

Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals & Guidelines

**DEFINITIONS**

*Revised April 28, 2005*

**ACCRETION.** The build-up of land along a beach or shore by the deposition of waterborne or airborne sand, sediment, or other material

**AGRICULTURAL LAND.** See definition in Goal 3, "Agricultural Lands."

**ANADROMOUS.** Referring to fish, such as salmon, which hatch in fresh water, migrate to ocean waters to grow and mature, and return to fresh waters to spawn.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.** Those districts, sites, buildings, structures, and artifacts which possess material evidence of human life and culture of the prehistoric and historic past. (See Historical Resources definition.)

**AVULSION.** A tearing away or separation by the force of water. Land which is separated from uplands or adjacent properties by the action of a stream or river cutting through the land to form a new stream bed.

**BEACH.** Gently sloping areas of loose material (e.g., sand, gravel, and cobbles) that extend landward from the low-water line to a point where there is a definite change in the material type or landform, or to the line of vegetation.

**BENTHIC.** Living on or within the bottom sediments in water bodies.

**BRIDGE CROSSINGS.** The portion of a bridge spanning a waterway not including supporting structures or fill located in the waterway or adjacent wetlands.

**BRIDGE CROSSING SUPPORT STRUCTURES.** Piers, piling, and similar structures necessary to support a bridge span but not including fill for causeways or approaches.

**CARRYING CAPACITY.** Level of use which can be accommodated and continued without irreversible impairment of natural resources productivity, the ecosystem and the quality of air, land, and water resources.

**CITIZEN.** Any individual within the planning area; any public or private entity or association within the planning area, including corporations, governmental and private agencies, associations, firms, partnerships, joint stock companies and any group of citizens.

**CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC).** A group of citizens organized to help develop and maintain a comprehensive plan and its land use regulations. Local governments usually establish one such group for each neighborhood in a city or each district in a county. CACs may also be known as neighborhood planning organizations, area advisory committees, or other local terms. CACs convey their advice and concerns on planning issues to the planning commission or governing body. CACs also convey information from local officials to neighborhood and district residents.

**CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CIAC).** A state committee appointed by the Land Conservation and Development Commission to advise that commission on matters of citizen involvement, to promote public participation in the adoption and amendment of the goals and guidelines, and to assure widespread citizen involvement in all phases of the planning process. CIAC is established in accordance with ORS 197.160.

**CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP).** A program established by a city or county to ensure the extensive, ongoing involvement of local citizens in planning. Such programs are required by Goal 1, "Citizen Involvement," and contain or address the six components described in that goal.

**COASTAL LAKES.** Lakes in the coastal zone that are bordered by a dune formation or that have a direct hydrologic surface or subsurface connection with saltwater.

**COASTAL SHORELANDS.** Those areas immediately adjacent to the ocean, all estuaries and associated wetlands, and all coastal lakes.

**COASTAL STREAM.** Any stream within the coastal zone.

**COASTAL WATERS.** Territorial ocean waters of the continental shelf; estuaries; and coastal lakes.

**COASTAL ZONE.** The area lying between the Washington border on the north to the California border on the south, bounded on the west by the extent of the state's jurisdiction, and in the east by the crest of the coastal mountain range, with the exception of: (a ) The Umpqua River basin, where the coastal zone shall extend to Scottsburg; (b) The Rogue River basin, where the coastal zone shall extend to Agness; (c) The Columbia River basin, where the coastal zone shall extend to the downstream end of Puget Island. (Formerly ORS 191.110)

**COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT (CCI).** A local group appointed by a governing body for these purposes: assisting the governing body with the development of a program that promotes and enhances citizen involvement in land use planning; assisting in the implementation of the citizen involvement program; and evaluating the process being used for citizen involvement. A CCI differs from a citizen advisory committee (CAC) in that the former advises the local government only on matters pertaining to citizen involvement and Goal 1. A CAC, on the other hand, may deal with a broad range of planning and land use issues. Each city or county has only one CCI, whereas there may be several CACs.

**CONSERVE.** To manage in a manner which avoids wasteful or destructive uses and provides for future availability.

**CONSERVATION.** The act of conserving the environment.

**CONTINENTAL SHELF.** The area seaward from the ocean shore to the distance when the ocean depth is 200 meters, or where the ocean floor slopes more steeply to the deep ocean floor. The area beyond the state's jurisdiction is the OUTER Continental Shelf.

**DEFLATION PLAIN.** The broad interdune area which is wind-scoured to the level of the summer water table.

**DEVELOP.** To bring about growth or availability; to construct or alter a structure, to conduct a mining operation, to make a physical change in the use or appearance of land, to divide land into parcels, or to create or terminate rights to access.

