



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

2024 Integrated Report

TMDL Priorities and Schedule

March 2025

1.0 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 2024 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 ATAINS database submission. This document outlines DEQ's approach for prioritizing TMDL development for Oregon's 2024 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.

2.0 Prioritization Approach

DEQ based the 2024 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.

Translation or other formats

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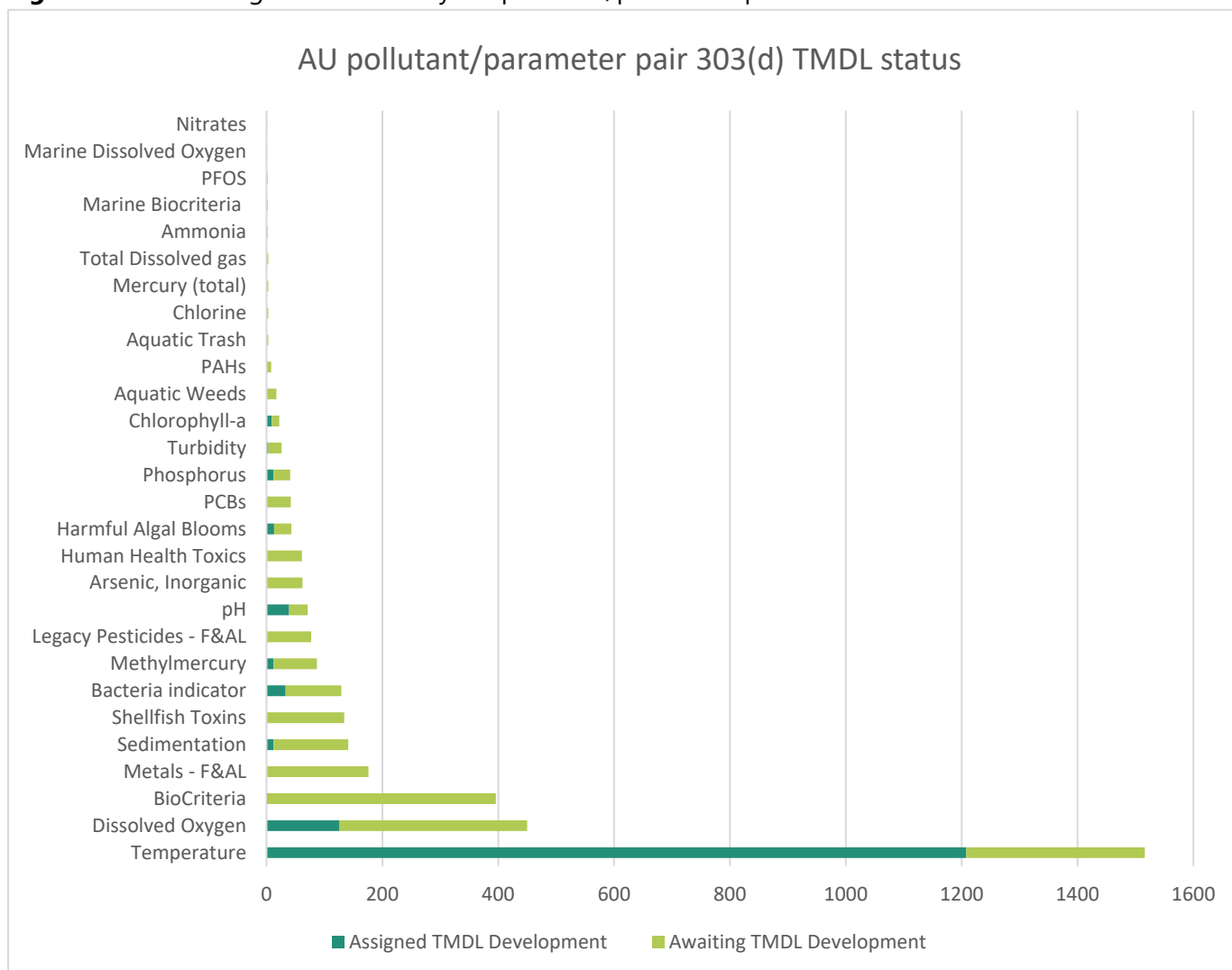
Figure 1. Beneficial Uses and Factor Considerations for Priority Elevation

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 Recreation	Human health related listings based on recreational advisories or potential exposure to pathogens
Public or Private drinking water supplies	Listings showing impacts to Drinking Water Service Providers

2.1 Application of the prioritization approach to Oregon’s 2024 303(d) list

Oregon’s 2024 303(d) list includes 3,518 AU pollutant/parameter pairs in Category 5. Of those, 788 are assigned high priority, 681 are assigned medium priority and 2051 are assigned low priority. AU pollutant/parameter pairs prioritized as high and medium have been assigned a TMDL development project. Demonstrated in Figure 2 below, the majority of assessment units on the 2024 303(d) list are impaired for temperature, followed by dissolved oxygen; this extent is reflected in the high and medium priority rankings.

