



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Fact Sheet

Stream Crossings and Septic Systems

Background

When constructing a sewer pipe to carry effluent from your septic tank, or other treatment units, across a stream to an approved drainfield it is important to make sure you have the proper state and local permits. This fact sheet explains how to obtain these permits, why these permits are necessary and who to contact for more information.

Permit requirements

A permit from the Lincoln County Department of Planning and Development (LCDPD) is required to install any part of a septic system. In addition, Oregon's Removal-Fill Law (ORS 196.795-990) requires people who remove or fill materials in state waters to first obtain a permit from the Division of State Lands (DSL).

Local ordinances in your community may also require some type of review or permit. Please check with your local planning department to see if any other requirements are needed prior to starting your project.

What activities need a DSL permit?

1. Projects requiring the removal or fill of 50 cubic yards (~5 dump truck loads) or more of material in state waters.
2. The removal or fill of any material, regardless of the number of cubic yards affected in a stream designated as essential salmon habitat. Visit the DSL Web site for a list of essential salmon habitat.
www.oregonstatelands.us/counties_ess.htm
3. The removal or fill of any material from the bed and banks of scenic waterways regardless of the number of cubic yards affected. Visit the DSL Web site for a list of scenic waterways. www.oregonstatelands.us/scenicwaterways.htm

If in doubt, check it out. Contact the DSL Web site at <http://www.oregonstatelands.us/staffdir.htm> for a list of DSL resource coordinators or see the list of contacts in the "For More Information" section on page 3 of this fact sheet.

What conditions apply to DSL permits?

All permits include standard and special design and operating conditions that are intended to ensure the protection, conservation and best use of the states water resources and prevent harm to fishery and recreational uses of the waters.

A common conclusion is that the project be conducted during the in-water work period established by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). The in water work period is the time of year that when construction and or excavation would have the least effect on important fish wildlife and habitat resources. Visit the ODFW website at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/InfoCntrHbt/0600_Inwtrguide.pdf for a list of in-water work periods around the state.

ODFW provides comments on most DSL Removal-fill permits. Additional conditions may apply depending on the nature of your project.

How long will the permit process take?

State law requires DSL to determine whether an application for joint removal-fill permit is complete within 40 days of receipt and to issue a decision within 90 days of the completeness determination. However, in an emergency, DSL can authorize work in advance verbally as soon as all necessary information about the project is obtained. Emergency authorizations are available only for very limited, unforeseen circumstances. Contact a DSL resource coordinator for more information as soon as you become aware of a problem or potential emergency.

LCDPD cannot issue a septic system permit until your application is considered complete. If a stream crossing is involved, please include a copy of your DSL permit with your application for a septic system permit. Visit the following Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Website to see the procedures and criteria for installing a new septic system. <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/wqfact/gen-on-site.pdf>

Once your application is considered complete LCDPD must issue your construction permit within 20 days. Due to the limited time of in water periods it is important that you plan your project in advance.

What if I want to cross over a stream using a bridge or other support structure?

When deciding whether to place you septic system across a stream using a bridge or other support structure consider such factors as structural longevity, flooding events, freezing and vandalism protection. An engineer may be required to design the crossing, depending on the situation. ODFW may also provide conditions for this type of crossing.

For more information

For projects in Lincoln County contact the following representatives from DEQ, DSL, LCDPD, or ODFW

DEQ:

Michael E. Kucinski
Regional Onsite Waste Water Specialist
725 SE Main Street
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
(541) 440-3338 x 235

DSL:

Ed Emrick
Resource Coordinator
775 Summer Street North East Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-1279
(503) 378-3805

ODFW:

Jim Brick
Habitat Protection Biologist
4192 North Umpqua Highway
Roseburg, OR 97470
(541) 440-3353

LCDPD:

Bill Zekan
Environmental Manager
Public Service Building
210 SW Second Street
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