

Environmental Law



**EQ #1: WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW?
WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS NEEDED?**



BALANCED PERSPECTIVE

- Some assignments will take a stand on an issue; some readings will expose a bias of the author's.
- It is **NOT** my intention to promote a biased perspective!!
- I welcome opposing viewpoints.
Assignments will strive to promote critical thinking and achieve a balanced understanding of laws and their effects.



What are the Class Goals/Objectives?



- To understand that many environmental laws affect routine actions in our community
- To gain awareness of environmental issues through the discussion of laws and hypothetical scenarios
- To **understand** the basic principles of major environmental laws and land use laws
- To learn who is responsible for enforcing these laws
- To consider the consequences of actions on the environment and if they should be limited and how

What do these pictures have in common?



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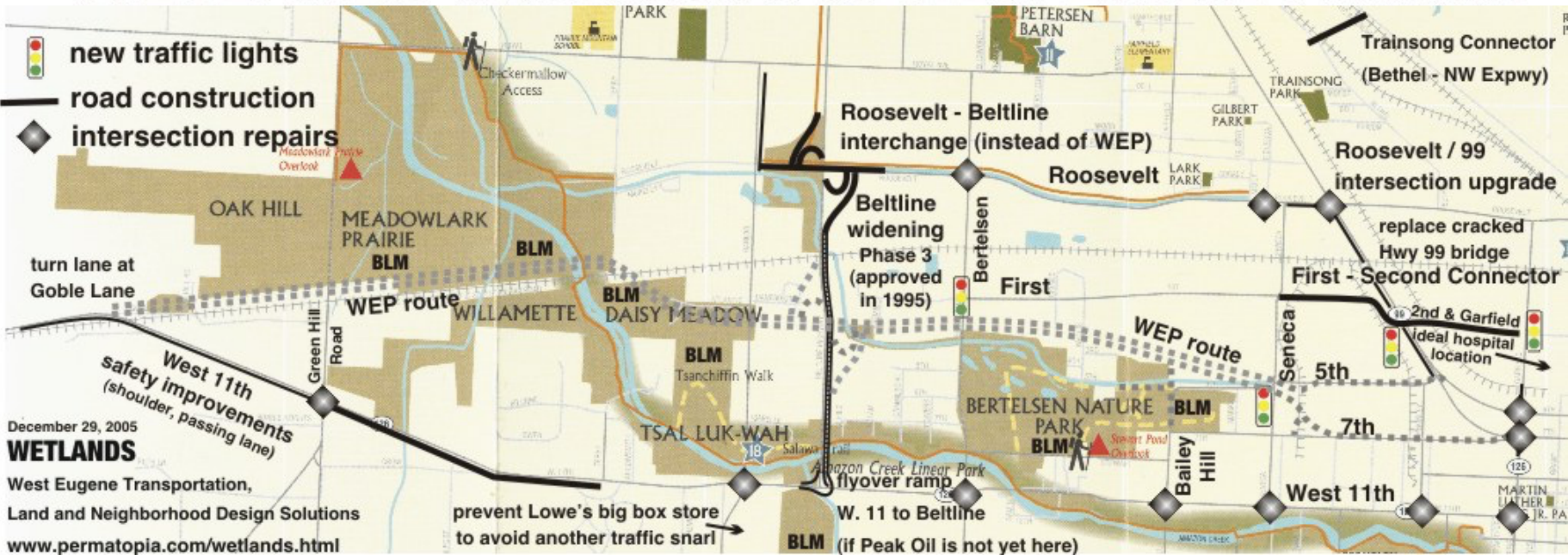
What do these pictures have in common?



What do these pictures have in common?



WETLANDS alternative to WEST EUGENE PARKWAY



What did the pictures have in common?



- Each picture represents something that has been the subject of a legal dispute in Oregon over an environmental law.

What does the term “Environmental Law” mean to you?



- What do you think?

What is Environmental Law?



- Environmental law is not an easily defined area of law
- In general, it encompasses actions by people or the government that affect the environment in some way
- Many involve land use
- Must balance the need for natural resources and the value of the environment.



Do you know any examples of Environmental laws?



- Why do we need environmental laws? What do you think?



Why do we need Environmental Laws?



