

## MEMORANDUM

12/14/2015

**TO:** Samantha Mary Julian, Assistant Director for Business Development  
**FROM:** Art Fish, Incentives Coordinator   
**C:** Regional BDO  
**SUBJ:** **Positive Determination for Designation of Oakridge/Westfir Enterprise Zone**

ORW-11-2015

## Background

In the spring of this year, four enterprise zones were subject to application by city, port and county governments for designation by the director. We received five qualified applications, and for the first time in many years, undertook a competitive review. The one not designated was the proposal for the former Oakridge/Westfir enterprise zone.

At the time, House Bill 2643 (2015) was thought likely to become law, which it did—eliminating the statewide cap on total enterprise zones. As such, the sponsoring governments might later designate the Oakridge/Westfir Enterprise Zone themselves, and the application efforts and materials (received April 2, 2015, from the City of Oakridge) could serve for the required advisory, consultation and submission of documentation under ORS 285C.074 and 285C.078 (2015).

All that would be needed were newly adopted resolutions consistent with the new law, which were received on November 4 for the City of Oakridge (9/17/15, No. 17-2015), City of Westfir (10/5/15, No 426) and Lane County (10/27/15, No. 15-10-27-01). The last one determines the designation's effective date. In addition:

- The designated enterprise zone area is 10.5 square miles of ¼-sectionals that encompass the two neighboring cities, including the certified Oakridge Industrial Park and other industrial land.
- Unemployment and poverty incidence rates for the cities and overlapping census areas are more than high enough in comparison to the state to qualify the zone under ORS 285C.090.
- There are potential prospects for development, on which local officials are working.
- This rural designation is the 69<sup>th</sup> enterprise zone at present.

After receiving the new resolutions, I informed the zone sponsor that the department's determination was positive in favor of the designation, but regrettably, I have failed to formalize it through you until now under this new system.

## Findings & Recommendation

This enterprise zone designation complies with relevant parts of OAR 123-650, as well as ORS 285C.050 to 285C.250, as indicated above, including the zone sponsor's having held a public meeting to consult with local taxing districts.

Please formalize this determination with your digital signature below. The circumstances do not necessitate action or approval by the director.

### **Statement of Salient Zone Features**

Under ORS 285C.065 (2015), a city, port or county may designate an enterprise zone subject to positive determination by the Oregon Business Development Department. The City of Oakridge, City of Westfir and Lane County have sponsored such a designation and submitted documentation to that effect, in accordance with agency administrative rules and the requirements of Oregon Laws. Therefore:

1. October 27, 2015, is the effective date of designation for this rural enterprise zone, named the Oakridge/Westfir Enterprise Zone.
2. The Oakridge/Westfir zone encompasses area inside the two cities and the county, as described in the attached materials.
3. The Oakridge/Westfir Enterprise Zone shall exempt the qualified property of hotels, motels and destination resorts, subject to the respective requirements, but only inside city limits, not in unincorporated Lane County.
4. The Oakridge/Westfir Enterprise Zone terminates on June 30, 2025—or, subject to revision of ORS 285C.255, by July 1, 2026—at the latest under ORS 285C.245.

### **Confirmation of Positive Determination**



Samantha M. Julian  
Assistant Director for Business Development  
Oregon Business Development Department

