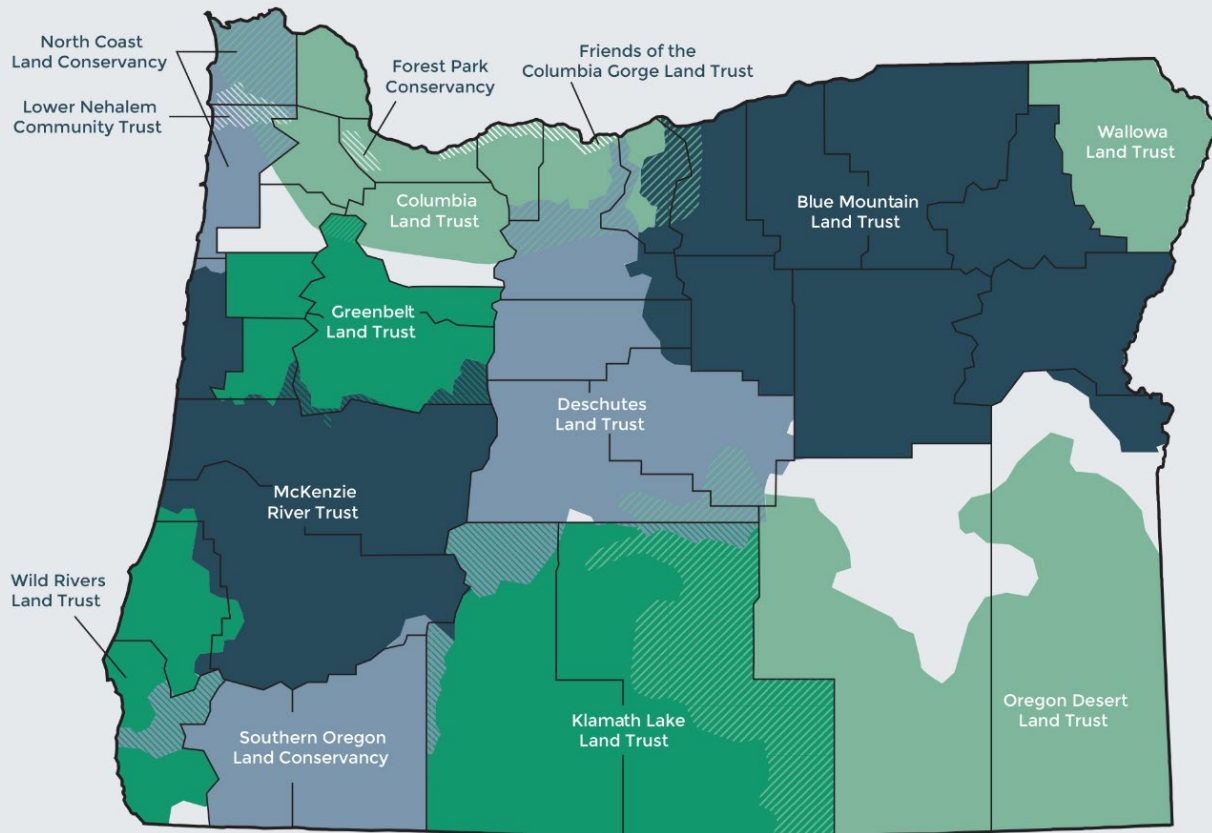




COALITION OF  
**OREGON**  
LAND TRUSTS

**LAND CONSERVATION  
& DRINKING WATER**



**REGIONAL WORK**

- Blue Mountain Land Trust
- Columbia Land Trust
- Deschutes Land Trust
- Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust
- Forest Park Conservancy
- Greenbelt Land Trust
- Klamath Lake Land Trust
- Lower Nehalem Community Trust
- McKenzie River Trust
- North Coast Land Conservancy
- Oregon Desert Land Trust
- Southern Oregon Land Conservancy
- Wallowa Land Trust
- Wild Rivers Land Trust

**STATEWIDE WORK**

- Center for Natural Lands Management
- Ducks Unlimited
- Pacific Forest Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Wetlands Conservancy
- Western Rivers Conservancy

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

- Black Oregon Land Trust
- Cerro Gordo Land Conservancy
- Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District
- East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
- Helvetia Community Association
- Northwest Rangeland Trust
- Oregon Agricultural Trust
- Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
- View the Future
- Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District

# SOURCE WATER PROTECTION: TOOLS

- Education
- Partnerships
- Incentives
- Land use laws
- Restoration
- Land conservation

