

# **GOAL 6: AIR, WATER, AND LAND RESOURCES QUALITY**

## **General Discussion**

To maintain and improve the quality of the air, water, and land resources of Klamath County.

All waste and process discharges from future development, when combined with such discharges from existing developments, shall not threaten to violate or violate applicable state or federal environmental quality statutes, rules, and standards. With respect to the air, water, and land resources of the applicable air sheds and river basins described or included in state environmental quality statutes, rules, standards, and implementation plans, such discharges shall not:

1. Exceed the carrying capacity of such resources, considering long-range needs.
2. Degrade such resources.
3. Threaten the availability of such resources.

## **Objectives**

Coordinate all planned developments adjacent to surface water areas (lakes, rivers, and streams) with affected local, state, and federal agencies and departments.

Support pollution guidelines and prevention measures/programs of federal, state, and local agencies.

Assist State to identify all major sources of air, water and land pollution.

Recommend and promote the reservation of strategic locations to be used for treatment of waste water, solid wastes, septic tank wastes, sludge and all other hazardous wastes.

Utilize state standards for optimum sewage collection and treatment.

**Definition:**

- Waste and process discharges are solid waste, thermal, noise, atmospheric, or water pollutants, contaminants or products therefrom. Included also are indirect sources of air pollution which result in emissions of air contaminants for which the state has established guidelines.

**1. POLICY: The County shall support efforts to maintain and improve the quality of air resources.**

**Rationale:**

- To protect health of County citizens.
- To enhance visibility and scenic views (furtheres Goal 5).

**Implementation:**

- The Planning Department shall support the DEQ air quality regulatory permit process and provide DEQ staff with all required information.

**2. POLICY: All solid waste discharge will be disposed of in accordance with the County Solid Waste Management Plan.**

**Rationale:**

- To maintain and improve County land resources.

**Implementation:**

- The County shall implement the Solid Waste Management Plan as outlined in Klamath County Solid Waste Management: Comprehensive Study and Preliminary Plan.

**3. POLICY: Urban and rural residential use shall be designated only when approved sewage disposal alternatives have been identified.**

Rationale:

- To ensure future residential development with adequate sewage disposal alternatives (furthers Goal 10) and to prevent contamination of underground and surface waters.

Implementation:

- Development standards shall be followed as outlined in the Land Development Code.

**4. POLICY: Minimum lot sizes and/or maximum residential densities shall be established that will determine the need for a sewage disposal system. Site location criteria and standards for septic tanks shall also be established.**

Rationale:

- To maintain and improve groundwater quality by requiring proper location of septic tanks in relation to water wells and suitable soils.
- To ensure the carrying capacity of groundwater resources by requiring analysis of groundwater quality (furthers Goal 5).

Implementation:

- Minimum lot sizes and maximum residential densities are established in the Land Development Code.

**5. POLICY: The County shall coordinate environmental management programs with State and Federal environmental statutes, programs, and policies (air, water, land and noise).**

Rationale:

- To meet all Federal and State environmental protection statutes and to ensure that future County development will not threaten to violate these statutes.

Implementation:

- The County shall cooperate with the state to incorporate pertinent information from the State's 208 Water Quality Management Plan into the Comprehensive Plan and adopt appropriate policies and implementation.
- To produce River Basin (303e) plans for the Crater Lake, Klamath River, Lost River, Sprague River, and Upper Klamath Lake sub basins and the Williamson River Basin.

**6. POLICY: The County shall establish grading standards that limit runoff and erosion from residential, commercial, and industrial construction sites.**

Rationale:

- To reduce erosion and sedimentation of streams.
- To improve water quality.
- To improve fisheries.

Implementation:

- Grading regulations are established in the Land Development Code. A study shall be conducted on the feasibility of adopting a grading ordinance to preclude premature and unsound grading.

**7. POLICY: Consideration shall be given to locating noise-sensitive activities away from noise generators.**

Rationale:

- To reduce or eliminate health hazards and discomfort associated with excessive noise.
- To meet standards specified in Oregon Administrative Rule 340-15.

Implementation:

- The land use plan seeks to locate noise-sensitive activities away from noise generators.

