State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Draft Fiscal Impact Statement

Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load Replacements
Miles Creeks Subbasin
May 27, 2026

Introduction

Consistent with Oregon Revised Statute 468B.110 and Oregon Administrative Rules chapter 340 division 42, DEQ invites input on the proposed draft Total Maximum Daily Load and Water Quality Management Plan fiscal impact statement for the Miles Creeks Subbasin to address temperature impairments. The TMDL and WQMP will be proposed for adoption by Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission, by reference, into OAR 340-042-0090(9).

A TMDL, or clean water plan, is a science-based approach to cleaning up polluted water so that it meets state water quality standards. A TMDL is a numerical value that represents the highest amount of a pollutant a surface water body can receive and still meet the standards. A WQMP is the required element of a TMDL describing strategies to achieve allocations identified in the TMDL to attain water quality standards. Responsible persons, including designated management agencies, are required to implement the TMDL and must develop sector-specific or source-specific TMDL implementation plans. Implementation plans include management strategies, timelines for implementation, a schedule for achieving milestones, and a performance monitoring component with a plan for periodic review and plan revisions.

Fee analysis

This rulemaking does not involve fees.

Reason for rulemaking

DEQ will revise multiple temperature TMDLs that were issued by DEQ and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency between 2004 and 2010. DEQ is under a court order to update and replace these temperature TMDLs to make them consistent with the current temperature standards. These TMDLs must be updated because they were 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 TMDLs.

Translation or other formats
Español | 한국어 | 繁體中文 | Русский | Tiếng Việt | العربية
800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov

State of Oregon
DEQ Department of Environmental Quality

The Miles Creeks Subbasin encompasses a portion of the Middle Columbia-Hood HUC 8 watershed. This temperature TMDL replacement includes the waters of the state listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Waterbodies included in Miles Creeks Subbasin TMDL.

Watershed	Waterbodies included
Eightmile Creek Watershed (1707010502)	All waters of the state.
Fifteenmile Creek Watershed (1707010503)	All waters of the state.
Mill Creek-Columbia River Watershed (1707010504)	All waters of the state.
Upper Mosier Creek Subwatershed (170701051102)	All waters of the state.
Lower Mosier Creek Subwatershed (170701051103)	All waters of the state.
Rock Creek Subwatershed (170701051104)	All waters of the state.
Rowena Creek-Columbia River Subwatershed (170701051105)	All waters of the state.

This TMDL replaces the 2008 Middle Columbia-Hood (Miles Creeks) Subbasin Temperature TMDL and WQMP (DEQ, 2008). Information about the Temperature TMDL replacement project and the Miles Creeks Subbasin project area is online.

- Temperature TMDL Replacement project
- Middle Columbia-Hood (Miles Creeks) Subbasin

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 on businesses, farms and ranches, forestlands, and federal, state, county, and city lands or operations in the Miles Creeks Subbasin. DEQ is not able to quantify costs, but generally the costs of meeting the biologically based water quality criteria for temperature, and associated TMDL allocations may be minimal for those responsible persons, including designated management agencies, that have existing

implementation plans under current WQMPs for temperature. New requirements in the WQMP that existing DMAs have not previously implemented may result in additional costs. New DMAs that are required to develop plans will incur costs to develop and implement a plan, and administrative costs associated with reporting on implementation progress.

This fiscal impact statement does not quantify the costs of ongoing 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 ecological 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 thermal pollution in water may disproportionally negatively affect poor, rural, indigenous and minority communities in Oregon.

Direct economic costs of TMDL implementation associated with load allocations are mostly borne by those entities contributing pollutants to waterways. These entities may reduce their costs by choosing pollutant control or reduction strategies or options that align with their circumstance or business needs and utilizing grant funding opportunities. 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 Miles Creeks Subbasin.

The Miles Creeks Subbasin TMDL applies to individual and general permit holders. The degree to which these permits are affected by this TMDL will depend on whether they can meet waste load allocations for temperature.

Statement of cost of compliance

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

- Whether the responsible persons, including DMAs, are already implementing a temperature TMDL, or whether they are a new responsible person or 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 by 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 total cost of riparian restoration projects in the Miles Creeks Subbasin reported to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory between 2010 and 2019 was $841,401 with individual project costs ranging from $3,000 to $330,000. Inflation-adjusted prices could be used to estimate nonpoint source temperature implementation costs, depending on existing riparian conditions.

The fiscal impact of the new waste load allocations on point source discharge will be variable. In the event the wasteload allocation 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 effective shade targets and implementation requirements, DEQ identifies 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 (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

A list of all responsible persons, including DMAs, can be found in Appendix A of the Water Quality Management Plan.

