



Racial Equity Statement

The proposed rule changes will (1) implement and clarify the statutory changes, (2) clarify groundwater exemption for domestic purposes, (3) clarify beneficial use without waste applies to exempt uses, and (4) complete administrative clean up and incorporate current policies in rule. The changes align rules to statute or incorporate existing policy into rules and are not expected to add any new compliance requirements. OWRD does not anticipate any impact on racial equity with the proposed changes to the rules.

Tribal engagement: On August 20 and September 21, 2026, OWRD emailed all nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon to notify them of the exempt use rulemaking effort. OWRD invited them to participate informally during the RAC process and formally through government-to-government consultation. Representatives of the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde accepted the invitation to serve on the Rules Advisory Committee.

OWRD staff provided regular staff-to-staff updates during the quarterly Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) meetings. Staff provided updates to the LCIS Cultural Resources Cluster on January 28, June 9, and September 17, 2026. Staff provided updates to the LCIS Natural Resources Work Group on April 9 and July 22, 2026.