



Everybody Drinks!

Partnerships and Funding Opportunities with Drinking Water Providers

Julie Harvey Oregon DEQ
Drinking Water Protection Program – Watershed Management

December 10, 2020 – for Oregon Conservation Partnership

DWP Regulatory Framework

- Joint program between Oregon Health Authority and Department of Environmental Quality
- Focused on public health
- OHA – Safe Drinking Water Act implementation

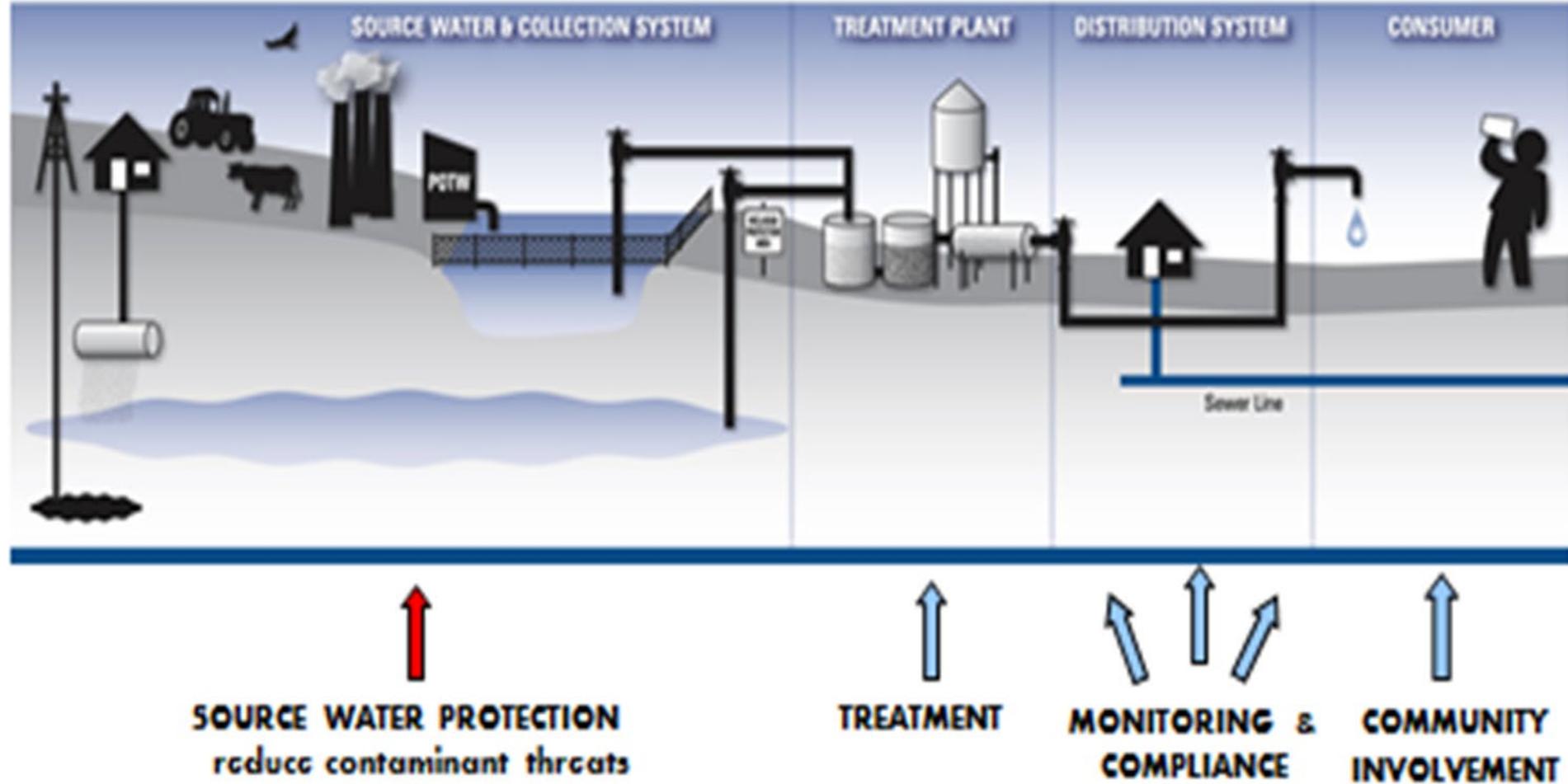


Oregon
Health
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State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Multi-Barrier Approach



