

## Source Water Assessment Inventory Results

*Over 15,000 “potential contaminant sources” were identified as part of Oregon’s source water assessments. With the data entered into an Access database, we are able to use this for providing information on prioritizing our work with other programs and agencies. For purposes of sharing the statewide results of the assessments, we have compiled a summary of the top five categories of potential sources of contamination for each type of public water system. The data are presented below, along with a brief explanation as to why the specific land use or activity may present a risk to the water system. For a complete list of the inventory categories and risks information, please refer to the DEQ drinking water website.*

For the public water systems served by SURFACE WATER, the top 5 “POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCES” from the higher risk categories of inventoried sites:

- **Managed Forests (harvests/pesticides)**  
Poorly managed cutting and yarding of trees may contribute to increased erosion, resulting in turbidity and chemical changes in drinking water supply. Over-application or improper handling of pesticides or fertilizers may impact drinking water source.
- **Crops – Irrigated**  
Over-application or improper handling of pesticides or fertilizers may impact drinking water. Excessive irrigation may cause transport of contaminants or sediments to groundwater/surface water through runoff. NOTE: Drip-irrigated crops such as vineyards and some vegetables, are considered to be a low risk.
- **Grazing Animals (>5 large /acre)**  
Improper storage and management of animal wastes may impact drinking water supply. Concentrated livestock may contribute to erosion and sedimentation of surface water bodies.
- **Above Ground Tanks**  
Spills, leaks, or improper handling of stored materials may impact the drinking water supply.
- **Auto Repair**  
Spills, leaks, or improper handling of automotive fluids, solvents, and repair materials during transportation, use, storage and disposal may impact the drinking water supply.

For the public water systems served by GROUNDWATER, the top 5 “POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCES” from the higher risk categories of inventoried sites:

- **High Density Housing (>1/.5 acre)**  
Improper use, storage, and disposal of household chemicals including cleaners, vehicle maintenance products, pool chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers may impact the drinking water supply. Stormwater run-off or infiltration may carry contaminants to drinking water supply.

- **Transportation Corridors – Highways**  
High vehicle usage increases the risks for leaks or spills of fuels and other hazardous materials that may impact drinking water. Road building, maintenance, and usage may contribute to increased erosion and slope failure causing turbidity in drinking water source. Over-application or improper handling of pesticides or fertilizers may impact the drinking water supply.
- **Above Ground Tanks**  
Spills, leaks, or improper handling of stored materials may impact the drinking water supply.
- **Crops – Irrigated**  
Over-application or improper handling of pesticides or fertilizers may impact drinking water. Excessive irrigation may cause transport of contaminants or sediments to groundwater/surface water through runoff. NOTE: Drip-irrigated crops such as vineyards and some vegetables, are considered to be a low risk.
- **Underground Storage Tanks**  
Spills, leaks, or improper handling of stored materials may impact the drinking water supply.

The assessment inventory results are an important first look at POTENTIAL risks to Oregon public water systems, and we will be using this list as a first step in prioritizing our work. Other data are very significant as well. For example, there are other potential high priorities for protection that do not occur in high numbers, such as:

- **Wastewater Treatment Plants** -----permitted for discharge upstream of public drinking water intakes (47 locations, including collection stations)
- **Heavy Recreation**-----at least 6 reservoirs and lakes that serve as community drinking water sources that are used for recreation including human contact.