

Drinking Water Assessment for the Coos-Coquille Water Quality Management Area

August 2026

Overview

- There are 54 public drinking water systems in the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area which utilize groundwater and surface water sources to serve approximately 56,477 persons regularly.
- A total of five public water systems have received one or more alerts within the past ten years for exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for *E. coli* bacteria. No public water systems had a Maximum Contaminant Level violation within the past five years.
- No public water systems received an alert within the past ten years or a violation within the past five years for nitrate levels that exceed 5 milligrams per liter.
- There are 341 records of private domestic well sample results submitted to Oregon Health Authority's Real Estate Transaction program in the area. Of these, 17 measured nitrate concentrations greater than or equal to three milligrams per liter, or mg/L.
- Contaminants in water supplies potentially related to agriculture occur near human populations, agricultural land uses, and aquifers susceptible to contaminant infiltration.
- DEQ recommends public water systems utilize [Source Water Protection Practices](#) to prevent potential contamination and increase resiliency.
- Resources for addressing risks to drinking water supplies can be found in either the [Groundwater Resource Guide](#) or [Surface Water Resource Guide](#).

Water use

There are 54 public water systems within the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area which obtain drinking water from a combination of surface and groundwater sources. Drinking water is an important beneficial use under the [Clean Water Act](#). When Clean Water Act standards are met in source waters, a drinking water treatment plant using standard technology can generate water meeting the [Safe Drinking Water Act](#) standards. **Figure 1** shows the drinking water source areas of the public water systems within the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area. A drinking water source area is defined as the area of land which contributes water to the drinking water supply and where potential contamination from human activities or natural sources may pose a threat to the water quality.

Of the 54 public water systems in the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area, 18 are active community public water systems which use either groundwater, surface water, or a combination of the two sources to serve approximately 52,319 people on a regular basis, in addition to visitors at recreation sites.

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There is one active non-transient non-community workplace or school public water system which uses groundwater to serve 210 people regularly. The remaining 15 public water systems are transient non-community systems and state-regulated systems with an estimated service population of 2,825. There are an additional 17 public water systems in the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area that are currently inactive. See **Table 1** for a list of the public water systems, their classifications, primary source and activity status, and populations served.

The Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area is primarily forested with agricultural land uses present in the western portion of the Management Area. Other land use and ownership within the Management Area includes private industrial forests, private rural lands, private urban lands, local government, agriculture, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, and Oregon Department of Forestry (**Figure 2**).

There are two 303(d) impaired drinking water sources with a potential nexus with agricultural lands located in the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area. The City of Myrtle Point's North Fork Coquille River drinking water source is impaired for turbidity for public and domestic water supply uses. The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District led an effort to develop a Source Water Protection Plan for the City of Myrtle Point funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service's National Water Quality Initiative. This plan was finalized and accepted in September 2020 and includes a drinking water source assessment, protection planning, and identifies a list of NRCS practices that would be eligible for landowner cost-share if the plan were supported to move into Implementation Phase with NRCS. For more information contact Coos SWCD at DistrictManager@coosswcd.org.

Bacteria

Total coliform bacteria alerts and *E. coli* bacteria alerts for public water systems are generated by Oregon Health Authority when their presence is detected in sample results. Water systems sample for total coliform bacteria and confirmed detections trigger additional sampling for other pathogens (*E. coli*). Within the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area, five public water systems had alerts for detections of *E. coli* bacteria in the past ten years (**Figure 1, Table 1**). No public water systems had a violation with the Oregon Health Authority for *E. coli* bacteria in the past five years.

A public water system will receive an MCL violation for *E. coli* bacteria if they collect a sample indicating total coliforms are present and the resample is also positive for either fecal coliform or *E. coli* bacteria. When *E. coli* is detected, additional site-specific review is typically needed to evaluate the source of *E. coli*, which may not be related to impacts to groundwater quality. Public water systems with *E. coli* detections are dispersed in the study area indicating regional aquifer contamination issues are not likely.

