

# 2026 Draft Integrated Report

## TMDL Priorities and Schedule

April 2026

### Background

The federal Clean Water Act requires the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to report on the quality of Oregon's surface waters every two years. Specifically, regulations [CWA § 303(d)(1)(A) and 40 CFR § 130.7(b)(4)], require the identification of impaired waters needing development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) on the 2024 Section 303(d) list and establish a priority ranking for such waters, taking into account the severity of the pollution and the uses to be made of such waters. As part of the priority ranking, each state is expected to identify the waters targeted for TMDL development within the next two years.

DEQ established a priority ranking (high, medium or low) for all assessment units (AUs) with pollutants or parameters on the 2026 303(d) list. This ranking of each AU pollutant/parameter pair is documented in the 303(d) list spreadsheet and is available in the Integrated Report online database. Additionally, these priorities are reported to EPA via the ATTAINS database submission. This document outlines DEQ's approach for prioritizing TMDL development for Oregon's 2026 303(d) list in need of TMDLs. The document also presents the TMDL project names associated with high and medium ranked AU pollutant/parameter pairs, geographic extents, total number of AUs covered by a TMDL (Categories 5, 4, 2 and 3 and unassessed AUs), and the listed pollutants or parameters which TMDLs will address.

### Prioritization approach

DEQ based the 2026 TMDL priority rankings on a multifactor evaluation consistent with Oregon Administrative Rule 340-042-0040(3) which includes the regulatory requirements to consider severity of pollution and use of waters as well as availability of resources, specific judicial requirements, and any other relevant information. Generally, DEQ develops TMDLs for a parameter or group of parameters for all the AUs at the subbasin scale (US Geological Survey eight-digit hydrologic unit code). DEQ revised the AU structure in the 2020 Integrated Report and made significant improvements including the use of fixed AUs for each reporting cycle and the creation of watershed units. The AU pollutant/parameter pairs addressed within a TMDL project all have the same priority ranking.

DEQ utilizes an integrated and multifactor evaluation process to consider factors identified in OAR 340-042-0040(3) and 40 CFR § 130.7(b)(4). This process considers uses by giving the highest priority to AU pollutant/parameter pairs based on the severity of the pollution and impacts to beneficial uses as shown in Figure 1. DEQ considers the severity of pollution by evaluating the number of 303(d) listed AU pollutant/parameter pairs within a subbasin. Additionally, DEQ considers other factors including: whether there are multiple listed pollutants and relationship between pollutants; if a subbasin has other TMDLs; number of NPDES permitted point sources; DEQ TMDL resources; cross-program and cross-agency priorities; TMDL deadlines established via court order; estimated scale and complexity of TMDL development and monitoring needs; geographic balance, and public participation.

**Table 1. Beneficial Uses and Factor Considerations for Priority Elevation.**

| Beneficial Use                               | Factor Considerations   |
|--|---|
| Fish and Aquatic Life                        | Listings where threatened and endangered fish species are present                                 |
| Fishing(consumption)                         | Human health related listings based on fish and shellfish consumption advisories                  |
| Water Contact<br>Recreation                  | Human health related listings based on recreational advisories or potential exposure to pathogens |
| Public or Private<br>drinking water supplies | Listings showing impacts to Drinking Water Service Providers                                      |

**Application of the prioritization approach to Oregon’s 2026 303(d) list**

Oregon’s 2026 303(d) list includes 3,153 AU pollutant/parameter pairs in Category 5. Of those, 570 are assigned high priority, 711 are assigned medium priority and 1872 are assigned low priority. AU pollutant/parameter pairs prioritized as high and medium have been assigned a TMDL development project. Demonstrated in Figure 1 below, the majority of assessment units on the 2026 303(d) list are impaired for temperature, followed by dissolved oxygen; this extent is reflected in the high and medium priority rankings.

