# Everybody Drinks!

# Source Water Protection Planning Resources

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**Oregon DEQ Drinking Water Protection Program**

November 1 & 3, 2022 – Oregon Land Acquisition and Conservation Workshops

# Drinking Water Protection Regulatory Framework

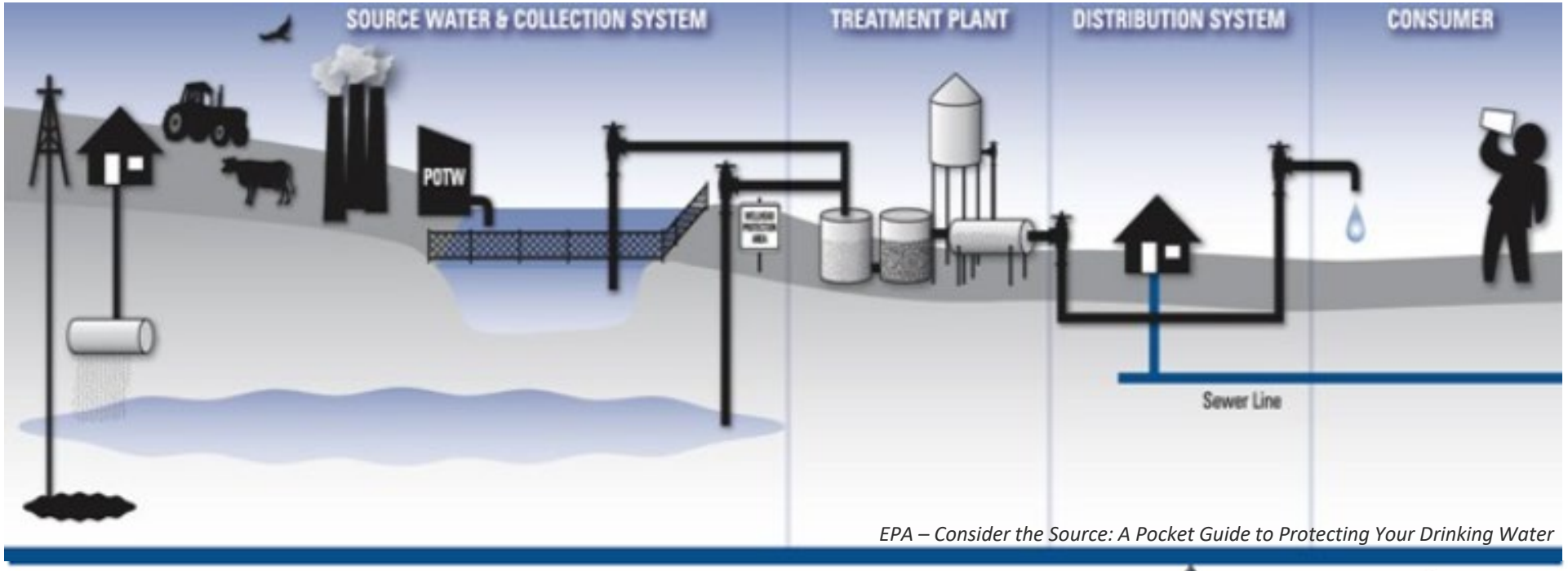
- Joint program between Oregon Health Authority and Department of Environmental Quality focused on public health
- OHA – Safe Drinking Water Act implementation
- Treated water must meet Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) limits, regardless of source quality
- Source water protection is implemented under the Clean Water Act;
  - If water meets Clean Water Act standards, conventional treatment should be adequate for SDWA requirements

