

CHAPTER 18.128 CONDITIONAL USE

18.128.270 Fill Or Removal – General/Discretionary Standards

18.128.271 Fill Or Removal – Clear and Objective Standards Pursuant To DCC 22.08.040

18.128.270 Fill ~~or~~ Or Removal – General/Discretionary Standards

Except as otherwise provided in DCC Title 18, no person shall fill or remove any material or remove any vegetation, regardless of the amount, within the bed and banks of any stream or river, or in any wetland, unless such fill or removal is approved as a conditional use subject to the following standards:

- A. An application shall be filed containing a plan with the following information:
 - 1. A detailed explanation of the planned fill or removal including the amount of material to be filled or removed.
 - 2. An explanation of why the fill or removal is necessary.
 - 3. A site plan, drawn to scale and accompanied by such drawings, sketches and descriptions as are necessary to describe and illustrate the proposed fill or removal. The site plan shall, at a minimum, include:
 - a. An inventory of existing vegetation.
 - b. The proposed modifications, if any, to the vegetation.
 - c. Existing and proposed site contours.
 - d. Location of lot lines, easements and high water marks.
 - e. Other site elements or information that will assist in the evaluation of the proposed fill or removal.
- B. Public facility and service uses such as construction or maintenance of roads, bridges, electric, gas, telephone, water, sewer transmission and distribution lines, and related facilities controlled by public utilities or cooperative associations, shall not be granted conditional use permits to fill or remove unless the following findings are made:
 - 1. That all necessary state and federal permits will be obtained as a condition of approval of the conditional use.
 - 2. That the public facility and service uses and related facilities cannot, as a practical matter, be located outside of the wetland or bed and banks of the stream or river.
 - 3. That the construction or maintenance requiring the fill or removal will be done in a manner designed to minimize the adverse impact upon the wetland, stream, or river.
 - 4. That erosion will be adequately controlled during and after construction.

5. That the impacts on fish and wildlife habitat from the fill or removal will be minimized to the greatest extent practical. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will be requested to review and comment on the application.
 6. That only the minimum removal of vegetation or material and dredging or excavation necessary for construction and maintenance will be done.
- C. Fill or removal required for public park and recreation areas, natural and outdoor education areas, historic and scientific areas, wildlife refuges, public boat launching ramps, public docks, and public walkways shall not be allowed as a conditional use unless the following findings are made:
1. That all necessary state and federal permits will be obtained as a condition of approval of the conditional use permit.
 2. That only the minimum removal of vegetation or material and dredging or excavation necessary for construction and maintenance will be done.
 3. That the specific location of the site will require the minimum amount of disturbance to the natural environment, considering alternative locations in the area and methods of construction.
 4. That such construction and maintenance is designed to minimize the adverse impact on the site.
 5. That erosion will be adequately controlled during and after construction.
 6. That the impacts on fish and wildlife habitat by the fill or removal will be minimized to the greatest extent practical. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will be requested to review and comment on the application.
 7. That the specific location of a site for a public park, recreation area, natural and outdoor education area, historic and scientific area, wildlife refuges, public boat launching ramps, public docks, and public walkways will require the minimum amount of disturbance to the natural environment, considering alternative locations in the area and methods of construction.
- D. Except for uses identified in DCC 18.128.270(B) and (C), an application for a conditional use permit for activity involving fill or removal of material or vegetation within the bed and banks of a stream, river, or wetland:
1. Shall be granted only after consideration of the following factors:
 - a. The effects on public or private water supplies and water quality.
 - b. The effects on aquatic life and habitat, and wildlife and habitat. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will be requested to review and comment on the application.
 - c. Recreational, aesthetic, and economic values of the affected water resources.

