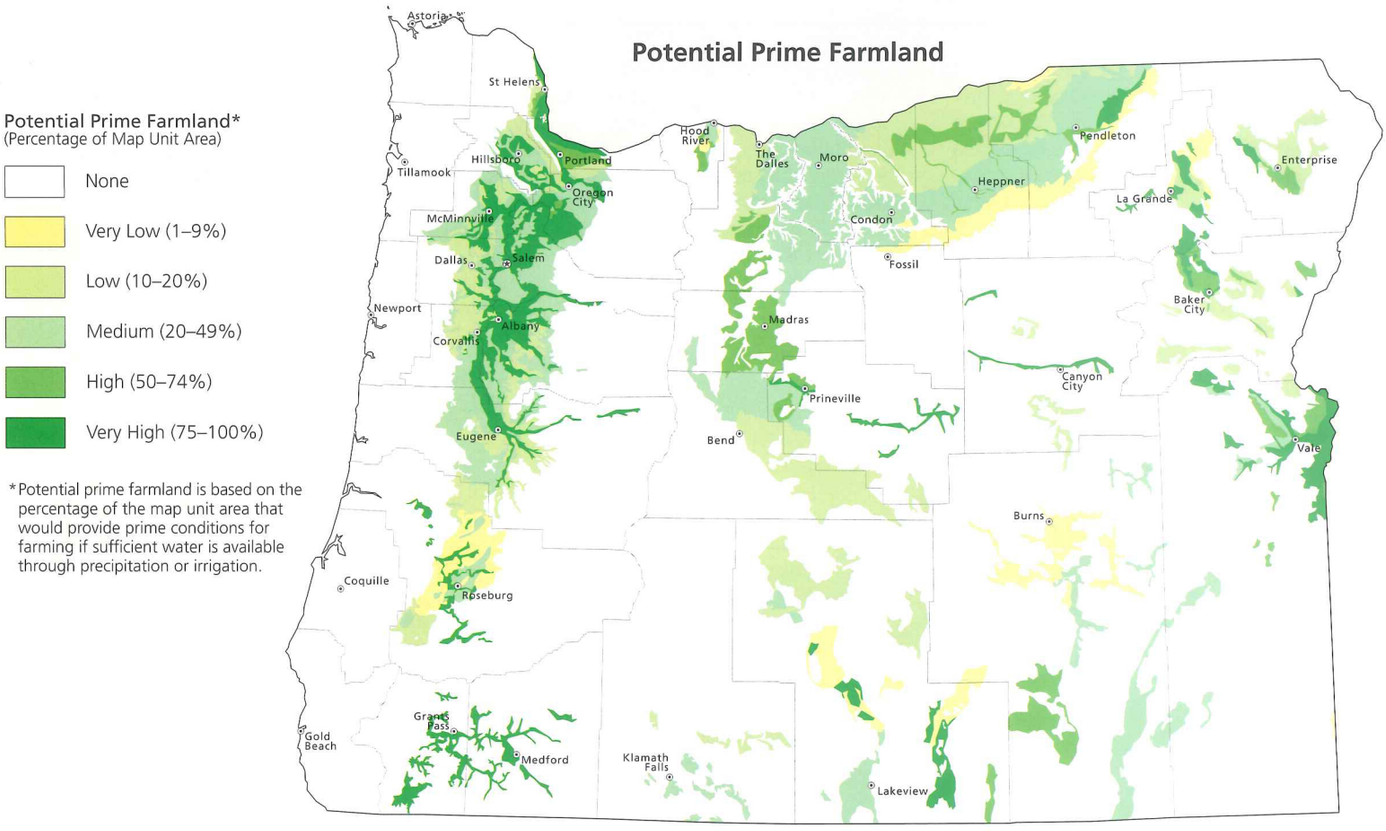

insufficient rainfall; these are designated Potential Prime Farmland soils because they can be made prime with irrigation. Most Prime Farmland is concentrated in valleys of Western and southern Oregon. Smaller tracts are found in some valleys of Eastern Oregon and in the more humid areas of the Columbia Plateau. Mountainous areas and dry areas of Eastern Oregon have little or no Prime Farmland.

Hydric Soils

The hydric soils interpretation is useful in identifying and delineating wetlands. Wetlands are important landscape resources because they serve as resting, feeding and breeding sites for migratory waterfowl; they help absorb the energy of floodwaters; and they help purify water that passes through them to surface streams or groundwater. Hydric soils are flooded or saturated at or near the surface for long periods of time. They support plants such as sedges, rushes and ash trees that are particularly adapted to live with their roots in the water for a long time. The large blocks of pale-colored areas in south-central Oregon on the map of hydric soils are somewhat deceptive. Hydric soils are present in these landscapes, but only in very small amounts. Hydric soils occupy much greater proportions of the landscape in areas mapped in blue and black colors, mainly along the Coast, in the Willamette Valley and in some of the large, dry lakebeds in Harney, Lake and Klamath Counties.