

Division 512 Administrative Boundaries (Map)

The Division 512 rules propose to establish, the Harney Basin Critical Groundwater Area and a Serious Water Management Problem Area. The Division 512 rules also propose expanding the existing classification boundary. This document provides a high-level explanation of the requirements and actions the Department is proposing to take within each boundary and maps of the proposed boundaries. These boundaries will go into effect upon adoption of the Division 512 rules by the Water Resources Commission and are subject to change until then.

For an interactive map, please see scan the QR Code below or by clicking this [link](https://owrd.info/Division512) or by visiting <https://owrd.info/Division512>.

Proposed Harney Basin Critical Groundwater Area Boundary

The Department is proposing rules to create the Harney Basin Critical Groundwater Area and then to divide that area into seven subareas (Exhibit 6). A critical groundwater area designation allows the Department to reduce water use through a rulemaking process followed by a contested case hearing and final orders. No new groundwater right applications will be accepted within the critical groundwater area. Exempt water uses will not be impacted by the proposed designation as they do not require a permit, registration, or certificate (ORS 537.545). Examples of exempt water uses include domestic wells and livestock watering.

Proposed Serious Water Management Problem Area (SWMPA) Boundary

Within the proposed SWMPA boundary (Exhibit 3), all permitted groundwater users will be required to measure and report groundwater use to the Department. Additionally, each groundwater right holder, well owner, or well operator shall install a totalizing flowmeter by March 1, 2028 under specifications outlined in the rules. Water use between November 1 of the preceding year and October 31 of the current year must be reported to the Department by December 31 of each year. Failure to install a flowmeter or report water use will result in enforcement action and potential assessment of civil penalties.

Proposed Classification Boundary

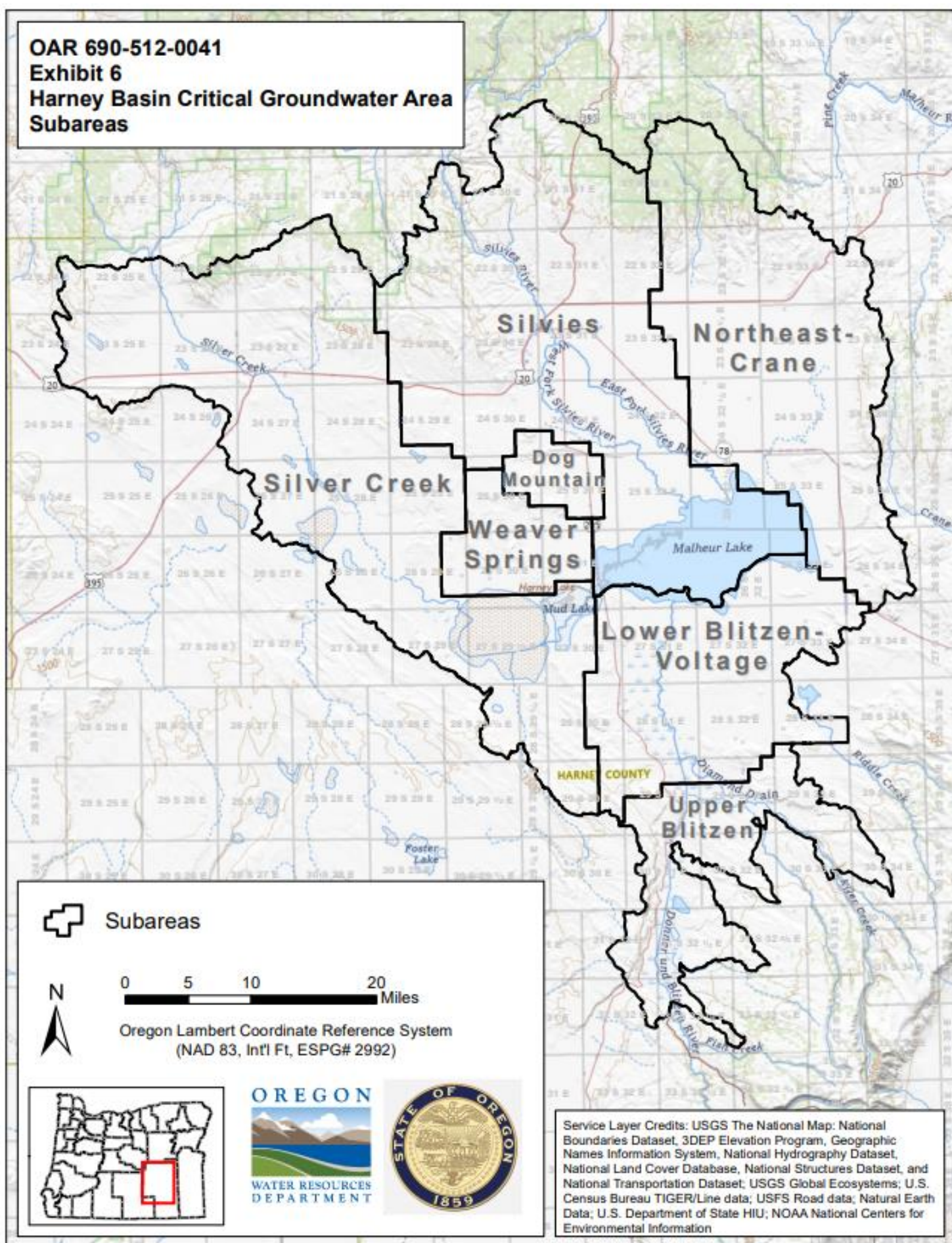
Within the proposed Harney Basin classification boundary (Exhibit 4), new exempt uses that do not require a groundwater right (ORS 537.545) and non-consumptive geothermal uses will be allowed. No new consumptive groundwater rights are likely to be approved within the classification boundary.



