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.

Authorizes counties to allow contiguous clustered nonresource dwellings on clustered development tract in lieu of approval of individual nonresource dwellings on farm, forest or mixed farm and forest use. Allows bonus dwellings when dwellings are sited on low value soil or with shared water or sewage systems. Establishes requirements for siting and approving dwellings and subdividing or partitioning clustered development tracts.

A Bill for an Act
Relating to clustered resource dwellings; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 215.236, 215.262 and 215.700.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 215.700 to 215.780.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:
(a) “Base developable dwellings” means the maximum total number of new nonresource dwellings that could be allowable on a clustered development tract if the tract had a common owner.
(b) “Clustered development tract” means one or more contiguous lots or parcels that are zoned for farm, forest or mixed farm and forest use and are:
(A) Under the same ownership; or
(B) Under different ownership, but the owners have entered into a written agreement to apply to develop two or more clustered nonresource dwellings on the owners’ combined lots or parcels.
(c) “Clustered nonresource dwellings” means two or more new nonresource dwellings sited on a clustered development tract.
(d)(A) “New nonresource dwelling” includes dwellings that could be authorized on a tract under ORS 215.213 (3) or (4), 215.284, 215.317, 215.327 or 215.700 to 215.780 or are otherwise allowed on lands zoned for farm, forest or mixed farm and forest use.
(B) “New nonresource dwellings” does not include replacement dwellings or dwellings that are authorized in conjunction with a farm or forest use.
(e) “Remaining resource lands” means lots or parcels included within a clustered development tract upon which no clustered nonresource dwelling is sited and which will remain zoned for farm, forest or mixed farm and forest use.
(2) In lieu of, and not in addition to, individually authorizing new nonresource dwellings, a county may authorize, on a clustered development tract dwelling, the subdivision or partition of the tract and the siting of clustered nonresource dwellings as provided by this section.

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.

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(3) In the clustered development tract, a county may allow the siting of residential dwellings in addition to the base developable dwellings in an amount that is no greater than the lesser of:

(a) The total base developable dwellings minus one; or

(b) Rounded down to the nearest whole number, the sum of:

(A) One-quarter dwelling for each clustered nonresource dwelling sited on a lot or parcel where a deed restriction requires that the dwelling share a well or water source with one or more clustered nonresource dwellings;

(B) One-quarter dwelling for each clustered nonresource dwelling sited on a lot or parcel where a deed restriction requires that the dwelling share a septic system or drainfield or sewage system with one or more clustered nonresource dwellings; and

(C) One-quarter dwelling for each clustered nonresource dwelling that is sited on soil that is predominately composed of Class VI through Class VIII soils.

(4) A county may authorize only clustered nonresource dwellings that:

(a) Are separated by not more than 300 feet, measured between the nearest points of the respective dwellings’ footprints; and

(b) Either front on a public road or share, with all other clustered nonresource dwellings that do not front on a public road, a private road with a single common access point to a public road via an easement.

(5) A county may authorize a clustered development tract unless the overall plan for the tract and the clustered nonresource dwellings:

(a) Will force a significant change in or significantly increase the cost of accepted farming or forest practices on the remaining resource lands or nearby lands devoted to farm or forest use; or

(b) Will materially alter the stability of the overall land use pattern of the area.

(6) A county shall allow a clustered development tract to be subdivided or partitioned to allow each clustered nonresource dwelling to be sited on a lot or parcel that:

(a) Is not smaller than one acre in size;

(b) Is not larger than five acres in size; and

(c) Forms a single contiguous tract of parcels or lots with all other clustered nonresource dwellings.

(7) To the extent practicable, the single contiguous tract described in subsection (6)(c) of this subsection:

(a) Must be contiguous to:

(A) Any of the following that border the clustered development tract:

(i) An urban growth boundary;

(ii) Any area zoned for rural residential use, as defined in ORS 215.501; or

(iii) Other clustered nonresource dwellings; and

(B) A road that borders or crosses the clustered development tract, if any; and

(b) May not divide the remaining resource lands into more than one tract.

(8) To the extent practicable, the county shall ensure each clustered nonresource dwelling or lot or parcel authorized under this section:

(a) Prevents negative impacts to groundwater and due to runoff;

(b) Minimizes disturbance to wetlands, grasslands, mature trees, habitats and open lands; and
(c) Protects or incorporates any existing historic buildings or residential dwellings.

(9) Remaining resource lands:

(a) Are not eligible for siting a dwelling, except as may be authorized under ORS 195.120;

(b) May not be considered in approving or denying an application for siting any other dwelling;

(c) May not be considered in approving a redesignation or rezoning of forestlands or lands zoned for exclusive farm use under the acknowledged comprehensive plan and land use regulations, except for a redesignation or rezoning to allow a public park, open space or other natural resource use; and

(d) Must be subject to a deed restriction recorded in the county records that precludes all future rights of the owner or future owners of the tract consistent with the requirements of paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subsection.

(10) If any portion of a clustered development tract is within an acknowledged urban growth boundary, the portion of the tract within the urban growth boundary may not be used to calculate the base developable dwellings under this section. Notwithstanding ORS 215.263 (2)(b)(B) and 215.785 (3)(b)(B), a parcel created under ORS 215.263 (2)(a)(C) or 215.785 (2) after the effective date of this 2023 Act that remains zoned for farm, forest or mixed farm and forest use may be considered in determining the base developable dwellings for a clustered development tract under this section.

