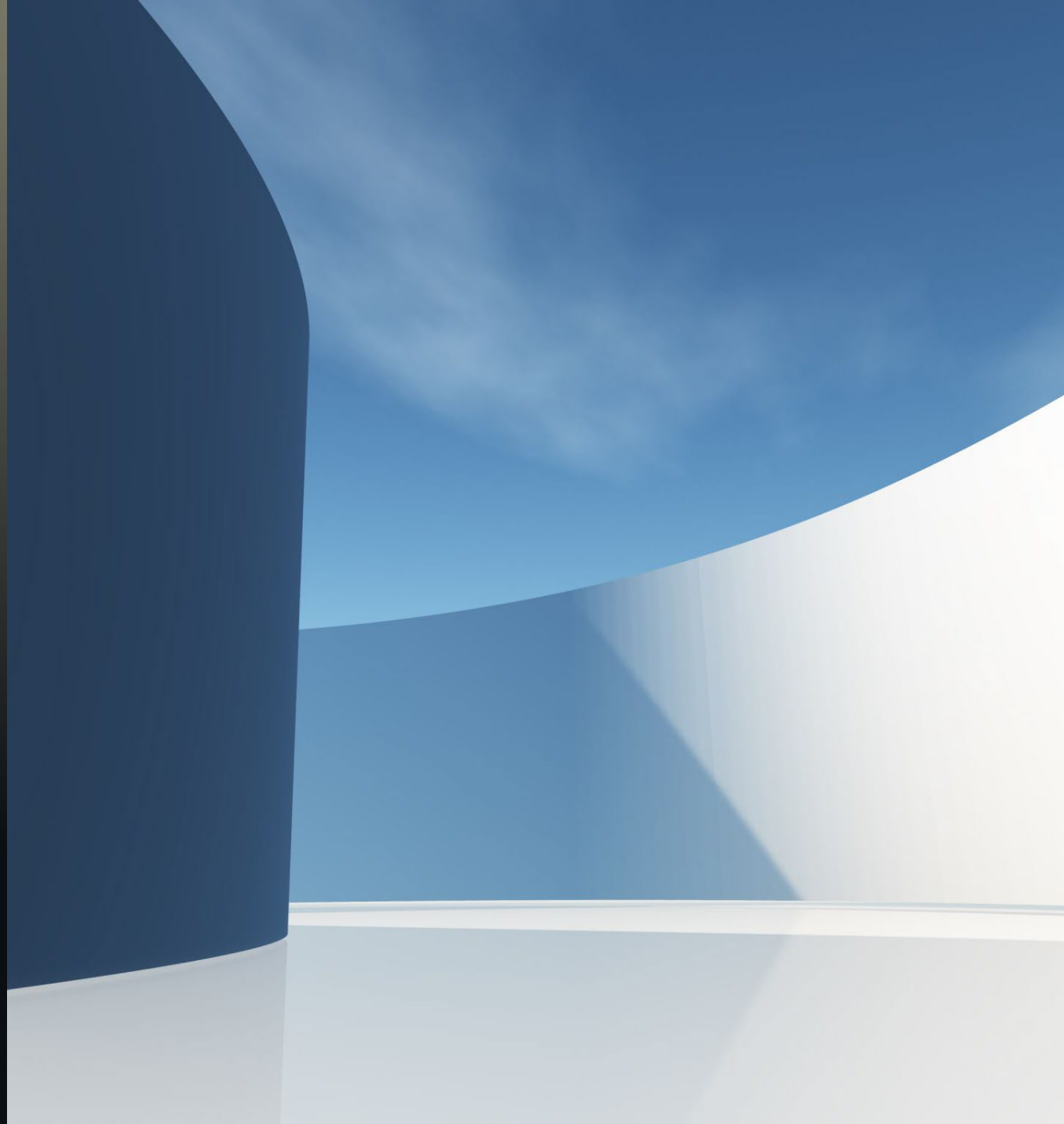# Oregon EJ Mapping Tool Decision Points

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Decision Points: Why are they important?

Composite indices are complex and there are many options for the EJ Council to choose from that will determine how the Oregon EJ Mapping Tool is structured and how the information is displayed.

HB 4077, sections 10-12 include language that will help guide the EJ Council through the decision-making process, but the content leaves a lot of room for flexibility.

All environmental justice mapping tools get evaluated, critiqued, and scrutinized. Therefore, it is important to have a rationale that supports each decision made in the development of the Oregon EJ Mapping Tool.

DECISION POINTS 1-10

#1
- Indicator domain selection

#2
- Geographic units (tracts, grids, etc.)

#3
- Geographic designations
- Geographic comparisons

#4
- Domain/indicator weighting

#5
- Domain aggregation (multiplicative, additive, etc.)

#6
- Data standardization (percentiles, z-scores, other)

#7
- Indicator selection - community listening session priorities and data gaps

#8
- Sensitivity analysis results - revisit indicator selection and data gaps

#9
- EJ community thresholds/flags

#10
- EJ mapping tool visualizations & reporting

April 11, 2024

Community Designations

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAPPING DECISION POINT 3A

ADOPTION DATE: JUNE 13, 2024

[JUNE 13, 2024 RECORDING LINK](#)

DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

Why are community designations important?

