct cost impact to the public. There may be indirect costs to the public if DMA's, such as cities or counties, experience increased costs related to the TMDL that they pass on to the public through increased fees or taxes. The TMDL replacement for temperature will provide a positive impact with potential economic benefits to the public who live, work, and recreate in the watershed. The positive impacts will also expand the ecological benefits of the natural resources in Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin. Threatened native populations of salmon, steelhead, rainbow and cutthroat trout, and other aquatic life are culturally and economically significant to the basin. Elevated stream temperatures are a factor in their decline.

The proposed rule supports the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds<sup>1</sup> mission: "Restoring our native fish populations and the aquatic systems that support them to productive and sustainable levels that will provide substantial environmental, cultural, and economic benefits." The Oregon Plan is a comprehensive partnership between government, communities, private landowners, industry, and citizens funded by the Oregon Legislature. Efforts under the Oregon Plan include regulatory and non-regulatory programs designed to restore native salmon runs, improve water quality, and maintain healthy watersheds and human communities throughout Oregon.

Commercial and recreational fishing is a major driver in the Oregon economy, especially in smaller rural communities. Water quality is a limiting factor that jeopardizes multiple species of threatened and endangered salmonids within the Columbia Basin. The proposed rule supports state and federal conservation and recovery plans to restore or maintain healthy fisheries and will also help to improve beneficial uses. Communities that depend on commercial and recreational salmon fishing for their income may experience a positive economic impact due to the proposed rules if salmonid populations increase.

The statewide economic contribution of recreational anglers to Oregon's economy as of 2018 was \$1.5 billion dollars, supporting 13,120 jobs. It was estimated that 569,600 Oregon recreational anglers spent \$871.8 million in 2018.<sup>2</sup> The proposed rules may have a positive economic impact on income from recreational anglers if salmonid populations increase. Improvements in recreational salmon fishing may also have a positive economic impact on the public who can use the salmon as a food source.

## Large businesses - businesses with more than 50 employees

DEQ evaluated available data from the Oregon Employment Department (2021) and identified approximately 150 large businesses in the basin, including schools, corporations, and agricultural related businesses, among others. The proposed rule could impose costs

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<sup>1</sup> Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Resources  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/resources/pages/opsw.aspx>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.psc.org/download/333/special-reports/9337/economic-impacts-of-pacific-salmon-fisheries.pdf>

associated with achieving required reductions in pollutant contributions to waterways from the lands or operations of businesses within riparian areas related to the agriculture and forestry sectors. Specifically, the rule could result in unknown costs for approximately 7 large agricultural related businesses, if they are determined to be located within riparian areas. Starting in July 2023, compliance costs for natural resource protections for industrial forestland owners may be associated with the Forest Practices Act rules, revised in October 2022 due to legislation associated with the Private Forests Accord, rather than this TMDL rule. This may reduce costs associated with implementing this proposed TMDL.

### **Small businesses – businesses with 50 or fewer employees**

DEQ searched the Oregon Employment Department database (2021) list of all businesses registered in Oregon. Small businesses within the counties included in this proposed TMDL were filtered using North American Industry Classification System codes. DEQ identified approximately 4,000 small businesses of various types operating within the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin.

The proposed rule could impose costs associated with achieving required reductions in pollutant contributions to waterways from approximately 92 small agricultural and 8 timber-related businesses, if they are determined to be located within riparian areas. Some small woodlands owners, which are not identified as small businesses in OED's database of businesses in Oregon, within riparian areas could also have costs imposed. The proposed rule is unlikely to result in costs to approximately 3,991 small businesses that are unrelated to agriculture and forestry.

Although the proposed rule does not place specific requirements on small businesses in aggregate, the proposed rule identifies management strategies and practices for the agricultural and forestry sectors that are necessary to reduce pollutant loads. These activities may require changes in certain management practices or improvements in land conditions that could result in capital costs for small landowners. The Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Department of Forestry have current rules in place that involve a mix of regulatory and voluntary practices by agricultural and forest landowners to protect or improve water quality. In October 2022, ODF updated its rules based on the 2022 Private Forest Accord report and passage of Senate Bills 1501 and 1502 and House Bill 4055 during the 2022 legislative session. ODF's new stream buffer rules began to take effect in July 2023. The authors of the Private Forest Accord anticipated ODF's new rules would have a greater, but unquantified fiscal impact on small forest landowners. Compliance costs for landowners implementing ODA and ODF rules are generally not dependent on TMDLs, because landowners have to implement existing ODA and ODF water quality rules.

