

Five simple actions to protect your local drinking water

- Use and dispose of hazardous materials properly.
- When using fertilizers and pesticides, apply only what you need.
- Get to know your watershed or groundwater recharge area.
- Share project ideas with local groups that help protect water quality (watershed councils and county soil and water conservation districts).
- Contact OHA – Drinking Water Services or DEQ Source Water Protection for assistance!

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Resources

OHA – Drinking Water Services

<http://www.healthoregon.org/dws>

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Programs/Pages/DWP.aspx

Drinking Water Source Protection Fund

www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/SRF/Pages/index.aspx

US EPA – Drinking Water Protection www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

www.rcac.org

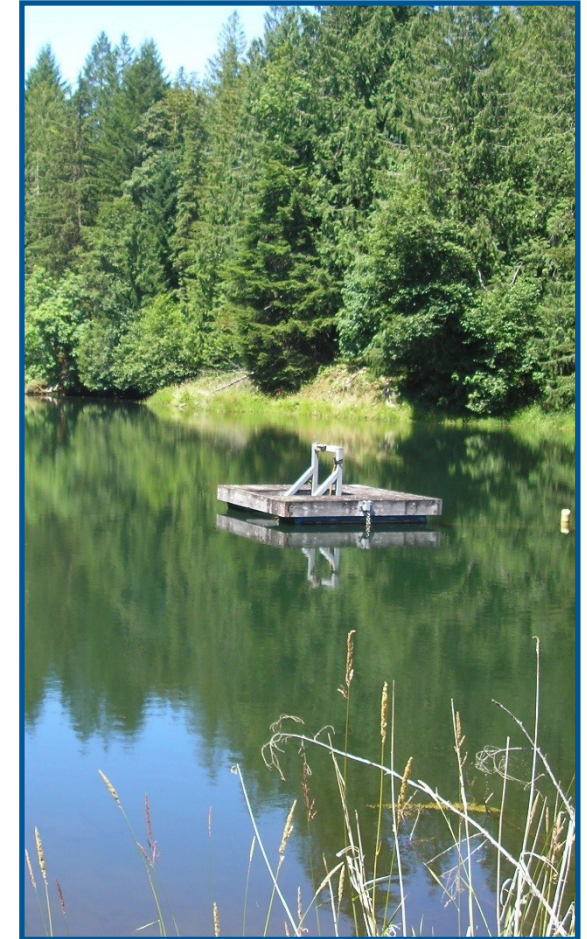
Oregon Association of Water Utilities

www.oawu.net

Oregon Health Authority
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Drinking Water Services

OHA 8354 (10/18/2018)
updated 7/26/2023

OHA - Drinking Water Services
2080 Laura Street
Springfield, OR 97477



Protecting Drinking Water

Information and resources

Oregon Health Authority
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Drinking Water Services

Healthy drinking water – it's up to all of us

Public water suppliers make every effort to provide safe drinking water to their customers. However, human activities near drinking water sources can adversely affect source water quality. It can be expensive to find another source or add treatment if a drinking water source becomes contaminated. Locally driven strategies to reduce contamination risk, best management practices and land-use planning are cost-effective approaches to protecting drinking water sources for future generations.

Drinking Water Services (a section of the **Oregon Health Authority [OHA]**) and **Oregon Department of Environment Quality (DEQ)** can assist with your source water protection needs. OHA and DEQ collaborate to provide technical assistance. Guided by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, dedicated staff from both agencies can help communities protect their water sources and reduce the risk of contamination to drinking water.



Source water assessments

Source water assessments (SWAs) help water suppliers and policymakers decide where source water protection of public water systems is needed. SWAs identify potential contaminants within aquifer recharge areas for groundwater sources and watersheds that supply surface water sources. The susceptibility of a water source to contamination can be determined by evaluating activities on the land surface, soil and rock type, and well, spring or intake construction.

Funding opportunities

Funding through the **OHA Drinking Water Source Protection Fund** is available to assist communities in protecting their drinking water sources. Eligible public water systems may receive grants up to \$30,000 for projects to reduce the risk of contamination to a public drinking water supply. Examples include landowner outreach and education, land restoration, ensuring proper well abandonment, and developing local source water protection ordinances. Direct assistance is also offered in the form of loans for up to \$100,000 to achieve incentive-based source water protection measures, such as the purchase of lands within the drinking water source area.

Contact us for drinking water protection assistance

DEQ Small water system source water protection:
drinkingwaterprotection@deq.oregon.gov

or

OHA-DWS at 971-673-0405
Info.drinkingwater@odhsoha.oregon.gov
gov

Partnerships for protection

To prevent harmful bacteria and viruses, sediment and hazardous chemicals from entering



drinking water supplies, OHA and DEQ can assist with regional efforts to monitor, protect and preserve shared water resources such as aquifers, watersheds and recharge areas.

Protection staff work with water suppliers, municipalities, citizen groups, counties, agencies, landowners and nonprofit organizations to evaluate local and regional source water contaminant issues. OHA and DEQ also sponsor local events to encourage community involvement in drinking water protection. Below are some examples of protection projects:

- Hold pesticide and hazardous household chemical collection events.
- Assess and/or replace older septic systems.
- Assist in community protection of coastal watersheds that supply drinking water.
- Monitor drinking water sources for toxics.
- Update source water and watershed assessments.
- Restore and improve management practices on agricultural lands.
- Remove old or leaking underground storage tanks.