SECTION 3. ORS 215.262 is amended to read:

215.262. The Legislative Assembly declares that the creation of small parcels for nonfarm dwellings in exclusive farm use zones introduces potential conflicts into commercial agricultural areas and allows a limited number of nonfarm dwellings in exclusive farm use zones. To protect the state’s land base for commercial agriculture from being divided into multiple parcels for nonfarm dwellings while continuing to allow a limited number of nonfarm dwellings on less productive agricultural land not suitable for farm use, it is necessary to:

(1) Limit the incremental division of lots or parcels larger than the minimum size established under ORS 215.780 into smaller lots or parcels for the purpose of creating new nonfarm dwellings; [and]

(2) Allow a limited number of lots or parcels equal to or less than the minimum size established under ORS 215.780 to be partitioned into not more than two parcels unsuitable for farm use and eligible for siting nonfarm dwellings under ORS 215.284[.]; and

(3) For nonfarm dwellings that are allowed, encourage the clustering of dwellings to maintain uninterrupted tracts of usable resource lands and to minimize conflict between resource lands and residential uses.

SECTION 4. ORS 215.700 is amended to read:

215.700. The Legislative Assembly declares that land use regulations limit residential development on some less productive resource land acquired before the owners could reasonably be expected to know of the regulations. In order to assist these owners while protecting the state’s more productive resource land from the detrimental effects of uses not related to agriculture and forestry, it is necessary to:

(1) Provide certain owners of less productive land an opportunity to build a dwelling on their land; [and]

(2) Limit the future division of and the siting of dwellings upon the state’s more productive resource land[.] and
(3) For dwellings that are allowed, encourage the clustering of dwellings to maintain un-
interrupted tracts of usable resource lands and to minimize conflict between resource lands
and residential uses.

SECTION 5. ORS 215.236 is amended to read:

215.236. (1) As used in this section, “dwelling” means a single-family residential dwelling not
provided in conjunction with farm use.

(2) The governing body or its designee may not grant final approval of an application made un-
der ORS 215.213 (3) or 215.284 (1), (2), (3), (4) or (7) or section 2 of this 2023 Act for the estab-
ishment of a dwelling on a lot or parcel in an exclusive farm use zone that is, or has been, receiving
special assessment without evidence that the lot or parcel upon which the dwelling is proposed has
been disqualified for special assessment at value for farm use under ORS 308A.050 to 308A.128 or
other special assessment under ORS 308A.315, 321.257 to 321.390, 321.700 to 321.754 or 321.805 to
321.855 and any additional tax imposed as the result of disqualification has been paid.

(3) The governing body or its designee may grant tentative approval of an application made
under ORS 215.213 (3) or 215.284 (1), (2), (3), (4) or (7) or section 2 of this 2023 Act for the estab-
lishment of a dwelling on a lot or parcel in an exclusive farm use zone that is specially assessed
at value for farm use under ORS 308A.050 to 308A.128 upon making the findings required by ORS
215.213 (3) or 215.284 (1), (2), (3), (4) or (7) or section 2 of this 2023 Act. An application for the
establishment of a dwelling that has been tentatively approved shall be given final approval by the
governing body or its designee upon receipt of evidence that the lot or parcel upon which estab-
lishment of the dwelling is proposed has been disqualified for special assessment at value for farm
use under ORS 308A.050 to 308A.128 or other special assessment under ORS 308A.315, 321.257 to
321.390, 321.700 to 321.754 or 321.805 to 321.855 and any additional tax imposed as the result of
disqualification has been paid.

(4) The owner of a lot or parcel upon which the establishment of a dwelling has been tentatively
approved as provided by subsection (3) of this section shall, before final approval, simultaneously:

(a) Notify the county assessor that the lot or parcel is no longer being used as farmland or for
other specially assessed uses described in subsection (2) or (3) of this section;

(b) Request that the county assessor disqualify the lot or parcel from special assessment under
ORS 308A.050 to 308A.128, 308A.315, 321.257 to 321.390, 321.700 to 321.754 or 321.805 to 321.855; and

(c) Pay any additional tax imposed upon disqualification from special assessment.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, a lot or parcel that has been disqualified
pursuant to subsection (4) of this section may not requalify for special assessment unless, when
combined with another contiguous lot or parcel, it constitutes a qualifying parcel.

(6)(a) A lot or parcel that has been disqualified pursuant to subsection (4) of this section may
requalify for wildlife habitat special assessment under ORS 308A.403 to 308A.430 or conservation
easement special assessment under ORS 308A.450 to 308A.465 without satisfying the requirements
of subsection (5) of this section.

(b) Upon disqualification from wildlife habitat special assessment under ORS 308A.430 or dis-
qualification from conservation easement special assessment under ORS 308A.465, the lot or parcel
shall be subject to the requirements of subsection (5) of this section.

(7) When the owner of a lot or parcel upon which the establishment of a dwelling has been
tentatively approved notifies the county assessor that the lot or parcel is no longer being used as
farmland and requests disqualification of the lot or parcel for special assessment at value for farm
use, the county assessor shall:
(a) Disqualify the lot or parcel for special assessment at value for farm use under ORS 308A.050 to 308A.128 or other special assessment by removing the special assessment;

(b) Provide the owner of the lot or parcel with written notice of the disqualification; and

(c) Impose the additional tax, if any, provided by statute upon disqualification.

(8) The Department of Consumer and Business Services, a building official, as defined in ORS 455.715 (1), or any other agency or official responsible for the administration and enforcement of the state building code, as defined in ORS 455.010, may not issue a building permit for the construction of a dwelling on a lot or parcel in an exclusive farm use zone without evidence that the owner of the lot or parcel upon which the dwelling is proposed to be constructed has paid the additional tax, if any, imposed by the county assessor under subsection (7)(c) of this section.