DWP Regulatory Framework

- Source water protection is implemented under the Clean Water Act;
 - Drinking water is an important beneficial use under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA)
 - When source water meets CWA standards, conventional treatment should be adequate to meet all Safe Drinking Water Act requirements



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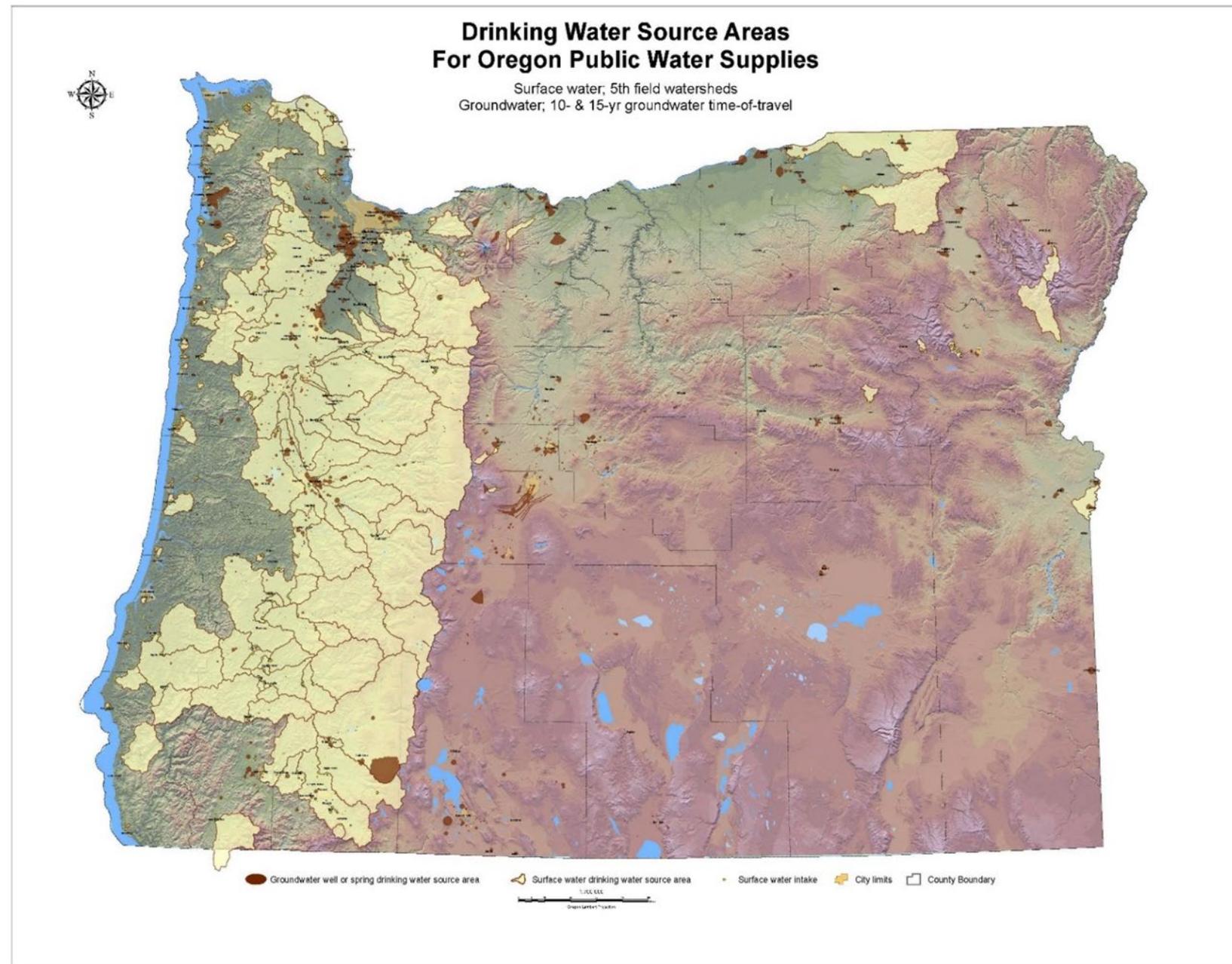
State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Statewide Drinking Water Providers