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, as well as associated administrative costs. DEQ does not know the exact costs for reasons described above. The following federal agencies will need to develop or revise a TMDL implementation plan.

- **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 forest, range, and other land types managed by the federal government. BLM management areas make up approximately 1 percent of the land area within the Miles Creeks Subbasin adjacent to streams. BLM will likely incur costs to implement temperature-related management strategies, administrative costs for updating their current plan to incorporate any new requirements of this WQMP and reporting costs associated with this TMDL.

- **U.S. Forest Service** (USFS) is responsible for developing plans for management strategies and implementing practices to achieve nonpoint source pollutant load allocations on forest and other land types managed by the federal government. USFS management areas make up approximately 15 percent of the land area within the watershed adjacent to streams. The U.S. Forest Service's current Northwest Forest Plan Standards and Guidance dictates how riparian reserves are managed. The U.S. Forest Service will likely incur costs to implement temperature-related management strategies, administrative costs for development of a TMDL implementation plan and reporting costs associated with this TMDL In addition, DEQ is proposing to require the U.S. Forest Service to participate in stream monitoring as identified in the WQMP. It is unknown what those costs will be, but potential costs incurred may be alleviated depending on whether existing U.S. Forest Service monitoring sites are compatible with future monitoring needs.

- **U.S. Forest Service** - Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) is responsible for developing plans for implementing strategies to achieve nonpoint source pollutant load allocations on lands managed by the USFS within the CRGNSA. USFS managed areas in the CRGNSA is a portion of the approximately 15 percent of the land area within the watershed adjacent to streams managed by the USFS. The U.S. Forest Service's current Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area dictates how riparian area are managed. The U.S. Forest Service will likely incur costs to implement temperature-related management strategies, administrative costs for development of a TMDL implementation plan and reporting costs associated with this TMDL In addition, DEQ is proposing to require the U.S. Forest Service to participate in stream monitoring as identified in the WQMP. It is unknown what those costs will be, but potential costs incurred may be alleviated depending on whether existing U.S. Forest Service monitoring sites are compatible with future 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.

With the exception of 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 (NPDES) 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** (ODF) 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). ODF management areas make up approximately 17 percent of the land area within the watershed adjacent to streams. ODF maintains forestry 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. ODF will likely incur costs to implement temperature-related management strategies, administrative costs for development of a TMDL implementation plan and reporting costs associated with this TMDL. In addition, DEQ is proposing to require ODF to participate in stream monitoring as identified in the WQMP. It is unknown what those costs will be at this time. 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.

- **Oregon Department of Agriculture** (ODA) 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 participate in monitoring and periodic progress reviews. ODA management areas make up approximately 53.5 percent of the land area within the watershed adjacent to streams. 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 will likely incur costs to implement temperature-related management strategies, administrative costs for

development of a TMDL implementation plan and reporting costs associated with this TMDL. In addition, DEQ is proposing to require ODA to participate in stream monitoring as identified in the WQMP. It is unknown what those costs will be at this time. Financial incentives and technical assistance programs are available to assist private landowners. Grant and low interest loan funding 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** (ODOT) is responsible for implementing practices to achieve pollutant allocations related to highways within the watershed. ODOT is required to comply with its DEQ-issued Municipal Stormwater Permit, including development of a statewide TMDL implementation plan. ODOT will likely incur costs to implement temperature-related management strategies, administrative costs for development of a TMDL implementation plan and reporting costs associated with this TMDL. The plan must include practices to achieve Miles Creeks Subbasin temperature TMDL allocations related to nonpoint sources of excess solar radiation.

- **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department** (OPRD) is a new DMA responsible for developing and implementing a TMDL implementation plan to meet TMDL allocations on OPRD-managed lands. OPRD will likely incur administrative and operational costs to develop its plan and carry out the related management, monitoring, and reporting.

- **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife** (ODFW) is responsible for implementing practices to achieve pollutant allocations related to lands managed by ODFW within the subbasin. ODFW will likely incur costs to implement temperature-related management strategies, administrative costs for development of a TMDL implementation plan and reporting costs associated with this TMDL. ODFW has only 23 streamside acres in the Miles Creeks Subbasin. Therefore costs associated with this TMDL will be minimal.

