

**OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CHAPTER 603, DIVISION 95
AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Wallowa

603-095-1800

Purpose

(1) These rules have been developed to implement a water quality management area plan for the Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area pursuant to authorities vested in the department through ORS 568.900 - 568.933. The area plan is known as the Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan.

(2) The purpose of these rules is to outline requirements for landowners in the Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities and soil erosion. Compliance with Division 95 rules is expected to aid in the achievement of applicable water quality standards in the Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area.

(3) Failure to comply with any provisions of the Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan:

(a) does not constitute a violation of OAR 603-095-0000 to 603-090-0120, or of OAR 603-095-0010 to OAR 635-095-1860;

(b) is not intended by the department to be evidence of a violation of any federal, state, or local law by any person.

(4) Nothing in the Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan shall be:

(a) construed as an effluent limitation or standard under the federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 USC §§ 1251-1376;

(b) used to interpret any requirement of OAR 603-095-1800 to OAR 635-095-1860.

Statutory Authority: ORS 561.190 - 561.191, and ORS 568.912

Statutes Implemented: ORS 568.900 - 568.933

603-095-1820

Geographic and Programmatic Scope

(1) The Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area includes Wallowa River, Lower Grande Ronde River and Imnaha River subbasins. The physical boundaries of the Management Area are indicated on the map included as Appendix 1 of these rules.

(2) Operational boundaries for the land base under the purview of these rules include all lands within the Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area in agricultural use, agricultural and rural lands that are lying idle or on which management has been deferred, and forested lands with agricultural activities, with the exception of public lands managed by federal agencies and Tribal Trust Lands.

(3) Current productive agricultural use is not required for the provisions of these rules to apply. For example, highly erodible lands with no present active use are within the purview of these rules.

(4) The provisions and requirements outlined in these rules may be adopted by reference by Designated Management Agencies with appropriate authority and responsibilities in other geographic areas of the Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area.

(5) For lands in agricultural use within other Designated Management Agencies' or state agency jurisdictions, the department and the appropriate Local Management Agency shall work with these Designated Management Agencies to assure that provisions of these rules apply, and to assure that duplication of any services provided or fees assessed does not occur.

Statutory Authority: ORS 561.190 - 561.191, and ORS 568.912

Statutes Implemented: ORS 568.900 - 568.933

603-095-1840

Required Prevention and Control Measures

(1) Limitations. A landowner shall be responsible for only those conditions caused by activities conducted on land managed by the landowner. Criteria do not apply to conditions resulting from unusual weather events or other exceptional circumstances which could not have been reasonably anticipated.

(2) Excessive Sheet and Rill Erosion

(a) By January 1, 2006, soil erosion will be reduced to the "Soil Loss Tolerance Factor" or "T".

(b) For croplands which the department determines cannot practically or economically achieve "T" soil erosion will be reduced to 5 tons per acre per year averaged over the length of the rotation.

(c) Reduction of soil erosion will be calculated by the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE), with supporting data from the Natural Resource Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide and similar data from other credible sources.

(3) Excessive Gully Erosion

(a) By January 1, 2006, no person shall cause conditions on the land that contribute to gully erosion delivering sediment directly to the waters of the state. Gullies are defined as channels which at the largest dimension have a cross sectional area of at least one square foot and which occur at the same location for two or more consecutive years.

(b) No violation of this condition will be deemed to have occurred if the affected landowner has established and maintained a department or local Designated Management Agency approved effective management program. An effective management program shall provide assurance that reasonable steps have been taken to lessen and manage gully formation.

(4) Pollution Control and Waste Management. Effective on rule adoption: No person subject to these rules shall violate any provision of ORS 468B.025 or ORS 468B.050.

(5) Streamside Conditions. By January 1, 2006, no person may contribute to conditions that preclude establishment and development of adequate riparian vegetation for streambank stability and shading, consistent with site capability.

(6) Irrigation Return Flow

(a) By January 1, 2006, no person may cause bacteria levels in irrigation tailwater to exceed state water quality standards. When the irrigation water at the point of initial application already exceeds the bacteria standard, then the bacteria level in the tailwater cannot be higher than the level in the irrigation water at the point of initial application.

(b) A landowner shall be responsible for only those conditions caused by activities conducted on land managed by the landowner. Criteria do not apply to conditions resulting from unusual weather events, natural background levels of bacteria or other exceptional circumstances which could not have been reasonably anticipated.

Statutory Authority: ORS 561.190 - 561.191, ORS 568.909

Statutes Implemented: ORS 568.900 - 568.933

603-095-1860

Complaints and Investigations

(1) When the department receives notice of an apparent occurrence of agricultural pollution through a written complaint, its own observation, through notification by another agency, or by other means, the department may conduct an investigation. The department may, at its discretion, coordinate inspection activities with the appropriate Local Management Agency.

(2) Each notice of an alleged occurrence of agricultural pollution will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria in ORS 568.900 to 568.933 or any rules adopted thereunder to determine whether an investigation is warranted.

(3) Any person allegedly being damaged or otherwise adversely affected by agricultural pollution or alleging any violation of ORS 568.900 to 568.933 or any rules adopted thereunder may file a complaint with the department.

(4) The department will evaluate or investigate a complaint filed by a person under section OAR 603-095-1860(3) if the complaint is in writing, signed and dated by the complainant and indicates the location and description of:

(a) The waters of the state allegedly being damaged or impacted; and

(b) The property allegedly being managed under conditions violating criteria described in ORS 568.900 to 568.933 or any rules adopted thereunder.

(5) As used in section OAR 603-095-1860(4), “person” does not include any local, state or federal agency.

(6) Notwithstanding OAR 603-095-1860, the department may investigate at any time any complaint if the department determines that the violation alleged in the complaint may present an immediate threat to the public health or safety.

(7) If the department determines that a violation of ORS 568.900 to 568.933 or any rules adopted thereunder has occurred, the landowner may be subject to the enforcement procedures of the department outlined in OARs 603-090-0060 through 603-090-0120.

Statutory Authority: ORS 561.190 - 561.191, and ORS 568.912

Statutes Implemented: ORS 568.900 - 568.933

APPENDIX 1

Wallowa Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