Oregon Health Authority

DEQ
State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

# Multi-Barrier Approach

Cleaner raw water = lower treatment cost and fewer risks to public health




*EPA – Consider the Source: A Pocket Guide to Protecting Your Drinking Water*

Ecosystems are first line of defense

**SOURCE WATER PROTECTION**
reduce contaminant threats

**TREATMENT**

**MONITORING & COMPLIANCE**

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

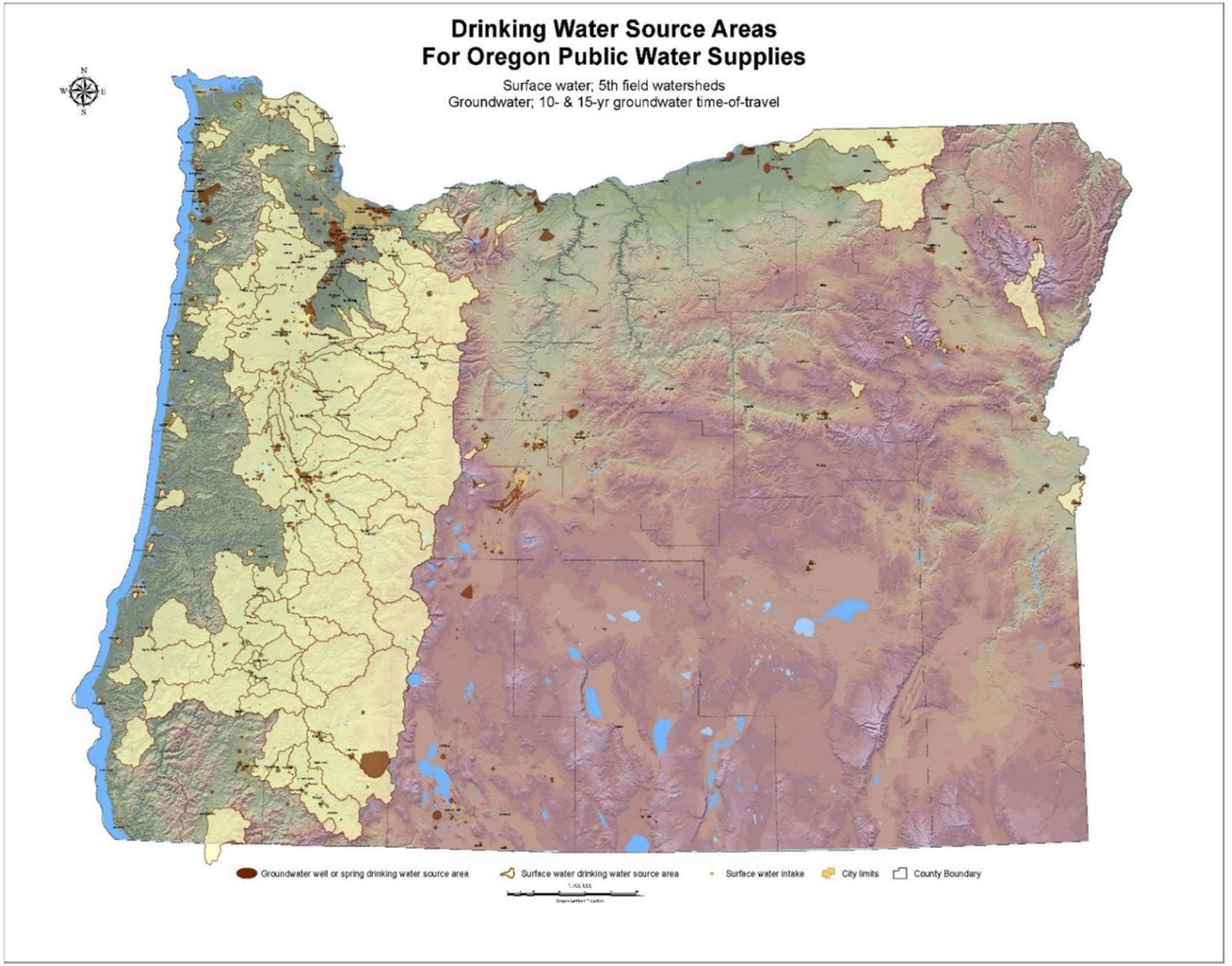
# Statewide Drinking Water Providers

Over 2,500 public water systems serve 85% of Oregonians.

PWS serve >25 people or 10 connections.

