

# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PORTLAND DISTRICT P.O. BOX 2946 PORTLAND, OR 97208-2946

**CENWP-ODG** 

22 February 2024

#### MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" (8 September 2023), 1 NWP-2022-334.2

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.<sup>3</sup> AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.<sup>4</sup>

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army ("the agencies") published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States," 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule"). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming", which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) ("*Sackett*").

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),<sup>5</sup> the 2023 Rule as amended,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> While the Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"; Conforming had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> When documenting aquatic resources within the Review Area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, the territorial seas, or interstate water that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 33 CFR 331.2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

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as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

# 1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the Review Area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).
  - i. Ditch 1 (S01A), 69 linear feet (0.005 acre); jurisdictional.
  - ii. Ditch 2 (S02A), 43 linear feet (0.003 acre); non-jurisdictional.
  - iii. Ditch 3 (S05A), 56 linear feet (0.004 acre); jurisdictional.
  - iv. Ditch 4 (S13A), 42 linear feet (0.002 acre); non-jurisdictional.
  - v. Ditch 5 (S21A), 188 linear feet (0.027 acre); non-jurisdictional.
- vi. Ditch 6 (S25A), 41 linear feet (0.001 acre); non-jurisdictional.

# 2. REFERENCES.

- a. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States," 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule")
- b. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023))
- c. Sackett v. EPA, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)
- 3. REVIEW AREA. The six Review Areas comprise portions of a linear alignment spanning approximately 99 miles from Salem, Marion County (44.929146, -122.948595) to Round Butte in Jefferson County, Oregon (44.602014, -121.268179). The 543.4-acre linear alignment was condensed down to 6 Review Areas where 6 Ditches are located and described in Section 1a above. All other aquatic resources within the linear alignment are presumed jurisdictional by the requestor.

Review Area #1 is 69 linear feet (0.005 acre) in size and includes Ditch 1 (S01A) located at latitude/longitude: 44.9278, -122.9465. Review Area #1 is approximately

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0.2 mile (150 linear feet) from Fruitland Creek which is a tributary to the Little Pudding River and the Pudding River.

Review Area #2 is 43 linear feet (0.003 acre) in size and includes Ditch 2 (S02A) located at latitude/longitude: 44.9198, -122.9334. Review Area #2 is approximately 0.12 mile (630 linear feet) from a tributary to Fruitland Creek which is a tributary to the Little Pudding River and the Pudding River.

Review Area #3 is 56 linear feet (0.004 acre) in size and includes Ditch 3 (S05A) located at latitude/longitude: 44.9035, -122.8935. Review Area #3 is approximately 0.02 mile (80 linear feet) from Blossom Creek which is a tributary to the Little Pudding River and the Pudding River.

Review Area #4 is 42 linear feet (0.002 acre) in size and includes Ditch 4 (S13A) located at latitude/longitude: 44.8479 -122.7487. Review Area #4 is approximately 0.48 mile (2,540 linear feet) from a tributary to Beaver Creek.

Review Area #5 is 188 linear feet (0.027 acre) in size and includes Ditch 5 (S21A) located at latitude/longitude: 44.7963, -122.5950. Review Area #5 is approximately 0.06 mile (340 linear feet) from a tributary to the Little North Santiam River.

Review Area #6 is 41 linear feet (0.001 acre) in size and includes Ditch 6 (S25A) located at latitude/longitude: 44.7735, -122.5337. Review Area #6 is approximately 0.16 miles (910 linear feet) from Cherry Creek.

- NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED.
  - i. Ditch 1 (S01A) is within Review Area #1 approximately 0.2 mile (150 linear feet) from Fruitland Creek which is a tributary to the Little Pudding River and the Pudding River. Ditch 1 is 18.6 river miles (rm) and 11.0 aerial (straight) miles from the Pudding River. The Pudding River is a tributary of the Molalla and Willamette Rivers. The Pudding and Molalla Rivers are Section 404 TNWs, as determined by the Section 404 Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) Of The United States Within The Portland District, Corps of Engineers Regulatory Boundary dated June 2008. The Molalla River is TNW from the Willamette River/Molalla River confluence to rm 26. The Willamette River, as determined by the Portland District Corps of Engineers in the October 1993 Navigable Riverways within the State of Oregon list. <sup>6</sup>

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- ii. Ditch 2 (S02A) is within Review Area #2 approximately 0.12 mile (630 linear feet) from a tributary to Fruitland Creek which is a tributary to the Little Pudding River and the Pudding River. Ditch 2 is 19.3 rm and 11.1 aerial (straight) miles from the Pudding River. The Pudding River is a tributary of the Molalla and Willamette Rivers. The Pudding and Molalla Rivers are Section 404 TNWs, as determined by the Section 404 Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) Of The United States Within The Portland District, Corps of Engineers Regulatory Boundary dated June 2008. The Molalla River is a TNW from the Willamette River/Molalla River confluence to river mile (rm) 26. The Willamette River, as determined by the Portland District Corps of Engineers in the October 1993 Navigable Riverways within the State of Oregon list. <sup>6</sup>
- iii. Ditch 3 (S05A) is within Review Area #3 approximately 0.02 mile (80 linear feet) from Blossom Creek which is a tributary to the Little Pudding River and the Pudding River. Ditch 3 is 20.8 rm and 11.9 aerial (straight) miles from the Pudding River. The Pudding River is a tributary of the Molalla and Willamette Rivers. The Pudding and Molalla Rivers are Section 404 TNWs, as determined by the Section 404 Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) Of The United States Within The Portland District, Corps of Engineers Regulatory Boundary dated June 2008. The Molalla River is a TNW from the Willamette River/Molalla River confluence to river mile (rm) 26. The Willamette River, as determined by the Portland District Corps of Engineers in the October 1993 Navigable Riverways within the State of Oregon list. 6
- iv. Ditch 4 (S13A) is within Review Area #4 approximately 0.48 mile (2,540 linear feet) from a tributary to Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek is a tributary to Mill Creek, which flows to the Willamette River, a TNW. The Review Area is 22.0 rm and 15.9 aerial (straight) miles from the Willamette River, which is a TNW to rm 183.2 as determined by the Portland District Corps of Engineers in the October 1993 Navigable Riverways within the State of Oregon list.<sup>6</sup>
- v. Ditch 5 (S21A) is within Review Area #5 approximately 0.06 mile (340 linear feet) from a tributary to the Little North Santiam River, which is a tributary to the North Santiam River and Santiam River, a TNW. The Review Area is 28.6 rm and 21.6 aerial (straight) miles from the Santiam River, which is a TNW to rm 9.6 as determined by the Portland District Corps of Engineers in the October 1993 Navigable Riverways within the State of Oregon list.<sup>6</sup>
- vi. Ditch 6 (S25A) is within Review Area #6 approximately 0.16 miles (910 linear feet) from Cherry Creek which is a tributary to the North Santiam River and Santiam River, a TNW. The Review Area is 31.8 rm and 23.9 aerial (straight)

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miles from the Santiam River, which is a TNW to rm 9.6 as determined by the Portland District Corps of Engineers October 1993 *Navigable Riverways* within the State of Oregon list.<sup>6</sup>

