

MOLALLA-PUDDING-FRENCH PRAIRIE-NORTH SANTIAM SUBBASINS AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN AND REGULATIONS

What is the Plan?

In 2002, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) developed the Molalla-Pudding-French Prairie-North Santiam Subbasins Agricultural Water Quality Management Area and Rules in accordance with the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act of 1993. The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and a panel of local landowners helped ODA craft the Area Plan and Rules.

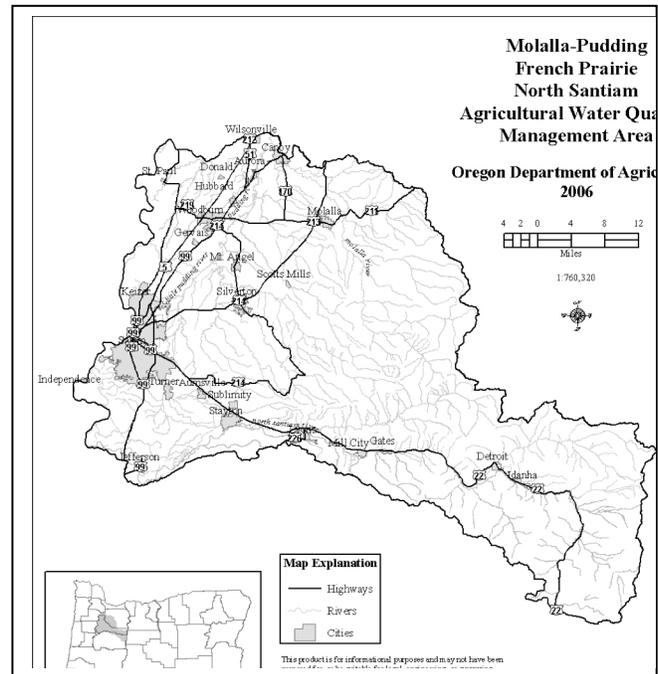
The Area Plan is a tool that provides agricultural water quality partners and landowners information about:

- The geographic area of the plan and its boundaries. (See map)
- Local water quality concerns in the plan area.
- Goals and implementation strategies to encourage conservation and improve water quality.
- Optional management practices that landowners may implement to improve water quality.

The water quality concerns identified for the this Management Area are:

- Temperature
- pH
- Dissolved oxygen
- Bacteria
- Legacy pesticides
- Toxics
- Nitrates
- Metals

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has developed water quality management plans to address temperature legacy pesticides and bacteria in the basin.



The SWCD and the landowners involved in writing the Area Plan identified goals and objectives to reduce undesirable water quality by promoting good land stewardship, identifying incentives with financial and educational support to promote adaptive management, and defining clear enforcement guidelines. The Area Plan does not tell anyone how to farm, ranch, or otherwise utilize his or her natural resources. Rather it is a resource for landowners to address water quality issues. In it, they can find contacts for technical and financial assistance that will help them meet their business and conservation goals, and attain water quality standards at the same time.

Are there Regulations?

The focus of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program is on voluntary and cooperative efforts by landowners and others to protect water quality. However, the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act also provides for a regulatory backstop to ensure prevention and control of water pollution from agricultural sources in cases where landowners or operators refuse to correct problem conditions.

Agricultural water quality regulations serve as this backstop while allowing landowners flexibility in how they protect water quality. Local Area regulations describe characteristics to be achieved on agricultural lands, rather than practices that must be implemented.

The following is a summary of regulations that apply in the Molalla-Pudding-French Prairie-North Santiam Management Area.

Landowners and operators are required to manage their land to:

Prevent soil erosion in excess of five tons per acre per year.

1. *Construct and maintain private roadways, staging areas, and heavy use areas to prevent sediment or runoff contaminants from adversely affecting waters of the state.*
2. *Construct, maintain and use drainage ditches without pollutant delivery to waters of the state from soil erosion induced by excessive channel slope, unstable cross section or placement of disposed soil.*
3. *Allow for natural or managed development of riparian vegetation and riparian function appropriate to site capability along all streams-to provide shade and bank stability at, or below, flows expected to occur during or following a 25-year, 24 hour storm event.*
4. *Use the application of chemicals in combination with irrigation water in a manner that does not adversely impact waters of the state.*

5. *Design and operate irrigation systems to minimize potential pollutants – scheduling shall be appropriate to the site given the water use efficiency, off-target minimization, soil conditions, crop, climate, and topography*
6. *Prevent runoff or leaching of contaminated water from feed and manure storage piles into waters of the state.*
7. *Use and apply crop nutrients in a manner that prevents transport into waters of the state.*

Do the Plan and Regulations apply to me?

The Area Plan and associated regulations apply to all lands, regardless of size, in current agricultural use and those lying idle or on which management has been deferred. It also applies to agricultural operations within incorporated city boundaries within the designated management area boundary.

More information?

If you would like further information, you can contact the Marion SWCD at (503) 391-9927 OR

the Regional Water Quality Specialist, Jo Morgan at jmorgan@oda.state.or.us (503) 986-4712 OR

Oregon Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division (503) 986-4700 or visit their website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/Pages/AgWaterQuality.aspx>

