

North Coast Source Water Protection Workshop

December 12, 2018

Workshop Summary

The North Coast Source Water Protection Workshop in Tillamook was well attended on December 12, 2018. Members of the workshop included drinking water providers, government agencies, conservation practitioners, land managers/owners, and members of the public. The goal of the workshop was multi-faceted. First and foremost, it was an opportunity to bring several stakeholder groups together at one time to discuss the very serious issue of source water protection throughout the Basin. It was also an opportunity to brainstorm best management practices, funding opportunities, and relationship building.

The workshop began with several presentations by a variety of stakeholders. The presentation titles are listed below. Copies of the presentations are available on the DEQ website.

Presentations

Forest Planning and Management for Ecosystem Services; Ben Hayes, Springboard Forestry LLC

Water Operations; Levi Beachy, City of Tillamook

Multiple Barrier Approach to Drinking Water Protection and Treatment; Joshua Seeds, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Source Water Protection; Jeff Harrington, City of Astoria

Funding Opportunities for Source Water Restoration and Protection; Cathy Kellon and Julie Harvey, Drinking Water Providers Partnership

Financing Acquisition and Creation of Community Forests for Drinking Water Management; Ben Dair, Sustainable Northwest, and Phil Chick, Arch Cape Water District

Small Group Discussions

After the presentations, attendees were divided into groups based on their watershed of interest or focus. Each group included a mix of participants, which allowed for wide-ranging dialogue. Questions were used by facilitators as starting points for the discussions. The small group discussions were designed to foster relationships and allow the participants to brainstorm common goals, perceived obstacles, and next steps. Key points from those discussions are summarized below.

Priorities and Common Goals

Relationship building is key

Prioritize management that benefits/protects water quality and quantity

Good fish habitat = clean water supply

Protection of sole source headwaters

Desire expressed for larger buffers on harvested lands (beyond ODF rules)

Good neighbors bring about win/win situations

Collaborative funding opportunities

Updated and well-maintained infrastructure

Benign timber management

Drought planning

Maintaining firefighting access

Perceived Obstacles

Private ownership

State forest money does not go back into watershed enhancement

Recreation activities in drinking water source areas (e.g. illegal camping)

Pesticide use

Lack of regulations

Septic systems and sewer outflows in drinking water source areas

Encroaching urbanization

Citizen groups feel "powerless"

Funding

Fragmentation of forestlands

Information Gaps

ODF not present at workshop

Landslide risks and mitigation

Updated funding resources guide

More robust streamflow gauges

Road maintenance and construction standards

Information needed from clearinghouse

Lack of knowledge of which agency to contact

Lack of understanding about how to utilize grant funds

Next Steps

Continue building lasting positive relationships

Elevate drinking water priorities at the state level

Access agreements between neighboring landowners and public water systems

Establish a road inventory

Foster and support carbon legislation

Create resource guides for the public

Utilize available foundation funds (e.g. Ford Family)

Education/Outreach

Develop tools for valuable ecosystem services and marketing

Focus on creating more partnerships among agencies, landowners, and/or public water systems

Create specific regional goals

Monitor toxins

Apply for grants for land acquisition

Governor's 100-year water vision

Grant applications. DEQ grants = \$30,000 towards planning. These grants are looking for applicants.

Site Visits

In the afternoon, attendees were provided the opportunity to understand Tillamook's drinking water system by visiting both the Water Treatment Plant, and the site of the drinking water intake. City staff led the site visits and answered questions from the attendees. At the intake, attendees were also able to see how stream restoration and fish passage structures and screening can be enhanced through partnerships with local groups. .



Figure 1 Workshop participants stand above a fish ladder at the site of Tillamook's drinking water intake.