

# House Bill 2396

Sponsored by Representative WITT; Representatives BUCKLEY, CLEM, DOHERTY, FREDERICK, MATTHEWS  
(Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Adds large woody debris to definition of "material" for purposes of removal-fill provisions. Allows person to move large woody debris in certain cases.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to large woody debris; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 196.800 and 196.810.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 196.800 is amended to read:

5 196.800. As used in ORS 196.600 to 196.905, unless the context requires otherwise:

6 (1) "Channel relocation" means a change in location of a channel in which a new channel is dug  
7 and the flow is diverted from the old channel into the new channel if more than 50 cubic yards of  
8 material is removed in constructing the new channel or if it would require more than 50 cubic yards  
9 of material to completely fill the old channel.

10 (2) "Estuary" means:

11 (a) For waters other than the Columbia River, the body of water from the ocean to the head of  
12 tidewater that is partially enclosed by land and within which salt water is usually diluted by fresh  
13 water from the land, including all associated estuarine waters, tidelands, tidal marshes and sub-  
14 merged lands; and

15 (b) For the Columbia River, all waters from the mouth of the river up to the western edge of  
16 Puget Island, including all associated estuarine waters, tidelands, tidal marshes and submerged  
17 lands.

18 (3) "Fill" means the total of deposits by artificial means equal to or exceeding 50 cubic yards  
19 or more of material at one location in any waters of this state.

20 (4) "General authorization" means an authorization granted under ORS 196.850 for a category  
21 of activities involving removal or fill, or both, without a permit.

22 (5) "General permit" means a permit for removal activities or fill activities that are substantially  
23 similar in nature, are recurring or ongoing, and have predictable effects and outcomes.

24 (6) "Intermittent stream" means any stream which flows during a portion of every year and  
25 which provides spawning, rearing or food-producing areas for food and game fish.

26 (7) "**Large woody debris**" means any downed wood that captures gravel, provides stream  
27 stability or provides fish habitat.

28 [(7)] (8) "Material" means rock, gravel, sand, silt and other inorganic substances, and large  
29 woody debris, removed from waters of this state and any materials, organic or inorganic, used to  
30 fill waters of this state.

31 [(8)] (9) "Mitigation" means the reduction of adverse effects of a proposed project by consider-

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

ing, in the following order:

- (a) Avoiding the effect altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
- (b) Minimizing the effect by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;
- (c) Rectifying the effect by repairing, rehabilitating or restoring the affected environment;
- (d) Reducing or eliminating the effect over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action by monitoring and taking appropriate corrective measures; and
- (e) Compensating for the effect by creating, restoring, enhancing or preserving substitute functions and values for the waters of this state.

[(9)] (10) "Person" means a person, a public body as defined in ORS 174.109, the federal government, when operating in any capacity other than navigational servitude, or any other legal entity.

[(10)] (11) "Practicable" means capable of being accomplished after taking into consideration the cost, existing technology and logistics with respect to the overall project purpose.

[(11)] (12) "Public use" means a publicly owned project or a privately owned project that is available for use by the public.

[(12)] (13) "Removal" means:

- (a) The taking of more than 50 cubic yards or the equivalent weight in tons of material in any waters of this state in any calendar year; or
- (b) The movement by artificial means of an equivalent amount of material on or within the bed of such waters, including channel relocation.

[(13)] (14) "Water resources" includes not only water itself but also aquatic life and habitats therein and all other natural resources in and under the waters of this state.

[(14)] (15) "Waters of this state" means all natural waterways, tidal and nontidal bays, intermittent streams, constantly flowing streams, lakes, wetlands, that portion of the Pacific Ocean that is in the boundaries of this state, all other navigable and nonnavigable bodies of water in this state and those portions of the ocean shore, as defined in ORS 390.605, where removal or fill activities are regulated under a state-assumed permit program as provided in 33 U.S.C. 1344(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.

[(15)] (16) "Wetland conservation plan" means a written plan providing for wetland management containing a detailed and comprehensive statement of policies, standards and criteria to guide public and private uses and protection of wetlands, waters and related adjacent uplands and which has specific implementing measures and which apply to designated geographic areas of the State of Oregon.

[(16)] (17) "Wetlands" means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

**SECTION 2.** ORS 196.800, as amended by section 1, chapter 516, Oregon Laws 2001, section 8, chapter 253, Oregon Laws 2003, section 15, chapter 738, Oregon Laws 2003, section 3, chapter 849, Oregon Laws 2007, and section 19, chapter 343, Oregon Laws 2009, is amended to read:

196.800. As used in ORS 196.600 to 196.905, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Channel relocation" means a change in location of a channel in which a new channel is dug and the flow is diverted from the old channel into the new channel.

