

DEQ's DRAFT Policy Option Package to support Willamette TMDL Implementation

[Still under development; content may be revised]

DEQ's priorities for implementing the Willamette Basin TMDL:

1. Develop Phase II mercury TMDL
2. Ensuring compliance with wastewater discharge permits, and using innovative and customized approaches where appropriate
3. Addressing urban storm water runoff
4. Restoring riparian areas in rural lands

DEQ proposes to assign a multifaceted team to work with local governments, watershed councils, state and federal agencies, businesses and landowners in the Willamette River Basin to develop and implement appropriate solutions to the four priority issues described above. The team would consist of 5 positions:

- 2 Basin Coordinators
- 1 Stormwater Specialist
- 1 Alternative Compliance Policy Analyst
- 1 Mercury Specialist (0.5 FTE)

The Basin Coordinators and Stormwater Specialist would tailor their strategies to match the environmental, economic and social makeup of the basin. In some cases, the team will be able to utilize existing strategies and tools for achieving compliance. In many instances, however, it is expected to they will be exploring new approaches and innovations in order to find better ways to achieve environmental results.

The Alternative Compliance Policy Analyst would support the team by resolving compliance and enforcement policy issues arising out of the use of innovative approaches. This work is a critical; DEQ must be confident that any innovative approaches are legally sufficient and sound so that the permittee doesn't suffer unexpected setbacks in its efforts to come into compliance. The Compliance Analyst would also be engaged in developing streamlined procedures for developing and tracking MAOs, evaluating and streamlining enforcement policies and procedures and identifying opportunities to provide technical assistance in a more efficient, cross-program manner.

The Mercury Specialist would ensure that the Willamette Basin Team is able to effectively use DEQ's environmental data to help communities and stakeholders understand the issues and make good decisions. The Mercury Specialist would provide data analysis and interpretation, as well as provide charts, graphs and maps that help connect the data to the real world decisions that communities will face.

Budget: approx. \$685,000 General Funds