

Attachment A

~~Strikeout~~ signifies deletions.
Underline signifies additions.

Chapter 2 - Land Use Regional Coordination

- Amend policy 2.1.1 as follows:
Balance the consideration of private property rights and the economic impacts of land use decisions on property owners with incentives to preserve agricultural and forest land, wildlife habitat, ground and surface water resources, wetlands, riparian areas, open areas and other community goals identified in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Amend policy 2.2.6 as follows:
Collaborate with federal agencies on land management issues, including homelessness, wildlife habitat restoration, water quality, road networks, energy projects, the impacts of recreation and the expansion of sustainable recreation opportunities-expansion, and energy projects.

Chapter 3 - Farm and Forest Lands

- Amend policy 3.2.4 as follows:
 - Work cooperatively with irrigation districts, public agencies and representatives and landowners to promote and support agricultural uses and operations, including through use of rural reserves, conservations easements, transfer of development rights programs, land acquisitions, and other preservation strategies consistent with existing Federal and State Law
- Amend policy 3.2.6 as follows:
 - Continue to review and revise county code as needed to be and consistent with state code, rules, and regulations to permit alternative and supplemental farm activities that are compatible with farming, such as agritourism ~~or commercial renewable energy projects~~ or other small scale sustainable activities.
- Amend narrative on page 3-3 Water Supply and Irrigation as follows:
 - Much of Deschutes County is served by six irrigation districts (Map 3-1) – these are special entities created for the purpose of delivering water to their patrons. These districts are ~~effectively non-profit water user associations-quasi-municipal corporations~~ chartered under Oregon law that operate as political subdivisions of the State of Oregon. In addition to irrigation, these districts also supply other services including municipal, industrial, and pond maintenance. ~~The total water available for irrigation and other human uses in Deschutes County is fixed under the current water regime. No additional water rights can be issued without the decommissioning of a previous claim. Therefore, there is limited opportunity to expand irrigated farming in the~~

~~County. Existing farms with senior water rights in general have relatively generous irrigation rights, which have rarely been fully utilized, and are expected to have sufficient water to cope with increasing temperatures and drought conditions in the future. In most cases, these districts are holders of senior water rights with shares then distributed to their patrons. As is the case with all water rights, the irrigation districts' water rights are managed by the Oregon Water Resources Department and subject to "beneficial use" requirements to prevent the waste of the water resource. The total water available for irrigation and other human uses in Deschutes County is fixed under the current water regime, and there is little opportunity to expand irrigated farming in the County. Irrigation districts with more junior water rights junior water right holders, associated with such as Arnold Irrigation District and North Unit Irrigation District (operating north of Deschutes County), have recently seen challenges with water delivery due to limited availability and drought.~~

- Amend narrative on page 3-3 Changes in Climate Conditions as follows:
 - Because the total volume of water available for agricultural and human use is fixed, strategies to decrease water usage (capping or piping irrigation channels, irrigation timing strategies, water conservation) will become more crucial. Deschutes County is committed to working with irrigation districts and holders of water rights to increase water conservation efforts throughout the County in a manner consistent with existing legal frameworks established by State and Federal law.
- **Remove** sentences on page 3-3 Conflicts with Other Uses
 - ~~Agricultural uses continue to be affected by conflicts with adjacent or surrounding non-farm uses (primarily new rural homes). In some cases, new residents object to impacts of common farming practices, such as noise, dust, and odors related to farm activity.~~

Chapter 5 – Natural Resources

- Amend water resources narrative on page 5-3 as follows:
 - The high desert climate of Central Oregon poses many challenges with water supply and allocation. ~~Water laws are seen as antiquated by many and issues related to water level in private residential wells, irrigation allocation to farmers, and protection of habitat areas for dependent species arise frequently.~~

A 2021 report by the Oregon Department of Water Resources found that groundwater levels through Deschutes County are declining, by as much as 50 feet of total decline in the central part of the basin. This decline is considered "excessively declined" per state statute and is attributed toward a

shift in overall drier conditions since the late 1990s, a warming trend in the basin, and decreased snowpack. ~~Ongoing development and piping of canals (which limits artificial groundwater recharge while conserving canal water) also exacerbate this issue~~ To address these issues, irrigation districts and other entities are engaged in ongoing efforts to pipe canals and modernize irrigation systems to increase their efficiency. Due to water transmission losses in irrigation canals from seepage into groundwater and evaporation, piped canals typically require only half the amount of water to be diverted from the river or stream to deliver the same volume of water to the end user compared to open canals. Community members have expressed concern that piping canals contribute to aquifer declines.

Deschutes County ~~has limited jurisdiction of water use, instead playing~~ plays a coordination role along with the Oregon Department of Water Resources, irrigation districts, water users, and owners of private wells to address these water resource issues.