Over 2,500 public water systems serve 85% of Oregonians. PWS serve >25 people or 10 connections.

~160 public water systems have surface water intakes – all areas shown in yellow source water areas for drinking water systems served by surface water intakes and are eligible for drinking water funding

Smaller brown areas contribute to groundwater drinking water wells and are eligible for most drinking water funding.



Water Systems need Partners

- Public Water Systems have limited resources and wear many hats in their community
- Source water protection not required
- Much of source area is outside of water system jurisdiction
- Watershed restoration/enhancement or groundwater protection not usually their specialty



Why Partner with Drinking Water Providers?

- SWCDs, Watershed Councils, NGOs, and Drinking Water Providers have common goals:
 - Soil protection, water quality, and health
 - Non-regulatory, voluntary approach to encourage adoption of best practices
 - Address wide-range of issues
 - Similar geographic priority areas and pollutants of concern



Benefits of Collaboration

- Broadens community support for conservation and restoration activities
- Enhances regional water quality and land-use planning
- Leverages resources for funding sources that are:
 - ✓ Only available to public water suppliers
 - ✓ Require drinking water nexus
 - ✓ Give higher priority if in drinking water source area



Drinking Water Source Protection Grants/Loans

DW Source Protection Fund ~\$200,000 / year total

- Grants: Up to \$30,000 per public water system to reduce risk in source area - no match required
- Loans: Up to \$100,000 per project, low interest. i.e. land acquisition or incentive based protection measures

Purpose: To reduce risk risks within the drinking water source area

DW Source Protection Fund – Overview

Public Water System must apply

- Community and Nonprofit Non-Community water systems
- Must have completed Source Water Assessment
- Can only receive in two consecutive years

- ✓ Accept Letters of Interest January through March
- ✓ Awarded projects must spend money within 2 years to avoid forfeiture
- ✓ Water systems can collaborate on a regional (joint) project and combine funds
- ✓ Emergency grants for source water threats that arise outside the LOI submission deadline.

- ✓ Search: OHA Drinking Water Source Protection
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/SRF/Pages/spf.aspx>

Clackamas Water Providers DW SPF Grant

Signs at parks and boat ramps



We paddle in it, we fish in it, we play in it. And sometimes, we just sit and look at it. When you do, please remember that the Clackamas supplies drinking water to hundreds of thousands of people. Thanks for helping keep it clean.

Some simple ways to help

- Stash Your Trash
- Clean up after your pet
- Stay on the trails. It helps keep stream banks from eroding.
- Use restrooms! Keep human waste out of the river.

www.clackamasproviders.org



Drinking Water SPF – Project Types

Road Assessment and Engineering Design

(Lincoln City Water District, Glide Water Association)

Turbidity Monitoring, Erosion Assessment & Riparian Restoration

(Siletz Watershed, Umpqua Basin, Santiam Watershed)

Rural Landowner Assistance for septic systems, animal management, private wells

(Clackamas, McKenzie, Irrigon, Rivergrove)

Pesticide Stewardship and Waste Collection

(Clackamas, Island City, Enterprise and Haines)

Algal Blooms

(Lowell, Cottage Grove, Salem, Springfield, South Coast lakes)

Enhanced Assessment, GIS risk analysis

(Medford/Grants Pass, Clackamas, Bend, Prineville, Creswell, Cottage Grove, Langlois)