The locations of public water systems with *E. coli* bacteria alerts occur near areas designated for land use as private rural lands and private urban lands. Refer to DEQ's [Surface Water Resource Guide](#) section 2.4.2 Bacteria Data and Surface Water Susceptibility to learn more about preventing bacterial contamination in surface water bodies from various land uses.

Nitrates

An alert for elevated nitrate concentrations is generated by the Oregon Health Authority when nitrate sample results for public water systems exceed 5 mg/L. Within the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area, none of the public water systems had an alert for elevated nitrate results in the past ten years or an MCL violation in the past five years (the MCL for nitrate is 10 mg/L).

There are numerous private groundwater wells for domestic use within the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area. The Domestic Well Testing Act database includes submitted records of real estate transaction testing data from 1989 to 2018. There are 341 records of private domestic well samples within the Management Area. Of these 341 records, 324 measured nitrate concentrations of 0 to 3 mg/L, 14 measured nitrate concentrations 3.01 to 5 mg/L, one measured nitrate concentrations 5.01 to 7mg/L, two measured nitrate concentrations 7.01 to 10mg/L and none of the records measured nitrate concentrations greater than 10mg/L (**Figure 1**). For wells testing at elevated concentrations, attention to well depth, well construction, nitrate leaching potential of local soils, and proximity to nutrient sources such as septic systems, fertilizer use areas, and high concentrations of livestock should be considered when investigating the cause of nitrate contamination.

Of the soils assessed in the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area, most have high nitrate leaching potential, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Cooperative Soil Survey (**Figure 3**). Nitrate leaching potential is based on the area's slope, precipitation, and land use. Nitrate from fertilizers and septic systems can readily penetrate aquifers used for drinking water when leaching potential is high. Additionally, bacteria removal through soil filtration can be less effective in sandy soils. Measures to reduce leachable nitrate in soils reduce risk to groundwater sources of drinking water. Refer to section 5.0 - Pollutant Reduction Tools in the [Groundwater Resource Guide](#) to learn more about nitrate leachability and potential reduction strategies.

DEQ specifically addresses drinking water issues identified for public water systems. A query of Oregon Water Resources Department's water rights database for private domestic points of diversion (using a threshold of 0.005 cubic feet per second for domestic surface water rights that are household use only, not irrigation) identified 365 private domestic surface water rights in the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area (see **Figure 1**).

Other contaminants

Water quality samples from public water systems within the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area also detected other contaminants including arsenic that may be related to agricultural activities. In addition sodium, copper summary, lead summary, total haloacetic acids (HAA5), TTHM, total xylenes, bromate were also identified in drinking water tests. These are unlikely to be related to agricultural activities.

Within the past 10 years, six public water systems received one or more alerts for TTHM and five public water systems received one or more alerts for HAA5. HAA5 and TTHM are disinfection byproducts that form when chlorine compounds that are used to disinfect water react with other naturally occurring chemicals in the water.

The City of Bandon's Ferry and Geiger Creek drinking water sources are impaired for dieldrin, a human health toxin. Dieldrin was a commonly used agricultural insecticide until it was banned in 1970. This pesticide is persistent in soil, and the primary source of this banned pesticide in streams is likely sediment transported by erosion and runoff. OSU Sea Grant Extension is currently leading an effort to develop a Natural Resource Conservation Service National Water Quality Initiative Source Protection Plan for the City of Bandon. For more information contact Miranda Gray with OSU Sea Grant Extension at miranda.gray@oregonstate.edu.

Contact

For more information, please contact the [Drinking Water Protection Program](#) or send an email to drinkingwater.protection@deq.oregon.gov.

Table 1. Public Water Systems in the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Note: Table 1 does not include public water systems that purchase drinking water from these water systems.

System Type:

"Community Water System - C" means a public water system that has 15 or more service connections used by year-round residents, or that regularly serves 25 or more year-round residents.

"Non-Transient Non-Community Water System - NTNC" means a public water system that is not a Community Water System and that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over 6 months per year.

"Transient Non-Community Water System - NC" means a public water system that serves a transient population of 25 or more persons.

