

State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

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**Date:** Oct. 22, 2012

**To:** Environmental Quality Commission

**From:** Dick Pedersen, Director

**Subject:** Agenda item M, Informational item: Hot topics in DEQ's Eastern Region  
Oct. 25-26, 2012, EQC meeting

**Purpose of item** This item will introduce the commissioners to emerging, controversial or otherwise hot topics in DEQ's Eastern Region.

**Background** DEQ, as a statewide agency, has offices across Oregon in addition to its headquarters in Portland. These regional offices are the locations where policies and practices are implemented, and the DEQ staff working in the regional offices are the front-line representatives for many of DEQ's programs. DEQ operates four offices in its Eastern Region: Bend, The Dalles, Pendleton and La Grande. Each office has varying numbers of staff and different program implementation roles and responsibilities.

DEQ's Eastern Region covers the entire territory east of the Cascade Mountain range, and encompasses high desert, mountain and prairie ecosystems. With a diversity of geography, expansive territory and many small, dispersed population centers, the Eastern Region staff face challenges and opportunities unique to eastern Oregon. This presentation is an opportunity for the commission to learn about some of the current and future DEQ-involved projects in Eastern Region.

**Attachments** None

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*Information provided by DEQ's Eastern Region staff*