

Regional Dry Channel Maintenance Time Periods

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
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Presentation Outline

- HB 2437
- Biological rationale
- Process and Outreach
- Proposed rules

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HB 2437

1. "Allow for a workable process for persons to maintain traditionally maintained channels"
2. "While protecting the ecological and life history functions of fish and wildlife that inhabit the channels"

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HB 2437

What Channels Qualify?

- "Traditionally maintained" channels (Ditches, Intermittent streams, Perennial streams) that:
 - Provided drainage in past 5 years
 - Non – Essential Salmonid Habitat streams
 - Dry - no standing or flowing water

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HB 2437


Program Conditions

A person must complete removal activities during the regional dry maintenance time period established by ODFW

Variance process

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HB 2437

ODFW Charge

Establish regional dry maintenance time periods to provide an opportunity for persons to maintain traditionally maintained channels while ensuring that impacts to the most sensitive life stages of fish and wildlife species are minimized

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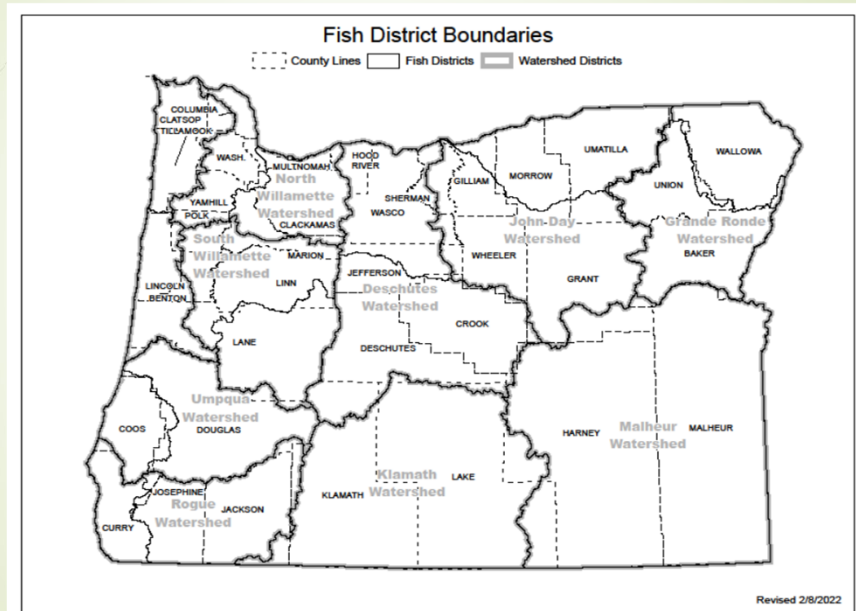
Biological Rationale

These channels can provide habitat to fish and wildlife species for food, spawning, breeding, and migration



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Biological Rationale



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Biological Rationale

- Minimize risk to the most vulnerable life stages of fish and wildlife species
 - ❑ Migration, spawning and rearing in maintained channels and adjacent waterways
 - ❑ Direct and indirect impact on the species




A yellow Deere excavator is shown in a grassy field, working near a waterway. The excavator's arm is extended, and it appears to be digging or clearing the area. The background shows a cloudy sky and a line of trees in the distance.

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Biological Rationale

- Start date - based on the average date streams in a region typically go dry, date with least risk to downstream fish
- End date
 - ❑ Watershed specific life history functions
 - ❑ Consideration of average date that the streams start to water up, generally corresponds to the 0.5" rain event provided by the National Weather Service for each watershed