"Oregon Very Small - Non-Public" means a public water system, which serves 4 to 14 service connections or serves 10 to 24 people a day at least 60 days a year. Monitoring requirements for these systems are the same as those for Transient Non-Community water systems. This designation was recently changed to OVS for Oregon Very Small systems. Both designations are still used.

PWS ID	Public Water System Name	Primary Source	System Type	Population	MCL Alerts
4105690	Bandon by The Sea RV	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	60	n/a
4195446	Bandon by The Sea RV West	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	100	n/a
4195311	Bandon Christian Fellowship	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	200	n/a
4195063	Bandon Coastal Dunes	Groundwater	Community	225	n/a
4195451	Bandon Crossings GC - Snack Shack	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	75	n/a
4195447	Bandon Crossings GC Clubhouse (Inactive)	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	60	n/a
4100074	Bandon, City of	Surface Water	Community	3000	n/a
4105579	Beach Loop RV Park	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	25	n/a
4195199	BLM New River Acec (Inactive)	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	25	n/a
4105592	Bob Belloni Ranch (Inactive)	Surface Water	Non-Transient Non-Community	25	n/a
4100552	Bridge Water District	Groundwater Under Direct Influence of Surface Water	Community	150	E.coli
4190541	Camas Valley School	Groundwater	Non-Transient Non-Community	210	n/a
4194556	Camp Bradley	Groundwater	Community	70	n/a
4194995	Camp Remote	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	40	n/a

PWS ID	Public Water System Name	Primary Source	System Type	Population	MCL Alerts
4193946	Chalet Deli & Market	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	100	n/a
4100205	Coos Bay North Bend Wtr Brd	Surface Water	Community	34500	n/a
4105286	Coos Bay Speedway	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	150	n/a
4194558	Coos Co PKS - West Laverne	Surface Water	Transient Non-Community	40	n/a
4100213	Coquille, City of	Surface Water	Community	3953	n/a
4101501	Country Club Estates Wd	Surface Water	Community	45	n/a
4195345	Douglas Co PKS - Halfmoon Bay	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	400	n/a
4100214	Garden Valley Water Association	Surface Water	Community	84	n/a
4194595	Hauser Bar & Grill (Inactive)	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	50	n/a
4195028	Hauser Store (Inactive)	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	50	n/a
4194594	Hollywood Tavern (Inactive)	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	75	n/a
4190858	Kentuck Golf Course (Inactive)	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	200	n/a
4100463	Lakeside Water District	Surface Water	Community	1800	E.coli
4194779	Market Plus (Inactive)	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	125	n/a
4195524	Millicoma River Parks & Rec (Inactive)	Groundwater	Oregon Very Small	5	E.coli
4105364	Mt Terrace MHP	Groundwater	Community	60	E.coli
4100551	Myrtle Point, City of	Surface Water	Community	2656	n/a
4195332	Myrtle Tree RV Park (Inactive)	Surface Water	Transient Non-Community	30	n/a
4100575	North Bayside Estates-North	Groundwater	Community	65	n/a
4101463	North Bayside Estates-South	Groundwater	Community	40	n/a
4100569	Ocean Pines Park (Inactive)	Groundwater	Community	50	n/a
4191014	OPRD Bullards Beach State PK	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	1400	E.coli
4191011	OPRD Seven Devils Wayside (Inactive)	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	30	n/a
4194632	Oregon Overseas Timber Co (Inactive)	Groundwater	Non-Transient Non-Community	35	n/a
4194636	Pacific Community Church	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	40	n/a
4100672	Powers, City of	Surface Water	Community	712	n/a

PWS ID	Public Water System Name	Primary Source	System Type	Population	MCL Alerts
4100699	Reedsport, City of	Surface Water	Community	4836	n/a
4190860	Remote Outpost	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	40	n/a
4194041	Riverside Pub, The (Inactive)	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	50	n/a
4195304	Robbins Nest Residential Park	Groundwater	Community	27	n/a
4100573	Sand-N-Wood Mobile Villa	Groundwater	Community	60	n/a
4195261	South Slough Rese RVe	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	55	n/a
4192706	USFS Daphne Grove Cg (Inactive)	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	48	n/a
4194884	USFS Umpqua Beach	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	100	n/a
4105581	Weiss Estates Water System	Surface Water	Community	36	n/a
4194616	West Coast Game Park (Inactive)	Groundwater	Transient Non-Community	115	n/a
4100574	Wildwood Estates (Inactive)	Groundwater	Community	150	n/a