- Addition of narrative to Chapter 5, Natural Resources, Wildlife section providing a brief description of the 2021-2023 Mule Deer Inventory Process.
 - Page 5-4 revise second paragraph to the following:
 - ~~A summary of Deschutes County's wildlife protection program follows:~~ A snapshot of Deschutes County's wildlife protection program is included below. Extensive information is included in Appendix A – the County's Goal 5 inventory.
 - Page 5-4, between first and second paragraphs, add new paragraph as follows;
 - From 2021-2023, Deschutes County explored an update to the county's mule deer inventory, which included extensive community participation including through the public record. Ultimately, the decision was made not to update.
- Amend Sensitive Birds - Page 5-4 as follows:
 - remove “northern” from “northern bald eagle”.
 - End of paragraph – add sentence: USFW works closely with ODFW on eagle-related issues and enforces federal guidelines to ensure protection of bald and golden eagles.
- Statewide Planning Goals - Page 5-5, add additional sentence at end of last paragraph:
 - Accordingly, it is imperative that local land use policies align with Federal and State laws governing the community's water resources.
- Regulatory Agencies - Page 5-5 add to end of paragraph

- Numerous sections of the Deschutes River in Deschutes County hold a special status as a federal wild and scenic river, as well as a state scenic waterway. These areas carry additional regulations through the 1996 Upper Deschutes Wild and Scenic River and State Scenic Waterway Comprehensive Plan, requiring additional agency coordination with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the US Forest Service on development impacting these sections.
- Reservoirs – Page 5-8, revise to the following:
 - ~~The majority of the irrigation in Deschutes County comes from reservoirs which are mostly spring fed from the Cascades. These reservoirs are primarily spring fed from the Cascades. Reservoirs serve the dual purpose of supplying water for irrigation and ensuring sufficient streamflow in the lower Deschutes River. The water levels in these lakes have been low in recent years due to drought in the region. When water is limited, the supply rate is determined by the age of water rights, with the more senior water permits having priority over the youngest. The Swalley and Central Irrigation Districts are the most senior in the County, while the North Unit Irrigation District is the most junior. Regional droughts in recent years have resulted in lower water levels in these reservoirs.~~
- Key Community Considerations – Page 5-9, amend last paragraph as follows:
 - ~~The topic of habitat conservation and water availability came up frequently, with most respondents participants saying that further protections are needed. However, there was also some push back related to the burden these protections may put on property owners. recognition of the burden these protections may put on property owners. Deschutes County does not have the authority or expertise to reevaluate water rights as part of its land use planning efforts, leading the County to instead work with the Oregon Department of Water Resources, irrigation districts, and holders of water rights to increase the efficiency of water distribution throughout the community.~~
- Amend Goal 5.1 as follows:
 - ~~Develop–Support~~ regional, comprehensive water management solutions policies that balance the diverse needs of water users and recognize Oregon water law.
- Amend policy 5.1.1.a as follows:
 - Work cooperatively with appropriate federal, state, tribal and local agency resource managers, such as The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), irrigation districts, and other stakeholders and nonprofit water organizations,

such as the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative, the County Soil and Water Conservation District;

- Remove policy 5.1.3. ~~Consider potential impacts on water quality and availability in surrounding areas as part of the siting, planning, and approval processes for Destination Resorts and other large-scale developments.~~
- Amend policy 5.11.5. as follows:
 - Develop and implement a Climate Action Plan to address the potential future impacts of climate change on Deschutes County through incentives and or regulations.
- Add new policy to Chapter 5, Natural Resources, Water section
 - Encourage state agencies to identify local areas of concern for water availability and explore additional regulations or requirements to ensure water capacity is not negatively impacted by development.
- Add new policy and narrative to Chapter 5, Natural Resources, Water section
 - Revisit recommendations of 1996 Upper Deschutes Wild and Scenic River and State Scenic Waterway Comprehensive Plan, or its successor, and consider implementation of voluntary recommendations into the county code.

Chapter 6 – Historic and Cultural Resources

- Add paragraph to Opportunities, Challenges, Considerations – Page 6-12
 - Deschutes County owns the National Register listed Reid School and invests in supporting the Deschutes County Historical Society as a research and educational facility through a zero-cost lease and maintenance support for the purposes of running the museum and research center.
- Add to end second paragraph – Page 6-12
 - Deschutes County has several partners involved in drafting and implementing this strategic plan – those partners include the Deschutes County Historical Society, High Desert Museum, Archaeological Society of Central Oregon, Three Sisters Historical Society, and Redmond Historical Society.
- Amend context paragraph – Page 6-12 as follows:
 - These sites receive special protections to avoid land use or development activity that may disturb the historical ~~or educational~~ and cultural resources existing on site.
- Amend Locally significant sites – Page 6-12 as follows:

- Deschutes County has 35 locally significant sites including cemeteries, ranches, dams, bridges, schools, and granges among numerous historic homesteads and homesites. The State of Oregon has initiated a process to identify culturally significant archaeological sites and sites of indigenous importance. This process will likely be incorporated into the County's local inventory in the next five years.
- Nationally registered sites – Page 6-13 remove second paragraph. ~~One of the primary sites of historic and cultural learning in the county is the nationally acclaimed High Desert Museum. The museum is dedicated to broadening the understanding of the High Desert's wildlife, culture, art, and natural resources. In doing so, it strives to promote thoughtful decision making to sustain the region's natural and cultural heritage.~~
- Amend Policy 6.1.3. as follows:
 - Coordinate with The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Burns-Paiute Tribe, Klamath Tribes, Archaeological Society of Central Oregon, and SHPO to adopt a program to identify and protect archaeological and cultural resources, as appropriate, and prevent conflicting uses from disrupting the value of known sites.