~160 public water systems have surface water intakes (areas shown in yellow)

Many systems are small - 75% have < 3000 connections (connections = ratepayers)



# Source Water Assessment Reports

- Completed for all Community and NTNC water systems
- Details on land use and ownership
- Maps of nearby water systems and drinking water source areas
- Potential contaminant sources (PCSs), locations, and risk levels
- Susceptibility Analysis
- Strategies and resources to help reduce risks





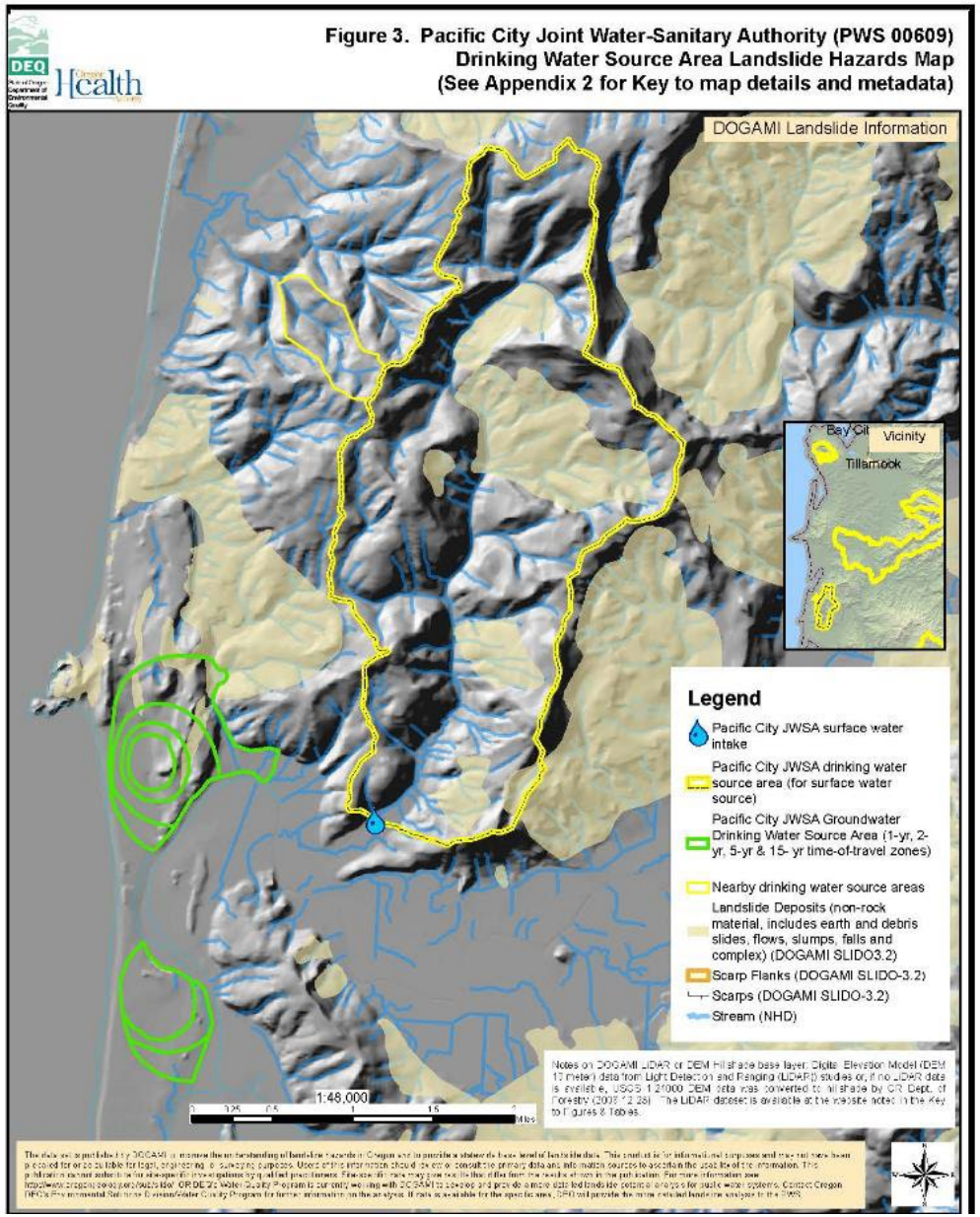
***Common Land-Use Risk Categories Addressed in Source Water Assessments***

