



FINDINGS

FARM AND FOREST HOUSEKEEPING TEXT AMENDMENTS

247-25-000297-TA

I. **APPLICABLE CRITERIA:**

Title 22, Deschutes County Development Procedures Ordinance

II. **BACKGROUND:**

Oregon's zoning-based farm and forest land conservation programs have been in place since 1973. Over the past 10 years, interested parties, the courts, and the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) have identified a number of issues needing review. In 2024, the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) initiated the Farm and Forest Modernization Project, which included rulemaking and the appointment of a rules advisory committee (RAC). Rulemaking was intended to improve the clarity and consistency of implementing Oregon's farm and forest program across the state. DLCD directed the RAC to consider:

- Codifying identified case law standards;
- Other EFU rule amendments;
- Conforming rule changes; and
- Providing additional clarity to counties and potential applicants with the intent of reducing unnecessary appeals.

LCDC ultimately adopted new Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) on December 6, 2024. They became effective on January 1, 2025. Staff provided an update to the Board of County Commissioners on February 3, 2025¹ and acknowledged an amendment package would be forthcoming in spring/summer 2025.

This housekeeping text amendment will incorporate the changes to the OAR into the Deschutes County Code (DCC), as well as incorporate some minor housekeeping changes from previous rulemaking or legislative changes that have not yet been captured locally.

III. **AMENDMENT SUMMARY:**

To comply with this rulemaking package, staff is proposing the following amendments:

¹ <https://www.deschutes.org/bcc/page/board-county-commissioners-meeting-220>

- Amend 18.16.040(A) to apply farm impacts test through reference to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) and OAR.
- Amend 18.16.042(A) 'incidental and subordinate' definition for agri-tourism.
- Amend 18.16.030(Y) to include ORS and OAR references for rural transportation facilities in Exclusive Farm Use zone.
- Add rural transportation facilities as 18.36.030(AE) and 18.40.030(AG) in forest zones and included ORS and OAR references.
- Amend 18.16.031(D), 18.36.030(G), and 18.40.030(H) to reference ORS and OAR definition for private parks.
- Amend 18.16.020(J), 18.36.020(M), and 18.040.020(M) to reference ORS and OAR standards for replacement dwellings. Removed sections 18.16.023, 18.36.025, and 18.40.025 as they were duplicative.
- Amend 18.04 to reference ORS and OAR for definition of "farm use".
- Amend 18.16.050(A)(3)(f), 18.16.050(B)(8), and 18.16.050(C)(5) to reflect new requirements for verification of income associated with farmworker and primary farm dwellings.
- Amend 18.16.038(C) to reference ORS and OAR standards for farm stands.
- Amend 18.16.030(M), 18.36.030(R), and 18.40.030(S) to reference ORS and OAR standards for home occupations.
- Amend 18.36.050(D)(1)(d)(1) and 18.40.050(D)(1)(d)(1) to remove a temporary provision for template dwellings that has sunset.
- Amended 18.16.031(D), 18.16.030(G), 18.36.030(G), and 18.40.030(H) to directly reference requirements for campgrounds in OAR and ORS. Removed 18.16.050(L) as no longer needed.
- Amended 18.04 to amend the definition for a processing facility for farm crops to include rabbit products.
- Amended 18.16.033(C) as is it duplicative and superseded by 18.120.010(B), pertaining to expansion of nonconforming schools.

Staff included only housekeeping style amendments resulting from rulemaking in this particular text amendment package. Additional discretionary amendments related to childcare, temporary storage sites, and natural disaster event allowances may be pursued in the future.

IV. BASIC FINDINGS:

The Planning Division determined amendments were necessary to incorporate changes to state law into various sections of the Deschutes County Code. Staff initiated the proposed amendments and notified the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development on May 22, 2025 (File no. 247-25-000297-TA). As demonstrated in the findings below, the amendments remain consistent with Deschutes County Code, the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan, and the Statewide Planning Goals.

V. FINDINGS:

CHAPTER 22.12, LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

Section 22.12.010.

Hearing Required

No legislative change shall be adopted without review by the Planning Commission and a public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners. Public hearings before the Planning Commission shall be set at the discretion of the Planning Director, unless otherwise required by state law.

FINDING: This criterion will be met because public hearings will be held before the Deschutes County Planning Commission (Commission) and the Board of County Commissioners (Board).

Section 22.12.020, Notice

Notice

A. Published Notice

- 1. Notice of a legislative change shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least 10 days prior to each public hearing.***
- 2. The notice shall state the time and place of the hearing and contain a statement describing the general subject matter of the ordinance under consideration.***

FINDING: This criterion will be met as notice will be published in *The Bulletin* newspaper at least 10 days prior to each public hearing.

B. Posted Notice. Notice shall be posted at the discretion of the Planning Director and where necessary to comply with ORS 203.045.

FINDING: Posted notice was determined by the Planning Director not to be necessary.

C. Individual notice. Individual notice to property owners, as defined in DCC 22.08.010(A), shall be provided at the discretion of the Planning Director, except as required by ORS 215.503.

