

3 - AGRICULTURAL LANDS

GOAL:

To preserve and maintain agricultural lands.

Agriculture lands shall be preserved and maintained for farm use, consistent with existing and future needs for agricultural products, forest and open space. These lands shall be inventoried and preserved by adopting exclusive farm use zones pursuant to ORS Chapter 215. Such minimum lot sizes as are utilized for any farm use zones shall be appropriate for the continuation of the existing commercial agricultural enterprise within the area.

Conversion of rural agricultural land to urbanizable land shall be based upon consideration of the following factors: (1) environmental, energy, social and economic consequences; (2) demonstrated need consistent with LCDC goals; (3) unavailability of an alternative suitable location for the requested use; (4) compatibility of the proposed use with related agricultural land; and (5) the retention of Class I, II, III and IV soils in farm use. A governing body proposing to convert rural agricultural land to urbanizable land shall follow the procedures and requirements set forth in the Land Use Planning goal (Goal 2) for goal exceptions.

AGRICULTURAL LAND--in western Oregon is land of predominantly Class I, II, III and IV soils and in eastern Oregon is land of predominantly Class I, II, III, IV, V and VI soils as identified in the Soil Capability Classification System of the United States Soil Conservation Service, and other lands which are suitable for farm use taking into consideration soil fertility, suitability for grazing, climatic conditions, existing and future availability of water for farm irrigation purposes, existing land use patterns, technological and energy inputs required, or accepted farming practices. Lands in other classes which are necessary to permit farm practices to be undertaken on adjacent or nearby lands, shall be included as agricultural land in any event.

More detailed soil data to define agricultural land may be utilized by local governments if such data permits achievement of this goal.

FARM USE--is as set forth in ORS 215.203 and includes the non-farm uses authorized by ORS 215.213.

GUIDELINES:

A. PLANNING

1. Urban growth should be separated from agricultural lands by buffer or transitional areas of open space.
2. Plans providing for the preservation and maintenance of farm land for farm use, should consider as a major determinant the carrying capacity of the air, land and water resources of the planning area. The land conservation and development actions provided for by such plans should not exceed the carrying capacity of such resources.

B. IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Non-farm uses permitted within farm use zones under ORS 215.213(2) and (3) should be minimized to allow for maximum agricultural productivity.
2. Extension of services, such as sewer and water supplies into rural areas should be appropriate for the needs of agriculture, farm use and non-farm uses established under ORS 215.213.
3. Services that need to pass through agricultural lands should not be connected with any use that is not allowed under ORS 215.203 and 215.213, should not be assessed as part of the farm unit and should be limited in capacity to serve specific service areas and identified needs.
4. Forest and open space uses should be permitted on agricultural land that is being preserved for future agricultural growth. The interchange of such lands should not be subject to tax penalties.