(2) "Estuary" means:

- (a) For waters other than the Columbia River, the body of water from the ocean to the head of

1 tidewater that is partially enclosed by land and within which salt water is usually diluted by fresh  
 2 water from the land, including all associated estuarine waters, tidelands, tidal marshes and sub-  
 3 merged lands; and

4 (b) For the Columbia River, all waters from the mouth of the river up to the western edge of  
 5 Puget Island, including all associated estuarine waters, tidelands, tidal marshes and submerged  
 6 lands.

7 (3) "Fill" means the deposit by artificial means of material at one location in any waters of this  
 8 state.

9 (4) "General authorization" means an authorization granted under ORS 196.850 for a category  
 10 of activities involving removal or fill, or both, without a permit.

11 (5) "General permit" means a permit for removal activities or fill activities that are substantially  
 12 similar in nature, are recurring or ongoing, and have predictable effects and outcomes.

13 (6) "Intermittent stream" means any stream which flows during a portion of every year and  
 14 which provides spawning, rearing or food-producing areas for food and game fish.

15 (7) **"Large woody debris" means any downed wood that captures gravel, provides stream**  
 16 **stability or provides fish habitat.**

17 [(7)] (8) "Material" means rock, gravel, sand, silt and other inorganic substances, **and large**  
 18 **woody debris**, removed from waters of this state and any materials, organic or inorganic, used to  
 19 fill waters of this state.

20 [(8)] (9) "Mitigation" means the reduction of adverse effects of a proposed project by consider-  
 21 ing, in the following order:

22 (a) Avoiding the effect altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;

23 (b) Minimizing the effect by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementa-  
 24 tion;

25 (c) Rectifying the effect by repairing, rehabilitating or restoring the affected environment;

26 (d) Reducing or eliminating the effect over time by preservation and maintenance operations  
 27 during the life of the action by monitoring and taking appropriate corrective measures; and

28 (e) Compensating for the effect by creating, restoring, enhancing or preserving substitute func-  
 29 tions and values for the waters of this state.

30 [(9)] (10) "Person" means a person, a public body, as defined in ORS 174.109, the federal gov-  
 31 ernment, when operating in any capacity other than navigational servitude, or any other legal en-  
 32 tity.

33 [(10)] (11) "Practicable" means capable of being accomplished after taking into consideration the  
 34 cost, existing technology and logistics with respect to the overall project purpose.

35 [(11)] (12) "Public use" means a publicly owned project or a privately owned project that is  
 36 available for use by the public.

37 [(12)] (13) "Removal" means:

38 (a) The taking of material in any waters of this state; or

39 (b) The movement by artificial means of material within the bed of such waters, including  
 40 channel relocation.

41 [(13)] (14) "Water resources" includes not only water itself but also aquatic life and habitats  
 42 therein and all other natural resources in and under the waters of this state.

43 [(14)] (15) "Waters of this state" means all natural waterways, tidal and nontidal bays, inter-  
 44 mittent streams, constantly flowing streams, lakes, wetlands, that portion of the Pacific Ocean that  
 45 is in the boundaries of this state, all other navigable and nonnavigable bodies of water in this state

1 and those portions of the ocean shore, as defined in ORS 390.605, where removal or fill activities  
 2 are regulated under a state-assumed permit program as provided in 33 U.S.C. 1344(g) of the Federal  
 3 Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.

4 [(15)] (16) “Wetland conservation plan” means a written plan providing for wetland management  
 5 containing a detailed and comprehensive statement of policies, standards and criteria to guide public  
 6 and private uses and protection of wetlands, waters and related adjacent uplands and which has  
 7 specific implementing measures and which apply to designated geographic areas of the State of  
 8 Oregon.

9 [(16)] (17) “Wetlands” means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground  
 10 water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do  
 11 support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

12 **SECTION 3.** ORS 196.810 is amended to read:

13 196.810. (1)(a) Except as otherwise specifically permitted under ORS 196.600 to 196.905, a person  
 14 may not remove any material from the beds or banks of any waters of this state or fill any waters  
 15 of this state without a permit issued under authority of the Director of the Department of State  
 16 Lands, or in a manner contrary to the conditions set out in the permit, or in a manner contrary to  
 17 the conditions set out in an order approving a wetland conservation plan.