- Rural, coastal, and remote communities are specifically mentioned in the definition of "environmental justice community" in HB4077.
- Oregon does not have standard definitions for rural, remote, and urban communities.
- Including community designations in the EJ Mapping Tool will support consistency in how agencies use the tool.

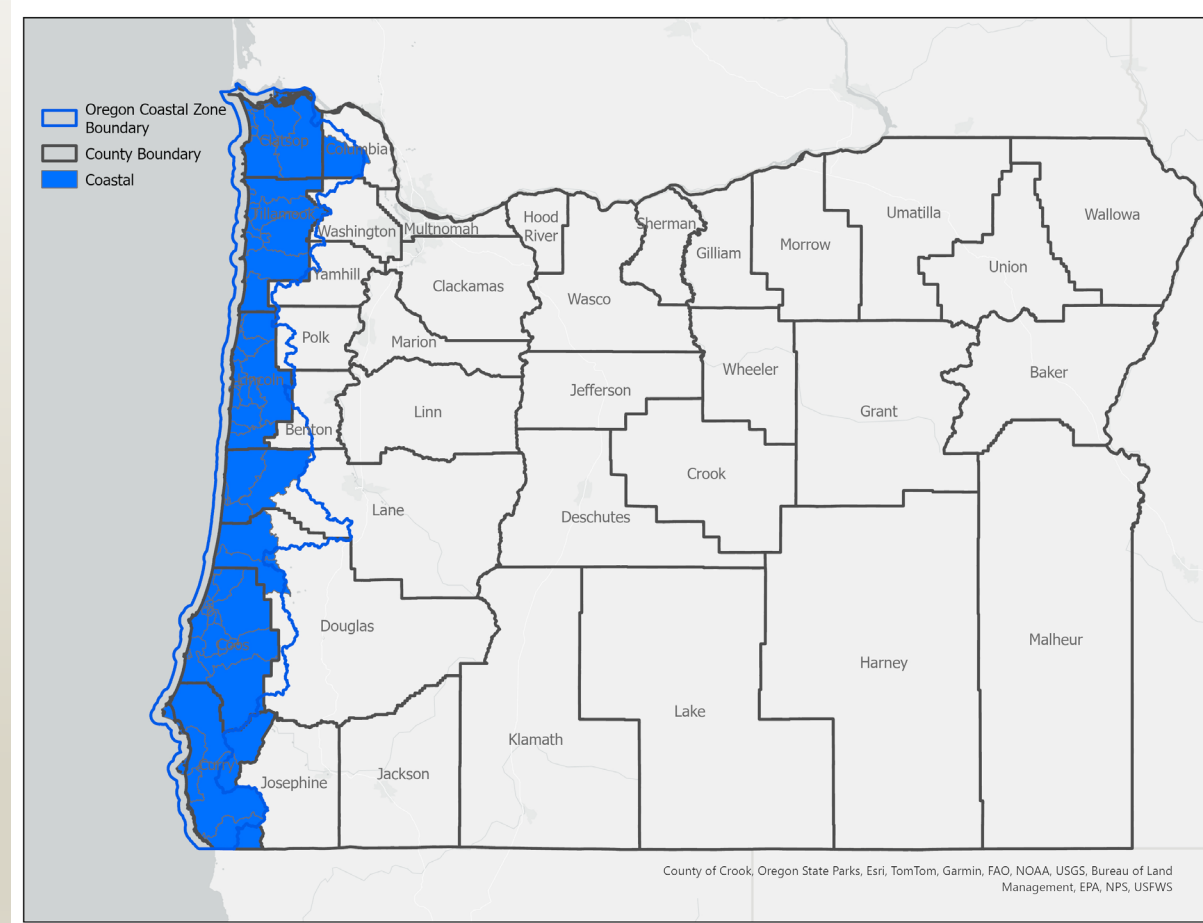# DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

HB4077, Section 10 (c)(4)

"Environmental justice community" includes communities of color, communities experiencing lower incomes, communities experiencing health inequities, tribal communities, ==rural communities, remote communities, coastal communities==, communities with limited infrastructure and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including seniors, youth and persons with disabilities.

DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Methodology Workgroup recommends:

Coastal
The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development Coastal Zone includes the state's coastal watersheds and extends inland to the crest of the coast range. Census tracts with population centers inside the coastal zone boundary will be designated as coastal.


County of Crook, Oregon State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS

DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

Remote

USDA Frontier and Remote (FAR) areas are zip codes assigned four levels that are determined by their population and distance from urban places. FAR Level III areas are:

