

Illinois River and Rough and Ready Creek Outstanding Resource Waters Advisory Committee Charter

Rulemaking Contact: Aron Borok

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Non-discrimination statement

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For translation or other formats, visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).

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Objectives and scope

Committee Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Rulemaking Advisory Committee is to provide input to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on a proposed rulemaking to designate the following waters in the Rogue River basin as outstanding resource waters:

- **Wild and Scenic Illinois River**
 - The 46.6 mile stretch of the Wild and Scenic Illinois River from the upstream boundary of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest downstream to Nancy Creek.
 - All direct tributaries of the Wild and Scenic Illinois River from the National Forest boundary downstream to Lawson Creek, excluding Deer Creek.
 - All associated wetlands, small lakes and ponds including Game Lake at the headwaters for Horse Sign Creek
- **Round and Ready Creek**
 - All of Rough and Ready Creek including Rough and Ready Lake.
 - All tributaries, springs, associated wetlands and other waters of the Rough and Ready Creek watershed, excluding the reach of Parker Creek after it enters private land.

This project was identified as a high priority during the [2024 Water Quality Standards Triennial Review](#), which included an ORW nomination process.

The RAC fulfills the requirement in Oregon Revised Statutes 183.333 for DEQ to obtain input from an advisory committee on the fiscal and economic impact of the proposed rule, as described below under “Fiscal and Economic Impact.” DEQ is not requesting the committee to make decisions or recommendations as a group. DEQ does not expect that the committee will reach consensus on their views or their input.

Project Objectives and Scope

The objective of this rulemaking is to designate the aforementioned waters as ORWs, the highest level of protection provided to water quality under DEQ’s antidegradation policy ([OAR 340-041-0004](#)). When designating outstanding state or national resources as ORWs, DEQ must establish policies to maintain and protect existing water quality and water quality values of these waters for consideration by the EQC.

Fiscal, economic and racial equity impacts

ORS 183.333 requires that DEQ ask the committee to consider the fiscal and economic impact of the proposed rules including:

- Whether the rules will have a fiscal impact, and if so, what the extent of that impact will be

- Whether the rules will have a significant adverse impact on small businesses, and if so, how DEQ can reduce the rules' negative fiscal impact on small businesses

ORS 183.335 (2)(a)(F) requires agencies to provide a statement identifying how adoption of the rule(s) will affect racial equity in Oregon. To aide in crafting this statement DEQ will ask the committee to provide input on this question.

ORS 182.545 requires that natural resource agencies, like DEQ, consider how its actions affect environmental justice in the state. DEQ will ask the committee to provide input on environmental justice considerations.

Rulemaking Timeline

The table below shows the major milestones and dates for this rulemaking process.

Milestone	Date
Develop draft rule and support documents including fiscal impact statement	April – August 2026
Advisory Committee	June – August 2026
Public Notice and Comment Period	October – November 2026
Public Hearings	November 2026
Presentation to EQC for Adoption	March 2027

Roles

DEQ facilitator

The facilitator:

- Encourages open, candid and robust dialogue
- Starts and ends the meetings and agenda items on time
- Encourages innovation by listening to all ideas
- Tries not to lose good ideas to the consensus process

- Recognizes when the discussion is outside the scope of the meeting and steers the discussion back to the focus of the meeting

Committee members

Advisory committee members must attend each meeting to ensure continuity throughout the process. An alternate may be assigned if needed. However, it is each committee member's responsibility to fully brief their alternate on all relevant issues and prior committee discussions in order to meet the meeting objectives and keep the project on schedule. The primary and alternate members of the committee cannot participate in the same meeting. If a member's absence is unavoidable, please notify the DEQ project manager.

The committee member:

- Prepares for and sets aside time for the meetings
- Provides DEQ staff with copies of relevant research and documentation cited during the meeting
- Stays focused on the specific agenda topics for each meeting
- Comments constructively and in good faith
- Consults regularly with constituencies to inform them on the process and gather their input
- Treats everyone and his or her opinions with respect
- Allows one person to speak at a time
- Is courteous by not engaging in sidebar discussions
- Avoids representing to the public or media the views of any other committee member or the committee as a whole

Non-committee member attendees

DEQ has invited government advisors from state and federal agencies to attend the committee meetings and serve as a resource, if needed. They will be available to help DEQ answer questions regarding the impacts of the rulemaking related to their specific area of expertise.

Non-members from the public may attend the committee meetings to observe, but not to actively participate in committee discussions. If non-committee members are present at a meeting, DEQ will try to provide time during the meeting for their comments and questions. However, this will be discretionary and as time allows.