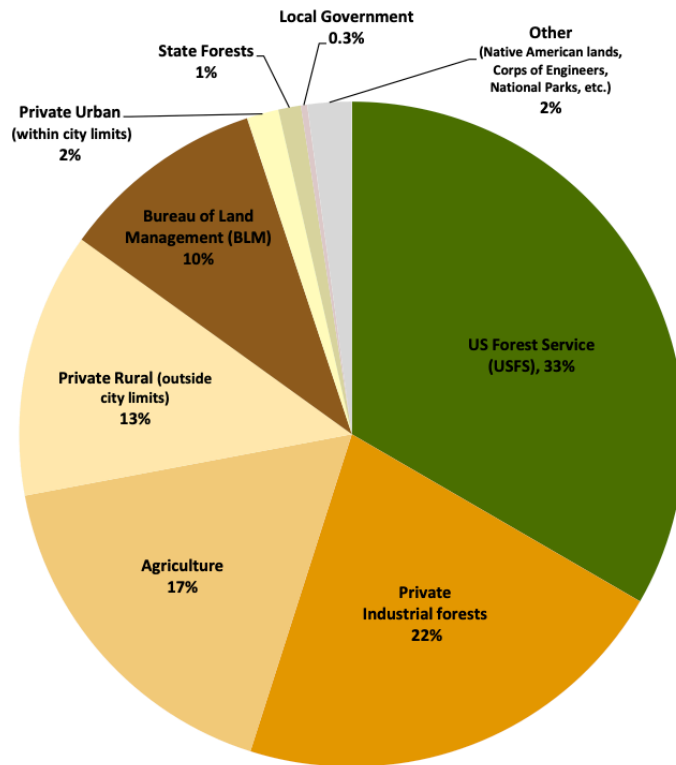


# Clean Drinking Water Starts on the Land.

Land conservation is a key tool for protecting the natural lands that support our water sources.



## Approximate Percentage of Land Use/Ownership within Surface Water Drinking Water Source Areas in Oregon



Drinking water source areas supplied by surface water comprise a total of 20,133 sq.mi (~20%) of Oregon.  
SW DWSAs cover ~60% of Western Oregon and ~2% of Eastern Oregon

Analysis includes 167 community and non-transient non-community public water systems using surface water or classified as groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (13 - GWUDI systems).



# LAND CONSERVATION: TOOLS

- Ownership
- Conservation Easement

*Voluntary legal agreement that protects property in perpetuity*

Provides permanent protection

Can be purchased or donated

Donations can provide federal tax income tax and state property tax benefits

Keeps land in private ownership for economic benefits

Does not per se require public ownership

- Deed Restriction

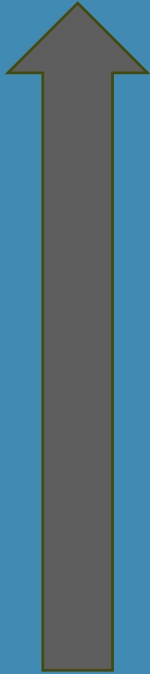
*A limitation in the deed on what you can do with a property*

Can be extinguished in certain circumstances

No duty to enforce terms

# LAND CONSERVATION: TOOLS

Security



## Ownership

Benefits: conceptually the simplest, provides the most control and flexibility over property use, allows management for multiple benefits

Challenges: Most expensive option, requires long-term stewardship

\*May be paired with conservation easement or deed restriction to protect values

## Conservation Easement

Benefits: Less expensive to acquire, does not require management by easement holder

Challenges: Can be complex to develop and manage, requires enforcement

## Deed Restriction

Benefits: Less expensive to acquire, reduced administration

Challenges: Impermanence (can be removed by a court), may not qualify for funding

# LAND CONSERVATION: MODELS

**Community  
Owned**

**Partner  
Owned**

**Land Trust  
Owned**

**Land  
Exchange**

**Bridge  
Buyer**

**Community  
Forest**



# LAND CONSERVATION: BENEFITS

## Water Supply

- Improved water quality
- Reliable water quantity
- Reduced treatment costs
- Increased resilience

## Co-Benefits

- Climate resilience and mitigation
- Recreation and open space
- Supporting local economies
- Healthier and more equitable communities

BLOG: STORIES OF HOME

# DRINKING WATER DATA FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES



**SARA LORENO**

*Senior Forest Research Data Scientist*



Ecotrust Drinking Water Data: <https://ecotrust.org/drinking-water-data-for-coastal-communities/>

## WHO THIS GUIDE IS FOR:

- WATER PROVIDERS
- LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- LAND TRUSTS AND OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## WHAT'S IN THE GUIDE:

- BACKGROUND ON HOW DRINKING WATER IS SOURCED, MANAGED, AND REGULATED
- AN EXPLANATION OF THE ROLE OF SOURCE WATER PROTECTION IN SECURING CLEAN DRINKING WATER
- AN OVERVIEW OF LAND CONSERVATION TOOLS
- AN OVERVIEW OF FUNDING SOURCES
- A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING LAND PROTECTION PROJECTS
- CASE STUDIES



# Protecting Oregon's Drinking Water Sources

A Guide for Using Land Conservation to Secure  
Clean and Reliable Drinking Water

Written by Michelle Smith, Water Program Manager at the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts



**Michelle Smith**  
**michellesmith@**  
**oregonlandtrusts.org**