- Places up to 10,000 people.
- 30 minutes or more from an urban area of 10,000-24,999.
- 45 minutes or more from an urban area of 25,000-49,999 people.
- 60 minutes or more from an urban area of 50,000 or more people
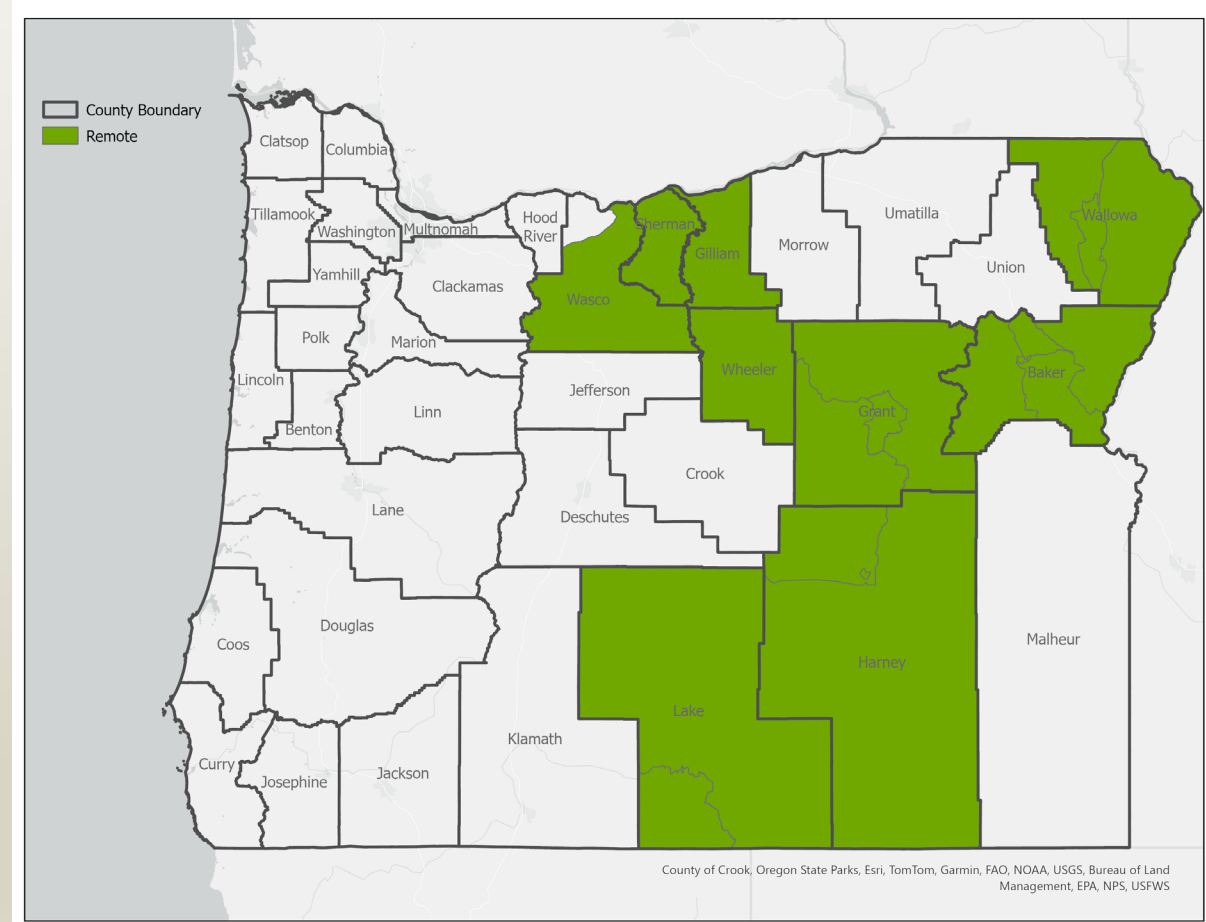
DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

- **Level I FAR** areas consist of rural areas and urban areas up to **50,000 people** that are 60 minutes or more by car from an urban area of 50,000 or more people.

- **Level II FAR** areas consist of rural areas and urban areas up to **25,000 people** that are 45 minutes or more by car from an urban area of 25,000-49,999 people and 60 minutes or more from an urban area of 50,000 or more people.

- **Level III FAR** areas consist of rural areas and urban areas up to 10,000 people that are 30 minutes or more by car from an urban area of 10,000-24,999, 45 minutes or more from an urban area of 25,000-49,999 people, and 60 minutes or more from an urban area of 50,000 or more people.

- **Level IV** FAR areas consist of rural areas that are 15 minutes or more by car from an urban area of 2,500-9,999 people, 30 minutes or more from an urban area of 10,000-24,999 people, 45 minutes or more from an urban area of 25,000-49,999 people, and 60 minutes or more from an urban area of 50,000 or more people..

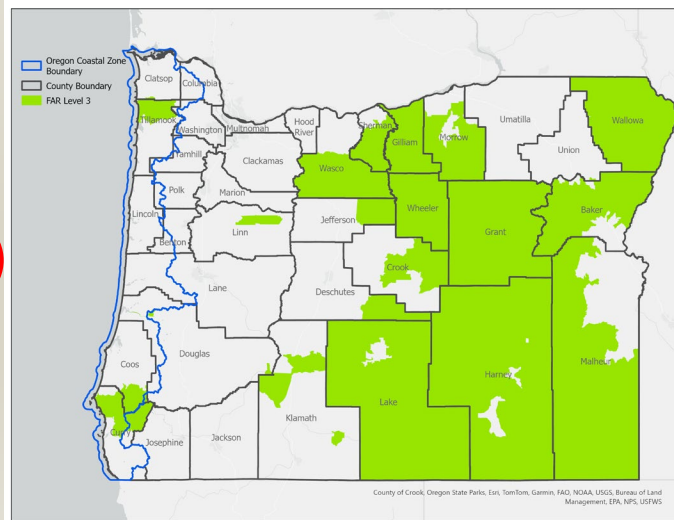# DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

