

Solar Siting in Oregon on High Value Farmland

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- Current statute *technically* allows solar to be sited on high value farmland
- However, in DLCD rules¹, solar is not allowed on high value farmland over 12 acres without a goal exception.
- DLCD rules also ban solar projects of any size on Class 1 and 2 soils, without a goal exception.
- If a solar project seeks a permit on high value farmland (above 12 acres), the project needs to receive a Goal 3 exception², a costly and lengthy process that most projects want to avoid.
- Regardless if a project on high value farmland is permitted at the county level (currently under 160 acres, proposed up to 240 acres) or at the state (currently over 160 acres, proposal over 240 acres), the project will need a Goal 3 exception.³
- Receiving a Goal 3 exception is a large barrier for a project, especially for projects on high value farmland.
- Therefore, an increase in project sizes allowed to be permitted by the county on high value farmland will have little impact on the number of projects on high value farmland, because of DLCD rules and Goal 3 exceptions.

¹ OAR 660-033-0130(38)

² ORS 469.504

³ ORS 197.732