

COMPLICATING THE RURAL IN OREGON'S WATER POLICYMAKING

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The state of Oregon is divided in important ways along rural and urban lines, including the way people make a living, individual and group relationships with the natural world, political ideologies, and personal values (Eds. Hibbard, et al., 2011; Wolters & Hubbard, 2014). However, to chalk up differences in needs, preferences, and consequences in water policymaking to a rural-urban divide alone is to miss details about rural places that could lead to better decision-making for people and the environment. Through interviews with water policy professionals at the state level and with stakeholders from three case study communities, the results of this project show that while rural communities share common struggles not faced by urban ones, gaining a more nuanced understanding of their differences can be an important tool for state level policy makers.

Friday, Feb. 12, Noon-1 P.M.

304 Fairbanks Hall

FREE

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