



Attachment A- Minor variance 10% lot area rule for farm and forest zoned properties

BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

Lot line adjustments have been used to circumvent lot-area-based development standards both under local code and state statute. In 1991, County Code was amended (Ord. 91-038) to limit area reduction of lots that are currently smaller than the minimum lot size (to a maximum reduction of ten percent) without a more complicated variance review process.

In the past two decades, state statute (ORS 92.192) has been updated to include protections for lot-area-based standards that are more robust and nuanced than the County Code provision. Currently both the state and county protections apply. However, because the County provisions are more of a “blunt instrument”, they cause unexpected problems for operators of large farms. Specifically, because the minimum lot size for most farm-zoned properties is 80 acres, the transfer of sub-80 acre pieces between neighboring farm operations is needlessly complicated by County Code.

CURRENT PROCESS & CHANGES

Potential text amendments would remove the conflict between DCC and ORS by changing DCC 18.132.025 to exclude farm and forest zone properties from the County’s ten-percent reduction limitation.

Key Amendment Concerns	
Staff Effort/Resources	Medium/Low
Legal Complexity	Low
Implementation Urgency	Medium/Low