

Benton County Riparian and Wetlands Inventory Resource Definitions

The following definitions appear in the Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 5 Administrative Rule (OAR 660-023-0000); with additional definitions compiled to address Goal 6 water quality related inventory and planning. Administrative Rule Goal 6 (Air, Water and Land Quality) does not contain State approved definitions.

Term	Goal 5 Administrative Rule (OAR 660-023-0000)	Possible Goal 6 related Definitions (sources cited, other notes)
Fish and Wildlife Habitat	An area where fish and wildlife depend in order to meet their requirements for food, water, shelter and reproduction.	
Ditch		human-constructed channels for conveying water where no natural channel existed or would exist, are not considered streams. However, features that appear to be ditches but are in fact relocated or altered streams are considered “streams”(current Benton County planning review definition).
Stream	A channel such as a river or creek that carries flowing surface water, including perennial streams and intermittent streams with defined channels, and excluding man-made irrigation and drainage channels (Goal 5).	A scoured channel expected to contain water flow during some portion of a year with average precipitation (current Benton County planning review definition).
Pond		A human created (e.g. through impoundment or diversion) still-water body with outfall to a stream during some portion of the year with average precipitation. Isolated Ponds (i.e. ponds that do not meet this definition) are not subject to the requirements of this section. NOTE: USGS maps separate ‘ponds’ ‘lakes’ and ‘sloughs’.
Lake		A naturally occurring still-water body. A water area off of a main channel (e.g. a backwater or slough) is considered a stream and not a lake if there is a likely hydrologic connection with the stream during an average year of precipitation (proposed Benton County definition).
Wetlands	Area inundated or saturated by	Ecosystems whose soil is saturated

	surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils.	for long periods seasonally or continuously, including marshes, swamps, and ephemeral ponds (USGS, National Water-Quality Assessment).
Water Area	Area between the banks of a lake, pond, river, perennial or fish-bearing intermittent stream, excluding man-made farm ponds (Goal 5)	
Top of Bank	"bankfull stage", defined as the two-year recurrence interval flood elevation (Goal 5).	Identifiable break in slope and/or transition from the riparian to upland environment as defined by the ordinary high water line in the State of Oregon (proposed Benton County definition).
Riparian Corridor	Goal 5 resource that includes the water areas, fish habitat, adjacent riparian areas, and wetlands within the riparian area boundary.	Pertaining to or located on the bank of a body of water, especially a stream (USGS water basics glossary).
Riparian Corridor Boundary	An imaginary line that is a certain distance upland from the top of bank	Delineated area where riparian functions occur (USGS water glossary).
Impaired Water Body		Any waterbody of the United States that does not attain water quality standards (as defined in 40 CFR part 131) due to an individual pollutant, multiple pollutants, pollution, or an unknown cause of impairment. Where a waterbody receives a thermal discharge from one or more point sources, impaired means that the waterbody does not have or maintain a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife (US EPA, ODEQ).
Water Quality Limited		Any [stream] segment where it is known that water quality does not meet applicable water quality standards, and/or is not expected to meet applicable water quality standards, even after the application of the technology-based effluent limitations (US EPA, ODEQ).