FINDING: The proposed amendments are legislative and do not apply to any specific property. Therefore, individual notice is not required.

D. Media notice. Copies of the notice of hearing shall be transmitted to other newspapers published in Deschutes County.

FINDING: Notice was provided to the County public information official for wider media distribution. This criterion has been met.

Section 22.12.030 Initiation of Legislative Changes.

A legislative change may be initiated by application of individuals upon payment of required fees as well as by the Board of County Commissioners.

FINDING: The application was initiated by the Deschutes County Planning Division at the direction of the Board and has received a fee waiver. This criterion has been met.

Section 22.12.040. Hearings Body

- A. *The following shall serve as hearings or review body for legislative changes in this order:***
 - 1. *The Planning Commission.***
 - 2. *The Board of County Commissioners.***
- B. *Any legislative change initiated by the Board of County Commissioners shall be reviewed by the Planning Commission prior to action being taken by the Board of Commissioners.***

FINDING: This criterion will be met because public hearings will be held before the Deschutes County Planning Commission (Commission) and the Board of County Commissioners (Board).

Section 22.12.050 Final Decision

All legislative changes shall be adopted by ordinance

FINDING: The proposed legislative changes included in file no. 247-25-000297-TA will be implemented by ordinances upon approval and adoption by the Board.

OAR 660-015, STATEWIDE PLANNING GOALS AND GUIDELINES

Goal 1: Citizen Involvement:

FINDING: The amendments do not propose to change the structure of the County's citizen involvement program. Notice of the proposed amendments was provided to the *Bulletin* for the Board public hearing. This goal is met.

Goal 2: Land Use Planning:

FINDING: The purpose of the amendment is to integrate requirements from Oregon Administrative Rule and Oregon Revised Statutes. The proposal has a factual base and is consistent with the intent of the Comprehensive Plan and zoning districts. This goal is met.

Goal 3: Agricultural Lands:

FINDING: The proposed amendments integrate rulemaking from LCDC's recent Farm and Forest Modernization Project into local code provisions. This goal is met.

Goal 4: Forest Lands:

FINDING: The proposed amendments integrate rulemaking from LCDC's recent Farm and Forest Modernization Project into local code provisions. This goal is met.

Goal 5: Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural Resources:

FINDING: The proposed amendments do not include changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan policies or implementing regulations for compliance with Goal 5. This goal does not apply.

Goal 6: Air, Water and Land Resources Quality:

FINDING: The proposed amendments do not include changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan policies or implementing regulations for compliance with Goal 6. This goal does not apply.

Goal 7: Areas Subject to Natural Disasters and Hazards:

FINDING: The proposed amendments do not include changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan policies or implementing regulations for compliance with Goal 7. This goal does not apply.

Goal 8: Recreational Needs:

FINDING: The proposed amendments do not include changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan policies or implementing regulations for compliance with Goal 8. This goal does not apply.

Goal 9: Economic Development:

FINDING The proposed amendments do not include changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan policies or implementing regulations for compliance with Goal 9. This goal does not apply.

Goal 10: Housing:

FINDING: The proposed amendments integrate rulemaking from LCD's recent Farm and Forest Modernization Project into local code provisions. This goal is met.

Goal 11: Public Facilities and Services:

FINDING: The proposed amendments do not include changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan policies or implementing regulations for compliance with Goal 11. This goal does not apply.

Goal 12: Transportation:

FINDING: The proposed amendments do not include changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan policies or implementing regulations for compliance with Goal 12. This goal does not apply.

Goal 13: Energy Conservation:

FINDING: The proposed amendments do not include changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan policies or implementing regulations for compliance with Goal 13. This goal does not apply.

Goal 14: Urbanization:

FINDING: The proposed amendments integrate rulemaking from LCD's recent Farm and Forest Modernization Project into local code provisions. This goal is met.

Goals 15 through 19

FINDING: These goals are not applicable to the proposed plan and text amendments because the County does not contain these types of lands.

2011 DESCHUTES COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Chapter 2 – Resource Management -Section 2.2 Agricultural Land Policies

Policy 2.2.5 Uses allowed in Exclusive Farm Use zones shall comply with State Statute and Oregon Administrative Rule.

Policy 2.2.6 Regularly review farm regulations to ensure compliance with changes to State Statute, Oregon Administrative Rules and case law.

FINDING: The intent of the proposed text amendment is to integrate changes to state administrative rules into local code for implementation. Where possible, staff has proposed amendments to the code to directly reference state statute and administrative rule. These policies are met.

Chapter 2 – Resource Management -Section 2.3 Forest Land Policies

Policy 2.3.5 Uses allowed in Forest zones shall comply with State Statute and Oregon Administrative Rule.

FINDING: The intent of the proposed text amendment is to integrate changes to state administrative rules into local code for implementation. Where possible, staff has proposed amendments to the code to directly reference state statute and administrative rule. These policies are met.

VI. CONCLUSION:

Based on the information provided herein, the staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners approve the proposed text amendments that make minor changes necessary to clarify existing standards and procedural requirements, incorporate changes to state and federal law, and to correct errors in the Deschutes County Code.