



Fact Sheet

Environmental Cleanup Solid Waste Orphan Site Account

Funding for solid waste removal and hazardous substance remediation

Helping fund solid waste removal and cleanup

Oregon DEQ has funding to clean up solid waste disposal sites (ORS 459.005(8)) with the potential for a release (ORS 465.200(22)) of a hazardous substance (ORS 465.200(16)). In addition to the potential for a hazardous substance release, to qualify for funding the site needs to either (1) be owned or operated by a local government, or (2) privately owned or operated and has received domestic solid waste. Privately owned sites must have a responsible party that is unknown, unwilling, or unable to pay for removal or remediation costs (OAR 340-122-0530).

Funding options

We have two funding options: grant funding and low interest loans. For private solid waste orphans, DEQ can fund these projects as a grant with limited expectations for cost recovery through means such as liens. Local government owned or operated solid waste disposal sites qualify for low-interest rate loans, of which the initial \$100,000 of the loan has no repayment obligation.

Local government landfills

In addition to private orphans, the SWOSA serves as a safety net for local governments to reduce liability in the event of a hazardous substance release from a landfill they own or operate. This money can be utilized for site investigation as well as removal and remedial action. Local governments qualify for a loan amount matching a required contribution known as a surcharge (ORS 459.311). Removal and remediation costs beyond this surcharge amount can be covered by DEQ as a grant. Additionally, the initial \$100,000 of the loan has no repayment obligation (OAR 340-122-0570(c)).

Currently seeking solid waste orphan sites

DEQ wants to expand our funding of solid waste orphan sites and help clean up private residences and businesses that have become sites of solid waste disposal or storage. Local governments often assume control of properties that have transformed into solid waste disposal sites and lack the funding to clean them up and return them to productive use. DEQ would like to help provide funding to get these sites cleaned up. We are asking for local governments to submit applications for sites have come into their possession (i.e., via tax foreclosure) that have become solid waste disposal sites, likely have a hazardous substance with potential for release, and are lacking the funds to complete a removal and remediation action.

Examples of SWOSA projects

Forest Creek

The Forest Creek site was a junk yard where the RP was collecting steel and other solid waste and housing it onsite. There was also methamphetamine manufacture in the 1980's and 1990's that resulted in two major fires. Josephine County came into receivership of the Forest Creek property in 2019 when residents on the property violated numerous cleanup orders and failed to decontaminate the site. The fires related to drug manufacture also resulted in an unfit for use order by Oregon Health Authority. DEQ has been working with the County, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and OHA to develop a plan to cleanup this costly and complex property. SWOSA anticipates funding the removal, transportation, and disposal of all solid waste on the property.



King Salvage

The King Salvage property was an automobile salvage and wrecking yard that crushed and processed cars near a creek bottom in Lincoln County. US Environmental Protection Agency performed a time critical removal of 500 cubic yards of petroleum saturated soil from under the crusher in May 2009 but was unable to remove all contaminated soil. There were numerous vehicles including cars, mobile homes, trucks, buses and RVs, thousands of tires, several aboveground storage tanks and drums and tons of other solid and hazardous waste dumped on the site. The owners of the property both passed away and the County obtained the site through tax foreclosure in August 2017. The County has contributed substantial amounts of time and money cleaning up tons of tires and solid waste from the site. DEQ's Solid Waste Orphan Site Account program recently contributed to the cleanup by removing 80 tons of tires, over 300 tons of solid waste, 26 vehicles, 3 aboveground tanks and numerous drums and totes. To date, between the joint efforts of the County and State, most of the bulk of visible solid and hazardous waste has been removed.



Sammy's Place

The Sammy's Place site had a logging business run from the residence. Housed onsite was heavy equipment, and that expanded to the site being used as a storage facility, and ultimately a solid waste disposal facility. The non-profit group Sammy's Place (for which the project is named) came into possession of a foreclosed property in September 2018 from Tillamook County who had acquired the property through tax foreclosure. The property had a collapsed main residence, a detached shop/shed, and logging-equipment as well as other heavy equipment, vehicles, and watercraft that the deceased owner had been collecting and storing on site. SWOSA funded the removal of all solid and hazardous waste, including the defunct structures, petroleum storage tanks, gas pumps, storage drums, tires, trailer, and an RV. Sammy's Place plans to use the property to provide respite care and residential housing to the disabled.



Limitations

Sites are selected for funding based on risk evaluated relative to the risk posed by other eligible sites, per OAR 340-122-0540(1). Sites will remain on the list and will be evaluated each year for funding until they are removed from the list.

There are limitations to this funding including OAR 340-122-590(2) which states that DEQ may choose to fund only removal action instead of final remediation, or partially fund final remediation actions with SWOSA monies.

Local Government Landfills take priority over private orphans per program policy.

Program name and contacts

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[Visit DEQ's Environmental Cleanup pages online](#)

Alternate formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov.