



Attachment M - Wetland Regulation Clarification for Irrigation or Artificially Created Wetlands

BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

Tumalo Irrigation District has identified a number of operational concerns regarding County Wetland regulations. Specifically:

- Many of the irrigation canals and ponds, and in some instances formerly flood irrigated fields, within the County have been included in the various national, state, and local wetlands inventories.
- County code generally requires permitting for any fill/removal in wetlands, as opposed to DSL regulations that generally leave fill/removal under 50 cubic yards unregulated.
- Exceptions are provided for irrigation districts in local code, but irrigation district patrons do not have similar exceptions for on-property management of irrigation facilities.
- Existing regulation can complicate and increase the cost of irrigation piping projects

Regulatory changes may be able to simply/clarify rules relating to these operations. Specifically, local implementation of Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 141-085 may be useful. For example:

- 141-085-0530, Exemptions for Certain Activities and Structures
- 141-085-0535, Exemptions Specific to Agricultural Activities

CURRENT PROCESS & CHANGES

Under Board direction and with public outreach and input, Staff would explore updating wetland regulations to clarify for irrigation or artificially created wetlands

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