

Farmland Loss in Central Oregon

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
Informational Hearing
May 27, 2025**

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Central Oregon LandWatch

- Mission: Defend and plan for Central Oregon's livable future.
- Founded in 1986, based in Bend
- Three-county territory: Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook
- Three program areas
 - Rural Lands
 - Cities & Towns
 - Wildlands & Water
- www.colw.org



Issue 1: Dwellings and parcelization of EFU zones in Central Oregon



Dwelling development in Deschutes County EFU zones

Deschutes County Parcel Growth in EFU zone (by year)

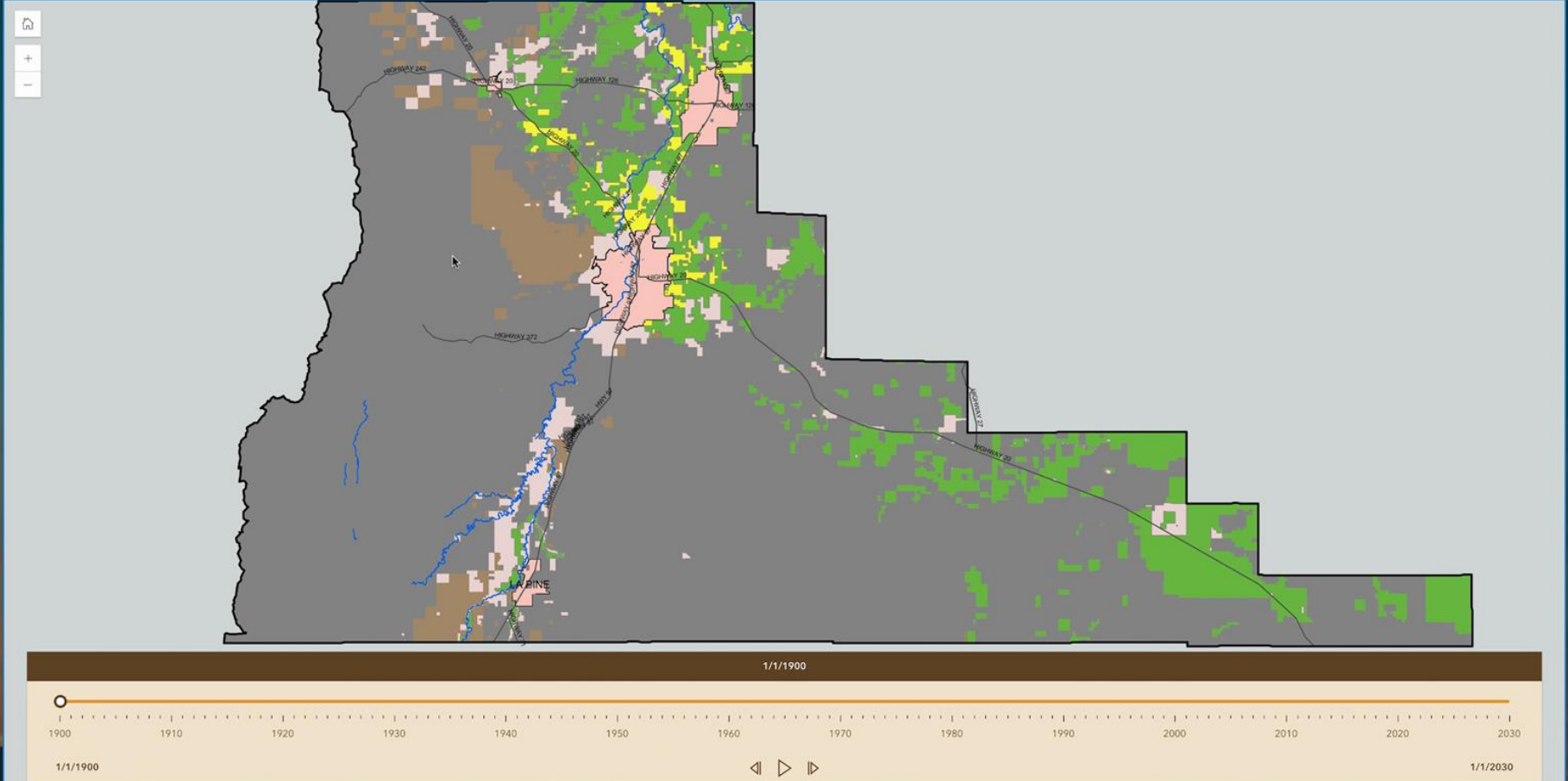
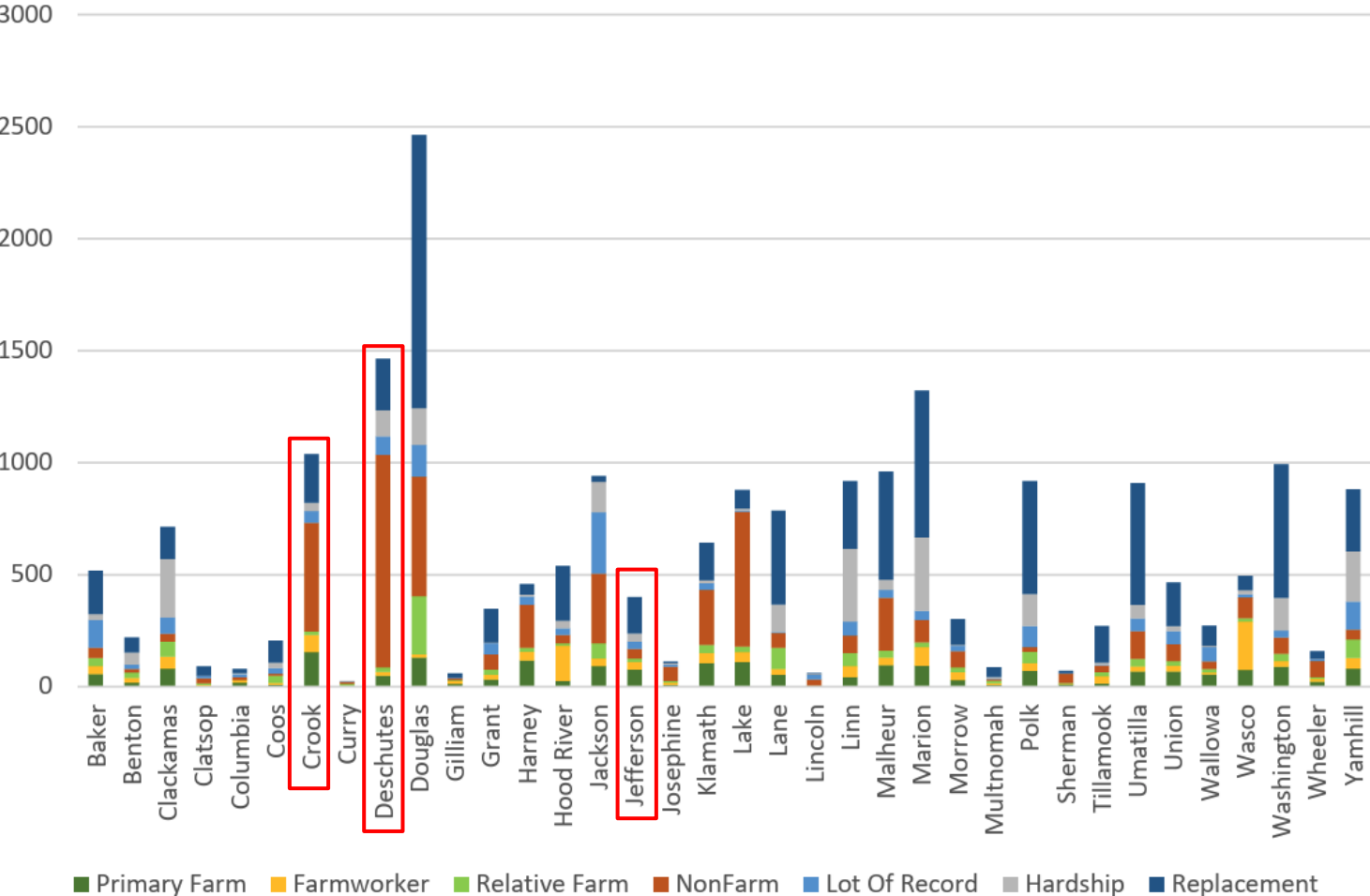


