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Beach Monitoring Program Invites Public Feedback

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) is requesting public feedback on its beach water quality-monitoring program.

The program currently has a short, Web-based survey, which seeks to collect information about beach use and the public's perceptions of the monitoring program.

"The monitoring program seeks to continually identify the beaches that the public uses most for recreation," said Jennifer Ketterman, DHS Beach Monitoring Program Coordinator. "We want to hear from people about how we're doing and ways we can improve what we do."

Ketterman said that the program monitors beaches that are used most for water recreation and which have had relatively higher bacteria levels.

"With limited funding for monitoring, the ongoing information generated from this survey will allow the program to prioritize beach monitoring from a public health perspective," said Ketterman.

The survey is available at

<http://survey.emp.state.or.us/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?E24E78>.

The beach monitoring program is funded by a federal Environmental Protection Agency grant. DHS administers the program, with help from Oregon Parks and Recreation and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

To view the results from the survey and for more information, please visit the program's Web site: <http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/beaches/>.