## AU pollutant/parameter pair 303(d) TMDL status

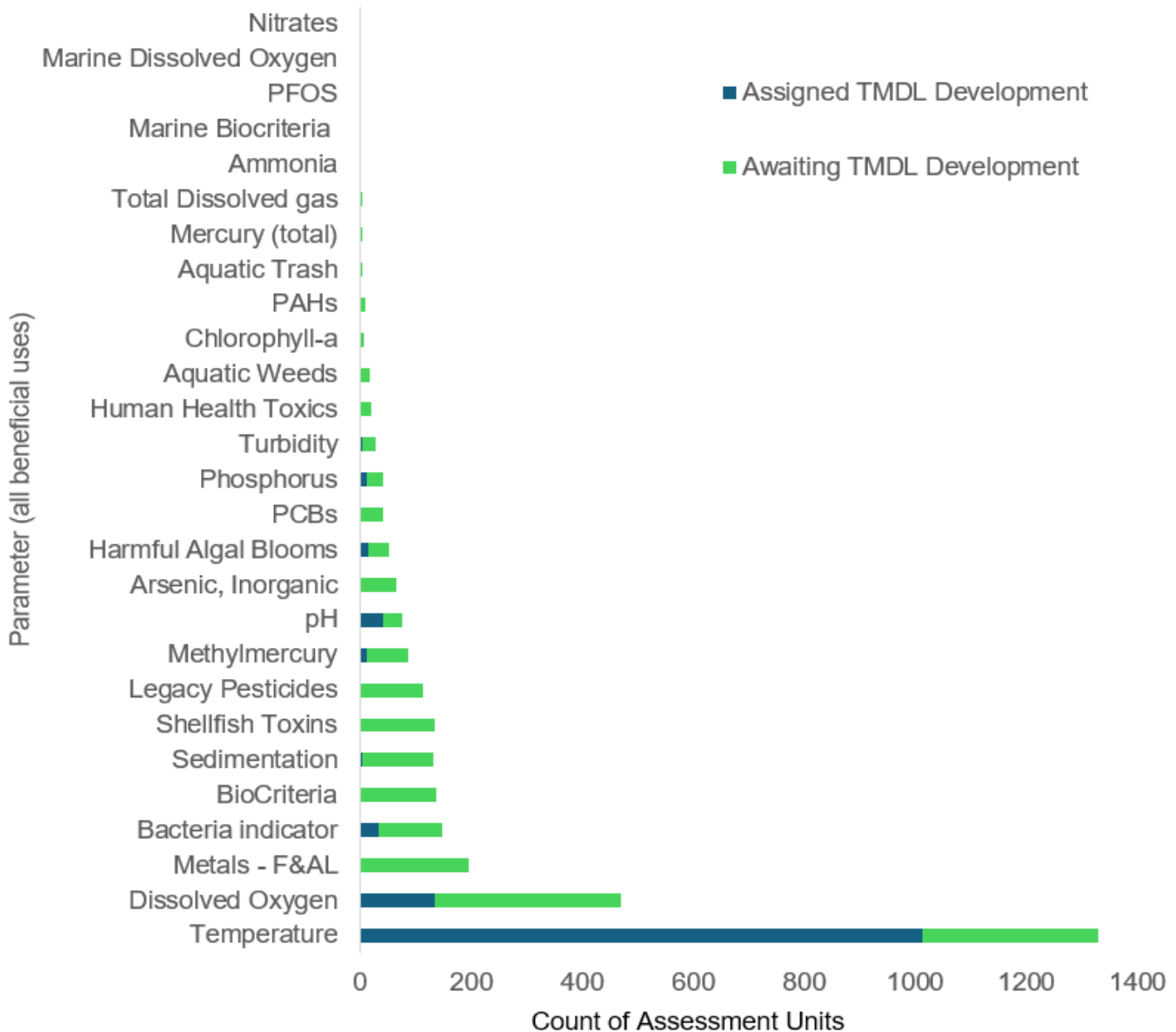


Figure 1. TMDL assignment status by AU pollutant/parameter pair.

## High priority ranking

DEQ assigned high priority for AU pollutant/parameter pairs based on the prioritization approach covered in Section 2.0 and reflect the extent of temperature pollution across the state. All the TMDL projects in Table 1 below reflect the high priority rankings for AU pollutant/parameter pairs. These projects are ongoing or near completion, meaning DEQ and partners have already expended resources on the development. These TMDL projects are targeted for development in the next two years, or by April 2028 and are reported here consistent with 40 CFR § 130.7(d)(1).

**Table 2. High Priority Ranking AU Pollutant/Parameter Pairs by TMDL Project.**

| TMDL Project Name(s)               | Listed Pollutants  | Beneficial Use Considerations  | Total Count of 303(d) Listings Addressed | Additional Non-303(d) Listed AUs Covered | Other Considerations*                 |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Coquille Subbasin                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissolved Oxygen</li> <li>• E. coli</li> <li>• Fecal Coliform</li> <li>• pH</li> <li>• Temperature</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present</li> <li>• Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen) listings</li> <li>• Fishing (consumption) - Human health shellfish consumption advisories</li> </ul> | 88                                       | 101                                      | Resources devoted to TMDL development |
| John Day River Basin               | Temperature  | Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present   | 161                                      | 197                                      | Court ordered submission deadline     |
| Rogue River Basin                  | Temperature  | Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present   | 183                                      | 219                                      | Court ordered submission deadline     |
| Middle Columbia-Hood, Miles Creeks | Temperature  | Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present   | 17                                       | 26                                       | Court ordered submission deadline     |
| Snake River – Hells Canyon         | Temperature  | Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present   | 12                                       | 15                                       | Court ordered submission deadline     |
| Snake River – Hells Canyon         | Methylmercury  | Fishing (consumption) - Human health shellfish consumption advisories  | 12                                       | 12                                       | Court ordered submission deadline     |