Fig. 13, Total dwelling approvals on farmland, all counties, 1994-2023



Source:
DLCD,
Oregon Farm
& Forest
Land Use
Report
2022–2023

Dwellings approvals on Farmland, 1994–2023

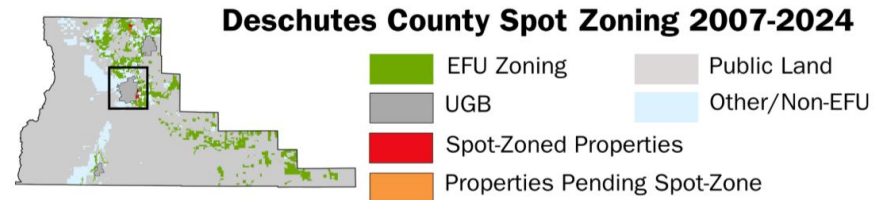
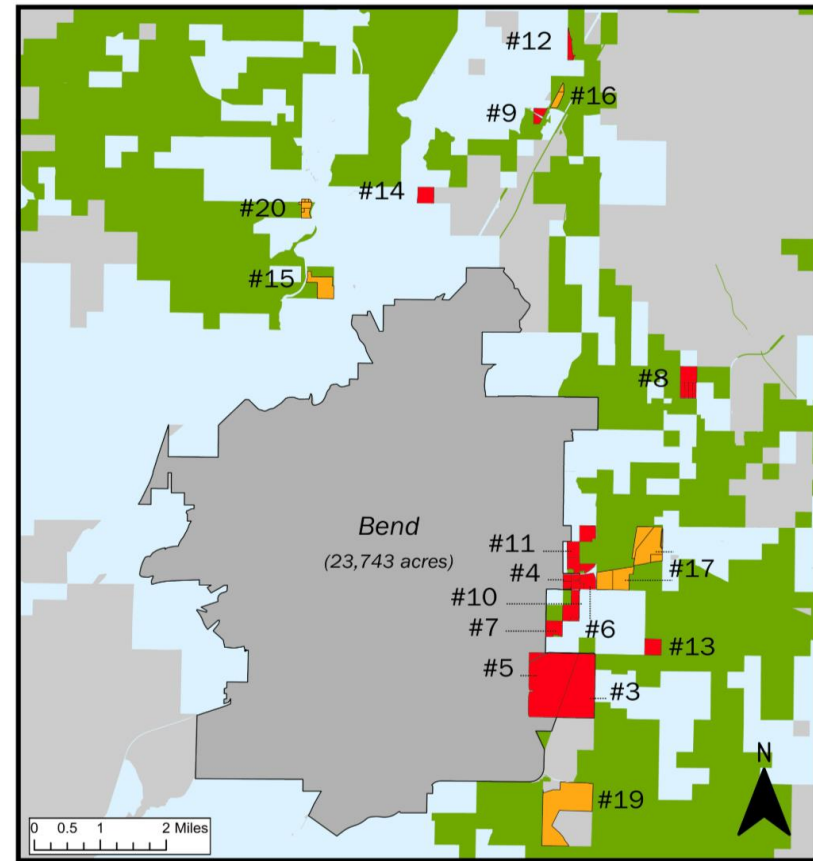
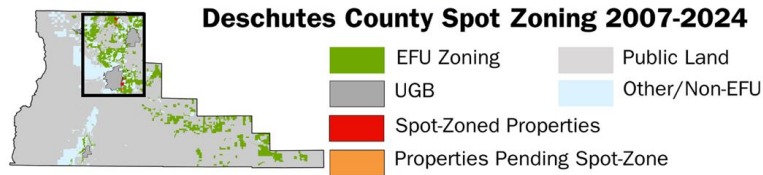
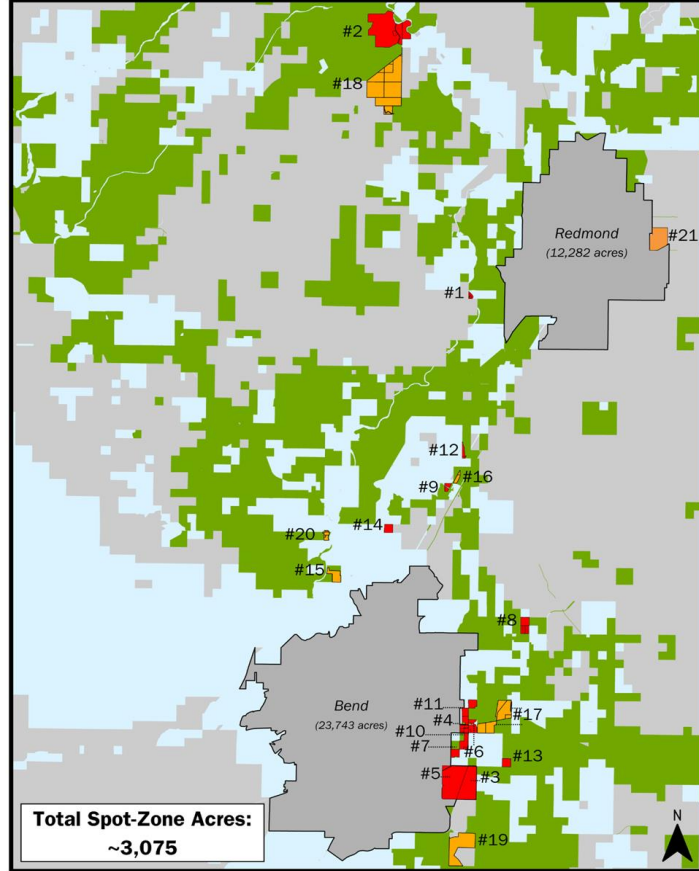
- Deschutes County
 - Total EFU Dwelling Approvals 1994-2021: **1,463**
 - Farm dwellings: **50**
 - Nonfarm dwellings: **949**
- Crook County
 - Total EFU Dwelling Approvals 1994-2021: **1,038**
 - Farm dwellings: **155**
 - Nonfarm dwellings: **485**
- Jefferson County
 - Total EFU Dwelling Approvals 1994-2021: **400**
 - Farm dwellings: **76**
 - Nonfarm dwellings: **42**



