



Coos County Planning Department  
225 North Adams St.  
Coquille, OR 97423

Comment regarding the planned Hearing- ACU-23-074 Winter Lakes

I am concerned that the hearing process and even our County Commissioners, traditionally stalwart defenders of the agricultural economy of Coos County, are unintentionally obstructing continued pasture and hayfield operations within the floodplain of the Coquille River and creating anti-agriculture tension within county government.

Long overdue tidegate replacements and upgrades are desperately needed by lowland pasture managers to continue agricultural operations and must incorporate proper warm weather flushing to address stagnant ponding like that observed behind failing, decayed tidegates on many lowland pastures. Our county government should be working with ODFW, SWCD, and drainage districts to develop drainage management plans and to help farmers and ranchers navigate the complexity of permits and afford drainage infrastructure upgrades and maintenance. Our agricultural land managers provide essential economic and lifestyle benefits to residents like me, and they need our County government and BOC's help.

Please support and to the extent possible fully participate in the inventory, design, permitting, and upgrade of the tidegates that protect the public road system, make continued agriculture possible, and maximize the water holding capacity of floodplains to help attenuate flood impacts to our low-lying areas.

Thank you for your service to our community.

*Barbara A Grant*

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