Local governments

There are three cities and one county in the Miles Creeks Subbasin project area named in the draft proposed WQMP as DMAs with implementation requirements: The Dalles, Mosier, Dufur and Wasco County. The Dalles, Mosier and Wasco County are existing DMAs that currently implement DEQ approved implementation plans to address temperature impairments under the existing 2008 Miles Creeks Subbasin Temperature TMDL. For these existing DMAs there may be incremental costs to update their existing plans to incorporate any new requirements in this draft proposed WQMP. The City of Dufur is an existing DMA with new implementation requirements. There will likely be administrative and operational costs to develop and carry out implementation plans.

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 are available to support implementation of assessment, pollution controls and watershed restoration actions or landscape improvements that may be necessary to meet TMDL requirements.

Special Districts

There are two Special Districts recognized by the state of Oregon located in the Miles Creeks subbasin that are named in the draft WQMP as DMAs with implementation requirements: Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District (NWCPRD) and The Port of The Dalles. NWCPRD was identified as a responsible person in the existing 2008 Miles Creeks Temperature TMDL and currently implements a DEQ approved implementation plan. They will likely incur additional administrative and operational costs to update their plans and carry out the related management, monitoring, and reporting. The Port of the Dalles is a newly named DMA with implementation plan requirements. They will likely incur administrative and operation costs to develop its plan and carry out implementation plans.

Responsible persons not required to submit implementation plans

The WQMP identifies two existing and four new responsible persons who are not currently required to develop TMDL implementation plans at this time: Hood River County (existing), City of Hood River (existing), Bonneville Power Administration (new), Union Pacific Railroad (new), Port of Hood River (new), The Dalles Irrigation District (new). These responsible persons are not expected to incur implementation costs. If conditions or information change, DEQ may require a responsible person to submit a plan. In that case, the responsible person would likely incur costs for plan development and implementation.

Public

The proposed rule does not have direct costs to the public. There may be indirect costs to the public if DMAs, such as cities or counties, pass on implementation costs to the public through increased fees or taxes. The TMDL replacement for temperature will provide a positive indirect 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 the Miles Creeks Subbasin. Threatened native populations of Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, as well as 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[1] 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.

The proposed rule to maintain cold water temperatures supports state and federal conservation and recovery plans to restore or maintain healthy fisheries. The recovery plans identify TMDLs as a management strategy for fish recovery in waters that don't meet temperature standards. The Mid-Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan[2] serves as both a recovery plan under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and as a State of Oregon conservation plan under Oregon's Native Fish Conservation Policy.

In 2019, local recreationists and visitors spent $289 million in Wasco County[3]. Outdoor recreation spending includes recreational trips, gear, apparel, equipment, and repair. Consumer spending supports businesses and jobs throughout the state. The statewide economic contribution of fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching to Oregon's economy as of 2019 was $1.2 billion, supporting over 11,000 jobs.[4] It was estimated that Oregon recreational anglers spent $396.9 million in 2019. Miles Creeks Subbasin communities may experience a positive cultural and economic impact due to the proposed rule. The proposed rule may have a positive economic impact on income from recreational anglers and the public.

Large businesses - businesses with more than 50 employees

Large businesses are not directly regulated under the rule. Responsible persons may change management practices to meet TMDL load allocations, and these changes may indirectly affect large businesses. Agricultural and timber operations are most likely to be affected because they account for a substantial portion of streamside land use and influence streamside vegetation and shading. Affected operations could include three timber tract operations and four businesses that provide support services for agriculture and forestry. Indirect fiscal impacts may include additional labor or operational modifications.

---

[1] Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Resources

[2] ODFW Mid-Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan

[3] Oregon Outdoor Recreation Economic Impact Study - Travel Oregon

[4] Economic Impact of Hunting, Sport Fishing, and Wildlife Viewing in Oregon Counties, Factsheet, 2019

DEQ reviewed 2021 data from the Oregon Employment Department[5] (2021) to identify large businesses operating within the cities of Dufur, Mosier and The Dalles that could be affected by the rule. Large businesses that operate within the basin are varied, and include, among others, universities, multinational corporations, and agricultural businesses. The proposed rule change could impose costs 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 may result in unknown additional costs to approximately 6 large agricultural and 2 utilities businesses for compliance with the TMDL area if they are determined to be located within riparian areas. 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 (these took effect in July 2023). 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) to identify small businesses operating within the cities of Dufur, Mosier and The Dalles that could be affected by the rule.

Small businesses are not directly regulated under the rule. Responsible persons may change management practices to meet TMDL load allocations, and these changes may indirectly affect small businesses. Sixty-one small agricultural and two timber-related operations are most likely to be affected because they could represent a large portion of streamside land use. These effects could also extend to small private woodland owners not classified as businesses in OED's database. Indirect fiscal impacts may include additional labor, equipment, materials, or administrative efforts. The proposed rule is unlikely to result in costs to approximately 654 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. Compliance costs for landowners implementing ODA and ODF rules are generally not dependent on TMDLs, because landowners must implement existing ODA and ODF water quality rules.

