

Department of Land Conservation and Development

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September 7, 2011

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Katherine Daniels, Farm and Forest Lands Specialist

Michael Morrissey, Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: Rulemaking Notice - Notice of Proposed Amendments to Rules Regarding the Assessment of Soils

The Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) is considering amendments to administrative rules OAR 660-033-0030 and 660-033-0040 to establish a third party process for assessing agricultural land capability. The proposed amendments will implement legislative authorization (HB 3647(2010)) for a person to obtain additional information for use in determining whether land qualifies as agricultural land.

The law requires a person arrange, with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), for an assessment of the capability of the land by a professional soil classifier. An assessment is necessary when more detailed soils information is required. The proposed rules establish a process for a person to make such a request and establish "professional soil classifier" qualifications.

LCDC will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed rule amendments and receive public comment on Thursday, October 6, 2011, at The Guild Building, 1867 Williams Highway, Grants Pass, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. LCDC will consider a staff recommendation and public comment. LCDC may adopt the proposed rule amendments at that time. The rule amendments take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Hearing, Statement of Need and Fiscal Impact and Housing Impact Statements are posted on DLCD's website at:

http://www.lcd.state.or.us/LCD/rulemaking.shtml. Proposed rule amendments will be available on the website the week of September 12. The agenda for LCDC's October 5-7 meeting will be posted on DLCD's website at least 10 days prior to the meeting at http://www.lcd.state.or.us/. You may provide oral or written comments at the hearing or by sending written comments in advance of the meeting to: Chair of the Land Conservation and Development Commission, care of Casaria Tuttle, at the department's address above, or email comments to casaria.r.tuttle@state.or.us. Fax comments to 503-378-5518.

For additional information, please contact Katherine Daniels, Farm and Forest Lands Specialist, at 503-373-0050 ext. 329 or katherine.daniels@state.or.us.