

## **Chapter 2. Practicable Alternative Test**

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For projects that are proposed within critical resource areas and their buffers, Section 22.28.030 of the Skamania County code requires that the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates that other alternatives to the proposed action are not practicable.

A practicable alternative does not exist if a project applicant satisfactorily demonstrates all of the following:

- A. The basic purpose of the use cannot be reasonably accomplished using one or more other sites in the vicinity that would avoid or result in less adverse effects on wetlands, ponds, lakes, riparian areas, wildlife or plant areas and/or sites.
- B. The basic purpose of the use cannot be reasonably accomplished by reducing its proposed size, scope, configuration, or density, or by changing the design of the use in a way that would avoid or result in less adverse effects on wetlands, ponds, lakes, riparian areas, wildlife or plant areas and/or sites.
- C. Reasonable attempts were made to remove or accommodate constraints that caused a project applicant to reject alternatives to the proposed use. Such constraints include inadequate infrastructure, parcel size, and land use designations. If a land use designation or recreation intensity class is a constraint, an applicant must request a Management Plan amendment to demonstrate that practicable alternatives do not exist.

WSDOT has taken all appropriate and practicable steps to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to Oregon White Oak woodlands, wetland resources, riparian areas, and associated buffers, and avoiding cultural resources while maintaining important safety improvement elements of the project. The proposed impacts associated with the project do not have practicable alternatives due to constraints associated with safety and design guidelines, the desire to minimize the project footprint, close proximity of wetland and riparian resources to existing highway embankments, nearby cultural and historical resources, and the linear nature of transportation projects.

A memo describing the complete Practicable Alternative Analysis has been included in Appendix B.