Figure 1: Drinking Water Source Areas for Public Water Systems in the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

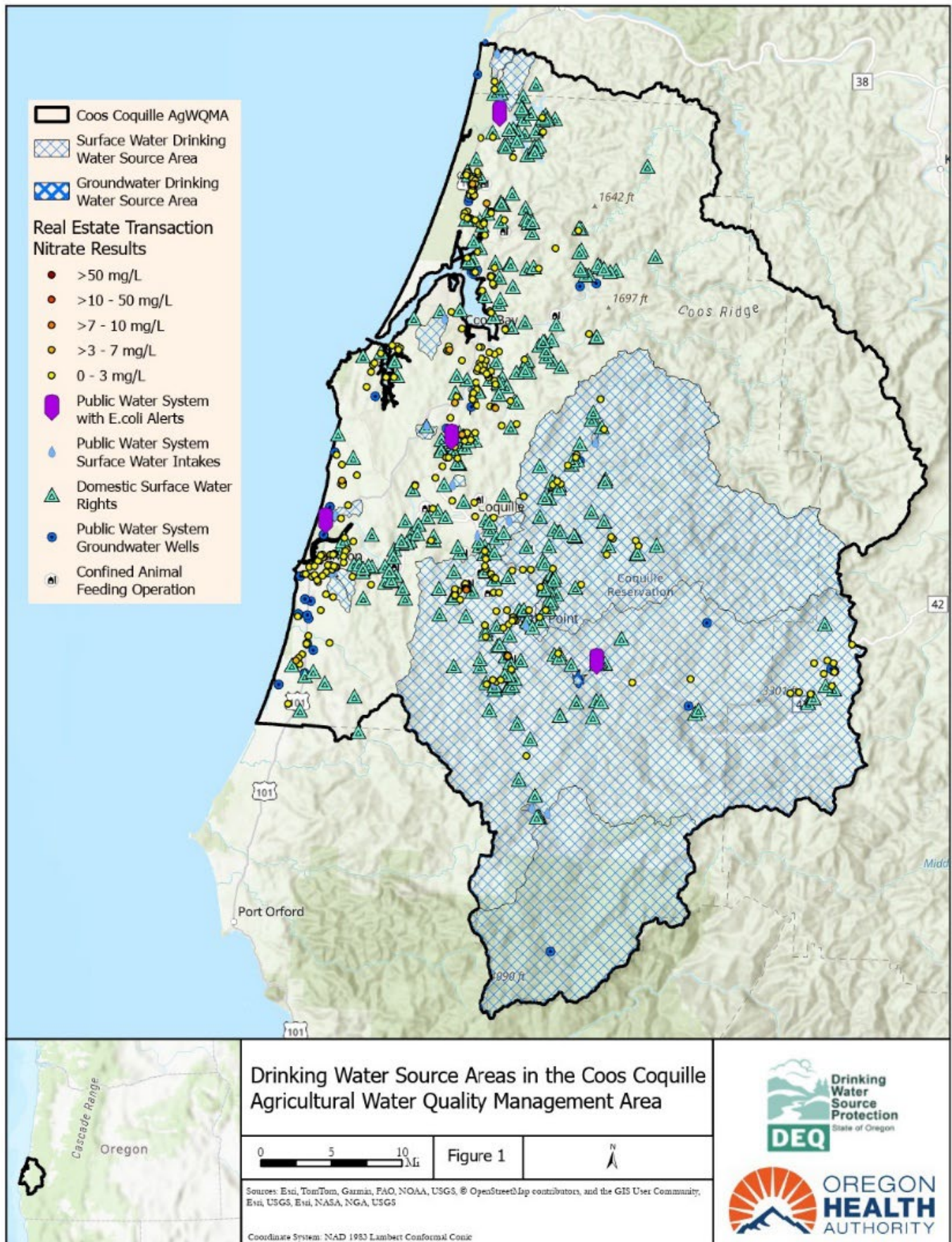


Figure 2: Drinking Water Source Areas for Public Water Systems in the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area, Land Use/Land Ownership