18 (b) Notwithstanding the permit requirements of this section and notwithstanding the provisions  
 19 of ORS 196.800 (3) and [(12)] (13), if any removal or fill activity is proposed in essential indigenous  
 20 anadromous salmonid habitat, except for those activities customarily associated with agriculture, a  
 21 permit is required. “Essential indigenous anadromous salmonid habitat” as defined under this section  
 22 shall be further defined and designated by rule by the Department of State Lands in consultation  
 23 with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and in consultation with other affected parties.

24 (c) A person is not required to obtain a permit under paragraph (b) of this subsection for pros-  
 25 pecting or other nonmotorized activities resulting in the removal from or fill of less than one cubic  
 26 yard of material at any one individual site and, cumulatively, not more than five cubic yards of  
 27 material within a designated essential indigenous anadromous salmonid habitat segment in a single  
 28 year. Prospecting or other nonmotorized activities may be conducted only within the bed or wet  
 29 perimeter of the waterway and may not occur at any site where fish eggs are present. Removal or  
 30 filling activities customarily associated with mining require a permit under paragraph (b) of this  
 31 subsection.

32 (d) A permit is not required under paragraph (b) of this subsection for construction or mainte-  
 33 nance of fish passage and fish screening structures that are constructed, operated or maintained  
 34 under ORS 498.306, 498.316, 498.326 or 509.600 to 509.645.

35 (e) Nothing in this section limits or otherwise changes the exemptions under ORS 196.905.

36 (f) As used in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection:

37 (A) “Bed” means the land within the wet perimeter and any adjacent nonvegetated dry gravel  
 38 bar.

39 (B) “Essential indigenous anadromous salmonid habitat” means the habitat that is necessary to  
 40 prevent the depletion of indigenous anadromous salmonid species during their life history stages of  
 41 spawning and rearing.

42 (C) “Indigenous anadromous salmonid” means chum, sockeye, Chinook and Coho salmon, and  
 43 steelhead and cutthroat trout, that are members of the family Salmonidae and are listed as sensitive,  
 44 threatened or endangered by a state or federal authority.

45 (D) “Prospecting” means searching or exploring for samples of gold, silver or other precious

1 minerals, using nonmotorized methods, from among small quantities of aggregate.

2 (E) "Wet perimeter" means the area of the stream that is under water or is exposed as a non-  
3 vegetated dry gravel bar island surrounded on all sides by actively moving water at the time the  
4 activity occurs.

5 (2) A public body, as defined in ORS 174.109, may not issue a lease or permit contrary or in  
6 opposition to the conditions set out in the permit issued under ORS 196.600 to 196.905.

7 (3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to removal of material under a contract, permit  
8 or lease with any public body, as defined in ORS 174.109, entered into before September 13, 1967.  
9 However, no such contract, permit or lease may be renewed or extended on or after September 13,  
10 1967, unless the person removing the material has obtained a permit under ORS 196.600 to 196.905.

11 (4) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the Department of State Lands may issue,  
12 orally or in writing, an emergency authorization to a person for the removal of material from the  
13 beds or banks or filling of any waters of this state in an emergency, for the purpose of making re-  
14 pairs or for the purpose of preventing irreparable harm, injury or damage to persons or property.  
15 The emergency authorization issued under this subsection:

16 (a) Shall contain conditions of operation that the department determines are necessary to mini-  
17 mize impacts to water resources or adjoining properties.

18 (b) Shall be based, whenever practicable, on the recommendations contained in an on-site eval-  
19 uation by an employee or representative of the department.

20 (c) If issued orally, shall be confirmed in writing by the department within five days.

21 (d) Does not relieve the person from payment of a fee calculated in the manner provided in ORS  
22 196.815.

23 **SECTION 4. (1) The provisions of ORS 196.600 to 196.905 do not affect the ability of a**  
24 **person to move large woody debris if the large woody debris:**

25 **(a) Poses a direct and demonstrable danger to livestock, human life or real property.**

26 **(b) Prevents the passage of the person, or prevents any form of transportation, in the**  
27 **beds or banks of any waters of this state.**

28 **(2) As used in this section, "large woody debris" and "waters of this state" have the**  
29 **meanings given those terms in ORS 196.800.**

30 **SECTION 5. Section 4 of this 2013 Act and the amendments to ORS 196.800 and 196.810**  
31 **by sections 1 to 3 of this 2013 Act apply to permits for which applications are filed or re-**  
32 **newals are requested on or after the effective date of this 2013 Act.**

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