



June 29, 2026

EJMT LISTENING SESSION PROPOSAL - EASTERN OREGON

Prepared for:

Oregon Environmental Justice
Council

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SUMMARY

The [Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool](#) is being developed by the [Oregon Environmental Justice Council](#) to identify environmental justice communities who may be impacted by government decision making. This tool will be primarily used by state agencies, and it is expected to also be used by local governments, community-based organizations, philanthropy organizations, and community members. The main purposes include targeting community outreach, measuring program impacts, developing policies, and prioritizing funding.

This proposal outlines a solution designed to address the statutory requirement to host six listening sessions throughout Oregon to support the development of the Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool per [ORS 182.555](#).

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

The [Oregon Environmental Justice Council](#) is required to host at least six listening sessions throughout Oregon without funding being appropriated to support logistics and participant compensation for the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool project. The Council is also being led by a volunteer body whose members are not compensated for their time unless they are eligible for stipends per [ORS 292.495](#). This creates challenges with executing listening sessions without the support of state staff. There have not been listening sessions hosted in Southern Oregon, Central Oregon, or Eastern Oregon.

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SOLUTION

State staff have been seeking potential partnerships with local governments and community-based organizations to support the Council. Recent partnerships opportunities include Umatilla County Local Public Health Authority and Malheur County Public Health Authority.

Proposed dates and locations pending EJC approval:

- Umatilla County 151 Sykes Blvd. in Milton-Freewater: Morning and evening listening sessions on August 26, 2026

- Malheur County (Location TBD): Date and times TBD

Umatilla County has also agreed to provide funding support for the venue, catering, and outreach materials. Financial support for Malheur County listening sessions has yet to be determined.

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LISTENING SESSION VISION

1. Co-created agenda with hosting organizations to tie in Environmental Justice Mapping Tool with local concerns and strategies.
2. EJC members ensure that planning meets EJC member goals.
3. EJC member(s) participation in the actual event. Includes EJC leadership providing a keynote address, EJC members responding to community questions during the listening session, and EJC members developing relationships with community members.
4. Feedback collected through interactive activities and [participant surveys](#).
5. Recruitment will be the responsibility of the EJC, the hosting organization, the hosting organization's community partners, and any state agencies who would like to participate in recruitment activities.
6. Staff and EJC codeveloped reports about listening session feedback will be deliverable to the EJC.
7. Welcome and accessibility for all interested Oregonian constituencies based on language, culture, and disabilities.
8. Dedicated language support includes live interpretation and document translation.
9. State staff involvement in the listening sessions will be limited to essential roles.

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OUTCOMES

1. Compliance with [ORS 182.555](#).
2. EJC relationship building with Oregon communities to bolster community trust.
3. EJC due diligence in ensuring that there is geographic diversity in community voices heard through listening sessions.