# Surface Water Susceptibility Analysis

Evaluation of:

- Erosion Potential
- Landslide Potential
- Land ownership/use

Can be used to prioritize best management practice and actions

# Source Water Protection Resources

DEQ Drinking Water Protection Interactive Map Viewer

http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/DWP-Maps.aspx

Shows most Updated Source Water Assessment results, land use, regulatory databases (including WQ 303(d) listed streams)

Coastal Drinking Water Atlas and Interactive Web Tool

https://ecotrust.org/drinking-water-data-for-oregon-coast-communities/

Updated Source Water Assessments (USWA)

http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/DWPAssessments.aspx

Source water area/watershed and identification of potential risks

Resource Guides - Surface Water and Groundwater

https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/dwp.aspx

Lists of partner organizations, best management practices, links to funds and resources

# Water Systems need Partners

- Public Water Systems have limited resources and wear many hats in their community
- Source water protection not required
- Much of source area is outside of water system jurisdiction
- Watershed restoration/enhancement or groundwater protection not usually their specialty

# Partnerships

- Land Trusts, SWCDs, Watershed Councils, NGOs, and Drinking Water Providers have common goals:
  - Diverse and resilient ecosystems
  - Soil protection, water quality, and health
  - Non-regulatory, voluntary approach to encourage adoption of best practices
  - Similar geographic priority areas and pollutants of concern
  - Address wide-range of issues
  - What's good for fish and aquatic habitat is good for drinking water (and vice versa!)
- Land Trusts, SWCDs, Watershed Councils, NGOs commonly approach local landowners and are good at outreach!

# Partnerships

- Land Trusts, SWCDs, Watershed Councils, NGOs commonly approach local landowners and are good at outreach!
- Water systems may need to evaluate rate structure and communicate watershed goals with ratepayers
- Communicate with landowners and rate payers early and often

# Benefits of Collaboration

- Broadens community support for conservation and restoration activities
- Enhances regional water quality and land-use planning
- Leverages resources for funding sources that are:
  - ✓ Only available to public water suppliers
  - ✓ Require drinking water nexus
  - ✓ Give higher priority if in drinking water source area

# Drinking Water Source Protection Grants/Loans

DW Source Protection Fund ~$200,000/ year total (may be $400,000 in 2023)

- Grants: Up to $50,000* per public water system to reduce risk in source area - no match required. (*$50,000 in 2022, TBD for 2023)
- Loans: Up to $100,000 per project, low interest. i.e., land acquisition or incentive-based protection

Purpose: To reduce risk risks within the drinking water source area. Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| Land conservation planning inc. property appraisals | Legal assessment |
| Forest inventory and cruise | Forest/roads management planning |
| Transactional, financial, or management modeling | Restoration of sensitive riparian areas and roads |
| Community outreach and engagement | Lots others! |

# DW Source Protection Fund – Overview

Public Water System must apply

- Community and Nonprofit Non-Community water systems
- Must have completed Source Water Assessment
- Can only receive in two consecutive years

✓ Accept Letters of Interest January through March

✓ Awarded projects must spend money within 2 years to avoid forfeiture

✓ Water systems can collaborate on a regional (joint) project and combine funds

✓ Emergency grants for source water threats that arise outside the LOI submission deadline.