Level 1 FAR Zip Codes
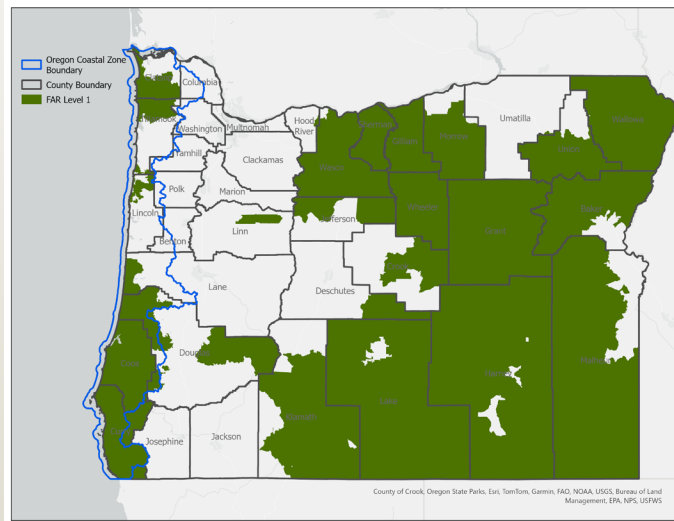
Level 2 FAR Zip Codes
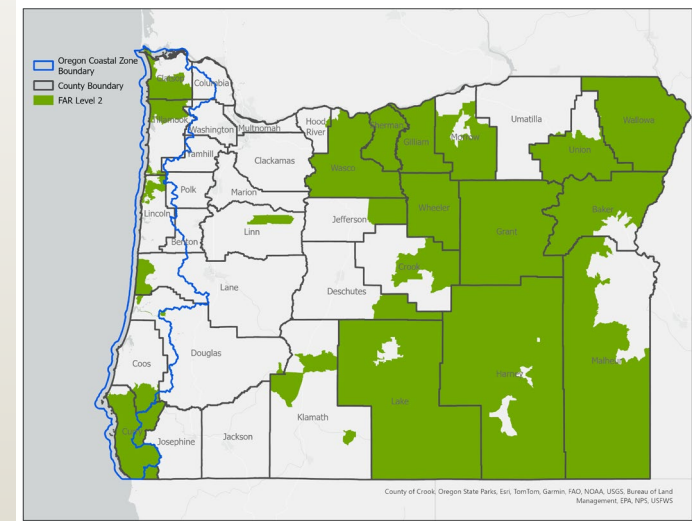
Level 3 FAR Zip Codes

Level 4 FAR Zip Codes
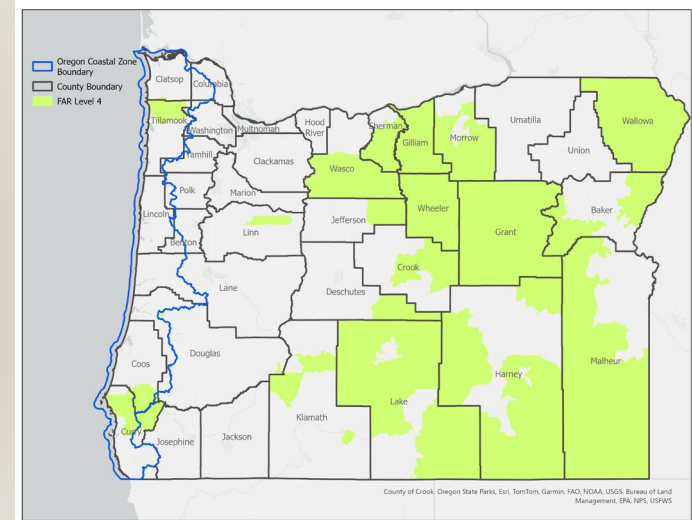
DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

Large City

USDA Rural/Urban Commute Area

Metropolitan Core Areas.