Grant and low interest loan funding (for public entities) are available to support implementation of pollution controls and watershed restoration actions required for compliance with TMDL requirements. The U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service<sup>3</sup> offers a variety of programs to help farmers, ranchers, family forests, Tribes and conservation partners perform voluntary conservation on private lands funded

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/programs/>

through the Farm Bill. Small rural landowners and agricultural operators are eligible for NRCS Financial Assistance, grant and cost-share programs that include Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Innovation Grants, Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentives Program, Voluntary Conservation Stewardship Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Conservation Easements, and Agricultural Conservation Easements Program. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board offers multiple grant types.

### **Minority Owned Businesses**

DEQ searched the Oregon Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID) Certified Vendor Directory for all businesses currently certified as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) (COBID, 2023). Businesses were selected from the two counties included in the Sandy Subbasin and filtered based on NAICs codes to identify those related to agriculture or forestry. In the Sandy Subbasin there are 348 minority business enterprises with 2 agricultural 0 timber related businesses.

Resources outlined for large and small businesses above may also be utilized by Minority Business Enterprises. Additionally, the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) provides technical assistance, microlending/ access to capital, marketing, networking, and business incubation for Minority Business Enterprises among other resources.

## **ORS 183.336 Cost of Compliance Effect on Small Businesses**

### **a. Estimated number of small businesses and types of businesses and industries with small businesses subject to proposed rule.**

The number of registered small businesses in the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin are approximately 4,091 (OED, 2021), but less than 100 are anticipated to be subject to the rule. Small businesses may or may not be regulated by DMAs that are federal, state, or local government agencies that have legal authority over a sector or source contributing pollutants, identified by DEQ in the proposed TMDL. The number of small businesses that are regulated by DMAs can vary over time.

### **b. Projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative activities, including costs of professional services, required for small businesses to comply with the proposed rule.**

The proposed rule does not place specific administrative activities or requirements on small businesses because implementation plan development and annual reporting responsibilities are assigned to state and local governments as DMAs. Therefore, DEQ does not anticipate direct impact of costs to these types to small businesses.

### **c. Projected equipment, supplies, labor and increased administration required for small businesses to comply with the proposed rule.**

Although the proposed rule does not place specific requirements on small businesses in aggregate, the proposed rule identifies management strategies and practices for the



agricultural and forestry sectors that are necessary to reduce pollutant loads. These activities may require changes in certain management practices or improvements in land conditions that could result in costs to small agricultural or timber-producing operations. Although compliance costs for implementing ODA and ODF rules are not dependent on TMDLs, addressing the proposed TMDL requirements may require additional supplies, labor, or administration for these businesses, including those that provide in-kind match to publicly funded restoration grants. Some costs may be offset by preventing erosion or improving the productivity of certain agricultural and timber lands through grant funded conservation projects.

**d. Describe how DEQ involved small businesses in developing this proposed rule.**

DEQ provided notification of this rulemaking using the state opt-in email delivery system called GovDelivery. Small businesses that have signed up to receive DEQ notifications have been made aware of the proposed rule and the two informational webinar opportunities to ask questions and learn about the draft proposed rule. DEQ solicited feedback and information from the Rule Advisory Committee regarding potential fiscal impacts to small businesses.

**Documents relied on for fiscal and economic impact**

The requirement to list the documents relied on to determine fiscal impact is separate from and in addition to the similar list in the rules affected, authorities, supporting documents section above.

| Document title   | Document location   |
|--|---|
| DEQ’s Oregon Administrative Rules 340-042-0080 Implementing a Total Maximum Daily Load                                   | <a href="https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=1459">secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=1459</a>                           |
| Economic Impacts of Pacific Salmon Fisheries   | <a href="https://psc.org/download/333/special-reports/9337/economic-impacts-of-pacific-salmon-fisheries.pdf">psc.org/download/333/special-reports/9337/economic-impacts-of-pacific-salmon-fisheries.pdf</a> |
| DEQ’s Cost Estimate to Restore Riparian Forest Buffers and Improve Stream Habitat in the Willamette Basin, Oregon (2010) | <a href="https://oregon.gov/deq/wq/Documents/willRipCostRev2.pdf">oregon.gov/deq/wq/Documents/willRipCostRev2.pdf</a>   |
| Oregon Employment Department Small Business database (2021)  | Please contact Oregon Employment Department for this information.   |
| Oregon State University - Small Farms Program  | <a href="https://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/">smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/</a>   |
| Oregon Department of Forestry-Forest resources: Helping landowners   | <a href="https://oregon.gov/odf/working/Pages/helpinglandowners.aspx">oregon.gov/odf/working/Pages/helpinglandowners.aspx</a>   |
| Oregon Department of Agriculture - Grants, Loans, and Technical Assistance   | <a href="https://oregon.gov/oda/agriculture/Pages/Grants.aspx">oregon.gov/oda/agriculture/Pages/Grants.aspx</a>   |