DEQ staff

DEQ is committed to making the most effective use of committee member's time by:

- Establishing clear committee goals, meeting objectives and agendas
- Giving committee members reasonable access to staff

- Encouraging all members to take part in discussions
- Providing a clear description of members' roles, the committee timeline, the level of agreement expected and feedback on how members' input is used

DEQ support and website

DEQ will post agenda and meeting materials on the advisory committee website at least one week in advance. DEQ administrative staff will provide meeting summaries that highlight committee discussions, different perspectives and input of committee members. DEQ will not prepare a formal committee report. DEQ will send draft meeting summaries to the advisory committee for review and input. Final meeting minutes will be posted to the advisory committee website and will be part of the public record.

The advisory committee charter, a full roster of the committee, meeting agendas and minutes, and background materials will all be located on the [advisory committee web page](#).

Committee meetings

1. All committee meetings will be:
 - Open to the public, although DEQ can choose whether the public can actively participate in committee meetings
 - Advertised on DEQ's [online Events Calendar](#) two weeks before the meeting.
 - Noticed by email to the Water Quality Standards GovDelivery list
 - Held in person in a location in or near Josephine County.
 - Accessible via webinar
2. The committee is expected to meet two times. The meeting duration times above may vary depending on topics and committee progress.
3. Meeting materials and agenda will be posted to the advisory committee web page

Decision making

This advisory committee will not make policy decisions. Rather, DEQ will consider the committee's discussions and input to inform its draft proposed rules and develop the required fiscal impact statement. DEQ may ask individual committee members to state whether they agree with or support certain aspects of the rulemaking being considered or under discussion. DEQ retains the authority to decide the content of the final proposed rules and rulemaking documents. The proposed rules will be published for public review and public comment as part of DEQ's rulemaking process.

Membership

In convening this committee, DEQ selected members that reflect the range of stakeholders the proposed rules affect, both directly and indirectly. Representatives should be able to consider the policy, fiscal and economic impact of the proposed standard on the business or organization they represent.

Committee members

Name	Title	Affiliation	Representing
Stuart Blanco	Chief Financial Officer	Tidewater Contractors	Mining industry
Steve Burns	Fisheries Biologist	Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest	Land manager/ federal forestry
Zachery Collier		Kalmiopsis Guides Association	Recreational interests
Michael Dotson	Executive Director	Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center	Local conservation group
Tyler Ernst	Director of Regulatory Affairs	Oregon Forest Industries Council	Private forestry
Eric Larsen	Treatment Plant Specialist	City of Grant's Pass on behalf of Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies	Wastewater treatment operators
David Moryc	River Protection Program Director	American Rivers	Statewide conservation group
Brian Paul	Lead-in-Training	Cave Junction	Local municipality/ wastewater treatment operator
Shawn Simpson	Hydrologist	Bureau of Land Management	Land manager/ federal forestry
Jeffrey W. Strobel	Chief Executive Officer	Patriot Nickel Corp.	Mining
Barbara Ullian	Chair	Friends of the Kalmiopsis	Local conservation group
Ann Vileisis	President	Kalmiopsis Audubon Society	Local conservation group

Name	Title	Affiliation	Representing
Keri Handaly		Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	Tribal Interests

Agency Advisors

Name	Title	Affiliation
Vaughn Balzer	Rule Coordinator	Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
Michelle Maier	Oregon Water Quality Standards Coordinator	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Kelly Meinz	Water Policy Analyst	Oregon Water Resources Department
Frank Drake	District Fish Biologist	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Travel expenses

DEQ is able to reimburse any in state, out-of-town committee members for travel expenses, if DEQ approves them in advance.

Public records and confidentiality

Committee communications and records, such as formal documents, discussion drafts, meeting summaries and exhibits are public records and are available for public inspection and copying. DEQ does not assume responsibility for protecting proprietary or confidential business information shared during committee or subcommittee meetings. However, the private documents of individual committee members generally are not considered public records if DEQ does not have copies.

Information exchange

Committee members will provide information as much in advance as possible of the meeting at which such information is used. The members will also share all relevant information with DEQ to the maximum extent possible which DEQ will then share with the rest of the committee members where appropriate. If a member believes the relevant information is proprietary in nature, the member will provide a general description of the information and the reason for not providing it. Committee members should only send emails (and other communications) to DEQ and not the committee because including all members on an email could constitute a violation of Oregon's Public Meetings Law.

Public involvement

All meetings will be open to the public. DEQ may set aside time for the public to speak.

Once the committee process is complete, DEQ will develop draft rules and conduct a public rulemaking process. That process will include a specified period during which the public can submit comments on the proposed rules. DEQ will also hold a public hearing during which any member of the public can submit written or verbal comments. Individual committee members may provide comments to DEQ on the full draft rule at this time. DEQ may modify the final proposed rules based on public comment. DEQ intends to take a final proposed rule to the EQC for consideration at its March 2027 meeting.

DEQ contacts

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