- d. Effects on the hydrologic characteristics of the water body such as direction and velocity of flow, elevation of water surface, sediment transportation capacity, stabilization of the bank and flood hazards.
 - e. The character of the area, considering existing streambank stabilization problems and fill or removal projects which have previously occurred.
2. Shall not be granted unless all of the following conditions are met:
- a. That all necessary state and federal permits will be obtained as a condition of approval of the conditional use.
 - b. That there is no practical alternative to the proposed project which will have less impact on the surrounding area, considering the factors established in DCC 18.128.270(D)(1).
 - c. That there will be no significant impacts on the surrounding area, considering the factors established in DCC 18.128.270(D)(1).
 - d. That erosion will be adequately controlled during and after the project.
 - e. That the essential character, quality, and density of existing vegetation will be maintained. Additional vegetation shall be required if necessary to protect aquatic life habitats, functions of the ecosystem, wildlife values, aesthetic resources, and to prevent erosion.
 - f. That the proposed fill or removal activity will be consistent with all relevant goals and policies of the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan.
 - g. That a conservation easement, as defined in DCC 18.04.030, "Conservation Easement," shall be conveyed to the County, which provides, at a minimum, that all elements of the project will be carried out and maintained as approved, in perpetuity, for the regulated fill or removal area and all real property on the same lot or parcel, within 10 feet of any wetland, river or stream.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. [PL-15](#) on 11/1/1979

Repealed & Reenacted by Ord. [91-020](#) §1 on 5/29/1991

Amended by Ord. [91-038](#) §1 on 9/30/1991

Amended by Ord. [93-043](#) §23H-J on 8/25/1993

Amended by Ord. [95-075](#) §1 on 11/29/1995

Amended by Ord. [2025-002](#) §33 on 2/26/2025

[Amended by Ord. 2025-009 §12 on 6/18/2025](#)

18.128.271 Fill or Removal – Clear and Objective Standards Pursuant To DCC 22.08.040

- A. Applicability. This section applies to proposed fill or removal, as defined in DCC 18.04.030, within the bed and banks of any stream or river, or within any mapped boundary of a wetland as identified in the Statewide Wetland Inventory.**

B. Standards.

1. A maximum of one (1) cubic yard of fill or removal shall be permitted within areas identified in subsection (A). Additional fill or removal is subject to the standards in DCC 18.128.270.
2. An application for fill or removal shall meet the application requirements of subsection (C), and shall meet the standards in subsection (D).

C. An application shall be filed containing a plan with the following information:

1. A detailed explanation of the planned fill or removal including the amount of material to be filled or removed.
2. An explanation of why the fill or removal is necessary.
3. A site plan, drawn to scale and accompanied by such drawings, sketches and descriptions as are necessary to describe and illustrate the proposed fill or removal. The site plan shall, at a minimum, include:
 - a. An inventory of existing vegetation.
 - b. The proposed modifications, if any, to the vegetation.
 - c. Existing and proposed site contours.
 - d. Location of lot lines, easements, and high water marks.
4. A signed statement by a professional engineer licensed in the state of Oregon confirming the criterion in DCC 18.128.271(D)(2) is met.
5. A signed statement by a qualified biologist confirming the criterion in DCC 18.128.271(D)(2) is met. For the purposes of DCC 18.128.271, a “qualified biologist” is a person who has a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in wildlife or fisheries habitat biology, or a related degree in a biological field from an accredited college or university with a minimum of four years’ experience as a practicing fish or wildlife habitat biologist.
6. If subject to regulation from state or federal agencies, statements from Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Department of State Lands (DSL), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as applicable, identifying if any permitting is required through these agencies.

D. Permits for fill or removal shall not be granted unless the following criteria are met:

1. All necessary state and federal permits will be obtained as a condition of approval of the conditional use;
2. A professional engineer licensed in the state of Oregon has provided a signed statement confirming the proposed fill or removal will not adversely impact water quality, flooding, the stability of the bank, or other hydrologic characteristics of the water body, and that erosion will be adequately controlled during and after the project; and

3. A qualified biologist has provided a signed statement confirming the proposed fill or removal will result in no net loss of the functions and values, as defined in OAR 141-085-0510, of the stream, river, or wetland.
4. Except for the uses identified below, a conservation easement, as defined in DCC 18.04.030, shall be conveyed to the County, which provides, at a minimum, all elements of the project will be carried out and maintained as approved, in perpetuity, for the regulated fill or removal area and all real property on the same lot or parcel, within 10 feet of any wetland, river, or stream.
 - a. This requirement does not apply to permits for public facility and service uses such as construction or maintenance of roads, bridges, electric, gas, telephone, water, sewer transmission and distribution lines, and related facilities controlled by public utilities or cooperative associations.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 2025-009 §12 on 6/18/2025