**8. POLICY: Noise sensitive land uses shall be prohibited or limited within noise-affected areas of the Klamath Falls Municipal Airport in accordance with Table II-2. Conditional uses shall be permitted only when a detailed analysis of noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features are included in the building design.**

Rationale:

- To reduce or avoid the adverse physical and psychological effects of airport-related noise and the indirect effects on property values.
- To avoid future claims for noise-related harm.

Implementation:

- Noise-sensitive land uses shall be regulated through the Land Development Code in accordance with Table II-2.

**TABLE II-2**

**Airport Noise Land Use Compatibility**

	Noise Level	
	<u>65-80 Ldn</u>	<u>70+Ldn</u>
Residential, single-family	conditional	prohibited
Residential, multifamily	conditional	prohibited
Retail, Commercial	conditional	conditional
Offices	conditional	conditional
Hotels/motels	conditional	conditional
Industrial	permitted	permitted
Schools, libraries, churches hospitals, nursing homes, etc.	prohibited	prohibited
Auditoriums, amphitheaters	prohibited	prohibited
Sports arenas, stadiums	conditional	conditional
Playgrounds, parks	permitted	prohibited
Golf courses, riding stables, water-based recreation areas, cemeteries	permitted	prohibited
Agriculture	permitted	permitted

Source:

Airport Compatibility Guidelines (Volume VI, Oregon Aviation System Plan)  
Oregon Department of Transportation-Aeronautics Division, 1981

**9. POLICY: The County shall support the efforts of State and Federal agencies to maintain and improve the quality of air resources in regards to PM10 Particulate and Carbon Monoxide emissions.**

Background:

- On July 1, 1987 the EPA promulgated new federal ambient air quality standards for particles less than or equal to 10 micrometers (PM10). On August 7, 1987 EPA classified Klamath Falls as a Group I PM10 nonattainment area. The highest smoke concentrations ever recorded in the State of Oregon were in the Klamath Falls Urban Area.

On August 31, 1988 Klamath County established the Klamath County Air Quality Program. On July 31, 1991 the county adopted an ordinance establishing a mandatory wood burning curtailment program as well as enforced restrictions on open burning. On September 16, 1991 the City of Klamath Falls adopted Ordinance No. 6630 which implemented the County Air Quality Program. On October 1991, DEQ completed a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Klamath Falls Urban Area.

Since implementation of the Air Quality Program for PM10 pollution the worst day and second worst day 24 hour average have dropped significantly (See Table below).

**PM10 Particulate Summary > exceeds EPA standards**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Max</u>		<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Highest</u>	
1987	330	1/21	298	1/18
1988	792	1/25	723	2/3
1989	417	1/20	400	1/19
1990	258	12/30	236	2/19
1991	247	1/5	225	1/6
1992	119	1/15	115	1/23
1993	137	1/27	128	1/28
1994	104	2/1	104	2/2
1995	67	2/27	66	1/16

Since implementation of the Air Quality Program Carbon Monoxide emissions for the worst day and second worst day 24 hour average have dropped significantly (See Table below).

**Carbon Monoxide Summary > 9ppm exceeds EPA standards**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Max</u>		<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Highest</u>	
1988	10.5	1/19	10.5	1/26
1989	10.7	1/19	10.3	12/23
1990	9.0	11/17	8.9	11/29
1991	9.8	1/5	8.8	12/23
1992	6.4	12/18	5.9	11/14
1993	6.1	12/20	5.9	11/19
1994	5.9	1/14	5.1	2/5
1995	4.2	2/10	4.1	11/14

Since 1991 the Klamath Falls Urban Area has not exceeded the EPA carbon monoxide standards which qualifies the Area to apply for redesignation to attainment status via application through DEQ.

Rationale:

- To protect the health of County citizens.
- To enhance visibility and scenic views (furthers Goal 5).
- To work towards continually reducing pollutant emissions in order to allow further industrial growth and provide for future transportation needs (furthers Goals 9 & 12).

Implementation:

- When DEQ completes an updated Air Quality Maintenance Plan, and if the Air Quality Maintenance Plans indicates an air quality problem, the county shall do the following;
  1. Establish a Air Quality Committee to review the Air Quality Maintenance Plan, and design plans to improve the air quality to a maintainable level.
  2. The county shall review the plans suggested by the Air Quality Committee and do the following;
    - a. If a plan is acceptable to the county, then it shall be adopted.
    - b. If the county finds none of the plans acceptable, then the county will work with the Air Quality Committee and DEQ to find a practical solution to the air quality problem.