- Metropolitan Core Areas are urban areas (UA) continuously built-up with a population of 50,000 or more,
- And have a primary travel flow within the UA.
- UAs comprise one or more central places and the adjacent densely settled surrounding areas.
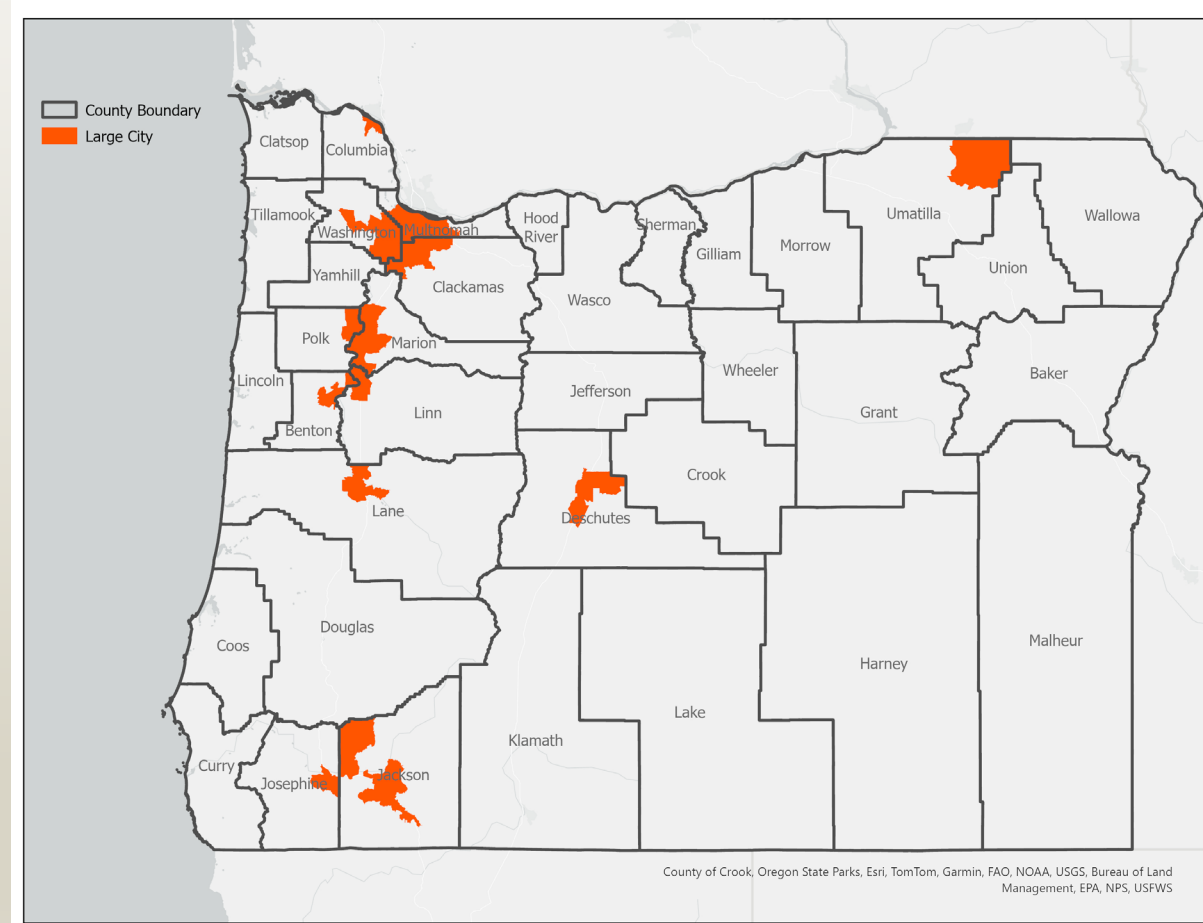
DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

Rural

All census tracts not designated as coastal, remote, or large city will be designated as rural.

DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

EJ Council Input:

The Methodology Workgroup did not reach consensus on whether USDA RUCA Micropolitan Core Areas should be designated as Large City (Urban), Rural, or Small City.

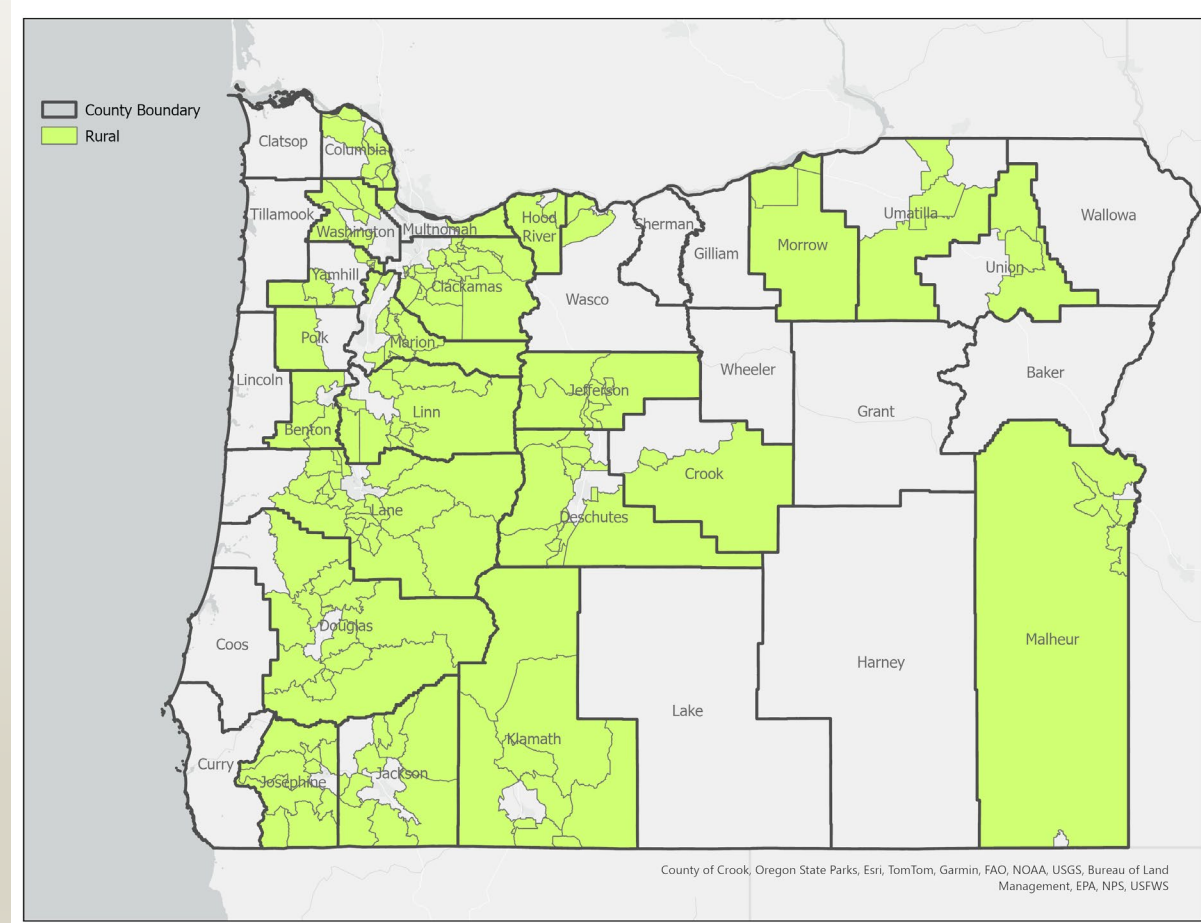- Micropolitan Core Areas are Rural-Urban Commute Areas with primary travel flows inside an urban cluster of 10,000 – 49,999 people.
- Examples of Micropolitan Core Areas are Hermiston, Hood River, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Ontario, Pendleton, Roseburg, and The Dalles, etc.

