

THE CITY OF WHEELER, OREGON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Statement of Goals and Policies

GOAL 6: AIR, WATER AND LAND RESOURCES QUALITY

INTRODUCTION:

Wheeler has long struggled with the impact of a diminishing quality of air, water, and land resources; issues often created by entities and events outside of the community. The carrying capacity of the lands within our watershed have been strained by weather and impacted by industry and development. The citizens of Wheeler are subjected to aerial herbicides that private timber companies use without respect or accommodations for the health and welfare of the community.

Lack of resources, protective regulations, and dredging has resulted in a continuous decline in the quality of the shoreline and has dramatically impacted the economy of Wheeler as well as the natural beauty. Situated at the lower end of the Nehalem River, Wheeler has been repeatedly inundated with sediment and silt not just from natural erosion, but also from the actions of private industry and their lack of concern for the impact of their practices on the community or its economy.

The local economy has suffered as the shoreline adjacent to water-related businesses has filled with so much sediment that often docks and marinas are left sitting in the mud during low tides. These types of negative consequences need to be recognized and addressed both in the internal decision making for land use in Wheeler, and the external interaction the City has with state, county, and federal agencies.

GOAL: To maintain and improve the quality of the air, water and land resources of the state.

POLICIES:

1. The City will cooperate in implementing state air and water quality standards. Of particular concern is the control of pollution from urban development and forest management practices.
2. The City will control storm runoff, sedimentation and erosion resulting from [*urban*] development through its adoption and implementation of appropriate ordinances, subdivision ordinance, [*and*] comprehensive plan policies for urban growth and public facilities, and zoning ordinance standards.
3. The City will cooperate with the Department of Environmental Quality to prevent noise pollution problems in the area.
4. The City's actions shall be consistent with state and federal hazardous waste regulations.

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5. Plans providing for open space, scenic and historic areas and natural resources should consider as a major determinant the carrying capacity of the air, land, and water resources of the planning area.
6. Stream flow and water levels should be protected and managed at a level adequate for fish, wildlife, pollution abatement, recreation, and aesthetics.