Watershed Management Planning

(Seaside, Cottage Grove, Coburg,)

Other:

Signs, cameras and security fencing
(Baker City)

Wetland Treatment of Stormwater Runoff
(Eugene/Springfield)

Schooner Creek Sediment Reduction

- Reduce sediment above the Lincoln City municipal water intake through road drainage and surface improvements, and road segment stabilization.
- Partners
 - ✓ Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council
 - ✓ Lincoln City (PWS)
 - ✓ Lincoln County Public Works
 - ✓ Siuslaw National Forest
- Multiple years of funding by DWPP and DW SPF



Drinking Water Providers Partnership

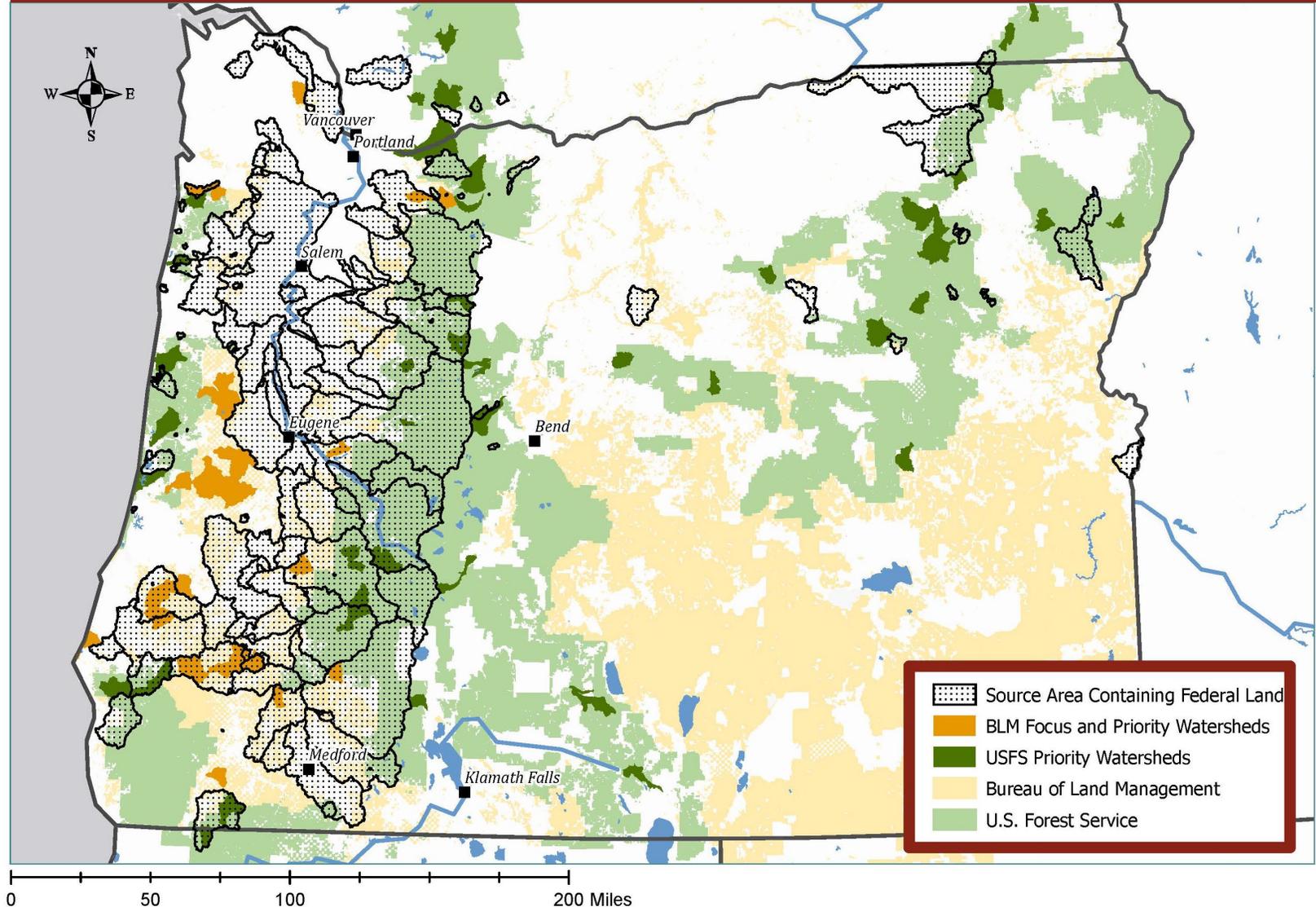


- Public and private organizations pooling funds to improve health of drinking water watersheds and aquatic life benefit
- Supports local partnerships between downstream drinking water providers and upstream landowners and restoration practitioners.

Drinking Water Providers Partnership

- Must be a drinking water source area with a federal (USFS/BLM) nexus
- Multiple types of eligible applicants
