



Fact Sheet

Forestry Notifications for Drinking Water Source Protection

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Oregon public water systems benefit from knowing when and where forestry operations are planned within their drinking water source areas, as these activities can affect source water quality and treatment operations if not properly managed. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Division's mission is to protect and improve Oregon's water quality for a multitude of beneficial uses including drinking water. The Oregon Department of Forestry is responsible for preventing and controlling nonpoint source pollution from forest operations on non-federal forestlands.

DEQ recommends public water systems subscribe to ODF's E-Notification system to stay informed and engage early in land management activities that may affect their water systems. Receiving these notifications helps local governments, public water systems, and community members understand what forestry activities are planned, identify potential risks, and coordinate with stewardship foresters and landowners to ensure adequate protection of drinking water source areas. This proactive communication will identify potential risks including sediment, debris, and other potential contaminants from reaching the source and strengthens shared responsibility among local partners and state government agencies.

What is the Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System?

ODF offers [E-Notification](#) as a subscription service for anyone to receive copies of notification submitted to the State Forester of potential forestry activities; and the system that forestry professionals must input their possible forestry work into before starting the work. The subscribers also receive updates on those activities based on the areas of interest and activities they select. Public water systems can subscribe to notifications for their drinking water source area to stay informed about upcoming activities, review proposed operations in advance, and coordinate with landowners and stewardship foresters as needed to help protect drinking water quality and mitigate risk to drinking water sources.

Before beginning a forest operation, landowners or operators must submit all required information to E-Notification least 15 days before starting a forest operation. A forest operation is any commercial activity relating to the establishment, management or harvest of forest tree species on publicly owned or state-owned forest land. Forest management activities may include timber harvest, road construction, site preparation, slash treatment, chemical application, land use changes, and other commercial forest activities.

Based on the area of the activity, E-Notification and the State Forester will inform the landowner and operator of any protected resources located in or near the area of their proposed operation. Protected resources flagged in E-Notification include streams, wetlands, domestic points of diversion, high landslide hazard areas (as related to public safety), steep slopes, lakes, scenic highways, and protected wildlife sites.

E-Notification and the state forester will provide the landowner and operator with information and activity alerts notifying them of the specific rules they need to follow, including whether a written plan is required to be submitted.

How to Subscribe to E-Notification

To subscribe to E-Notification, you will need to have an account. If you do not already have one, start by creating an account. Fill out the required information in the web form and click Create Account, complete the email verification, and then sign in using your new account credentials.

Once you are signed in, you can create a subscription to receive alerts about notifications within your area of interest. There is no limit to the number of subscriptions you can set up. To begin, click the Subscriptions tab at the top of the web page, then click the green Subscribe button. You will now see a web page with a map of Oregon. Select a name for your subscription, the area you want it to cover and the types of activities you want to hear about.

Once you have created a subscription, you will begin to receive email notifications whenever a Notice of Operations or Permit to Use Fire or Power-Driven Machinery is filed for your subscription area. The email will include a link to view details about the operation and provide contact information for the ODF forester overseeing the operation, the company performing the work, and the landowner. In some instances, you may have an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed operation.

All subscriptions expire on **Dec. 31** each year. To continue receiving email notifications, you will need to renew your subscriptions. E-Notification will send a reminder to renew your subscriptions every December.

For more information

Visit [ODF E-Notification](#) to learn more about E-Notification and access training videos. For questions or technical assistance regarding forestry activities, visit [ODF's Find a forester](#). For more information on forest operation exceptions, see OAR 629-600-0100 (53)(a)(b) for additional details.

Oregon implements drinking water source protection for public water systems through a partnership between DEQ and the Oregon Health Authority. To learn more about drinking water source protection, visit [DEQ's Drinking Water Source Protection Program](#), or email drinkingwater.protection@deq.oregon.gov.

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