\*DEQ considered all factors listed in Section 2.0, factors listed in this column elevated the priority.

## Medium priority

DEQ assigned medium priority for AU pollutant/parameter pairs based on the prioritization approach covered in Section 2.0 and reflect the extent of temperature and dissolved oxygen pollution across the state. All the TMDL projects in Table 2 below reflect the medium priority rankings for AU pollutant/parameter pairs. These projects are either in the early development phase or ongoing meaning, DEQ and partners have already dedicated or expended resources on the development.

**Table 3. Medium Priority Ranking AU Pollutant/Parameter Pairs by TMDL Project.**

| TMDL Project Name(s)                                       | Listed Pollutants   | Beneficial Use Considerations   | Total Count of 303(d) Listings Addressed | Additional Non-303(d) Listed AUs Covered | Other Considerations*             |
|--|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Lower Grande Ronde, Imnaha, and Wallowa Subbasins          | Temperature   | Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present  | 57                                       | 67                                       | Court ordered submission deadline |
| Malheur River Subbasins                                    | Temperature   | Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present  | 38                                       | 38                                       | Court ordered submission deadline |
| Willow Creek Subbasin                                      | Temperature   | Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present  | 5  | 5  | Court ordered submission deadline |
| Walla Walla Subbasin                                       | Temperature   | Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present  | 8  | 11                                       | Court ordered submission deadline |
| Deschutes – Upper Deschutes and Little Deschutes Subbasins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chlorophyll-a,</li> <li>• Dissolved Oxygen</li> <li>• Harmful Algal Blooms</li> <li>• pH</li> <li>• Temperature</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present</li> <li>• Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen) listings</li> </ul> | 81                                       | 83                                       | Public comment                    |

| TMDL Project Name(s)                             | Listed Pollutants  | Beneficial Use Considerations   | Total Count of 303(d) Listings Addressed | Additional Non-303(d) Listed AUs Covered | Other Considerations* |
|--|--|---|--|--|-----------------------|
| Deschutes – Crooked, and Beaver—South Fork       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chlorophyll-a,</li> <li>• Dissolved Oxygen</li> <li>• E. coli</li> <li>• Harmful Algal Blooms</li> <li>• pH</li> <li>• Phosphorus</li> <li>• Temperature</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present</li> <li>• Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen) listings</li> </ul> | 98                                       | 100                                      | Public comment        |
| Deschutes – Lower Deschutes, and Trout Subbasins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chlorophyll-a</li> <li>• Dissolved Oxygen</li> <li>• E. coli</li> <li>• Harmful Algal Blooms</li> <li>• pH</li> <li>• Phosphorus</li> <li>• Temperature</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present</li> <li>• Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen) listings</li> </ul> | 37                                       | 40                                       | Public comment        |
| Powder, Burnt, and Brownlee Subbasins            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissolved Oxygen</li> <li>• pH</li> <li>• Phosphorus</li> </ul>   | Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present  | 19                                       | 21                                       | Salmonid habitat      |

| TMDL Project Name(s)                | Listed Pollutants   | Beneficial Use Considerations   | Total Count of 303(d) Listings Addressed | Additional Non-303(d) Listed AUs Covered | Other Considerations*                      |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| Rogue River Basin                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biocriteria,</li> <li>• Chlorophyll-a</li> <li>• Dissolved Oxygen</li> <li>• Harmful Algal Blooms</li> <li>• pH</li> <li>• Phosphorus</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present</li> <li>• Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen) listings</li> </ul>   | 50                                       | 55                                       | Salmonid habitat, Cross-Program priorities |
| Mid-Coast - Siletz-Yaquina Subbasin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissolved Oxygen,</li> <li>• E. coli,</li> <li>• pH</li> <li>• Sedimentation</li> <li>• Temperature</li> <li>• Turbidity</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present</li> <li>• Water Contact Recreation</li> <li>• Public and Private Domestic Water Supply – reported public water system operator difficulty</li> </ul> | 77                                       | 89                                       | Salmonid habitat                           |
| Mid-Coast - Alsea Subbasin          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissolved Oxygen</li> <li>• E. coli</li> <li>• pH</li> <li>• Temperature</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish and aquatic life - threatened and endangered fish species are present</li> </ul>  | 67                                       | 96                                       | Salmonid habitat                           |