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|---|---|
| Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) - Grant Programs                    | <a href="https://oregon.gov/oweb/grants/Pages/grant-programs.aspx">oregon.gov/oweb/grants/Pages/grant-programs.aspx</a>   |
| The Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID)                       | <a href="https://www.oregon.gov/biz/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.oregon.gov/biz/Pages/default.aspx</a>   |
| Private Forest Accord Report (2022)   | <a href="https://oregon.gov/odf/Pages/private-forest-accord.aspx">oregon.gov/odf/Pages/private-forest-accord.aspx</a>   |
| Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon (U.S. Bureau of Land Management) | <a href="https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/57902/79046/91311/NCO_ROD_RMP_ePlanning.pdf">eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/57902/79046/91311/NCO_ROD_RMP_ePlanning.pdf</a> |
| Sandy River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (2005)                             | <a href="https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/sandytmdlwqmp.pdf">https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/sandytmdlwqmp.pdf</a>   |
| US Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Justice Screening Tool       | <a href="https://epa.gov/sites/production/files/2021-04/documents/ejscreen_technical_document.pdf">epa.gov/sites/production/files/2021-04/documents/ejscreen_technical_document.pdf</a>   |
| US Census Bureau – 2020 Census – Census Tract Reference Map                   | <a href="https://census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2020/geo/2020pl-maps/2020-census-tract.html">census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2020/geo/2020pl-maps/2020-census-tract.html</a> |
| The U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service           | <a href="https://nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/programs/">nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/programs/</a>   |
| NAICS codes   | <a href="https://census.gov/naics/">census.gov/naics/</a>   |

## Advisory committee fiscal review

DEQ appointed an advisory committee.

As ORS 183.33 requires, DEQ asked for the committee’s recommendations on:

- Whether the proposed rules would have a fiscal impact,
- The extent of the impact, and
- Whether the proposed rules would have a significant adverse impact on small businesses; if so, then how DEQ can comply with ORS 183.540 reduce that impact.

The committee reviewed the draft fiscal and economic impact statement and its findings are stated in the approved minutes dated April 5, 2023, online:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/rulemaking/Pages/sandytempTMDL.aspx>.

The committee was also provided a week after the rule advisory committee meetings to give input to DEQ in writing or otherwise. According to one committee member, the draft rule will have significant adverse impact on small businesses due to restriction on discharges to surface waters will decrease opportunities for businesses to locate or grow the project area. Restrictions on discharges to surface waters may increase costs on manufactured supplies sold to small businesses. In addition, restrictions on activities in riparian areas can impact the ability of traditional and new water-based businesses to operate. The committee member offered two ways to reduce the impact: 1) offering and supporting business grant opportunities, and 2) supporting TMDL compliance solutions.

Some committee members determined the proposed rules would have a significant adverse impact on small businesses in Oregon. Committee members also suggested that fiscal impacts to minority business owners should be considered. In response, Minority Owned Businesses were identified for the basin to create an awareness of those businesses. DEQ provided information regarding grant opportunities and other resources that may be available for large and small businesses in the fiscal impact section.

Responsible persons, including DMAs must enter temperature-related practices into OWEB's Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory database, or another DEQ-approved publicly accessible database upon project completion. Some committee members stated that it could be time-consuming to enter projects occurring on private lands. Other members indicated they already utilize other restoration project databases, which may add costs to reporting.

## **Housing cost**

As ORS 183.534 requires, DEQ evaluated whether the proposed rules would have an effect on the development cost of a 6,000-square-foot parcel and construction of a 1,200-square foot detached, single-family dwelling on that parcel. DEQ determined the proposed rules would most likely not have an effect on development costs. If DMAs develop rules or ordinances as part of their TMDL implementation plan, it's possible that additional indirect costs could be passed along in the form of local permit fees. DEQ is unable to quantify the specific impacts of those potential additional costs if they exist to residential or business development costs.

## **Racial equity**

ORS 183.335(2)(a)(F) as amended by House Bill 2993, requires state agencies, when providing notice of a rulemaking, to provide a statement identifying how adoption, amendment or repeal of the proposed rules will affect racial equity in the state.

Tribal nations were made aware of the rulemaking process and invited to consult on the rule advisory committee including Yakama Nation Fisheries and The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. DEQ also engaged extensively with agricultural, forestry, fishery, and conservation communities through the Rule Advisory Committee.