 - Tribal, local, state, or federal governments, educational institutions, public water systems, non-profit organizations, watershed councils, landowners, soil and water conservation districts

Surface Water Source Areas in Oregon



Drinking Water Providers Partnership



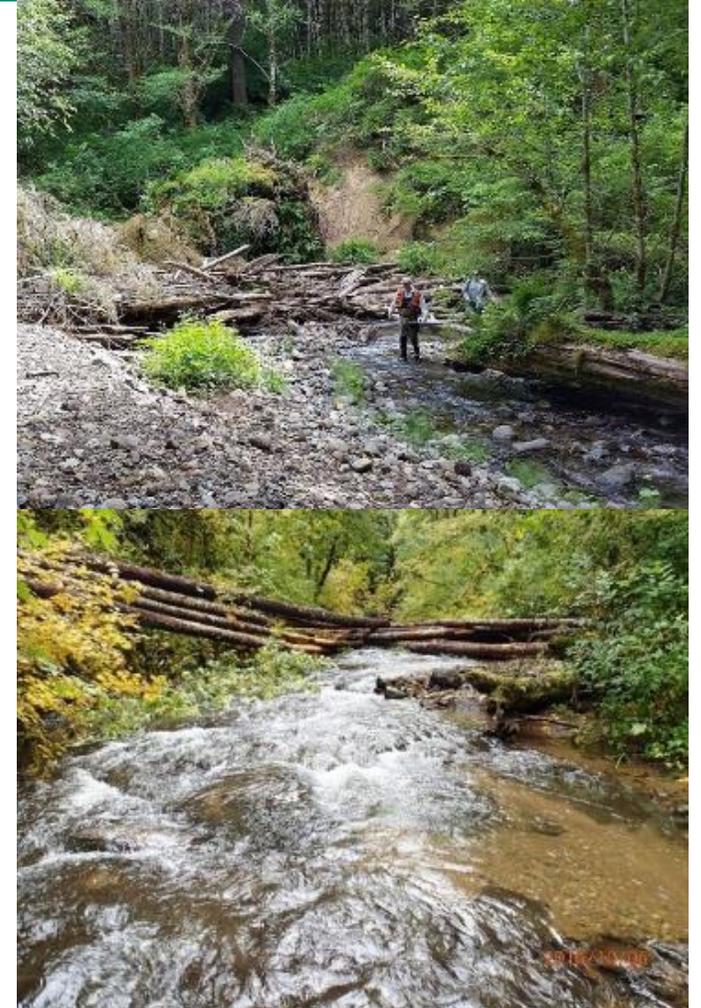
- \$400,000 to \$600,000/year available (projects up to \$50,000)
- Projects that are a good fit for Source Protection Funds are referred to state program
- Awarded projects must be completed by end of following fiscal year (for Federal Funds)

✓ Proposals due January 8, 2021

<https://www.workingwatersgeos.org/drinking-water-providers-partnership>

City of Dallas – Upper Rickreall Habitat Enhancement

- 1987 Rockhouse Creek fire lead to severe erosion and increased sediment in creek and Mercer Reservoir
 - drinking water source for City of Dallas
- DWPP funded air-lift of 522 logs for 34 new instream structures (2016)
- Meets mutual goals and objectives in drinking water watershed
 - Improves fish passage and increases woody debris to slow flows in key salmon habitat watershed
 - Significantly contributes toward cleaner and more sustainable drinking water supply downstream