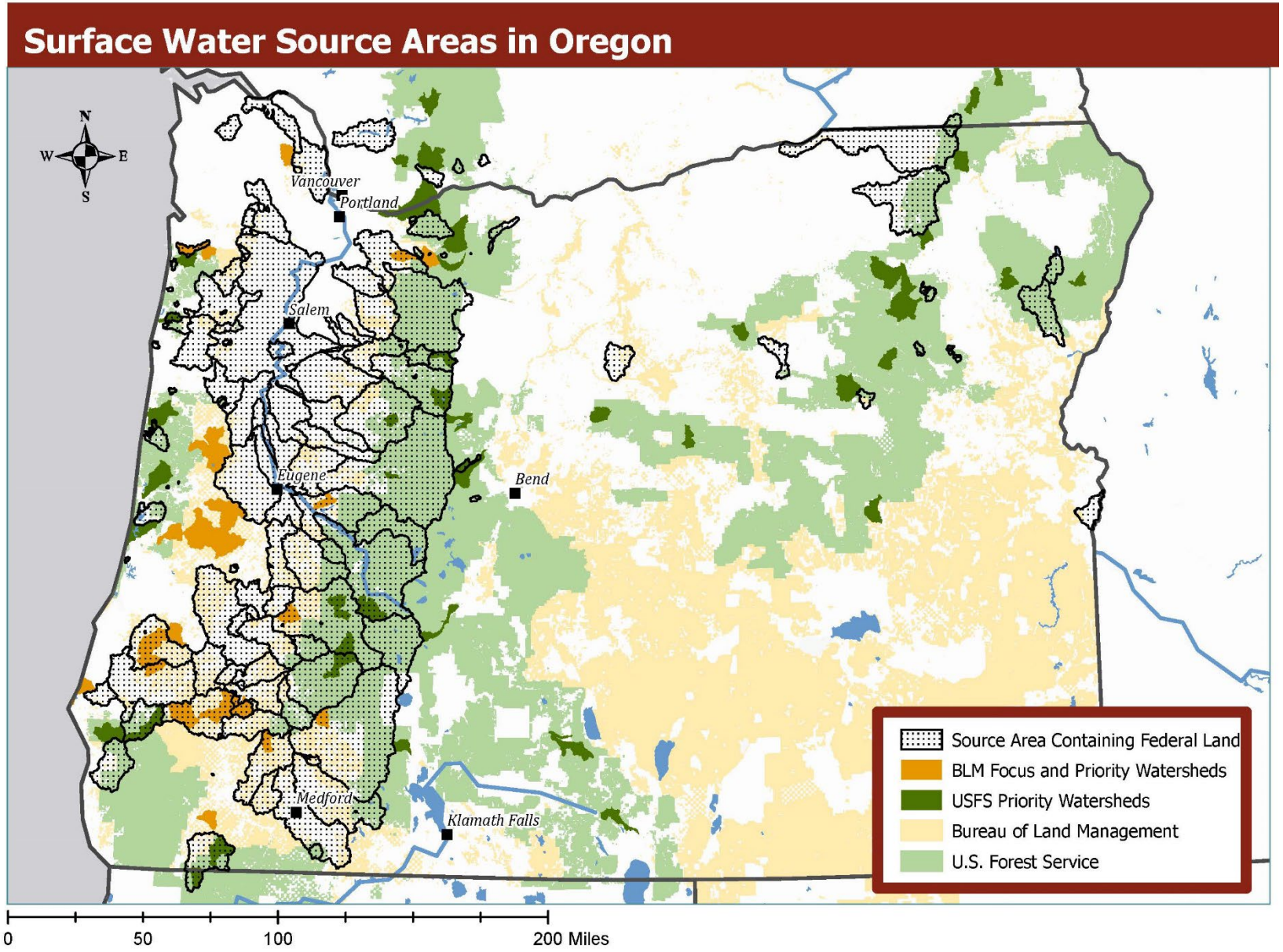
✓ Search: OHA Drinking Water Source Protection https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/SRF/Pages/spf.aspx

# Drinking Water Providers Partnership


- Public and private organizations pooling funds to improve health of drinking water watersheds and aquatic life benefit
- Supports local partnerships between downstream drinking water providers and upstream landowners and restoration practitioners.

