

THE AREA RULES

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and control of water pollution from agricultural sources.

Area Rules allow landowners flexibility in how they protect water quality. Area Rules describe conditions that landowners must achieve on agricultural lands, rather than practices they must implement.

All agricultural landowners must allow vegetation along:

- Year-round streams to provide shade, stabilize banks, and filter out pollutants from overland flows.
- Seasonal streams to stabilize banks and filter out pollutants from overland flows.

In addition, landowners must not pollute ground or surface water by discharging wastes* into waters of the state or placing any wastes in a location where they are likely to enter waters of the state.**

* Wastes include excess soil, manure, fertilizer, or other substances that can pollute water.

** Waters of the state include ponds, groundwater, canals, ditches, and rivers.

The local advisory committee helps the SWCD develop Area Rules (Oregon Administrative Rules 603-095-2700) specifically for the Owyhee area. These Rules address water quality issues identified in the Area Plan.

DO THE AREA PLAN AND AREA RULES APPLY TO ME?

The Area Plan and Area Rules apply to all agricultural lands. This includes lands in current agricultural use and those lying idle or on which management has been deferred. They also apply to agricultural activities within incorporated city boundaries, urban growth boundaries, and non-federal forest lands.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Landowners should evaluate their agricultural activities and try to determine if they might:

- Pollute streams, canals, or groundwater.
- Prevent growth of appropriate vegetation along streams.

Then, change any problem practices to ensure compliance with the Area Rules and to protect water quality.

WHO CAN HELP?

The Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is the primary source of landowner assistance to address water quality concerns. SWCDs are non-regulatory local organizations that can help or direct landowners to additional sources of help.

MORE INFORMATION

Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District:
(541) 889-2588, Ext. 101

Oregon Department of Agriculture:
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Agricultural Water Quality Program at ODA: (503) 986-4700,
<http://bit.do/AgWQPlans>