

**D&C Standards Update
January 23, 2007
Meeting Notes**

The topics for this meeting were sections of Chapter 3 concerning Paths (3.05.7) and Wetland Fills (3.11). Astrid Dragoy led the meeting which was attended by 10 stakeholders and 8 District staff.

Summary

Astrid explained that portions of the D&C Standards were modified in order to work with the regulations of the Oregon Department of State Lands and the U.S. Corps of Engineers. She invited suggestions on further clarifying the language. She noted 3.11 is a new section and addresses Vegetated Corridors for Sensitive Areas that are permitted to be partially or completely filled. The language is intended to increase flexibility while still basing mitigation on pre-development configurations. The proposed language removes the requirement for developers to “overfill” wetlands to create Vegetated Corridor in those instances where ODSL approves partial wetland fill. She noted that Table 3-1 of Vegetated Corridor widths used to be a separate document but is now incorporated into the Standards. No mitigation will be required when small isolated wetlands are filled if the Vegetated Corridor is in degraded or marginal condition. Vegetated Corridors for small wetlands in good corridor condition still need to be mitigated, either according to Table 3-2 or through “Payment to Provide.”

Asked if a vegetated “living wall” could qualify as a Vegetated Corridor, Astrid said it would not.

Path width (including any structural embankment and shoulders) allowances have been increased from 10 to 12 feet. In order for a path to be reviewed under the “Allowed Use” threshold, a variety of conditions must be met, including “path construction shall not remove native trees greater than 6”dbh.” This was added to be consistent with the Utility Infrastructure conditions. Astrid noted that paths greater than 12 feet but less than 14 feet in width could still be reviewed as an “Allowed Use” if the path is constructed using Low Impact Development techniques. Paths that meet the Allowed Use criteria will not be required to prove justification or public benefit. Discussion of the many variables in designing paths for multiple users concluded with a reminder that staff prefers to meet with the developer early in the planning process to discuss options.

Opening the discussion to other parts of Chapter 3, the justification for the increased width of the Vegetated Corridor on isolated wetlands was questioned. Staff responded that the research supporting the change is posted on the website in the Issue Papers and Related Materials pages.

Requested clarifications:

- ▶ Path crossing Vegetated Corridor (3.04)
- ▶ If path exceeds 12’, the entire path within project boundary should be constructed with LID techniques (to satisfy conditions of proposed section 3.05.7.b)
- ▶ Table 3-1 clarify that wetlands connected to intermittent streams should not require a 50’ Vegetated Corridor

Next Steps

Staff will continue to refine the revisions and post them on the website. Public comments will be posted, as well, as they become available. District staff intends to post all draft revisions and Standard Details on the website by Feb 13th. The final stakeholder meeting to review all proposed changes to the Standards is scheduled for March 6 and the deadline for comments is

March 20. Staff plans to take the revised Design and Construction Standards to the Board of Directors in April. (Note: the meeting date and comment deadline are a week later than was discussed during the meeting.)