# Drinking Water Providers Partnership

- Must be a drinking water source area with a federal (USFS/BLM) nexus
- Multiple types of eligible applicants
  - Tribal, local, state, or federal governments, educational institutions, public water systems, non-profit organizations, watershed councils, landowners, soil and water conservation districts



# Drinking Water Providers Partnership


- $400,000 to $600,000/year available (projects up to $50,000)
- Projects that are a good fit for Source Protection Funds are referred to state program
- Awarded projects must be completed by end of following fiscal year (for Federal Funds)

✓Proposals due January 7, 2023

https://www.workingwatersgeos.org/drinking-water-providers-partnership

# Partnering with NRCS

- NRCS offers a variety of programs to help farmers, ranchers, family forests, Tribes, and conservation partners perform voluntary conservation on private lands.

- 2018 Farm Bill implemented new focus on Source Water Protection Areas - National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

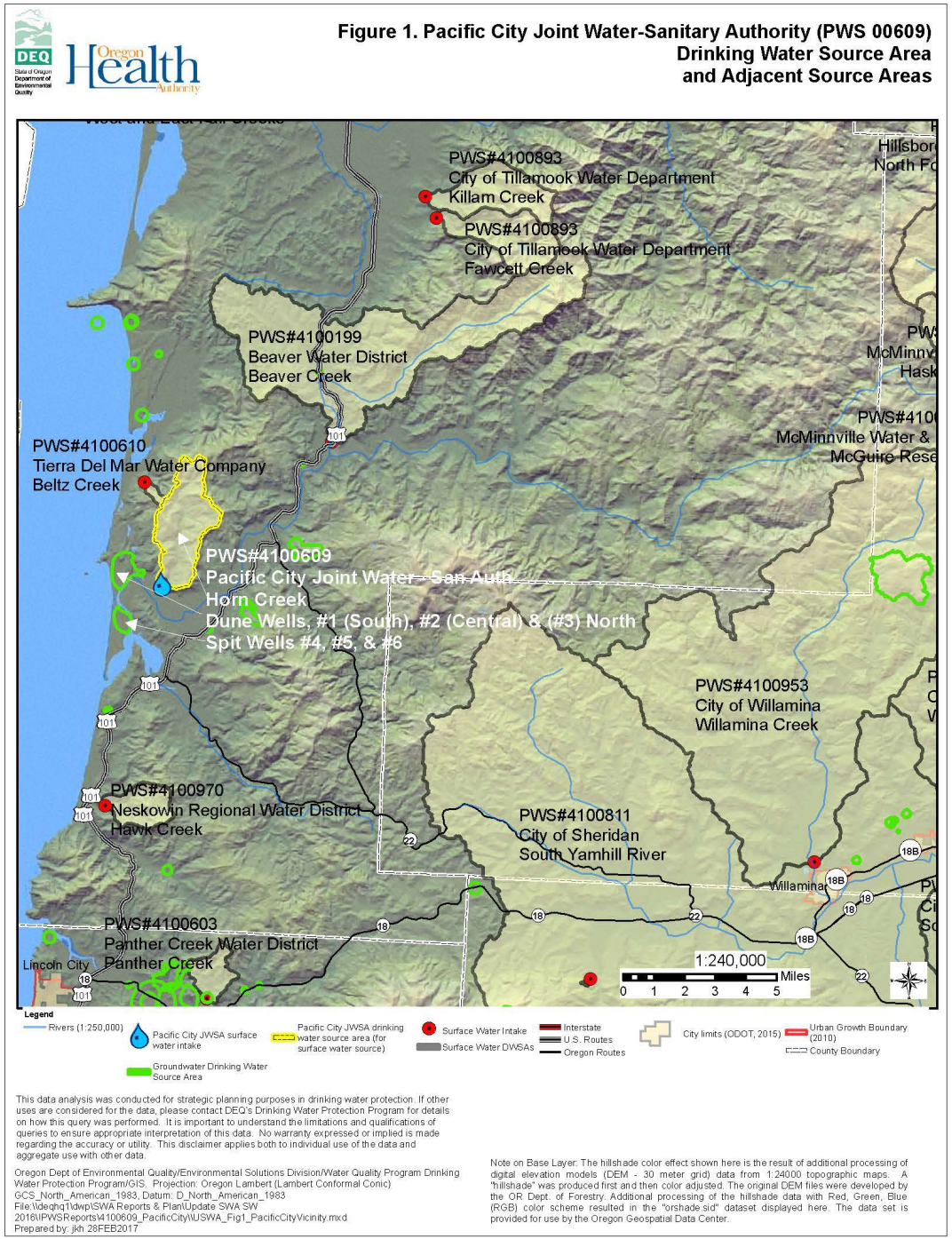
- Funding for detailed watershed assessment and an outreach strategy to address agricultural-related impacts to source water quality.