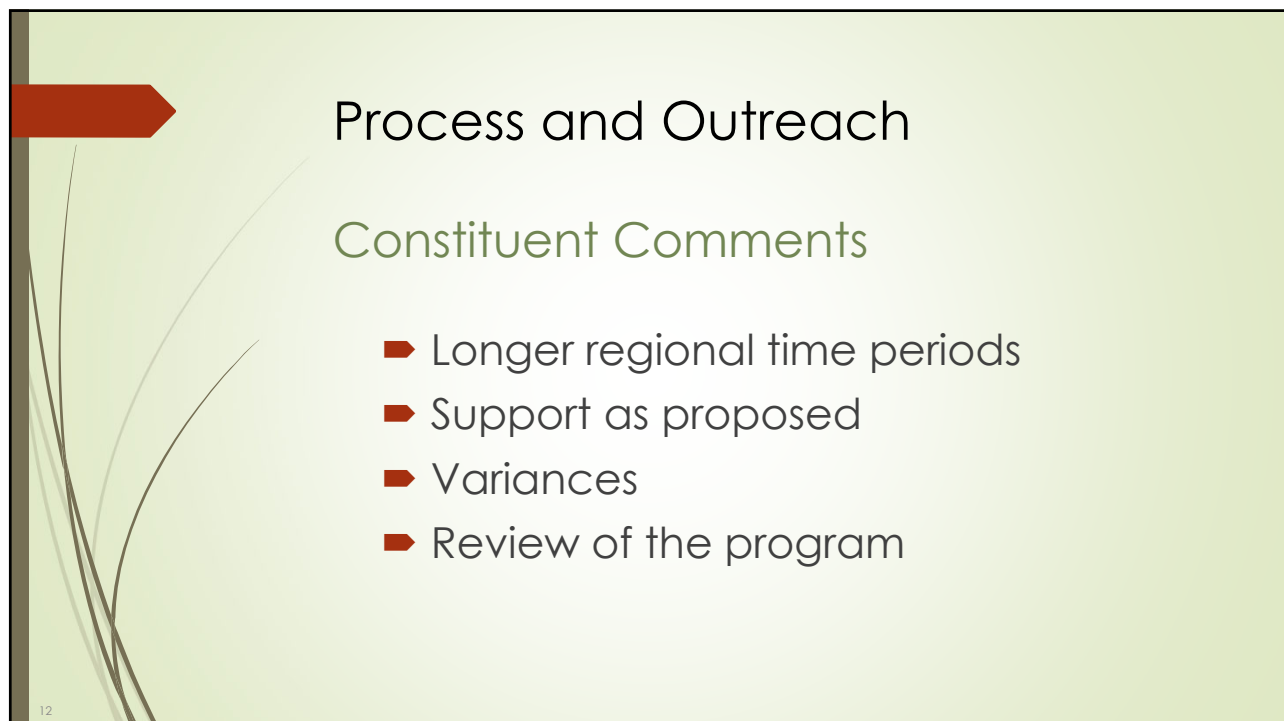


A close-up photograph of a rainbow trout being held by a person's hand. The fish is facing left, and its mouth is slightly open, showing its tongue. The background is a blurred natural setting with water and greenery.

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Proposed Rules

North Willamette

Proposed time periods

- Green- Lower Columbia, Sandy River, and Lower Willamette River Basins excluding the Tualatin, Yamhill and Rickreall
August 1- August 31
- Pink – Tualatin River, Yamhill River, and Rickreall Creek
August 1 – Sept. 30

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Proposed Rules

Rogue

Proposed time periods

- Green July 15 – Sept. 30
- Blue July 15 – August 31
- Pink July 15 – Sept. 30

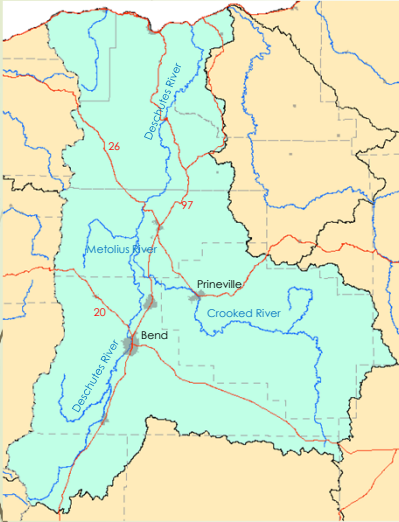
Below Dodge Bridge (Green) – Average fall Chinook salmon spawning date start date is October 1

Dodge Bridge to William and Jess Dam (Lost Creek Lake) (Blue) – Average spring Chinook salmon spawning start date is late August

Upstream of William and Jess Dam (Pink) – no anadromous fish

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Proposed Rules



Deschutes

Proposed time period

October 15 - November 15

NWS 0.5" rain

Mid-Columbia November 12

Upper Deschutes November 20

Biological rationale

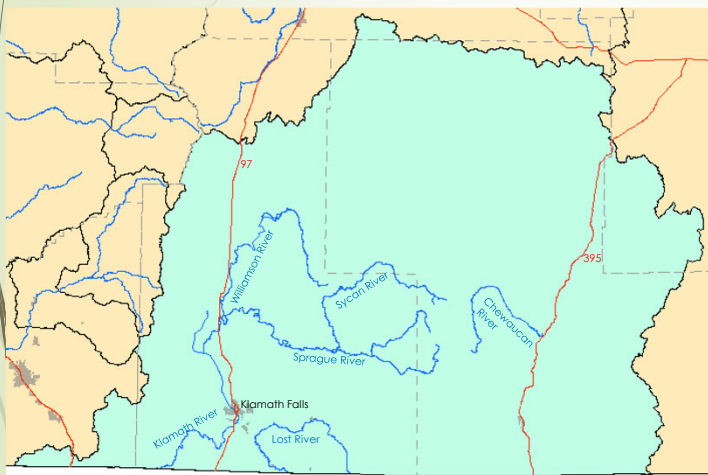
Front end - Channels expected to be dry at this time, it is after irrigation season but before winter precipitation.

Back end - Prior to winter rains in mid-November. Native adult and juvenile fish disperse throughout the basin with the fall rains.

