



Oregon Department  
of Land Conservation  
and Development

## Soils Assessment Fact Sheet

OAR 660-033-0030(5) and (10)

### Applicability

1. The proposed rule amendments apply only to land zoned exclusive farm use or mixed farm-forest except in the case of a rezoning from forest to nonresource use and the applicant relies on alternative soils information to demonstrate that the land does not qualify as agricultural land.
2. The proposed rule amendment references to a “person” seeking more detailed soils information means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, governmental subdivision or agency or public or private organization of any kind.
3. The proposed rule amendments apply to changes in plan designations and zoning, certain nonfarm dwelling and nonfarm land division approvals and potentially other applications.
4. Preliminary field work that does not result in a soils report is not subject to the proposed rule amendments.
5. Soils assessments and reports that have been completed and submitted to local governments before October 1, 2011 are exempt from the provisions of the proposed rule amendments.
6. Only those soils assessments and reports that have been “certified” by the department and submitted to local governments may be used in local land use proceedings requiring compliance with the proposed rule amendments. No testimony at local hearings that introduces any new evidence or makes findings not described in “certified” soils assessments submitted by the department may be relied upon in making local land use decision.

### Qualifying Soils Professionals

1. Individuals whom the Soil Science Society of America identifies as certified soil classifiers or certified soil scientists with equivalent qualifications as classifiers (as determined by an independent panel of soils professionals) may participate in this new process.
2. Soils professionals may apply to participate during an enrollment period from September 20 – 28, 2011. Contact Julie Hall for assistance at (503) 373-0050, ext. 267. All certified soil classifiers and soil scientists in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California have been notified of the opportunity to participate. Additional enrollment opportunities will occur quarterly.
3. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) will post and maintain a list of qualified soils professionals. Landowners may select the qualified soils professional of their choice from the list.

### Contracted Soils Work

1. Soils professionals will determine and provide fixed, upfront bids and work timelines to landowners as they may choose.
2. Landowners will select a bid and pay DLCD the full bid amount plus a \$627.11 administrative fee upfront.
3. DLCD will issue a purchase order to the soils professional.
4. On submittal of a soils assessment that meets established reporting requirements, DLCD will pay soils professionals the full agreed-upon bid amount. There will be no opportunity to change bids once the purchase order is complete.
5. The “established reporting requirements” are nearly identical to the Department of Agriculture’s “Acceptable Soils Reports” standards in OAR 603-080-0040, and are provided to the soils professional as part of the process of contracting with DLCD. The reporting requirements do not call for any particular format to be used.
6. Soils assessments and reports are subject to periodic audit by an independent soils assessment auditing committee to determine continuing qualifications of participating soils professionals.