

Water Quality Trading and the Role of Limited Herbicide Use in Achieving a Successful Riparian Restoration

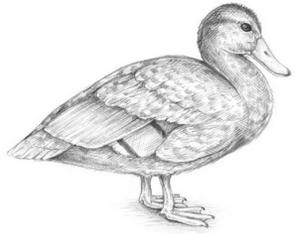
A Request for Variance by Ashland Public Works

The logo for the Clean Water Act is enclosed in a blue rectangular border. It features a large, stylized blue water droplet shape. Inside the droplet, the words "Clean Water Act" are written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the text, there is a circular inset with a white border. This inset depicts a landscape with a yellow sun in a blue sky, a green grassy bank, and dark blue water with white-capped waves.

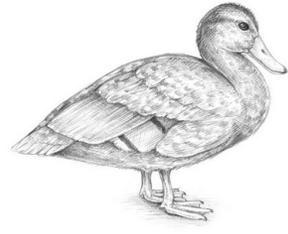
Clean Water Act

- Administered by Oregon DEQ
- Establishes water quality standards for Oregon's waterways
- Wastewater treatment plant effluent exceeds temperature standards for Bear Creek
 - Too warm
 - Mixes poorly
 - Creates a thermal plume
- Compliance is paramount

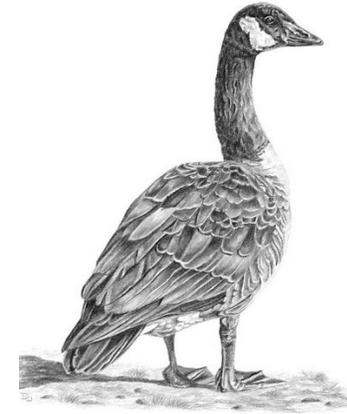
An Introduction to Selecting a Compliance Option (Volume 1):



Mechanical



Mechanical



Ecological!



a chiller

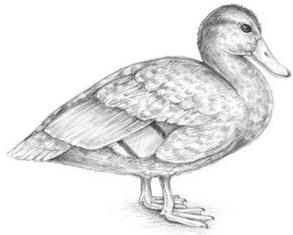


a cooling tower

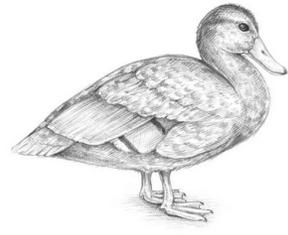


a restored riparian area on the Rogue

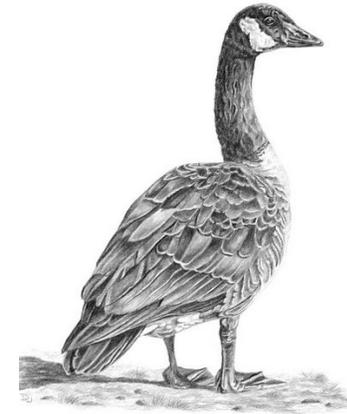
Advanced Studies in Selecting a Compliance Option (Volume 2):



Mechanical



Mechanical



Ecological!



another chiller



more cooling towers



A restored riparian area



Ecological Solutions: The Clear Choice for Ashland

3-Pronged path to compliance with the Clean Water Act:

- 1. Relocate the outfall of the wastewater treatment plant to Bear Creek
- 2. Construct treatment wetlands
- 3. Perform riparian restoration and Water Quality Trading (WQT)



Water Quality Trading Program

- WQT programs are approved by EPA and overseen by DEQ
- Premise: developing riparian shade will offset in-stream warming from treated effluent
- Partner: The Freshwater Trust
- Objective: Restore miles of degraded local riparian areas to shade-providing native riparian forest
- Goal: Provide long-term, sustainable, and affordable compliance, consistent with the values of our community



Herbicide Spot-Treatments in WQT Programs

Compliance-grade restoration hinges on early elimination of noxious weeds, like these:



Himalayan
blackberry



Himalayan
Blackberry again



Japanese knotweed



More Himalayan
Blackberry

Mechanical removal plus limited herbicide treatment is the only current method for *successful* riparian restoration

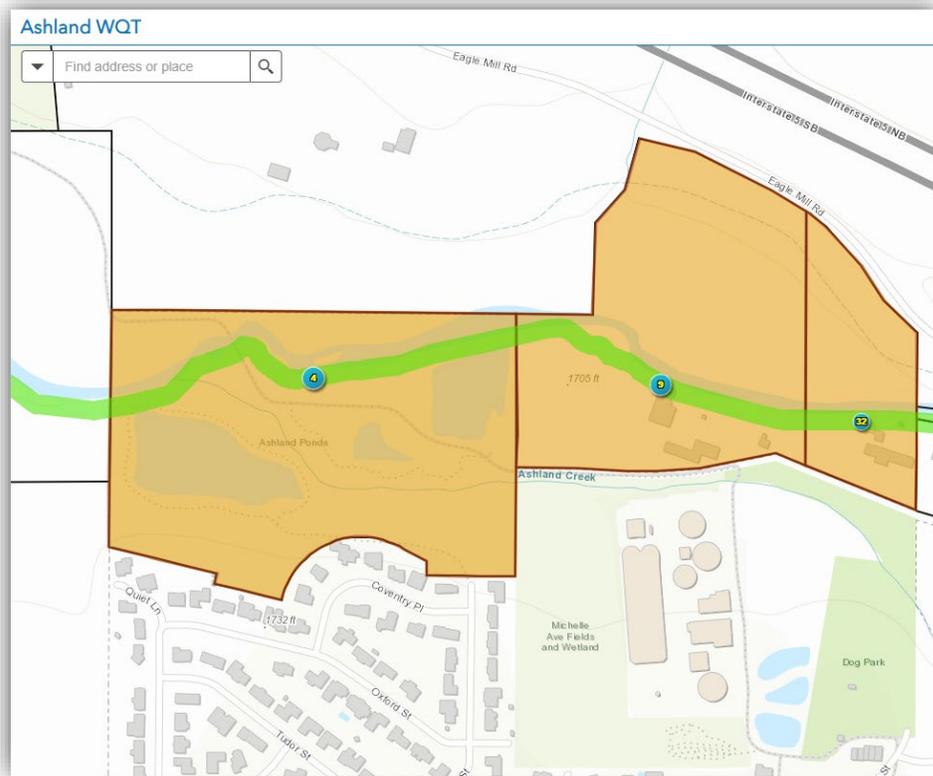
Request for Variance



- APRC policy restricts herbicide use on Parks-managed lands
- Public Works desires to conduct riparian restoration on Private, City-owned, and Parks Managed lands
- A limited, project-specific variance is being requested so Parks-managed riparian lands can be included in the WQT program

Potential Parks-Managed Sites for Riparian Restoration

Ashland Ponds Property



North Mountain Park and Adjoining Properties