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Proposed Rules



Klamath

Proposed time Period

August 1 – Oct. 15

NWS 0.5" rain

November 6

Biological rationale

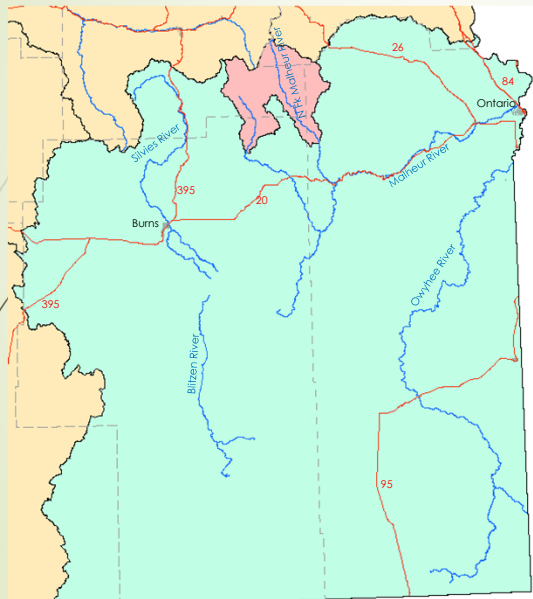
Front end - Most channels wet through late July.

Back end - Prior to the early winter storms in mid-October. Once it gets cooler and the streams start increasing in velocity, the fish begin moving upstream or into better habitat.

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Proposed Time Periods



Malheur

Green Closed Lakes Basins and Snake River tributaries excluding section in pink

October 1 – November 15

After irrigation season but before winter precipitation that could mobilize sediments and impact red band trout fry and spawning habitat.

Pink Malheur River and tributaries upstream of Wolf Creek, and North Fork Malheur River and tributaries upstream of Beulah Reservoir

August 1 – August 31

Protects bull trout that are migrating to spawning habitat and holding in overwintering habitat. Bull trout spawn in September and October.

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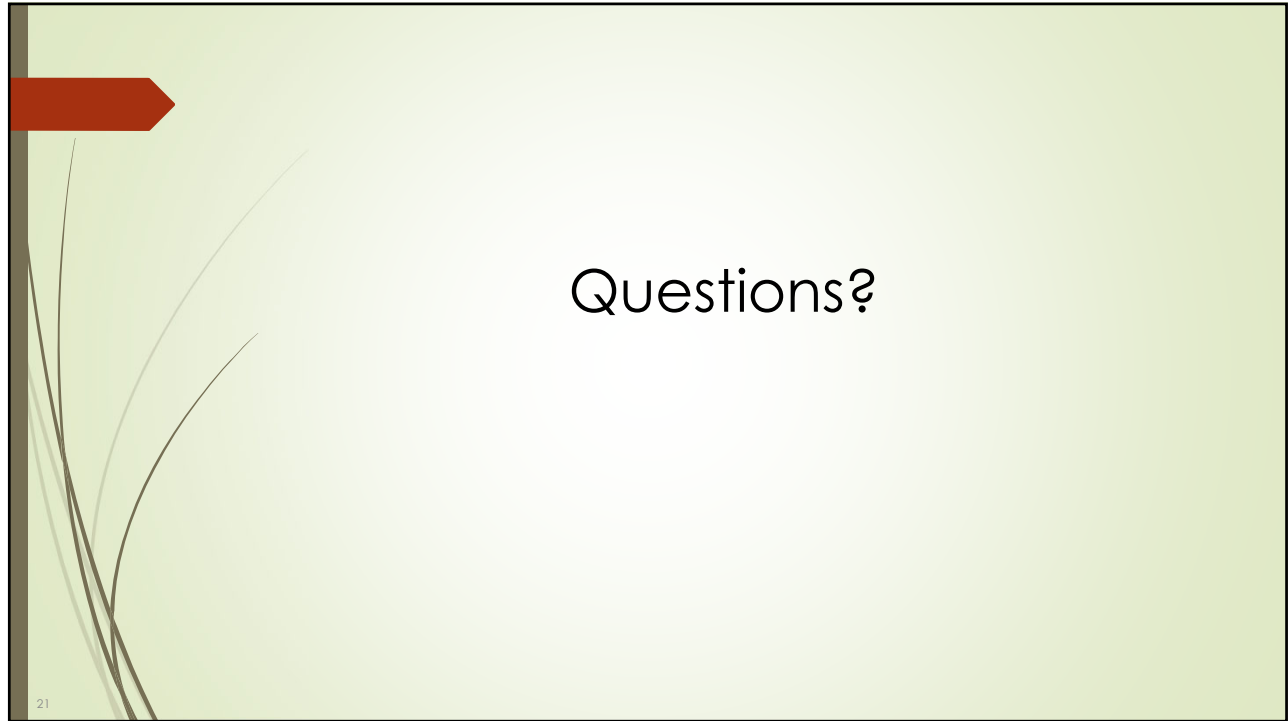
Proposed Rules

Recommendation

Adopt OAR Chapter 635, Division 418 to establish regional dry maintenance time periods as proposed by staff

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