Legend: County Boundary, Small City

County labels: Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Washington, Multnomah, Hood River, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Wallowa, Yamhill, Clackamas, Wasco, Union, Polk, Marion, Wheeler, Grant, Baker, Lincoln, Jefferson, Benton, Linn, Crook, Deschutes, Lane, Coos, Douglas, Harney, Malheur, Lake, Curry, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath

County of Crook, Oregon State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS

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DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

Environmental Justice Council Input:

Micropolitan Core Areas
The Methodology Workgroup does not have enough information to recommend whether Micropolitan Core Areas should be designated as large city, rural, or small city. Therefore, they recommend the EJ Council make the determination or wait for feedback from the community listening sessions.

- **Large City** – Micropolitan Core Areas tend to have similar infrastructure as Metropolitan Core Areas including access to healthcare, shopping, government services, highspeed internet, and educational opportunities.
- **Rural** – Micropolitan Core economies tend to align more closely with rural tracts. Natural resources jobs: Rural = 27.6%, Micropolitan = 24.7%, Large City = 14.4%.

DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

CDC Environmental Justice Index Rural/Large City Comparisons to Micropolitan Core Areas:

Environmental Burden Module

Designation	Total 2010 tracts by designation	Top 20% of worst EBM scores statewide	Percent of tracts in top 20% by designation	Mean EBM score in top 20%	Overall mean EBM score
Coastal	63	0	0%	0.00	0.12
Remote	19	0	0%	0.00	0.13
Large City	508	147	29%	0.76	0.45
Rural	158	5	3%	0.75	0.23
Small City	77	13	17%	0.80	0.46
Total	825	165			

Social Vulnerability Module

Designation	Total 2010 tracts by designation	Top 20% of worst SVM scores statewide	Percent of tracts in top 20% by designation	Mean SVM score in top 20%	Overall mean SVM score
Coastal	63	13	21%	0.82	0.63
Remote	19	2	11%	0.83	0.68
Large City	508	89	18%	0.87	0.46
Rural	158	31	20%	0.82	0.54
Small City	77	30	39%	0.86	0.69
Total	825	165			

Health Vulnerability Module - HVM uses one significant digit, so it includes ties in the top 20%

Designation	Total 2010 tracts by designation	Top 20% of worst HVM scores statewide	Percent of tracts in top 20% by designation	Mean HVM score in top 20%	Overall mean HVM score
Coastal	63	43	68%	0.82	0.68
Remote	19	16	84%	0.80	0.74
Large City	508	44	9%	0.69	0.27
Rural	158	65	41%	0.78	0.52
Small City	77	25	32%	0.79	0.50
Total	825	193			

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DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