# Partnering with NRCS

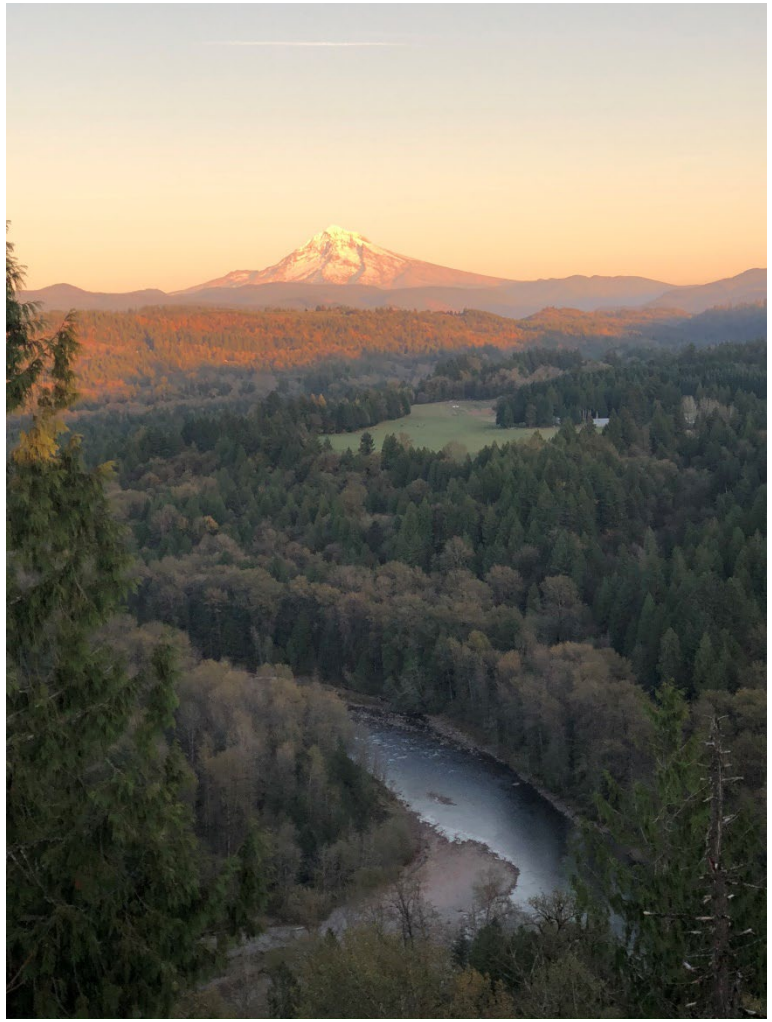
- Begin now to discuss with NRCS how to tie potential NWQI watersheds into the locally led Conservation Implementation Strategy process
- Source water protection – SWCDs, Watershed Councils, utilities and other partners should  contact their local NRCS District Conservationist to discuss  potential projects
- DEQ can provide information for delineated drinking water source areas

# Next Steps for Partner Organizations

- Tap into DEQ/OHA Resources:
  - Identify drinking water source areas and potential partners
  - https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/dwp.aspx
- Updated Source Water Assessments
  - Surface water and groundwater supply areas
  - Vicinity Maps
  - Watershed characteristics (e.g. erosion, landslide, stream crossings
  - Updated information on regulated sources (from > 20 state and federal databases)
  - Land use/ownership - acres and % of source area
  - Characteristics of the public water system/treatment and monitoring
- Interactive Maps, data and GIS Layers
- Review funding sources for good fits – see "Resource Guides"



# Questions?



*Oregon Drinking Water Protection Program*

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