

**OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CHAPTER 603, DIVISION 95
AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Owyhee

603-095-2700

Purpose

(1) These rules have been developed to implement a water quality management area plan for the Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Area pursuant to authorities vested in the department through ORS 568.900 – 568.933 and ORS 561.190 – 561.191. The area plan is known as the Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan.

(2) The purpose of these rules is to outline requirements for landowners in the Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Area to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities and soil erosion. Compliance with Division 95 rules is expected to aid in the achievement of applicable water quality standards in the Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Area.

Statutory Authority: ORS 561.190 - 561.191, ORS 568.912

Stats. Implemented: ORS 568.900 - 568.933

603-095-2720

Geographic and Programmatic Scope

(1) The Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Area includes the portions of the following subbasins that are within the state of Oregon's boundaries: southern portion of the Middle Snake-Payette (USGS HUC 1705011503), Lower Owyhee, Middle Snake-Succor, Crooked-Rattlesnake, Jordan, Middle Owyhee, South Fork Owyhee, East Little Owyhee, and the Upper Quinn. The physical boundaries of the Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Area are indicated on the map included as Appendix 1 of these rules.

(2) Operational boundaries for the land base under the purview of these rules include all lands within the Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Area in agricultural use, agricultural and rural lands that are lying idle or on which management has been deferred, and forest lands with agricultural activities, with the exception of public lands managed by federal agencies and Tribal Trust lands.

(3) Current productive agricultural use is not required for the provisions of these rules to apply. For example, highly erodible lands with no present active use are within the purview of these rules.

(4) The provisions and requirements outlined in these rules may be adopted by reference by Designated Management Agencies with appropriate authority and responsibilities in other geographic areas of the Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Area.

(5) For lands in agricultural use within other Designated Management Agencies' or state agency jurisdictions, the department and the appropriate Local Management Agency shall work with these Designated Management Agencies to assure that provisions of these rules apply and to assure that duplication of any services provided or fees assessed do not occur.

Statutory Authority: ORS 561.190 - 561.191, ORS 568.912

Stats. Implemented: ORS 568.900 - 568.933

603-095-2740

Prevention and Control Measures

(1) A landowner shall be responsible for only those conditions caused by activities conducted on land managed by the landowner. Criteria do not apply to conditions resulting from unusual weather events or other exceptional circumstances that could not have been reasonably anticipated.

(2) Pollution Control and Waste Management: Effective on rule adoption.

No person subject to these rules shall violate any provision of ORS 468B.025 or ORS 468B.050.

(3) Streamside Conditions

By January 1, 2008, no person may contribute to conditions that preclude establishment and development of adequate riparian vegetation for streambank stability and shading, consistent with site capability.

(4) Irrigation Surface Water Return Flow

(a) After January 1, 2008, irrigation surface water return flow to waters of the state shall not cause an excessive, systematic, or persistent increase in sediment levels already present in the receiving waters, except where the return flows do not cause the receiving waters to exceed established sediment standards.

(b) A landowner conducting irrigation activities in accordance with a plan approved in writing by the department or its designee shall be deemed to be in compliance with this rule.

Statutory Authority: ORS 561.190 - 561.191, ORS 568.912

Stats. Implemented: ORS 568.900 - 568.933

603-095-2760

Complaints and Investigations

(1) When the department receives notice of an alleged occurrence of agricultural pollution through a written complaint, its own observation, through notification by another agency, or by other means, the department may conduct an investigation. The department may, at its discretion, coordinate investigation activities with the appropriate Local Management Agency.

(2) Each notice of an alleged occurrence of agricultural pollution shall be evaluated in accordance with the criteria in ORS 568.900 to 568.933 or any rules adopted thereunder to determine whether an investigation is warranted.

(3) Any person allegedly being damaged or otherwise adversely affected by agricultural pollution or alleging any violation of ORS 568.900 to 568.933 or any rules adopted thereunder may file a complaint with the department.

(4) The department will evaluate or investigate a complaint filed by a person under section OAR 603-095-2760(3) if the complaint is in writing, signed and dated by the complainant and indicates the location and description of:

(a) The waters of the state allegedly being damaged or impacted; and

(b) The property allegedly being managed under conditions violating criteria described in ORS 568.900 to 568.933 or any rules adopted thereunder.

(5) As used in section OAR 603-095-2760(4), "person" does not include any local, state or federal agency.

(6) Notwithstanding OAR 603-095-2760(4), the department may investigate at any time any complaint if the Department determines that the violation alleged in the complaint may present an immediate threat to the public health or safety.

(7) If the department determines that a violation of ORS 568.900 to 568.933 or any rules adopted thereunder has occurred, the landowner may be subject to the enforcement procedures of the department outlined in OARs 603-090-0060 through 603-090-0120.

Statutory Authority: ORS 561.190 - 561.191, ORS 568.912

Stats. Implemented: ORS 568.900 - 568.933

Appendix 1. Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Area boundaries.