Source: DLCD, Oregon Farm & Forest
Land Use Report 2022–2023

Issue 2: “Spot zoning” of agricultural land for residential and industrial uses







ORS 215.243 Agricultural land use policy

(2) The preservation of a maximum amount of the limited supply of agricultural land is necessary to the conservation of the state's economic resources and the preservation of such land in large blocks is necessary in maintaining the agricultural economy of the state and for the assurance of adequate, healthful and nutritious food for the people of this state and nation.



ORS 215.788-794 (HB 2229 (2009) “The Big Look”)

- ORS 215.788 Legislative review of lands zoned for farm and forest use; criteria. (1) For the purposes of correcting mapping errors made in the acknowledgment process and updating the designation of farmlands and forestlands for land use planning, a county may conduct a legislative review of lands in the county to determine whether the lands planned and zoned for farm use, forest use or mixed farm and forest use are consistent with the definitions of “agricultural lands” or “forest lands” in goals relating to agricultural lands or forestlands.
- ORS 215.791: [review of lands for ecological significance]
 - Carrying capacity, water, wildlife, transportation facilities, wildfire risk, cost of public facilities



75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2009 Regular Session

Enrolled House Bill 2229

Ordered printed by the Speaker pursuant to House Rule 12.00A (5). Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski for Department of Land Conservation and Development)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to recommendations of Oregon Task Force on Land Use Planning; creating new provisions; amending ORS 197.010, 197.040, 197.650, 197.652, 197.654, 197.656, 197.747, 215.427 and 227.178; and declaring an emergency.

Thank you.

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Photo: Charles Leutwiler