City of Dallas Upper Rickreall Creek

• Strong partners+ multiple funding sources:

- ✓ Polk SWCD
- ✓ BLM
- ✓ City of Dallas
- ✓ Rickreall Watershed Council
- ✓ Hancock Forest Management
- ✓ ...and more

• Led to successful DEQ CW SRF loan for land acquisition

Oregon

Earl Brown & Sons sells to Washington fruit grower

Timber companies partner to improve water sources

By GAIL OBERST
For the Capital Press

DALLAS, Ore. — A distant helicopter rises suddenly from a Coast Range forest above Dallas. A log dangles beneath it, hanging from a cable.

"It's a bonus!" says Lucas Hunt, project manager for the Rickreall Watershed Council and the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District. "There are two logs in that load!"

Hunt has reason to be excited. This project will help control sediment that is slowly filling Mercer Reservoir, the source of the City of Dallas' drinking water. To accomplish improvements to nearly five miles of upper Rickreall Creek, Hunt has enlisted helicopter log placement.



Gail Oberst/For the Capital Press

Polk Soil and Water Conservation District staff tour a helicopter log placement project on private and public forest lands that will help improve Dallas drinking water.

is an opportunity to show the public that managed forests are entirely compatible with clean drinking water, fish habitat and stream health."

The Rickreall project was one of 11 launched in Oregon in 2016, the first year of the unique Drinking Water Providers Partnership, a public-private collaboration aimed at funding municipal water improvements. Other projects included agricultural fencing, culvert repairs and riparian improvements to Fiddle and Billy Moore creeks in Lane County, and plans to build cattle fencing to protect Baker City's municipal watershed.

All of those projects were made possible by voluntary cooperation between private landowners, public managers and nonprofit agencies, according to Cathy Kellon of the Geos Institute. Kellon helps coordinate the Partnership, which includes the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Washington Department of Health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and WildEarth Guardians.

statesman journal

HOME NEWS POLITICS SPORTS LIFE OUTDOORS THINGS TO DO

Protect, keep a reliable, clean drinking water supply

Lucas Hunt Published 9:17 a.m. PT Jan. 10, 2017



(Photo: Special to the Statesman Journal)

Rivers and streams are the source for more than one-half of all water used in the United States. Restoring and protecting the water is more important than ever as cities are growing and, in some cases, providers must balance water with more demands on the system.

And there's a cost to keep the water clean over the next 20 years. A \$10 billion investment in water infrastructure is needed.

In the Rickreall watershed, which supplies drinking water to the City of Dallas, community groups, landowners and government agencies are working to improve nature's ability to help provide clean drinking water.

Rickreall Creek has provided a reliable supply of drinking water for over 100 years but the creek is often clouded with sediment. Treatment challenges and has been slowly filling its useful storage life for downstream ratepayers. The upper Rickreall Creek is a proven method for reducing sediment and improving water quality.



Other Potential Funding Sources

- **Watershed protection projects through Clean Water SRF**
 - Aligned with DEQ’s “Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan”
 - Sponsorship Option to combine nonpoint source control project with wastewater facility project financing - sponsored project done at no cost or substantially reduced cost due to low interest rate
 - Low interest loans available for land purchase or NPS work
 - Local Community Loan – use funds to establish a local loan fund for citizens
- **CWA Nonpoint Source Grants (§319)**
 - Generally < \$30K
 - Must address priorities in RFP – contact DEQ Basin Coordinators
 - Non-federal match required (40%)
- **Supplemental Environmental Projects**
 - Respondents to DEQ compliance and enforcement orders
 - SEP Option for up to 80% of monetary penalty to improve Oregon’s environment
- **Water system match contributions**

Partnering with NRCS

- 2018 Farm Bill implemented new focus on Source Water Protection Areas - National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)
- Funding for detailed watershed assessment and an outreach strategy to address agricultural-related impacts to source water quality.
- FY19 and FY20, National and Oregon NRCS provided ~\$900,000 in Conservation Technical Assistance dollars to fund 10 Source Water Protection readiness plans.