Chapter 7 – Natural Hazards

- Revise wildfire summary in on page 7-3 to the following:
 - Wildfire. Historically, wildland fires have shaped the forests and wildlands valued by residents and visitors. These landscapes, however, are now significantly altered due to increased rural development, warmer and dried conditions, and a general lack of large-scale treatments due to outdated forest management practices, resulting in increased event of wildfires that burn more intensely than in the past.

Chapter 8 - Recreation

- Amend policy 8.1.2 as follows:
 - Collaborate with partners to develop a regional system of trails and open spaces, prioritizing balancing recommendations from local park districts, County, state, and federal recreation plans and studies and property owner considerations, particularly for projects adjacent to farm and forest lands.

Chapter 9 – Economic Development

- Page 9-5 Resource Land – replace paragraph with the following:
 - **Resource Land Construction and Development**
While much of the County's economic activity occurs in urban areas, ~~County administration of farmland, forest land, and natural resources plays a vital role~~

in protecting and enhancing the economic development potential of the area. agricultural, forestry, and construction industries also provide economic growth in Deschutes County. Construction of rural housing can support additional workforce in areas outside of city limits while also utilizing local trade industries. Construction of rural industrial or commercial projects provide economic opportunities that serve rural communities, without a trip into an adjacent city.

Chapter 11 – Unincorporated Communities and Destination Resorts

- Amend policy 11.7.2. to following:
 - ~~Create and implement additional limitations on the siting and development of destinations resorts that go beyond current state regulations to~~ Ensure protection of water quality, recreational resources, and other County resources and values.

- Add paragraph to page 11-3 under destination resort section
 - Destination resorts are a key economic development strategy for Deschutes County. Many community members and visitors enjoy the recreational amenities and accommodations that Destination Resorts provide.

- Amend third paragraph, key community considerations, page 11-3 to the following:
 - Destination Resort development continues to be a contentious issue. Community members have expressed concern regarding the water use of large-scale development – specifically the effects to groundwater for neighboring property owners. ~~Many community members have expressed a desire to further limit destination resorts, golf courses, and visitor accommodations in order to preserve water access and availability for year-round residents.~~Other community members express support for the economic and amenity benefits of destination resorts, noting that the current requirements sufficiently address natural resource concerns. Additional community conversations will be valuable to understand the diversity of perspectives on this topic.

Chapter 12 – Irrigation Districts

Amend narrative under Irrigation Districts section – Pages 12-4-5

- “Irrigation districts in Oregon are organized as Special Districts under ORS Chapter 545. Six irrigation districts operate in Deschutes County: Arnold, Central Oregon, North Unit, Swalley, Tumalo, and Three Sisters Irrigation Districts. They are quasi-municipal public corporations under Oregon Law, with prescribed rules for purpose, boards, elections, staffing, charges, etc. The districts ~~are~~ operate as political subdivisions of the State of Oregon created for the purpose of delivering water to their patrons. ~~As such they are effectively non-profit water user associations.~~ In addition to irrigation uses, these districts also supply a number of other services,

including municipal, industrial, and pond maintenance, warranting coordination with municipalities.”

Chapter 14 - Energy

Add new policy:

- Include evaluation of adverse impacts to natural resources as part of renewable energy siting processes.

- **Remove** text below – Hydroelectric energy generation page 14-4
 - ~~Several water districts in Deschutes County have implemented hydropower projects to harness the energy of moving water. These projects may have impacts on wildlife habitat and migration, as well as construction, visual, and noise impacts.~~
 - Revise remaining text in section to following:
Currently, Deschutes County has three approved “in conduit” hydroelectric facilities that are owned and operated by irrigation districts within existing irrigation district canals. Approval of these facilities have previously been contentious, with community members expressing concern about wildlife and impacts to other basin users. Irrigation districts ~~have expressed interest in reducing barriers to permitting these types of developments to promote renewable energy development using manmade waterways.~~ noted challenges in utilizing the existing county code for these projects, which were drafted to address “in channel” hydroelectric facilities. To promote renewable energy development using man-made waterways, irrigation districts have expressed interest in helping the County update the Deschutes County Code to more appropriately address “in conduit” hydroelectric facilities separate and apart from “in-channel” hydroelectric facilities”.