| TMDL Project Name(s)             | Listed Pollutants   | Beneficial Use Considerations  | Total Count of 303(d) Listings Addressed | Additional Non-303(d) Listed AUs Covered | Other Considerations*   |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
|                                  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen)</li> </ul>   |  |  |   |
| Mid-Coast - Siuslaw Subbasin     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissolved Oxygen</li> <li>E. coli</li> <li>pH</li> <li>Sedimentation</li> <li>Temperature</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish and aquatic life - threatened and endangered fish species are present</li> <li>Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen)</li> </ul> | 56                                       | 64                                       | Salmonid habitat  |
| Mid-Coast-Siltcoos Subbasin      | Temperature   | Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present   | 5  | 6  | Salmonid habitat  |
| Upper Klamath and Lost Subbasins | Temperature   | Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present   | 37                                       | 37                                       | Salmonid habitat, resources devoted to TMDL development, litigation |

\*DEQ considered all factors listed in Section 2.0, factors listed in this column elevated the priority.

## Low priority

AU pollutant/parameter pairs were assigned low priority where factor considerations did not lead to high or medium rankings and these AU pollutant/parameter pairs have not yet been assigned to a TMDL development project. DEQ's subsequent 303(d) list AU pollutant/parameter rankings have been updated as lower priority rankings move up in priority as higher priority TMDL projects are completed. These AU pollutant/parameter pair priorities are documented in the 303(d) list spreadsheet and are available in the Integrated Report online database.

## TMDL schedule

DEQ is providing the information in Table 3 along with geographic extent to help EPA and the public understand Oregon's work plan for the program. Table 3 is based on the best information currently available, however, it may be subject to revision as logistical efficiencies, data availability, court-ordered timelines or other circumstances may affect the order or timing of when a TMDL project is ultimately completed. DEQ anticipates reviewing and updating Table 3, in coordination with EPA, during preparation of the next Integrated Report.

**Table 4. Two year TMDL submission timeline.**

| TMDL Project Name(s) | Priority | Geographic Extent (with HUCs)   | Timeline               |
|----------------------|----------|---|------------------------|
| John Day River Basin | High     | 170702 - John Day Basin   | Submitted by May 2027  |
| Rogue River Basin    | High     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17100307 - Upper Rogue Subbasin</li> <li>• 17100308 - Middle Rogue Subbasin</li> <li>• 17100309 - Applegate Subbasin</li> <li>• 17100310 - Lower Rogue Subbasin</li> <li>• 17100311 - Illinois Subbasin</li> </ul> | Submitted by July 2027 |

| TMDL Project Name(s)                     | Priority | Geographic Extent (with HUCs)  | Timeline                    |
|--|----------|--|-----------------------------|
| Middle Columbia-Hood, Miles Creeks       | High     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1707010502 - Eightmile Creek Watershed</li> <li>• 1707010503 - Fifteenmile Creek Watershed</li> <li>• Mill Creek-Columbia River Watershed</li> <li>• Four subwatersheds within the 1707010511 - Mosier Creek-Columbia River Watershed               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upper Mosier Creek</li> <li>○ 170701051103 - Lower Mosier Creek</li> <li>○ 170701051104 - Rock Creek</li> <li>○ Rowena Creek-Columbia River</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | Submitted by September 2027 |
| Snake River—Hells Canyon (Temperature)   | High     | The project area includes the entire extent of the Snake River and Hells Canyon reservoir complex from the Oregon-Idaho border near Adrian, Oregon and river mile 409, to the state line between Oregon, Idaho, and Washington at river mile 176.  | Submitted by May 2027       |
| Coquille Subbasin                        | High     | 17100305 - Coquille Subbasin<br>The Temperature TMDL excludes the area covered by the Upper South Fork Coquille Temperature TMDL   | Submitted by end of 2027    |
| Snake River—Hells Canyon (Methylmercury) | High     | The project area includes the entire extent of the Snake River and Hells Canyon reservoir complex from the Oregon-Idaho border near Adrian and rivermile 409, to the stateline between Oregon, Idaho, and Washington at rivermile 176  | Submitted by end of 2028    |

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