- To regulate activities that are harmful to the environment
- To require clean-up of pollution at the expense of the polluter
- To protect natural resources and wildlife
- To ensure that environmental factors are considered before taking actions
- To regulate land use and growth

Who regulates activities and enforces environmental laws?



- **Local agencies** (city planners, county commissioners)
- **State agencies** (ODFW, OR Forestry Board, State Parks, etc)
- **Federal Agencies** (EPA, USFW, Army Corps of Engineers, National Parks, National Marine Fisheries Service, ...)
- **Citizens and Citizen Groups** (Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, ...)

Review Pictures- What were the issues involved?



Northern Spotted Owl and ESA



Airport Runway addition and land use



Willamette River pollution clean up in PDX



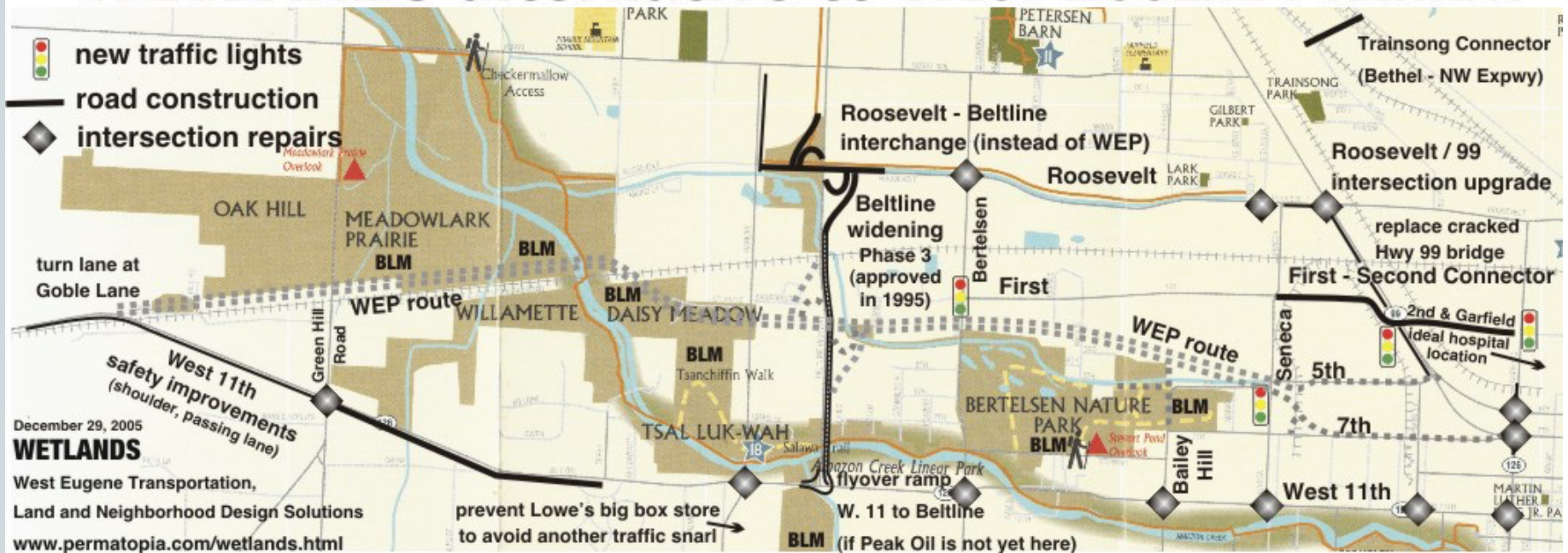
Apartment Complex in Eugene on Willamette St.



West Eugene Wetlands and Beltline



WETLANDS alternative to WEST EUGENE PARKWAY



Activity- School Hypothetical



- Form a group of THREE
- **Read** the hypothetical about the new school
- **Make a list of ALL potential environmental issues** that might affect this project
- Generate a list for your group to share with class
- Choose a spokesperson

School Hypothetical (Part 2)



- Make a full class list at the board of issues you identified

-
- Using the attached list of laws to brainstorm which might apply to our list of issues and why.
 - In your INB (left side), **record which laws you think might affect this hypothetical school building and how/why each you list is a factor.**

Friday



- Wrap-Up EQ #1- What are Environmental Laws and Why are they Needed?
- How does US government work to pass and enforce policies?

Warm-Up



- Write a summary on the bottom of your notes page (LEFT side) that answers the questions below in your INB...