**DEVELOPMENT.** The act, process or result of developing.

**DIVERSITY.** The variety of natural, environmental, economic, and social resources, values, benefits, and activities.

**DUNE.** A hill or ridge of sand built up by the wind along sandy coasts.

**DUNE, ACTIVE.** A dune that migrates, grows and diminishes from the effect of wind and supply of sand. Active dunes include all open sand dunes, active hummocks, and active foredunes.

**DUNE, CONDITIONALLY STABLE.** A dune presently in a stable condition, but vulnerable to becoming active due to fragile vegetative cover.

**DUNE, OLDER STABILIZED.** A dune that is stable from wind erosion, and that has significant soil development and that may include diverse forest cover. They include older foredunes.

**DUNE, OPEN SAND.** A collective term for active, unvegetated dune landforms.

**DUNE, RECENTLY STABILIZED.** A dune with sufficient vegetation to be stabilized from wind erosion, but with little, if any, development of soil or cohesion of the sand under the vegetation. Recently stabilized dunes include conditionally stable foredunes, conditionally stable dunes, dune complexes, and younger stabilized dunes.

**DUNES, YOUNGER STABILIZED.** A wind-stable dune with weakly developed soils and vegetation.

**DUNE COMPLEX.** Various patterns of small dunes with partially stabilized intervening areas.

**ECOSYSTEM.** The living and non-living components of the environment which interact or function together, including plant and animal organisms, the physical environment, and the energy systems in which they exist. All the components of an ecosystem are inter-related.

**ENCOURAGE.** Stimulate; give help to; foster.

**ESTUARY.** A body of water semi-enclosed by land, connected with the open ocean, and within which salt water is usually diluted by freshwater derived from the land. The estuary includes: (a) estuarine water; (b) tidelands; (c) tidal marshes; and (d) submerged lands. Estuaries extend upstream to the head of tidewater, except for the Columbia River Estuary, which by definition is considered to extend to the western edge of Puget Island.

**ESTUARINE ENHANCEMENT.** An action which results in a long-term improvement of existing estuarine functional characteristics and processes that is not the result of a creation or restoration action.

**FILL.** The placement by man of sand, sediment, or other material, usually in submerged lands or wetlands, to create new uplands or raise the elevation of land.

**FLOODFRINGE.** The area of the floodplain lying outside of the floodway, but subject to periodic inundation from flooding.

**FLOODPLAIN.** The area adjoining a stream, tidal estuary or coast that is subject to regional flooding.

**FLOOD, REGIONAL (100-YEAR).** A standard statistical calculation used by engineers to determine the probability of severe flooding. It represents the largest flood which has a one-percent chance of occurring in any one year in an area as a result of periods of higher-than-normal rainfall or streamflows, extremely high tides, high winds, rapid snowmelt, natural stream blockages, tsunamis, or combinations thereof.

**FLOODWAY.** The normal stream channel and that adjoining area of the natural floodplain needed to convey the waters of a regional flood while causing less than one foot increase in upstream flood elevations.

**FOREDUNE, ACTIVE.** An unstable barrier ridge of sand paralleling the beach and subject to wind erosion, water erosion, and growth from new sand deposits. Active foredunes may include areas with beach grass, and occur in sand spits and at river mouths as well as elsewhere.

**FOREDUNE, CONDITIONALLY STABLE.** An active foredune that has ceased growing in height and that has become conditionally stable with regard to wind erosion.

**FOREDUNE, OLDER.** A conditionally stable foredune that has become wind stabilized by diverse vegetation and soil development.

**FOREST LANDS.** See definition of commercial forest lands and uses in the Oregon Forest Practices Act and the Forest Lands Goal.

**GEOLOGIC.** Relating to the occurrence and properties of earth. Geologic hazards include faults, land and mudslides, and earthquakes.

**HEADLANDS.** Bluffs, promontories or points of high shoreland jutting out into the ocean, generally sloping abruptly into the water. Oregon headlands are generally identified in the report on Visual Resource Analysis of the Oregon Coastal Zone, OCCDC, 1974.

**HISTORICAL RESOURCES.** Those districts, sites, buildings, structures, and artifacts which have a relationship to events or conditions of the human past. (See Archaeological Resources definition.)

**HUMMOCK, ACTIVE.** Partially vegetated (usually with beach grass), circular, and elevated mounds of sand which are actively growing in size.

**HYDRAULIC.** Related to the movement or pressure of water. Hydraulic hazards are those associated with erosion or sedimentation caused by the action of water flowing in a river or streambed, or oceanic currents and waves.

**HYDRAULIC PROCESSES.** Actions resulting from the effect of moving water or water pressure on the bed, banks, and shorelands of water bodies (oceans, estuaries, streams, lakes, and rivers).