| Designation	Tract Count	Population 2020	Area in Square Miles
Coastal	76	230,134	7,889
Remote	21	55,047	35,257
Large City	621	2,749,784	2,438
Rural	175	697,836	47,628
Small City	100	443,545	4,012
No Population	8	-	1,155
Total	1,001	4,176,346	98,378
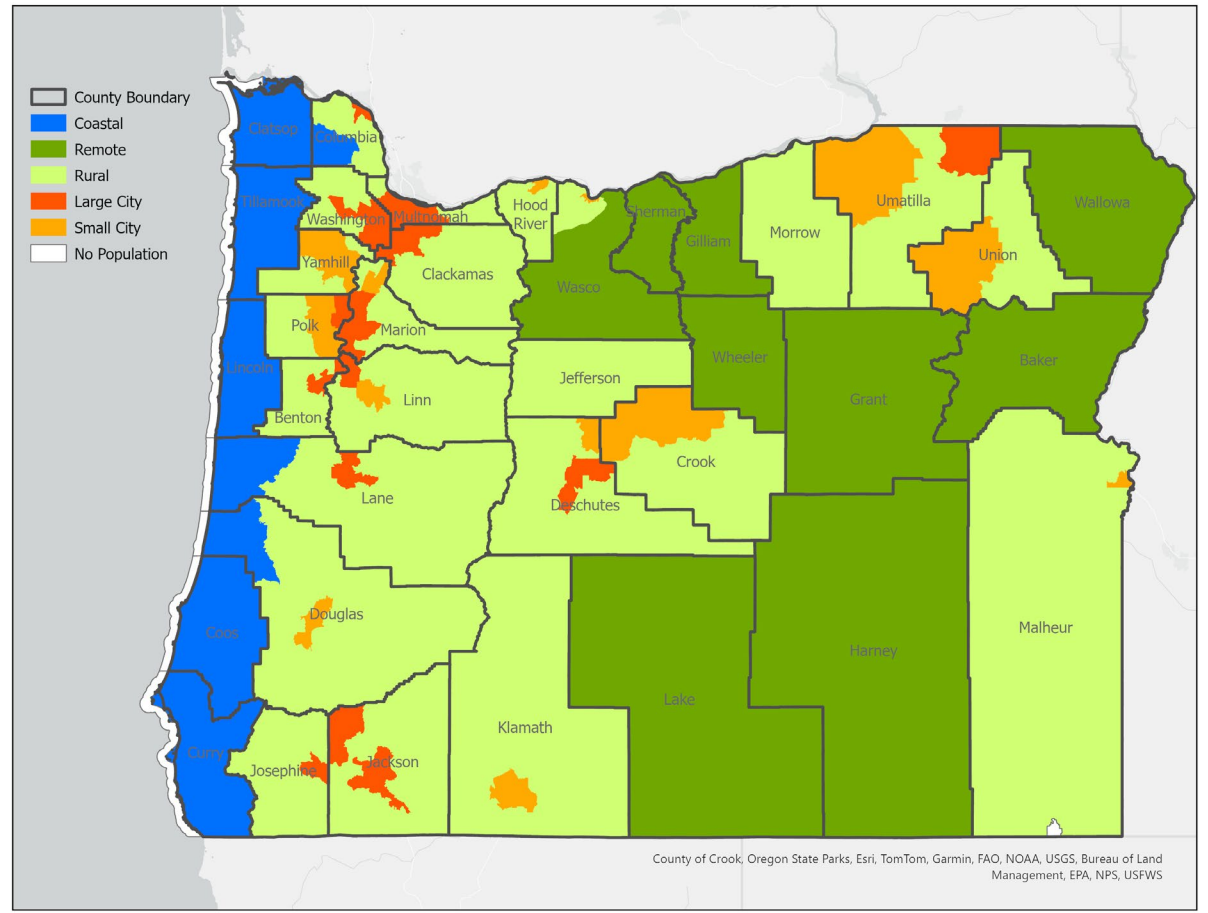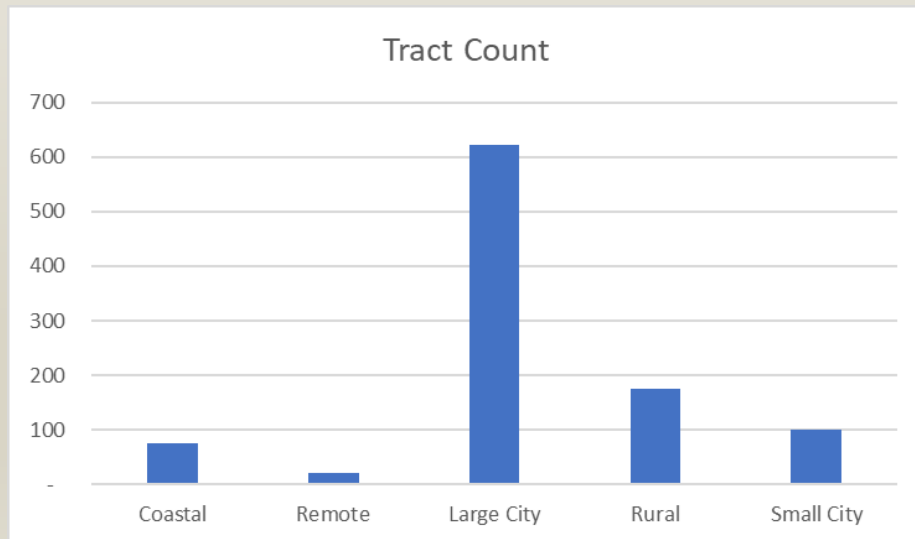
DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

Can a community have two designations?

What if a coastal community overlaps with another designation definition (e.g., Micropolitan Core Area or FAR Level III zip code)?