#### **Attachments**

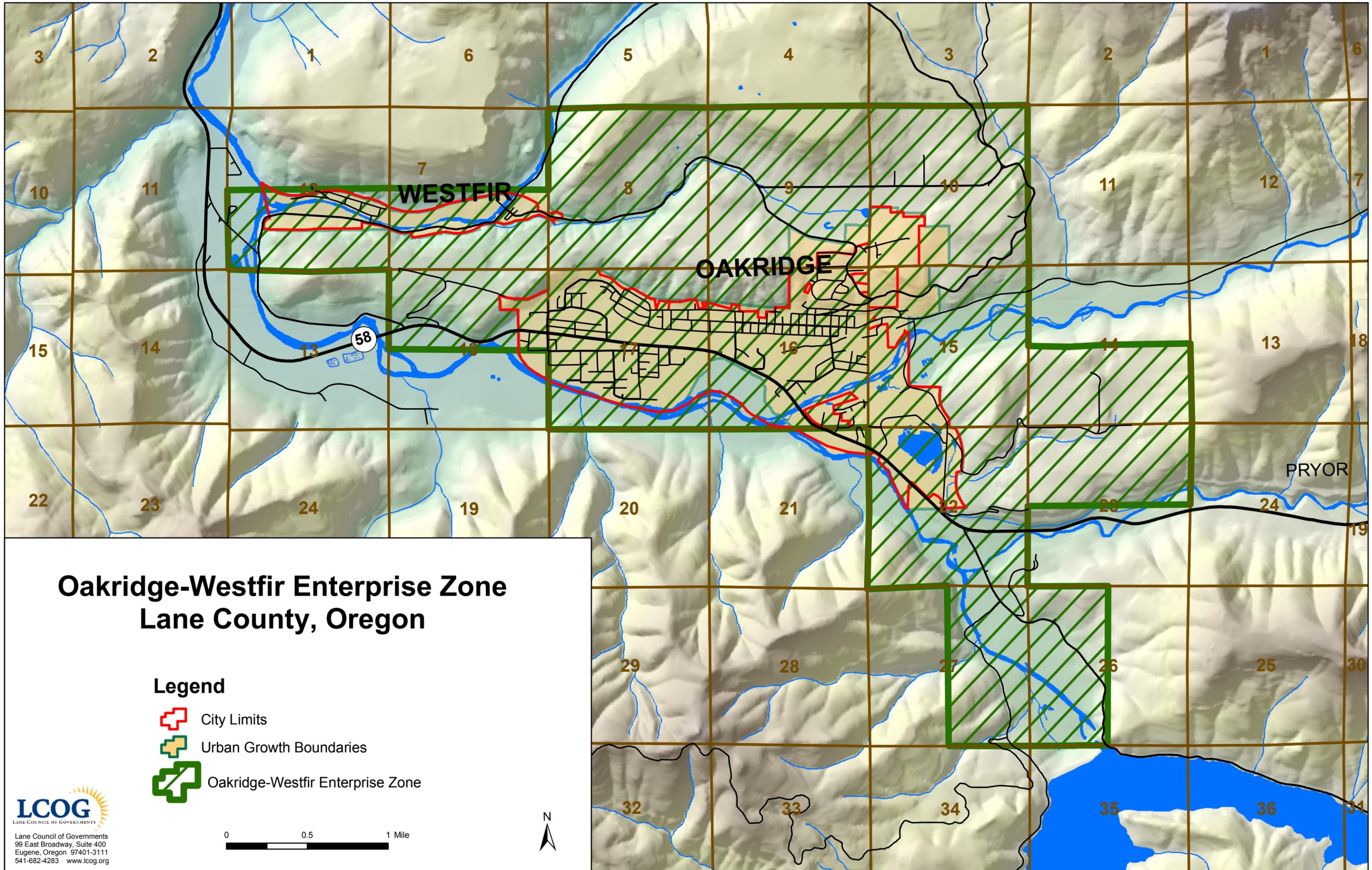
CC: Local zone manager & Lane County  
County assessor's office  
Department of Revenue

**ORW-11-2015**

**Oakridge Westfir Enterprise Zone**

Encompasses the following Range and Townships

<b>Section</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Comments</b>
21	25	12	Southern Half
21	35	7	Southern Half
21	35	8	
21	35	9	
21	35	10	
21	35	14	Southern Half
21	35	15	
21	35	16	
21	35	17	
21	35	18	Northern Half
21	35	22	
21	35	23	Northern Half
21	35	26	Western Half
21	35	27	Eastern Half



# Oakridge-Westfir Enterprise Zone Lane County, Oregon

## Legend

-  City Limits
-  Urban Growth Boundaries
-  Oakridge-Westfir Enterprise Zone

0 0.5 1 Mile

