

Proposed “Enhanced Notice” Program: Using Wetland Indicators to Identify Potential Wetlands

<u>Intent:</u>	To protect and/or mitigate for impacts to wetlands that are <u>not</u> identified in the State Wetland Inventory.
<u>Assumption:</u>	We can’t protect wetlands or mitigate for impacts of their development if we don’t know where they are!
<u>Background:</u>	<p>Oregon has a “No Net Loss” of wetlands goal and is required to “maintain a stable resource base of wetlands,” to “encourage wetland restoration and creation,” and to require compensation for “functions and values for the waters of the state.”</p> <p>ORS 215.418 requires counties to provide notice to the Department of State Lands for any proposed development that is wholly or partially within areas identified as wetlands on the State Wetland Inventory.</p> <p>Per DSL’s website, the State Wetland Inventory (SWI) consists of two types of inventories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>National Wetlands Inventory</u> (NWI) developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and <u>Local Wetlands Inventories</u> (LWI) developed by cities according to standards (rules) set by the Department. <p>The NWI is available statewide. Only those wetlands and other waters that are visible on high altitude aerial photographs are mapped, and most maps date to the mid-1980s.</p> <p>LWIs are comprehensive maps and information about wetlands throughout a city. An LWI provides information a city needs to incorporate wetlands and streams into their comprehensive plans for the community. The LWIs replace the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) in urban areas.</p> <p>In 1990, DSL adopted guidelines and rules for conducting LWIs within urban growth boundaries. The LWI rules were updated in February 2001 and in January 2009.</p> <p>LWIs are conducted by wetlands consultants for cities completing wetlands planning under Statewide Goals 5 (Natural Resources) or 17 (Coastal Shorelands). LWIs or other resource inventories for areas outside of Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs) have been completed for other planning goals or purposes. Wetlands program staff work closely with cities and consultants to ensure that the LWIs are thorough and conducted according to standards.</p>
<u>Proposal:</u>	Develop and implement a local “enhanced” notice program that uses available data to identify areas of potential wetlands. These potential wetlands would be included in a GIS layer that staff would use to determine if notice should be sent to DSL. The DSL notice would also include a site plan and the data that was used to “trigger” the notice.
<u>Next Steps:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>WAC</u>: Finalize list of data elements to be considered, as well as locations that would trigger DSL notice (see Data Sources and Triggers on next page) 2. <u>Technical Peer Review</u>: Conduct a peer review with wetland scientists, watershed councils, DSL staff 3. <u>Develop guidelines for Local Program</u>: These would be the basis for the future code amendments 4. <u>Discuss with Board and PC in Joint Work Session</u>: The WAC would participate 5. <u>Begin Code Amendment Process</u>:

<u>Data Sources:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydric Soils (any or choose specific ones?) • Floodplains • Stream layers (check on quality of existing data) • Lidar (to id depressions and unmapped streams)
<u>Triggers:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within floodplain • Presence of intermittent or ephemeral streams • Adjacency to fish-bearing streams (distance?) • Adjacency to Essential Salmon Habitat (distance?) • Adjacency to Water Quality-Limited Streams (distance?)
<u>Other:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require a delineation when proposed area of ground disturbance is greater than X acres

Link:

The following is a similar concept that uses wetland indicators to identify potential wetlands:

<http://wetlandprotection.org/update-wetland-maps/17/18-using-wetland-indicator-layers-to-map-potential-wetlands.html>