May 6, 2018

Sharing information from Oregon Department of State Lands, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Stream Mitigation Policy

The Stream Function Assessment Method (SFAM) will change how we do stream mitigation in Oregon. It will provide a stream assessment tool, which had previously been lacking, making stream mitigation more function and watershed-based, and consistent; and give us better ecological outcomes. The way the agencies use this information to determine compensatory mitigation requirements for stream impacts was originally intended to go live in February 2019. A portion of this policy, using SFAM outputs to determine how much mitigation is required, is very important to improving program outcomes and we want to make sure we get it right. **So, the go live date for the stream mitigation accounting aspect of the policy has been shifted to a future date and state rulemaking**.

This postponement will not affect the release of the SFAM tool scheduled for late June 2018 and moving forward with some new policies for streams, rather it will allow additional time to:

- Understand SFAM's ability to detect changes in functions due to projects
- Train staff and stakeholders on SFAM
- Improve SFAM based on user-feedback

This additional time will also allow:

- User's to increase their familiarity with SFAM and provide input on proposed stream accounting protocols
- Incremental improvements in stream mitigation using a phased-in approach
- Time to adjust to new tools and protocols

The agencies continue to develop draft policies around wetland and stream compensatory mitigation, and we encourage you to stay informed through DSL's web page. You may provide comments via DSL's dedicated email box AquaticResourceMitigationProject@dsl.state.or.us, or by contacting any one of the Project Team leads: Dana Hicks at dana.hicks@state.or.us or 503-986-5229; Tom Taylor at thomas.j.taylor@usace.army.mil or 503-808-4386; or Tracie Nadeau at nadeau.tracie@epa.gov or 503-326-3685.