QUESTIONS-

- What are environmental laws?
- Is the area of environmental law narrow or broad? Why?
- Why are environmental laws needed? Describe TWO reasons.
- Who enforces them?

What are Laws and Policies?

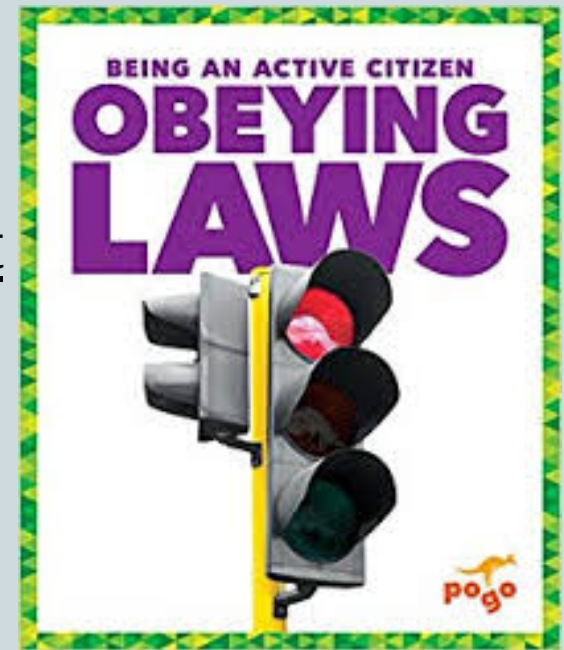


- This class will focus on laws / policies in place to regulate the environment
- How are laws passed? What happens after a law is passed?
- Who carries out laws?
- How do we decide if they are being carried out as intended?

What are Laws?



- In the US, laws are passed by both STATES and the FEDERAL government.
- They are sometimes called Statutes, Acts or Policies.
- A **LAW**, refers to any policy passed by Congress (by a majority vote) and signed into law by the President (federal) or Governor (state level).



How are Laws Passed in the U.S.?



- Laws are written and passed by **Congress** (the **legislative** branch)
- Laws are carried out (executed) by the **Executive branch** (President and agencies in the branch)
- **STATE laws** affect policies within the state only.
- **FEDERAL laws** affect national policy; all states must follow.

LESSON SUMMARY

Federal Laws
apply to everyone throughout the United States

State Laws
apply to people who are citizens, residents, or visitors to that particular state

Local Laws
apply to people who are citizens, residents, or visitors to that particular area

Study.com

What are STATE Laws? FEDERAL Laws?



- Examples
- STATE law- Oregon has a Bottle Bill
 - Most drink containers include a deposit at purchase. Return the bottle, collect 10 cents!
 - Other states have bottle bills but which containers they accept and the amount of deposit vary.
- FEDERAL law- The Clean Air Act
 - Factories and cars **throughout the US** must by law meet certain pollution standards.



What is the role of the Judicial Branch?



- Once laws are passed (legislative branch) and put into action (executive branch), the courts (judicial branch) have an important role.
- **JUDICIAL Branch-**
- Interprets laws- Is this law constitutional?
- Decides if the way the executive branch carries out the law is constitutional
- What about Interest groups? They use the courts to challenge laws they disagree with.

Watch Film Clip



- Power in the US Government-
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuFR5XBYLfU>

What do you know about how US Government Works?



- WATCH the Ted Ed film about how US Government Works
- COMPLETE the graphic organizer by recording key information about the various branches of government.
- What does each branch do? How do they interact?
What is federalism?



3 BRANCHES *of* U.S. GOVERNMENT



Constitution

(provided a separation of powers)



Legislative

(makes laws)



Congress



Senate



House of Representatives



Executive

(carries out laws)



President



Vice President



Cabinet



Judicial

(interprets laws)



Supreme Court



Other Federal Courts

CHECK YOUR WORK

- **Legislative-**
Make laws/policies
*Congress -House & Senate
- **Executive**
Carries out laws of Congress
*President/Governor
- **Judicial**
Decides if laws (& acts of government) are constitutional
*Courts

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS...

- **Democracy-**

- *Government BY the people and FOR the people

- **Federalism-**

- *A system of shared government between a national government and state (local) governments.

- *Some powers are distinct; some are shared.

Play Kahoot!



- Test your civic skills by playing the Government Basics Kahoot!