OSU Institute for Natural Resources Staff Memorandum for the November 6, 2026 EJC Meeting

Staff will present a high-level overview of the anticipated tool development process.

Role of the Institute for Natural Resources as described in 2022 HB 4077:

> Section 12. (1) The Environmental Justice Council with staff support from the Department of Environmental Quality, in collaboration with the office of Enterprise Information Services, the Institute for Natural Resources, the Portland State University Population Research Center, and natural resource agencies with staff support from the department and the Oregon Health Authority, shall develop an environmental justice mapping tool.

(5) The council shall enter into an agreement with the Institute for Natural Resources that provides that the institute will maintain the mapping tool and make the mapping tool publicly available in electronic form through the Oregon Explorer.

Development Process

Oregon Explorer tool development is an iterative, collaborative process. We start with an initial tool, called an alpha version, that is created based on what we know about the desired functionality and intended users. The alpha version, which is generally password protected and available only to project team members, is refined based on feedback from project partners. When the tool is deemed ready for testing outside of the project team, a beta version is released. Beta tools can be password protected or accessible without a password and are generally shared with additional collaborators and testers to solicit additional feedback.

The project team includes Oregon Explorer staff responsible for tool development and designated representatives from the Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Health Authority, Enterprise Information Services, and the Portland State University Population Research Center. The Environmental Justice Council provides oversight and direction and will review the tool regularly throughout the process. Additional collaborators and testers may include the state agency liaisons group, methodology workgroup participants, and other potential users identified by the EJC.

EJ Mapping Tool Proposed Process