**HYDROGRAPHY.** The study, description and mapping of oceans, estuaries, rivers and lakes.

**HYDROLOGIC.** Relating to the occurrence and properties of water. Hydrologic hazards include flooding (the rise of water) as well as hydraulic hazards associated with the movement of water.

**IMPACT.** The consequences of a course of action; effect of a goal, guideline, plan or decision.

**INSURE.** Guarantee; make sure or certain something will happen.

**INTEGRITY.** The quality or state of being complete and functionally unimpaired; the wholeness or entirety of a body or system, including its parts, materials, and processes. The integrity of an ecosystem emphasizes the interrelatedness of all parts and the unity of its whole.

**INTERDUNE AREA.** Low-lying areas between higher sand landforms and which are generally under water during part of the year. (See also Deflation Plain.)

**INTERTIDAL.** Between the levels of mean lower low tide (MLLT) and mean higher high tide (MHHT).

**KEY FACILITIES.** Basic facilities that are primarily planned for by local government but which also may be provided by private enterprise and are essential to the support of more intensive development, including public schools, transportation, water supply, sewage and solid waste disposal.

**LCDC.** Land Conservation and Development Commission of the State of Oregon. Seven lay citizens, non-salaried, appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Oregon Senate; at least

one commissioner from each Congressional District; no more than two from Multnomah County.

**LITTORAL DRIFT.** The material moved, such as sand or gravel, in the littoral (shallow water nearshore) zone under the influence of waves and currents.

**MAINTAIN.** Support, keep, and continue in an existing state or condition without decline.

**MANAGEMENT UNIT.** A discrete geographic area, defined by biophysical characteristics and features, within which particular uses and activities are promoted, encouraged, protected, or enhanced, and others are discouraged, restricted, or prohibited.

**MINOR NAVIGATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS.** Alterations necessary to provide water access to existing or permitted uses in conservation management units, including dredging for access channels and for maintaining existing navigation but excluding fill and in-water navigational structures other than floating breakwaters or similar permeable wave barriers.

**MITIGATION.** The creation, restoration, or enhancement of an estuarine area to maintain the functional characteristics and processes of the estuary, such as its natural biological productivity, habitats, and species diversity, unique features and water quality (ORS 541.626).

**NATURAL AREAS.** Includes land and water that has substantially retained its natural character, which is an important habitat for plant, animal, or marine life. Such areas are not necessarily completely natural or undisturbed, but can be significant for the study of natural, historical, scientific, or paleontological features, or for the appreciation of natural features.

**NATURAL RESOURCES.** Air, land and water and the elements thereof which are valued for their existing and potential usefulness to man.

**OCCDC.** Oregon Coastal Conservation and Development Commission created by ORS 191; existed from 1971 to 1975. Its work is continued by LCDC.

**OCEAN FLOODING.** The flooding of lowland areas by salt water owing to tidal action, storm surge, or tsunamis (seismic sea waves). Land forms subject to ocean flooding include beaches, marshes, coastal lowlands, and low-lying interdune areas. Areas of ocean flooding are mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Ocean flooding includes areas of velocity flooding and associated shallow marine flooding.

**PLANNING AREA.** The air, land and water resources within the jurisdiction of a governmental agency.

**POLLUTION.** The violation or threatened violation of applicable state or federal environmental quality statutes, rules and standards.

**PRESERVE.** To save from change or loss and reserve for a special purpose.

**PROGRAM.** Proposed or desired plan or course of proceedings and action.

**PROTECT.** Save or shield from loss, destruction, or injury or for future intended use.

**PROVIDE.** Prepare, plan for, and supply what is needed.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES.** Projects, activities and facilities which the planning agency determines to be necessary for the public health, safety and welfare.

**PUBLIC GAIN.** The net gain from combined economic, social, and environmental effects which accrue to the public because of a use or activity and its subsequent resulting effects.

**QUALITY.** The degree of excellence or relative goodness.

**RECREATION.** Any experience voluntarily engaged in largely during leisure (discretionary time) from which the individual derives satisfaction.

**Coastal Recreation** occurs in offshore ocean waters, estuaries, and streams, along beaches and bluffs, and in adjacent shorelands. It includes a variety of activities, from swimming, scuba diving, boating, fishing, hunting, and use of dune buggies, shell collecting, painting, wildlife observation, and sightseeing, to coastal resorts and water-oriented restaurants.

**Low-Intensity Recreation** does not require developed facilities and can be accommodated without change to the area or resource. For example, boating, hunting, hiking, wildlife photography, and beach or shore activities can be low-intensity recreation.