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 took effect in July 2023. The authors

[5] Oregon Employment Department: Request public records

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 must implement existing ODA and ODF water quality rules.

Grant and low interest loan funding 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 Resources Conservation Service[6] offers a variety of programs to help farmers, ranchers, family forests, Tribes and conservation partners perform voluntary conservation on private lands funded through the Farm Bill. Small rural landowners and agricultural operators are eligible for NRCS Financial Assistance, grant and cost-share programs through, including 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). Businesses were selected from the three cities included in the Miles Creeks Subbasin and filtered based on NAICs codes to identify those related to agriculture or forestry.

There are no minority owned business enterprises within the Miles Creeks Subbasin.

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 Miles Creeks Subbasin (ZIP codes: 97040, 97058, 97021) is 718 (OED, 2021). Small businesses may or may not be regulated by DMAs that are federal, state, or local government agencies that have legal

[6] Natural Resources Conservation Service

authority over a sector or source contributing pollutants, identified by DEQ in the TMDL. The number of small businesses that are regulated by DMAs can vary over time.

b. Projected reporting, record keeping 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 most small businesses because implementation plan development and annual reporting responsibilities are assigned to responsible persons, including DMAs. Therefore, DEQ does not anticipate any significant costs 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.

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 informational webinar opportunities to ask questions and learn about the proposed rule. DEQ will solicit feedback and information from the Rule Advisory Committee regarding potential fiscal impacts to small businesses.

Documents relied on for fiscal and economic impact

DEQ's Oregon Administrative Rules 340-042-0080 Implementing a Total Maximum Daily Load
Oregon Employment Department Request public records
Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory
Economic Impacts of Pacific Salmon Fisheries
Oregon Employment Department Small Business database (2021)
Private Forest Accord Report (2022)
U.S. Census Bureau – 2020 Census – Census Tract Reference Map

EPA webinar, Understanding Environmental Justice through two EPA tools: EJScreen and EnviroAtlas
Environmental Justice Best Practices for Oregon's Natural Resource Agencies
EJ 2020 Action Agenda: EPA's Environmental Justice Strategy
Public Environmental Data Partners Environmental Justice Analysis Multisite tool (EJAM)
Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Resources
ODFW Mid-Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan
Oregon Outdoor Recreation Economic Impact Study - Travel Oregon
Economic Impact of Hunting, Sport Fishing, and Wildlife Viewing in Oregon Counties, Factsheet, 2019
North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes
U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts
DEQ Rulemaking webpage for the Miles Creeks Subbasin Temperature TMDL

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-squarefoot 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 considerations

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.

The proposed rules are expected to have a positive impact on and help promote racial equity, particularly in benefitting Tribal interests. The true externalized costs of water pollution often negatively affect the indigenous, rural, minority and poor communities in Oregon. The proposed rules will help 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. Tribal nations were made aware of the rulemaking process and invited to consult on the rule advisory committee including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. DEQ will also engage extensively with agricultural, forestry, fishery, and conservation communities through the rule advisory committee.

Environmental justice considerations

ORS 182.545 requires natural resource agencies to consider the effects of their actions on environmental justice issues. ORS 182.545 requires natural resource agencies to consider the effects of their actions on environmental justice issues. Environmental justice ensures fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, education, or income, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. DEQ applies environmental justice best practices to guide outreach, participation, and program implementation, ensuring equitable environmental and public health protections.

DEQ evaluated environmental justice concerns in Wasco County using Public Environmental Data Partners Environmental Justice Analysis Multisite tool (EJAM) and U.S. Census Bureau County Quick Facts (August 12, 2026 – V2025). These analyses identified populations with higher vulnerability scores that may face cumulative environmental and socioeconomic burdens, such as higher poverty rates, lower access to internet broadband, and limited English proficiency

Wasco County residents are, on average, less ethnically diverse (i.e., higher percentage of residents who identify as white), and experience lower income than the state average. Additionally, residents in the subbasin are at a high risk of wildfire. This information may be useful in evaluating potential barriers to delivering services to disadvantaged communities. Based on county data for household internet subscriptions, it is recommended that educational materials be provided in physical means in addition to electronic means.

The US Census Bureau County QuickFacts (August 12, 2026 – V2025) reports that the percentage of American Indian and Alaska Natives in Wasco County is higher than the state average.

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 in the Miles Creeks Subbasin 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.

Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in the administration of its programs and activities.