

Stormwater Management Program – Maintenance Operations

ODOT's Maintenance crews are responsible for keeping Oregon's highways in good repair and the associated facilities functioning as they should. This includes maintaining stormwater conveyance systems and water quality treatment facilities. Overall guidance on water quality for ODOT's Maintenance is in the *Maintenance Guide* for the Oregon Department of Transportation, Chapter 7 [Control of Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollutants or Contaminants](#).

Maintenance activities can directly affect water quality. For that reason ODOT has produced the [Routine Road Maintenance Water Quality and Habitat Guide](#), or Blue Book, which details the standard Maintenance activities and describes how to perform them in the most environmentally sensitive way. The Blue Book, first published in 1999, is the basis for ESA Section 10 consultation with NMFS for Maintenance Activities.

An important task of ODOT Maintenance is keeping the highway drainage system functioning. Roadside ditches are cleaned and reshaped, removing accumulated sediment and debris that reduces capacity and restricts flow. As part of its [Ditch Inspection Program](#), ODOT also inspects and cleans highway ditches to ensure adequate structural status and to protect water quality. The [Ditch Maintenance Log](#) (June 2010 to present) is a quarterly report that shows which State highway ditches have been maintained and the cost of that Maintenance.

Water quality treatment facilities often have specialized maintenance requirements. Manuals detailing those requirements are being developed for ODOT's water quality facilities.

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An important tool to help ODOT Maintenance perform its duties in an environmentally sound manner is the Resource and the Restricted Activity map set developed as part of the Salmon Resource/Sensitive Area (SR/SAM) Mapping Project. For more detail, please go to the [SR/SAM Web site](#).

ODOT has developed policy and directives on the storage, use and handling, and disposal of materials commonly used in the operation and maintenance of the state highway system the [Environmental Management System \(EMS\)](#). The materials addressed are those typically stored or used at ODOT Maintenance yards.

Deicer products are an important tool for keeping highways safe during the winter. Delivered loads of deicer are tested for product quality to ensure that they are free from pollutants. More information regarding ODOT's winter maintenance program is available on

the [Winter Road Maintenance Practices web site](#).

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