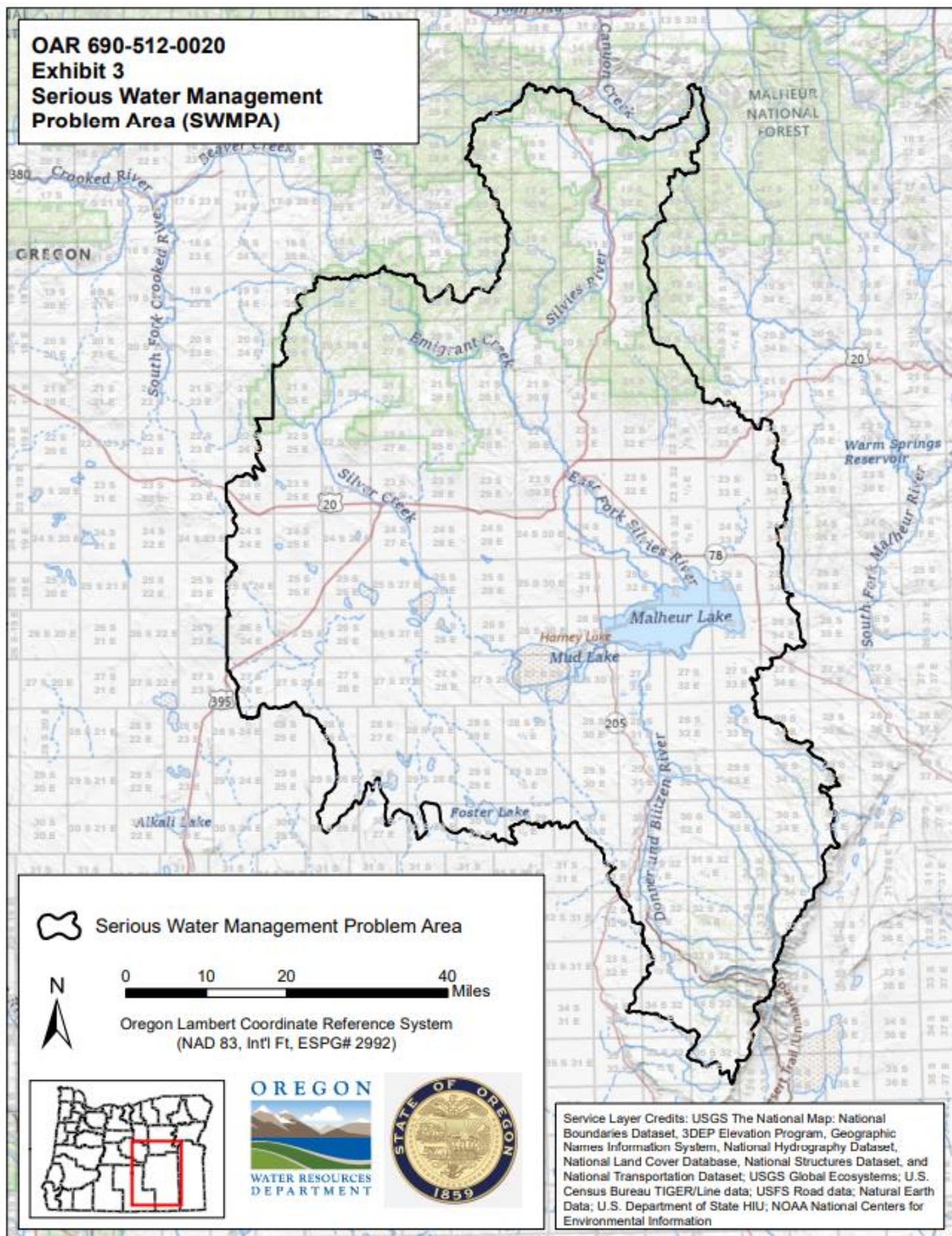
OAR 690-512-0041

Exhibit 6

Harney Basin Critical Groundwater Area
Subareas



OAR 690-512-0020
Exhibit 3
Serious Water Management
Problem Area (SWMPA)



OAR 690-512-0020
Exhibit 4
Groundwater Classification Boundary