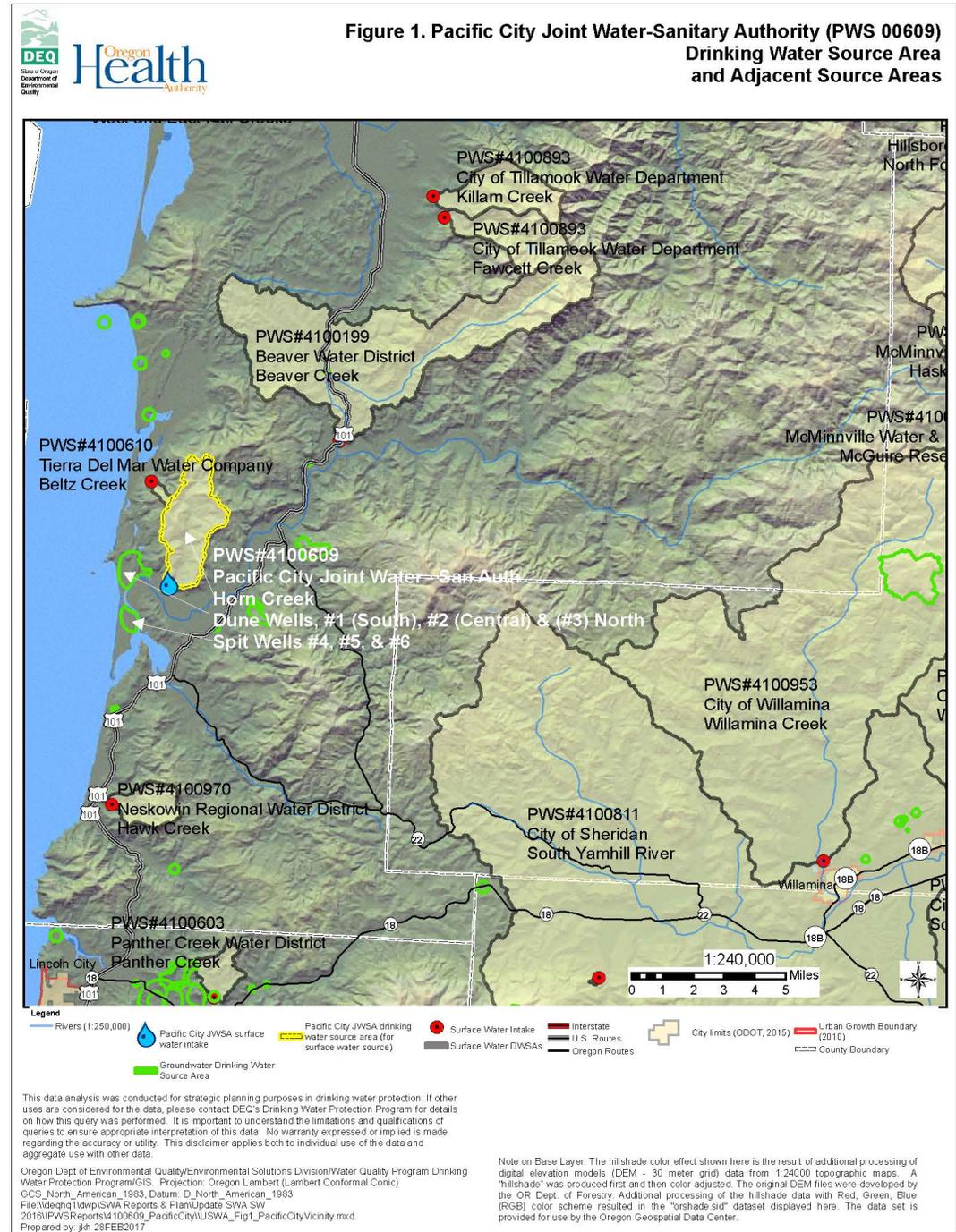
Partnering with NRCS

- Begin now to discuss with NRCS how to tie potential NWQI watersheds into the locally led Conservation Implementation Strategy process
- Source water protection – SWCDs, Watershed Councils, utilities and other partners should contact their local NRCS District Conservationist to discuss potential projects
- DEQ can provide information for delineated drinking water source areas