Some climate change risks mentioned in HB4077 will impact coastal communities much more than inland communities including sea level rise and ocean acidification. Therefore, the Methodology Workgroup recommends that the coastal designation take precedent over other designations inside the coastal zone.
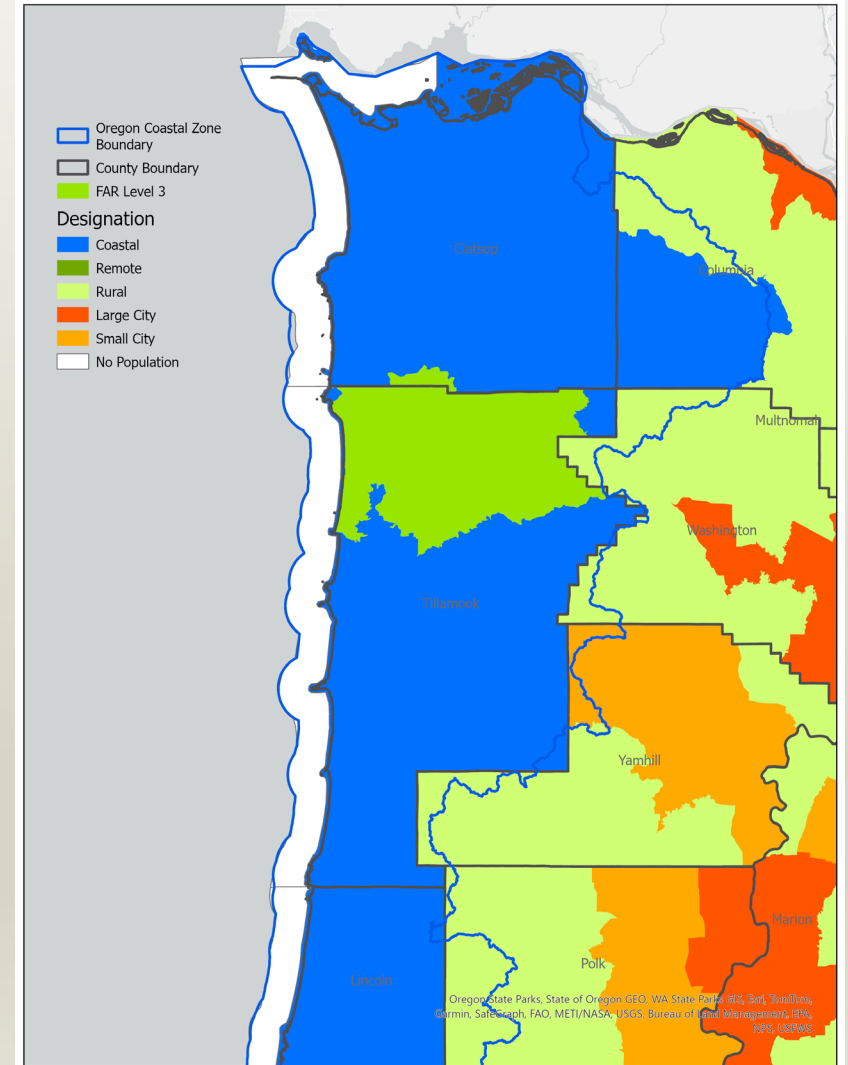
DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

Methodology Workgroup Rationale:

1. Coastal
   The DLCD Coastal Boundary is a state standard and is included in the Oregon Data Framework.
2. Remote
   A. HB4077, Section 10(9): "Remote community" means a community with low population density and high geographic remoteness.
   B. Criteria used for remote communities were population size, and limited access to healthcare and amenities like a full-service supermarket.
   C. USDA Data source is the same used by Oregon Rural Health.
   D. USDA Frontier and Remote Areas I & II were not selected because those areas include micropolitan core areas with urban amenities.
   E. Sub-county data sources were prioritized so tracts in counties with micropolitan core areas were not excluded from the designation.

DECISION POINT #3a: COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

Methodology Workgroup Rationale:

3. Large City
   USDA Rural-Urban Commute Areas Metropolitan Core Area were selected because they include the U.S. Census Urban Area density threshold, continuous development, and travel primarily within the area.
   Note: Urban-Rural Commute Areas with 2020 Census data will not be available until fall 2024.

4. Rural
   None of the data sources evaluated by the Methodology Workgroup included both rural AND remote designations. Therefore, rural areas were selected as places outside of large city, small city, coastal and remote areas.

ADOPTED DECISION POINT 3a

- COASTAL
- REMOTE
- LARGE CITY
- SMALL CITY
- RURAL
- STATEWIDE

1. <u>Coastal:</u> The DLCD Coastal Boundary is a state standard and is included in the Oregon Data Framework.

2. <u>Remote</u>

   1. HB4077, Section 10(9): "Remote community" means a community with low population density and high geographic remoteness.

   2. Criteria used for remote communities were population size, and limited access to healthcare and amenities like a full-service supermarket.

   3. USDA Data source is the same used by Oregon Rural Health.

   4. USDA Frontier and Remote Areas I & II were not selected because those areas include micropolitan core areas with urban amenities.

   5. Sub-county data sources were prioritized so tracts in counties with micropolitan core areas were not excluded from the designation.

3. <u>Large City:</u> USDA Rural-Urban Commute Areas Metropolitan Core Area were selected because they include the U.S. Census Urban Area density threshold, continuous development, and travel primarily within the area.

4. <u>Rural:</u> None of the data sources evaluated by the Methodology Workgroup included both rural AND remote designations. Therefore, rural areas were selected as places outside of large city, small city, coastal and remote areas.