

Where do I go for help?

Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

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SWCDs and watershed councils provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and have no regulatory role.

Central Oregon Extension Service

Prineville 447-6228

Oregon Department of Agriculture

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All publications produced by ODA will be made available in alternate formats when needed

Ag Water Quality Management Area Plan and Rules

Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Act (also known as SB1010) requires landowners to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities. This mandate led to the adoption of Water Quality Management Area Plans and Rules throughout the state.

The [Middle Deschutes Management Area](#) consists primarily of Jefferson County east of the Deschutes River.

The [Management Area Plan](#) provides information on water quality issues and recommends management practices.

Area Rules: Landowners in the Middle Deschutes Management Area must manage the following to prevent water pollution:

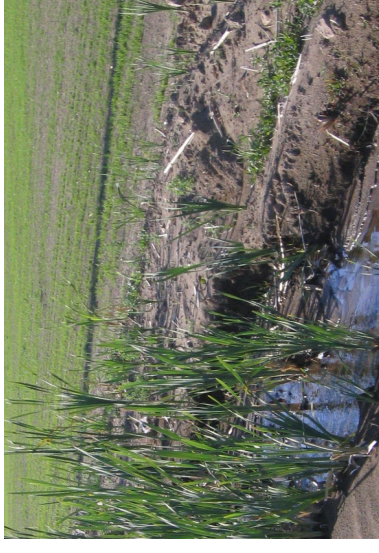
- Riparian vegetation
- Irrigation water diversions
- Manure and other wastes
- Sediment in irrigation tailwater
- Application of crop nutrients

These rules are enforced by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Landowners are responsible for conditions under their control. They are not responsible for conditions that are natural or a result of other landowners' activities or unusual weather events.

Landowners can contact the Jefferson County SWCD for [technical and financial assistance](#). Ask them for your copy of the Middle Deschutes Area Plan and Rules.

Got Tailwater?



What's in it?

Where does it go?

Why does it matter?

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

What's in the water and where is it going?

MANAGEMENT TIPS

Keep soil on the land and nutrients on site!

Reduce amount of tailwater: drip systems, irrigation timing, proper nozzle size, irrigate for crop need.

Reduce soil and nutrients in tailwater:

- Apply crop nutrients at agronomic rates and based on soil tests.
- Install vegetated buffer strips along fields to filter sediment out of tailwater
- Use cover crops or straw mulch to reduce soil erosion.
- Fence livestock out of canals and ditches.
- Pipe or line ditches.

Grade and slope fields to **retain tailwater**.

Build sediment basins to **capture soil** and water: scrape out and replace on fields.

Reuse tailwater: collect in a pond, pump out, and use for irrigation.

Filter water through a **constructed wetland** before it leaves your property.



Pumping irrigation water out of a wetland constructed to clean tailwater.



WHAT'S IN YOUR TAILWATER?

When tailwater leaves your field, it can have unintended consequences for people and fish.

Excess soil

- clogs irrigation equipment
- fills a neighbor's irrigation or livestock pond
- silts in fish habitat

Excess nutrients

- create algae in ponds and streams
- contaminate groundwater

Excess bacteria

- are unsafe for human contact
- contaminate groundwater

Heat

- harms fish in streams

WHERE DOES IT GO?

Tailwater can have different effects depending on where it goes. Does your tailwater:

- end on a **neighbor's** property?
- flow to a **stream**?

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Losing topsoil reduces productivity, and lost productivity costs **money**.

Who wants to harm people with bacteria or nitrates?

Also, when tailwater enters rivers and streams,

it may harm fish through warm water temperatures and excess soil and nutrients.

Keeping tailwater from harming humans or fish **is the law**.



Pump for drip irrigation system.