Next Steps for Partner Organizations

- Tap into DEQ/OHA Resources:
 - Identify drinking water source areas and potential partners
 - <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/dwp.aspx>
- Updated Source Water Assessments
 - Surface water and groundwater supply areas
 - Vicinity Maps
 - Watershed characteristics (e.g. erosion, landslide, stream crossings)
 - Updated information on regulated sources (from > 20 state and federal databases)
 - Land use/ownership - acres and % of source area
 - Characteristics of the public water system/treatment and monitoring
- Interactive Maps, data and GIS Layers
- Review funding sources for good fits – see “Resource Guides”

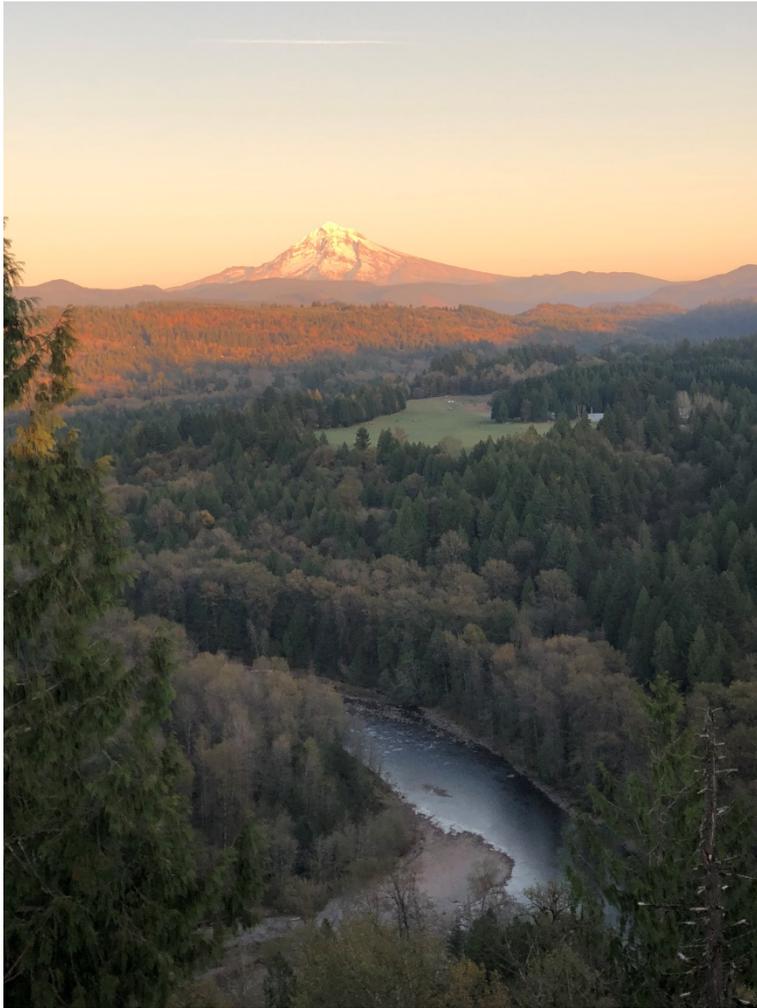


Summary

- Public health issues can leverage water quality interest and implementation
- Additional funding may be available by collaborating with drinking water providers
- DEQ can help with identifying partners, resources, and funding sources. GIS/mapping support available for communities and partners etc.



Questions?



Oregon Drinking Water Protection Program

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/dwp.aspx>

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