Figure 2. TMDL assignment status by AU pollutant/parameter pair



3.0 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 2026 and are reported here consistent with 40 CFR § 130.7(d)(1).

Table 1. 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*
Willamette Subbasins Amendment - Willamette River Mainstem and Major Tributaries	Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present	32	24	Court ordered submission deadline
Umpqua River Basin	Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present	274	282	Court ordered submission deadline
Coquille Subbasin	Dissolved Oxygen, E. coli, Fecal Coliform, pH, Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present; Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen) listings; Fishing (consumption) - Human health shellfish consumption advisories	83	338	Resources devoted to TMDL development
John Day River Basin	Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present	193	316	Court ordered submission deadline
Rogue River Basin	Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present	206	321	Court ordered submission deadline

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

4.0 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 2. 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	61	150	Court ordered submission deadline
Middle Columbia-Hood, Miles Creeks	Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present	25	12	Court ordered submission deadline
Snake River – Hells Canyon	Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present	15	3	Court ordered submission deadline
Malheur River Subbasins	Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present	38	178	Court ordered submission deadline
Willow Creek Subbasin	Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present	5	35	Court ordered submission deadline
Snake River – Hells Canyon	Methylmercury	Fishing (consumption) - Human health shellfish consumption advisories	12	3	Court ordered submission deadline

Walla Walla Subbasin	Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present	10	23	Court ordered submission deadline
Deschutes – Upper Deschutes and Little Deschutes Subbasins	Chlorophyll-a, Dissolved Oxygen, Harmful Algal Blooms, pH, Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present; Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen) listings	78	789	Public comment
Deschutes – Crooked, and Beaver—South Fork	Chlorophyll-a, Dissolved Oxygen, E. coli, Harmful Algal Blooms, pH, Phosphorus, Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present; Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen) listings	101	1840	Public comment
Deschutes – Lower Deschutes, and Trout Subbasins	Chlorophyll-a, Dissolved Oxygen, E. coli, Harmful Algal Blooms, pH, Phosphorus, Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present; Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen) listings	41	775	Public comment
Powder, Burnt, and Brownlee Subbasins	Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Phosphorus	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present	14	602	Salmonid habitat

Rogue River Basin	Biocriteria, Chlorophyll-a, Dissolved Oxygen, Harmful Algal Blooms, pH, Phosphorus	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present; Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen) listings	55	2454	Salmonid habitat, Cross-Program priorities
Mid-Coast - Siletz-Yaquina Subbasin	Dissolved Oxygen, E. coli, pH, Sedimentation, Temperature, Turbidity	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present; Water Contact Recreation - ; Public and Private Domestic Water Supply – reported public water system operator difficulty	74	570	Salmonid habitat
Mid-Coast - Alsea Subbasin	Dissolved Oxygen, E. coli, pH, Temperature	Fish and aquatic life - threatened and endangered fish species are present, Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen)	87	450	Salmonid habitat
Mid-Coast - Siuslaw Subbasin	Dissolved Oxygen, E. coli, pH, Sedimentation, Temperature	Fish and aquatic life - threatened and endangered fish species are present, Water Contact Recreation - bacteria (pathogen)	59	459	Salmonid habitat

Mid-Coast-Siltcoos Subbasin	Temperature	Fish and Aquatic Life - threatened and endangered fish species are present	6	29	Salmonid habitat
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*DEQ considered all factors listed in Section 2.0, factors listed in this column elevated the priority.

5.0 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.

6.0 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 3. Two year TMDL submission timeline

TMDL Project Name(s)	Priority	Geographic Extent (with HUCs)	Timeline
Willamette Subbasins Amendment - Willamette River Mainstem and Major Tributaries	High	The following rivers and extents within the Willamette Basin (HUC 170900): Willamette River including all side channels from the confluence of the Columbia River to the confluence of Coast Fork of the Willamette and Middle Fork of the Willamette Rivers; Multnomah Channel; Clackamas River downstream of River Mill Dam; Santiam River; North Santiam River downstream of Detroit Dam; South Santiam River downstream of Foster Dam; Long Tom River downstream of Fern Ridge Dam; Middle Fork Willamette River downstream of Dexter Dam; Fall Creek downstream of Fall Creek Dam; Coast Fork Willamette River downstream of Cottage Grove Dam; Row River downstream of Dorena Dam.	Submitted by May 2025
Umpqua River Basin	High	17100301 - North Umpqua Subbasin 17100302 - South Umpqua Subbasin 17100303 - Umpqua Subbasin The TMDL excludes the area covered by the Little River Watershed TMDL	Issued by June 28, 2025

Coquille Subbasin	High	17100305 - Coquille Subbasin The Temperature TMDL excludes the area covered by the Upper South Fork Coquille Temperature TMDL	Submitted by 2026
John Day River Basin	High	170702 - John Day Basin	Submitted by March 2026
Rogue River Basin	High	17100307 - Upper Rogue Subbasin 17100308 - Middle Rogue Subbasin 17100309 - Applegate Subbasin 17100310 - Lower Rogue Subbasin 17100311 - Illinois Subbasin	Submitted by March 2026

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