DEQ expects the proposed rule to have a positive impact on and help promote racial equity, particularly in benefitting tribal interests. The externalized costs of water pollution often negatively affect poor, rural, indigenous and minority communities in Oregon and some underserved communities may not have equal access to technical and financial assistance or other resources. The proposed rules will help restore and maintain healthy and abundant fisheries including subsistence salmonid fisheries and will also help minimize treatment costs of providing fresh, clean, and healthy water supplies to disadvantaged communities.

## **Environmental justice considerations**

ORS 182.545 requires natural resource agencies to consider the effects of their actions on environmental justice issues.

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, education, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. DEQ is committed to incorporating environmental justice best practices into its programs and decision-making, to ensure all people in Oregon have equitable environmental and public health protections.

DEQ was unable to use the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Justice Screen tool for this report at this time due to technical issues. DEQ used 2020 U.S. Census Bureau to source demographic data for Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. Based on county data it is recommended that entities provide bilingual educational materials to the public for outreach during TMDL implementation. Based on county data (household internet subscriptions) it is also recommended that educational materials be provided in physical means in addition to electronic means.

The externalized costs of water pollution can negatively affect poor, rural, indigenous and minority communities in Oregon. The proposed rules will help restore and maintain healthy and abundant fisheries, including salmonid species. Indigenous, rural, minority and poor communities may use salmon as a subsistence food source. Abundant fish would also restore and protect beneficial uses including recreation. The proposed temperature TMDL rule will help address the localized impacts of stream temperature impairments, and potentially improve other related water quality parameters, such as dissolved oxygen.

Unintended adverse consequences may include focusing available grant funding on rural lands that are not typically owned or managed by poor, indigenous and minority communities in Oregon, e.g., lands managed for agriculture and privately owned properties adjacent to rivers and streams. Cost of DMAs compliance with TMDL requirements may be passed on to local communities through increased charges, such as water-related bills or system development charges to help pay for TMDL implementation. A potential favorable offset to some of the issues described above will be in the 319 grant funding program. The EPA memorandum “Continued Actions in FY23 to Increase Equity and Environmental Justice in the Nonpoint Source Program” will be used as a tool for DEQ to leverage potential 319 grant funding for overburdened communities. This initiative is currently in development.

## **Federal relationship**

ORS 183.332, 468B.110 and OAR 340-011-0029 require DEQ to attempt to adopt rules that correspond with existing equivalent federal laws and rules unless there are reasons not to do so.

The proposed rules implement federal requirements found in 40 CFR 130.7(c). Under the federal Clean Water Act, the state is required to establish TMDLs for water quality limited segments of waterways listed on the submittal required by Clean Water Act Section 303(d).

# Land use

## Land-use considerations

In adopting new or amended rules, ORS 197.180 and OAR 340-018-0070 require DEQ to determine whether the proposed rules significantly affect land use. If so, DEQ must explain how the proposed rules comply with state wide land-use planning goals and local acknowledged comprehensive plans.

Under OAR 660-030-0005 and OAR 340 Division 18, DEQ considers that rules affect land use if:

- The statewide land use planning goals specifically refer to the rule or program, or
- The rule or program is reasonably expected to have significant effects on:
  - Resources, objects, or areas identified in the statewide planning goals, or
  - Present or future land uses identified in acknowledge comprehensive plans

DEQ determined whether the proposed rules involve programs or actions that affect land use by reviewing its Statewide Agency Coordination plan. The plan describes the programs that DEQ determined significantly affect land use. DEQ considers that its programs specifically relate to the following statewide goals:

| <b>Goal</b> | <b>Title</b>  |
|-------------|---|
| 5           | Natural Resources, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Open Spaces |
| 6           | Air, Water and Land Resources Quality                         |
| 11          | Public Facilities and Services                                |
| 16          | Estuarine Resources   |
| 19          | Ocean Resources   |

Statewide goals also specifically reference the following DEQ programs:

- Nonpoint source discharge water quality program – Goal 16
- Water quality and sewage disposal systems – Goal 16
- Water quality permits and oil spill regulations – Goal 19

## Determination

DEQ determined that these proposed rules do not affect land use under OAR 340-018-0030 or DEQ’s State Agency Coordination Program.

The proposed rules will either have no effect or an indirect benefit on land use from cleaner water, and productive and healthier watersheds. Productive watersheds will enhance activities and beneficial uses such as water supply and livestock watering, salmon and steelhead fisheries, recreational economies that attract tourism and tourism-related jobs, and aesthetic quality from riparian planting.