- 5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER.
  - i. Ditch 1 (S01A) flowpath within Review Area #1 lies approximately 150 linear feet from Fruitland Creek. Fruitland Creek flows 7.2 miles to the Little Pudding River where flows continue 12.4 rm to the Pudding River, a Section 404 TNW. The Review Area is 18.6 rm and 11.0 aerial (straight) miles from the Pudding River.
  - ii. Ditch 2 (S02A) flowpath within Review Area #2 lies approximately 630 linear feet from an unnamed tributary to Fruitland Creek. The unnamed tributary flows 1.8 rm to Fruitland Creek where Fruitland Creek flows 5.4 rm to Little Pudding River. The Little Pudding River flows 12.1 rm to the Pudding River, a Section 404 TNW. The Review Area is 19.3 rm and 11.1 aerial (straight) miles from the Pudding River.
  - iii. Ditch 3 (S05A) flowpath within Review Area #3 lies approximately 80 linear feet from Blossom Creek which is a tributary to the Little Pudding River and the Pudding River, a Section 404 TNW. Blossom Creek flows 0.8 rm to the Little Pudding River where the Little Pudding River flows 20.0 rm to the Pudding River, a Section 404 TNW. The Review Area is 20.8 rm and 11.9 aerial (straight) miles from the Pudding River.
  - iv. Ditch 4 (S13A) flowpath within Review Area #4 lies approximately 2,540 linear feet from a tributary to Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek is a tributary to Mill Creek, which is a tributary to the Willamette River, a TNW. The unnamed tributary flows 2.7 rm to Beaver Creek, where Beaver Creek flows 7.3 rm to Mill Creek. Mill Creek flows 12.0 rm to the Willamette River, a TNW. The Review Area is 22.0 rm and 15.9 aerial (straight) miles from the Willamette River.
  - v. Ditch 5 (S21A) flowpath within Review Area #5 lies approximately 340 linear feet from a tributary to the Little North Santiam River and North Santiam River, which are tributaries to the Santiam River, a TNW. The unnamed tributary flows 0.44 rm to the Little North Santiam River and 0.98 rm to the North Santiam River. North Santiam River flows 27.1 rm to the Santiam River, a TNW. The Review Area is 28.6 rm and 21.6 aerial (straight) miles from the Santiam River,

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- vi. Ditch 6 (S25A) flowpath within Review Area #6 lies approximately 910 linear feet from Cherry Creek which is a tributary to the North Santiam River and Santiam River, a TNW. Cherry Creek flows 0.5 rm to the North Santiam River and 31.3 rm to the Santiam River, a TNW. The Review Area is 31.8 rm and 23.9 aerial (straight) miles from the Santiam River.
- 6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS<sup>6</sup>: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the Review Area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the Review Area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.<sup>7</sup> N/A.
- 7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the Review Area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the 2023 Rule as amended, consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in Sackett. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the 2023 Rule as amended. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.
  - a. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A.
  - b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A.
  - c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A.
  - d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

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# e. Tributaries (a)(3):

- i. Ditch 1 (S01A) parallels State Street going west to east. Ditch 1 has a 2-foot-wide bed and bank with a concave elevation profile and slopes towards Fruitland Creek. The elevation drops -6 feet in the 150 linear feet from Ditch 1 to Fruitland Creek based on the Google Earth profile. Ditch 1 has a direct surface connection absent culverts or other diversions to Fruitland Creek. Fruitland Creek has relatively permanent flows to the Little Pudding and Pudding Rivers via open stream channel and culvert segments from intersecting roadways. Vegetation consists of approximately 90% bare ground below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and 10% herb cover with 100% clay and silt (<0.05mm) soil. Above the OHWM absolute vegetated cover is 20% bare, 20% herb, and 60% shrub. Due to the bed and bank profile, break in slope and change in vegetation cover Ditch 1 was determined to have a direct surface connection to the Little Pudding. The Corps has determined Ditch 1 is a water of the U.S.
- ii. Ditch 3 (S05A) runs parallel to 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue going south to north. Ditch 3 is a roadside depression that was excavated within the SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue right of way and has relatively permanent flow to Bloom Creek. Ditch 3 has a direct surface connection absent culverts or other diversions Bloom Creek. Bloom Creek has relatively permanent flows to the Little Pudding and Pudding Rivers via open stream channel and culvert segments from intersecting roadways. The area is mapped with hydric soils classified under the WA-Waldo series consisting of very deep, poorly drained soils that formed in clayey alluvium mixed. These soils are on narrow flood plains and fans. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. The average annual precipitation is 45 inches. Due to the bed and bank profile, break in slope and change in vegetation cover Ditch 3 was determined to have a direct surface connection to the Little Pudding River. The Corps has determined Ditch 3 is a water of the U.S.
- f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A.
- g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A