**High-Intensity Recreation** uses specially built facilities, or occurs in such density or form that it requires or results in a modification of the area or resource. Campgrounds, golf courses, public beaches, and marinas are examples of high-intensity recreation.

**RESTORE.** Revitalizing, returning, or replacing original attributes and amenities, such as natural biological productivity, aesthetic and cultural resources, which have been diminished or lost by past alterations, activities, or catastrophic events. For the purposes of Goal 16 estuarine restoration means to revitalize or reestablish functional characteristics and processes of the estuary diminished or lost by past alterations, activities, or catastrophic events. A restored area must be a shallow subtidal or an intertidal or tidal marsh area after alteration work is performed, and may not have been a functioning part of the estuarine system when alteration work began.

**Active Restoration** involves the use of specific positive remedial actions, such as removing fills, installing water treatment facilities, or rebuilding deteriorated urban waterfront areas.

**Passive Restoration** is the use of natural processes, sequences, and timing which occurs after the removal or reduction of adverse stresses without other specific positive remedial action.

**RIPARIAN.** Of, pertaining to, or situated on the edge of the bank of a river or other body of water.

**RIPRAP.** A layer, facing, or protective mound of stones randomly placed to prevent erosion, scour or sloughing of a structure or embankment; also, the stone so used. In local usage, the similar use of other hard material, such as concrete rubble, is also frequently included as riprap.

**RURAL LAND.** Land outside urban growth boundaries that is:

- (a) Non-urban agricultural, forest or open space,
- (b) Suitable for sparse settlement, small farms or acreage homesites with no or minimal public services, and not suitable, necessary or intended for urban use, or
- (c) In an unincorporated community.

**SEDENTARY.** Attached firmly to the bottom, generally incapable of movement.

**SHORELINE.** The boundary line between a body of water and the land, measured on tidal waters at mean higher high water, and on non-tidal waterways at the ordinary high-water mark.

**SIGNIFICANT HABITAT AREAS.** A land or water area where sustaining the natural resource characteristics is important or essential to the production and maintenance of aquatic life or wildlife populations.

**SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES.** The tangible and intangible effects upon people and their relationships with the community in which they live resulting from a particular action or decision.

**STRUCTURE.** Anything constructed or installed or portable, the use of which requires a location on a parcel of land.

**SUBSTRATE.** The medium upon which an organism lives and grows. The surface of the land or bottom of a water body.

**SUBTIDAL.** Below the level of mean lower low tide (MLLT).

**TEMPORARY ALTERATION.** Dredging, filling, or another estuarine alteration occurring over a specified short period of time which is needed to facilitate a use allowed by an acknowledged plan. Temporary alterations may not be for more than three years and the affected area must be restored to its previous condition. Temporary alterations include:

- (1) alterations necessary for federally authorized navigation projects (e.g., access to dredged material disposal sites by barge or pipeline and staging areas or dredging for jetting maintenance),
- (2) alterations to establish mitigation sites, alterations for bridge construction or repair and for drilling or other exploratory operations, and
- (3) minor structures (such as blinds) necessary for research and educational observation.

**TERRITORIAL SEA.** The ocean and seafloor area from mean low water seaward three nautical miles.

**TIDAL MARSH.** Wetlands from lower high water (LHW) inland to the line of non-aquatic vegetation.

**URBAN LAND.** Land inside an urban growth boundary.



**URBANIZABLE LAND.** Urban land that, due to the present unavailability of urban facilities and services, or for other reasons, either:

- (a) Retains the zone designations assigned prior to inclusion in the boundary, or
- (b) Is subject to interim zone designations intended to maintain the land's potential for planned urban development until appropriate public facilities and services are available or planned.

**WATER-DEPENDENT.** A use or activity which can be carried out only on, in, or adjacent to water areas because the use requires access to the water body for water-borne transportation, recreation, energy production, or source of water.

**WATER ORIENTED.** A use whose attraction to the public is enhanced by a view of or access to coastal waters.

**WATER-RELATED.** Uses which are not directly dependent upon access to a water body, but which provide goods or services that are directly associated with water-dependent land or waterway use, and which, if not located adjacent to water, would result in a public loss of quality in the goods or services offered. Except as necessary for water-dependent or water-related uses or facilities, residences, parking lots, spoil and dump sites, roads and highways, restaurants, businesses, factories, and trailer parks are not generally considered dependent on or related to water location needs.

**WETLANDS.** Land areas where excess water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living at the soil surface. Wetland soils retain sufficient moisture to support aquatic or semi-aquatic plant life. In marine and estuarine areas, wetlands are bounded at the lower extreme by extreme low water; in freshwater areas, by a depth of six feet. The areas below wetlands are submerged lands.