## **EQC Prior Involvement**

- April 2022 EQC meeting: mention during the TMDL informational update.
- May 2022 EQC meeting: mention during the TMDL informational update.
- March 2023 EQC meeting: mention regarding the TMDL rule schedule during the Upper Yaquina River Watershed TMDL informational presentation.
- DEQ presented an informational update at the July 2023 EQC meeting.

# Advisory Committee

## Background

DEQ convened a Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin rule advisory committee. The committee met twice on Feb. 22, 2023, and April 5, 2023. The committee’s web page is located at: [Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin TMDL](#)

The committee members were:

| Advisory Committee Membership |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Name                          | Affiliation   |
| April Snell                   | Oregon Water Resources Congress   |
| Becky Anthony                 | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife                                  |
| Christina Davenport           | Leeway Engineering Solutions for City of Sandy                          |
| Rob Hibbs                     | Oregon Department of Agriculture  |
| Lauren Poor                   | Oregon Farm Bureau  |
| Rebecca McCoun                | Oregon Department of Forestry   |
| Liane Davis                   | City of Portland Water Bureau   |
| Mark Rogers                   | Oregon Council on behalf of Trout Unlimited                             |
| Rich Wildman                  | Geosyntec for Oregon Forest & Industries Council and Oregon Farm Bureau |
| Roy Iwai                      | Multnomah County  |
| Ryan Largura                  | City of Troutdale   |
| Sharla Moffett                | Oregon Business and Industry  |
| Todd Reinwald                 | U.S. Forest Service   |

## Meeting notifications

To notify people about the advisory committee’s activities, DEQ:

- Sent GovDelivery bulletins, a free opt-in, e-mail subscription service, to the following lists with an estimated total of 25,304 recipients at any given time:
  - Rulemaking
  - DEQ Public Notices
  - Nonpoint Source Water Quality
  - Total Maximum Daily Loads
  - Water Quality Standards
- Added advisory committee announcements to DEQ’s calendar of public meetings at [DEQ Calendar](#).

## Committee discussions

In addition to the recommendations described under the Statement of Fiscal and Economic Impact section above, the committee discussed the TMDL and WQMP. All agendas,



meeting presentations and meeting summary are online [Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin TMDL](#).

# Public Engagement

## Public notice

DEQ provided notice of the proposed rulemaking and rulemaking hearing by:

- On Jan. 10, 2024 Filing notice with the Oregon Secretary of State for publication in the February 2024 Oregon Bulletin;
- Posting the Notice, Invitation to Comment and Draft Rules on the web page for this rulemaking, located at: [Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin](#);
- Emailing approximately 24,246 interested parties on the following DEQ lists through GovDelivery:
  - Rulemaking
  - DEQ Public Notices
  - TMDLs
- Emailing the following key legislators required under [ORS 183.335](#):
  - Senate Committee on Natural Resources:
    - Chair – Senator Jeff Golden
    - Vice-Chair – Senator Fred Girod
  - House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:
    - Chair – Representative Ken Helm
    - Vice-Chair – Representative Mark Owens
    - Vice-Chair – Representative Annessa Hartman
  - Senator Daniel Bonham
  - Representative Jeff Helfrich
- Emailing advisory committee members,
- Posting on the DEQ event calendar: [DEQ Calendar](#)

DEQ will consider all comments and testimony received before the closing date. DEQ will summarize all comments and respond to comments in the Environmental Quality Commission staff report.

# Accessibility Information

[Español](#) | [한국어](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [Русский](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [العربية](#)

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# Supporting documents

This [LINK](#) provides access to these documents:

- Draft Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin Total Maximum Daily Loads (adopted, by reference, into rule)
- Draft Upper Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin Water Quality Management Plan (adopted, by reference, into rule)
- Draft Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin TMDL Technical Support Document

# Draft Rules – Edits Highlighted

## Key to Identifying Changed Text:

~~Deleted Text~~

New/inserted text

### Division 42 TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLS)

#### OAR 340-042-0090

#### Total Maximum Daily Loads and Water Quality Management Plans

The following TMDLs are adopted by EQC by reference in this rule on the dates indicated. The TMDL documents and supporting information for TMDLs adopted as rule or issued by order are available on DEQ's website.

(1) Upper Yaquina River Watershed, USGS watershed of the Northern Oregon Coastal Basin (HUC 1710020401):

(a) TMDL: bacteria and dissolved oxygen, September 14, 2023.

(b) WQMP: bacteria and dissolved oxygen, September 14, 2023.

(2) Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin, within the USGS Lower Columbia Basin (HUC 17080001)

(a) TMDL: temperature (date of EQC adoption)

(b) WQMP: temperature (date of EQC adoption)

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 468.020, 468.065, 468B.030 and 468B.035

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 468B.020 and 468B.110