## 8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the Review Area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not "waters of the United States" even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or

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feature within the Review Area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).8 N/A

- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the Review Area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).
- iii. Ditch 2 (S02A) is a shallow linear vegetated roadside depression that was excavated within the SE 62<sup>nd</sup> Street right of way. Ditch 2 has a 2 foot bed and 1 foot vegetated bank with 85% clay and silt soil (<0.05 mm) and 15% gravel likely from the adjacent SE 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue right of way. Vegetation above the OHWM is 100% herbaceous and below the OHWM vegetation is 70% bare and 30% herbaceous absolute cover. Due to the shallow vegetated nature of Ditch 2, its hydrologic capacity is restricted to direct precipitation before dissipating to adjacent grassy areas and does not exhibit relatively permanent flows to the unnamed tributary to Fruitland Creek based on USGS topographic maps. The Corps has determined Ditch 2 is not a water of the U.S.
- iv. Ditch 4 (S13A) is a shallow linear gravel filled depression that was excavated within the SE Triumph Street roadside gravel fill prism. Ditch 4 is absent a defined bed or bank making its hydrologic capacity restricted to direct precipitation that dissipates to adjacent grassy areas and does not exhibit relatively permanent flows to the Beaver Creek based on topography. The Corps has determined Ditch 4 is not a water of the U.S.
- v. Ditch 5 (S21A) is an agricultural ditch that runs parallel to a farm road excavated for agricultural purposes. Ditch 5 has a 4.5-foot-wide bed and bank with a concave elevation profile located along the farm road going west to the tributary to Little North Santiam River. Vegetation consists of approximately 95% bare ground below the OHWM and 5% herb cover with 100% clay and silt (<0.05mm) soil. Above the OHWM absolute vegetated cover is 30% shrub and 70% herbaceous. Ditch 5 hydrologic indicators include scours, root exposure, and agal matting; however, Ditch 5 receives direct precipitation and agricultural runoff and the hydrologic indicators do not persist up to the tributary to the Little North Santiam River. Therefore, Ditch 5 does not carry relatively permanent flows to the tributary to Little North Santiam River. The Corps has determined Ditch 5 is not a water of the U.S.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

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- vi. Ditch 6 (S25A) is a forest roadside ditch that runs parallel to SE Hudel Road. Ditch 6 has a 1 foot bed and 1/4 foot vegetated bank with 50% clay and silt soil (<0.05 mm) and 50% gravel likely from the adjacent SE Hudel Road right of way. Eastern half of bank area is gravel road. Other half is normal soil. Vegetation above the OHWM is 50% bare ground and 50% herbaceous and below the OHWM vegetation is 100% bare ground. Ditch 6 is absent a defined bed or bank due to gravel road prism built up on the eastern bank and unrestricted (no bank) on the western side making its hydrologic capacity restricted to direct precipitation that dissipates to adjacent grassy areas and does not exhibit relatively permanent flows to the Cherry Creek based on topography. The Corps has determined Ditch 6 is not a water of the U.S.
- DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination.
   Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
  - a. Office Determination Date: 22 February 2024
  - b. Delineation Report Titled: Bethel Round Butte Fiber Optic Project 2022 on behalf of Portland General Electric, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) conducted a delineation of potential waters of the United States and State of Oregon.
  - c. Corps navigable waters' study and DOGAMI DIGITAL TERRAIN MODEL MOSAIC HS: Corps RegViewer, last accessed 5 February 2024.
  - d. Corps RegViewer, National Hydrologic Dataset (NHD) last accessed 13 February 2024.
  - e. Google Earth, ground view, last accessed 5 February 2024.
  - f. National wetlands inventory map(s). Citation: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wetlands Mapper, last accessed 5 February 2024.https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/
  - g. U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey. Citation: NRCS Web Soil Survey, last accessed 5 February 2024. <a href="https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx">https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx</a>
- 10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. NA.

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11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.