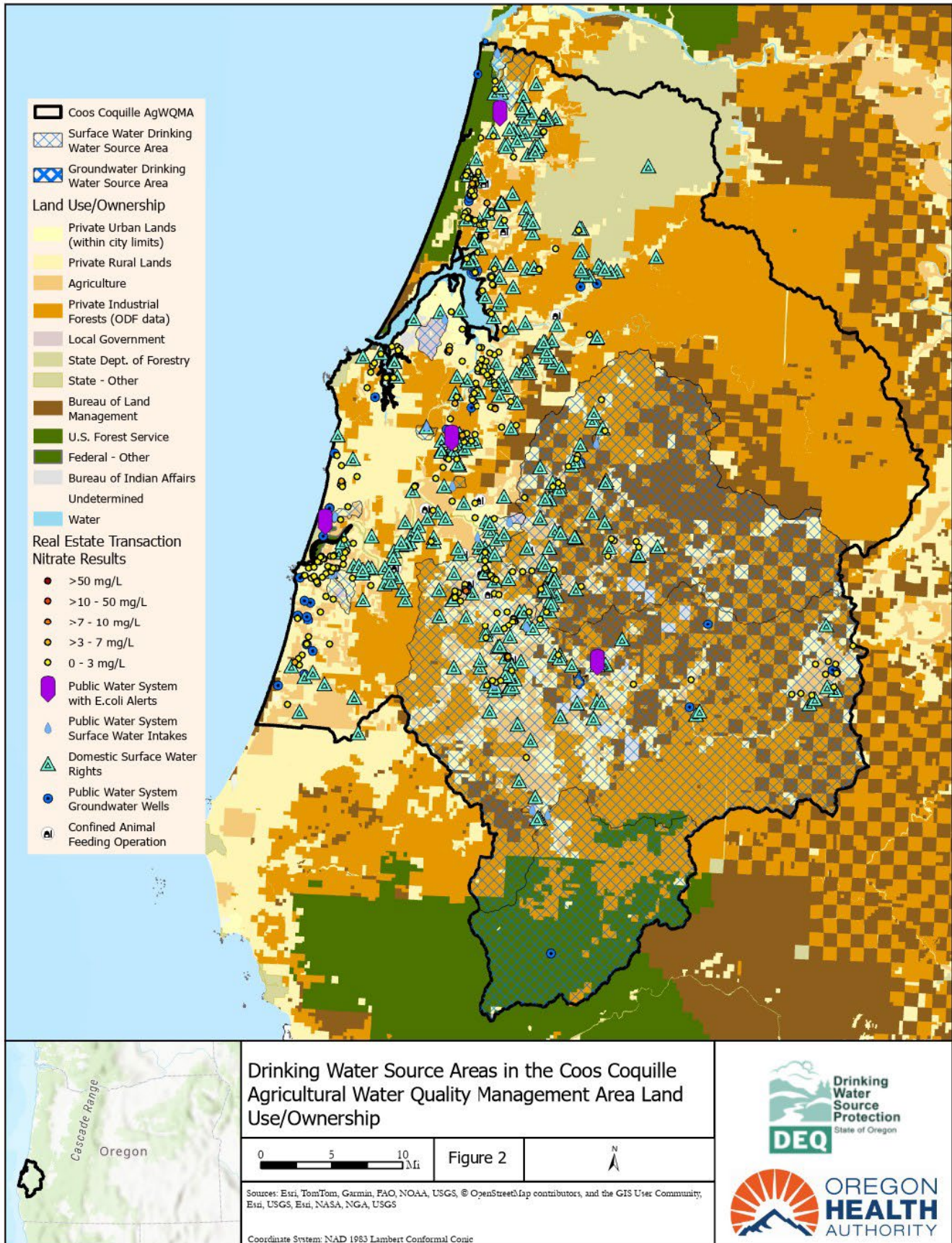
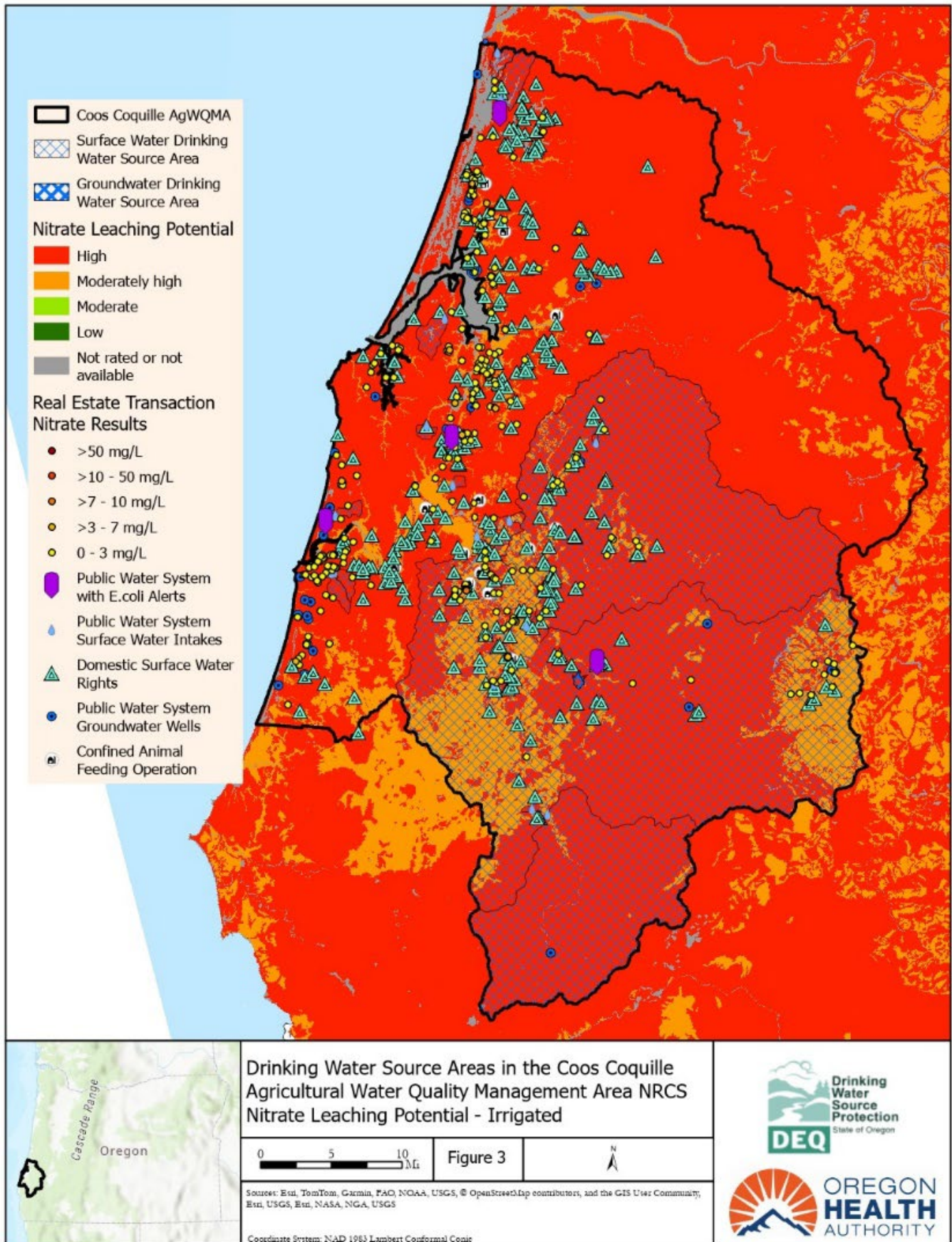


Figure 3: Drinking Water Source Areas for Public Water Systems in the Coos-Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area, Nitrate Leaching Potential



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