

TUALATIN AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN AND RULES

The Oregon legislature passed the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act in 1993. It requires the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities.

As a result, ODA worked with the local advisory committee to develop Water Quality Management Area Plans and Rules throughout the state. ODA approved the Tualatin Area Plan and Rules in 1996.

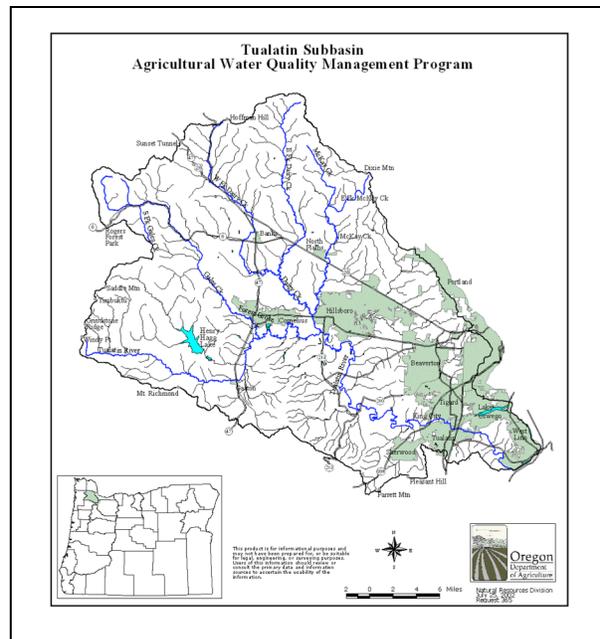
What is the Plan?

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 Tualatin Management Area are:

- Temperature
- pH
- Dissolved oxygen
- Bacteria
- Chlorophyll a
- Biological criteria



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.

What are the Regulations?

The focus of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program is on voluntary and cooperative efforts by landowners, the Department, 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 (Area Rules) allow landowners flexibility in how they protect water quality. Area Rules describe characteristics that landowners must achieve on agricultural lands, rather than practices that must be implemented.

The following is a summary of regulations that apply in the Tualatin area:

1. *No visible evidence of erosion in a location where eroded sediment could enter water.*
2. *Streamside vegetation allowed to establish along perennial and intermittent streams, consistent with site capability, for shade, filtration of pollutants from surface runoff, and stabilized streambanks.*
3. *Irrigation discharges must not pollute the receiving water.*
4. *Feed, fertilizer, manure, and other sources of crop nutrients stored and used in a manner that prevents water pollution.*
5. *Wastes such as fertilizer and soil not placed where it is likely to enter water.*

More information?

If you would like additional information or technical assistance please contact:
Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District at (503) 648-3174

OR

Oregon Department of Agriculture North Coast/ North Willamette Water Quality Specialist:
Brenda Sanchez

Desk: (503)-986-4730

E-mail: bsanchez@oda.state.or.us

Natural Resource Programs at (503)-986-4700

Visit the website for more information and copies of the area plan:

www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/AgWQ/Pages/AgWQPlans.aspx

Does the Plan and Regulations apply to me?

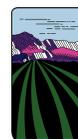
The Area Plan and associated regulations apply to all lands, regardless of size, in current agricultural use and those lying idle, or on which management has been deferred. It also applies to agricultural operations within incorporated city boundaries within the designated management area boundary.

What do I need to do?

You should evaluate your agricultural activities to determine whether they might:

1. *Pollute streams, canals, and groundwater, and*
2. *Prevent growth of appropriate vegetation along streams.*

If so, then you need to change any problem practices to ensure compliance with the Area Rules.



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture