



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Drinking Water Assessment for the Curry Water Quality Management Area

January 2023

Overview

- Public drinking water systems in the Curry Agricultural Water Quality Management Area utilize groundwater and surface water sources to serve approximately 16,148 persons regularly.
- Recent alerts for *E. coli* bacteria exist for 14 Water Systems with 12 MCL violations. 25 systems have recent alerts for Total Coliform bacteria with no violations
- No water systems have alerts for elevated nitrate concentrations.
- 14 of 199 private domestic wells sample results in the area have elevated (≥ 3 mg/L) nitrate concentrations.

Water Use

47 public water systems obtain domestic drinking water from groundwater and surface water sources in the Curry Agricultural Water Quality Management Area (**Map 1**). Drinking water is an important beneficial use under the federal Clean Water Act. When CWA standards are met in source waters, a drinking water treatment plant using standard technology can generate water meeting the Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). There are 11 Community public water systems in the plan area using groundwater or/and surface water wells to serve approximately 13,292 people on a regular basis, in addition to visitors at recreation sites. There are two Non-Transient, Non-Community workplace or school public water systems using groundwater, serving 196 persons regularly. The remaining 34 public water systems are Transient Non-Community systems and Non-Public (also called Oregon Very Small systems or OVS), state-regulated systems with an estimated service population of 2,660. See **Table 1** below for a list of public water systems, their classifications, sources and activity status, and populations served.

Agricultural land uses (e.g. grass seed, row crops, livestock, cranberries, orchards, and nurseries) are present near many of the public water system wells in the area (**Maps 2 - 4**).

Bacteria

12 public water systems in the management area have recent alerts (last 10 years) for detections of *E. coli* bacteria. There are recent MCL violations at Port of Gold Beach – Huntley Park Campground, OPRD Cape Blanco State Park, Agness RV Park, Whaleshead Beach RV Park, Sea Crest Motel, Salmon

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Run Golf Course, USFS Lobster Creek Campground, Old Sheep Ranch Water Association, Rainbow Rock Village Mobile Home Park, OPRD Humbug Mountain Camp, Paradise Lodge, and Curry County Park Lobster Creek. 25 public water systems have recent alerts for Total Coliform and no violations. Bacteria contamination can be related to human wastewater (sewer and onsite systems like septic) and animal and cropland agriculture.

Nitrates

Nitrate alerts are generated when nitrate exceeds 5 mg/L, and the drinking water MCL for nitrates is 10 mg/L. No public water systems in the management area have recent nitrate alerts or violations.

Of the soils assessed in the management area, most have high nitrate leaching potential, according to the National Cooperative Soil Survey, based on slope, precipitation, and land use (**Map 2**). Nitrate from fertilizers and septic systems can readily penetrate to the aquifers used for drinking water when leaching potential is high, and bacteria removal through soil filtration can be less effective in sandy soils.

Oregon Health Authority rated some of the public water system wells in the Ag WQMA for contaminant susceptibility for land use impacts to drinking water sources based on Source Water Assessments, aquifer characteristics, and well locations and construction. The majority of evaluated public water system wells rate as high or medium susceptibility. The nitrate and other contamination issues described above and the ready movement of nitrogen into aquifers in the area verify this susceptibility. Measures to reduce leachable nitrate in soils would reduce risk to groundwater sources of drinking water.

DEQ only addresses drinking water issues identified for public water systems. A query of Oregon Water Resources' water rights database for private domestic points of diversion (using a threshold of 0.005 cfs for domestic surface water rights that are household use only, not irrigation) identified 252 private domestic water rights in the Curry WQMA. There are also numerous private groundwater wells for domestic use. The Domestic Well Testing Act database (real estate transaction testing data) for 1989-2019 indicates 14 results are ≥ 3 mg/L, 9 results are ≥ 5 mg/L, 2 results are 7mg/L, and 1 is ≥ 10 mg/L out of 199 total results included in the database.

Other Contaminants

There are recent alerts (2022, 2021) for lead, copper, sodium, total haloacetic acids (HAA5), and total trihalomethanes (TTHM) at several public water systems. 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.

Drinking Water Protection staff are happy to provide additional details, maps, and recommendations upon request.

Contact

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

Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in administration of its programs or activities. Visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).

Table 1. Public Water Systems in the Curry Ag WQMA

Note: Table 1 does not include public water systems that purchase drinking water from these water systems but does include the population served by wholesale customers in the Total Population.

Bold text indicates PWSs w/ recent *E. coli* alerts.

PWS ID	Public Water System Name	Drinking Water Source	System Type	Pop.
Surface Water Systems				
4100466	Langlois Water District	Floras Creek	C	220
4100670	Port Orford	Hubbard Creek	C	954
4101059	Gold Beach	Rogue River	C	3,000
4101361	Rainbow Rock Service Association	Unnamed Creek	C	80
Groundwater Systems				
4100465	Bandon/Port Orford KOA	1 well	NC	61
4101408	At Rivers Edge RV Resort	INACTIVE (1 well)	NC	220
4190869	Port of Gold Beach-Huntley Park CG	1 well	NC	75
4191017	OPRD Cape Blanco State Park	1 well	NC	248
4191019	OPRD Loeb State Park	1 well	NC	132
4191194	OPRD Arizona Beach State Park	INACTIVE (1 well)	NC	133
4191198	Agness RV Park/Cougar Lane Ldg	1 well	NC	223
4191201	Humbug Mtn Restaurant/Lodge	INACTIVE (1 well)	NC	25
4191215	Singing Springs Lodge & Cafe	1 well	NC	100
4192693	USFS Winchuck Campground	INACTIVE (1 spring)	NC	30
4192697	USFS Illahe Campground	INACTIVE (1 well)	NC	32
4192704	USFS Quosatana Campground	1 well	NC	87
4194092	OPRD Humbug Mtn State Park	INACTIVE (1 well)	NC	100
4194366	Lucky Lodge Trailer Park	1 well	NC	74
4194398	Elk River Campground	1 well	C	64
4194489	Whaleshead Beach RV Park	3 GWUDI intakes	C	108
4194742	Curry Co Parks - Boice Cope Park	1 well	NC	36
4194934	Sea Crest Motel	1 well	NC	38
4195070	Circle L Ranch Campground	INACTIVE (1 well)	NC	48
4195115	BLM Edson Creek CG	1 well	NC	60
4195127	Salmon Run Golf Course	1 well	NC	100
4195158	USFS Ludlum Campground	INACTIVE (1 well)	NC	30
4195161	USFS Foster Bar CG	1 well	NC	87
4195191	Arizona Beach Lodge & RV Park	INACTIVE (1 well)	NC	26
4195318	Anglers RV Village	INACTIVE (1 well)	NC	84
4195331	USFS Lobster Creek CG	1 well	NC	36
4195114	BLM Sixes River CG	INACTIVE (1 well)	NC	40
4105860	Old Sheep Ranch Water Assoc	1 well	C	56
4191211	Pacific High School SD 2J	1 well	NTNC	150
4105603	Agness School	INACTIVE (1 well)	NP	10
4100329	Nesika Beach-Ophir Water District	1 well	C	1500
4101365	Anglers Trailer Village	INACTIVE (1 well)	OVS	34
4101201	Saunders Creek HOC	1 well	C	75
4194824	Cape Ferrelo SDA School	INACTIVE (1 well)	NP	9

PWS ID	Public Water System Name	Drinking Water Source	System Type	Pop.
4101062	Rainbow Rock Village MHP	2 GWUDI intakes	C	115
4191213	Upper Chetco Elem SD 23	INACTIVE (1 well)	NTNC	46
4100149	City of Brookings	1 well	C	7120
4192694	USFS Little Redwood CG	INACTIVE (1 spring)	NC	48
4191018	OPRD Humbug Mtn Camp	1 well	NC	200
4191207	Paradise Lodge	1 well	NC	100
4191209	Curry Co Pks Lobster Creek	1 well	NC	30
4194366	Lucky Lodge Trailer Park	1 well	NC	74
4191196	Cedar Bend Golf Association	1 well	NC	30

System Type:

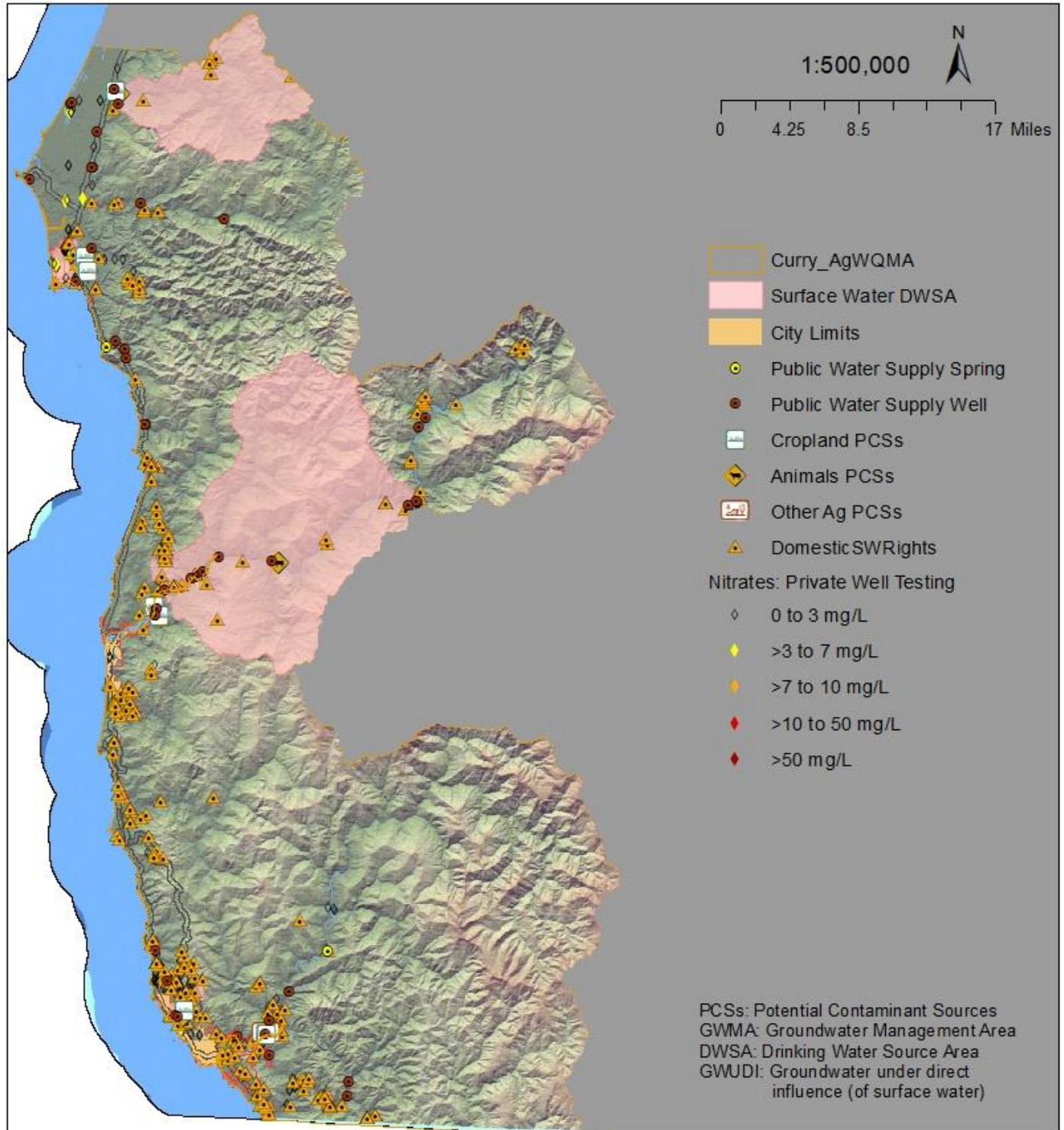
C - "Community Water System (C)" means a public water system that has 15 or more service connections used by year-round residents, or that regularly serves 25 or more year-round residents.

NTNC - "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.

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

NP or OVS - "State Regulated Water System (NP)" means a public water system, which serves 4 to 14 service connections or serves 10 to 24 people. 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.

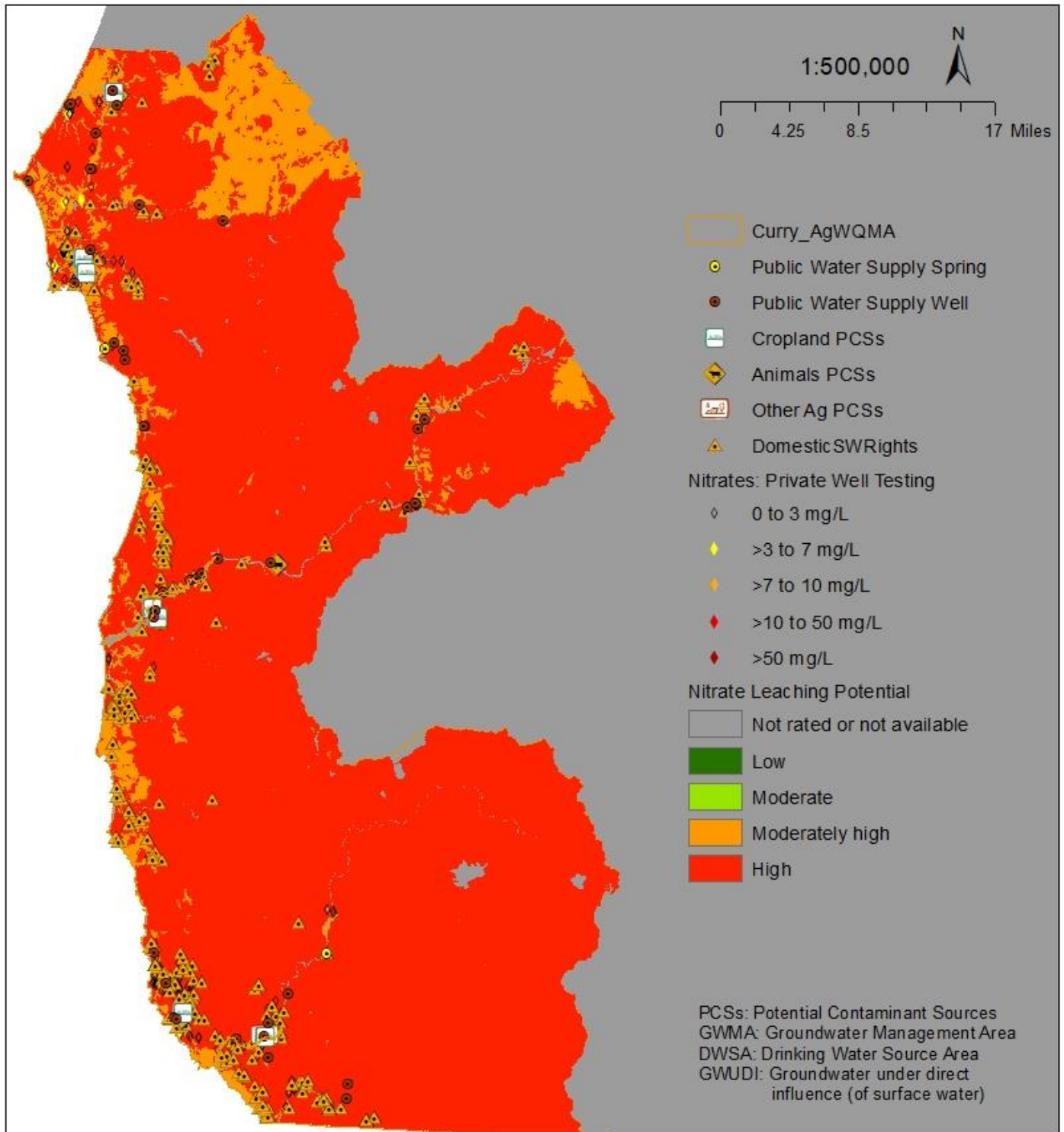
Drinking Water Source Areas for Public Water Systems in the Curry Agricultural Water Quality Management Area



Drinking Water Source Area (DWSA) delineations define areas that supply drinking water systems. For groundwater this is defined as the area on the surface that overlies the portion of the aquifer that supplies water to a well or spring. DWSAs for wells typically show 1-, 2-, 5-, and 10- or 15-yr time of travel zones indicating the amount of time it takes groundwater to move to the wellhead. DWSAs for springs typically show area of short-, intermediate-, and long-term groundwater flow to the spring. DWSAs for surface water represents the watershed that supplies the waterbody where the intake is located.

Map 1: Drinking Water Source Area for Public Water Systems in the Curry Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

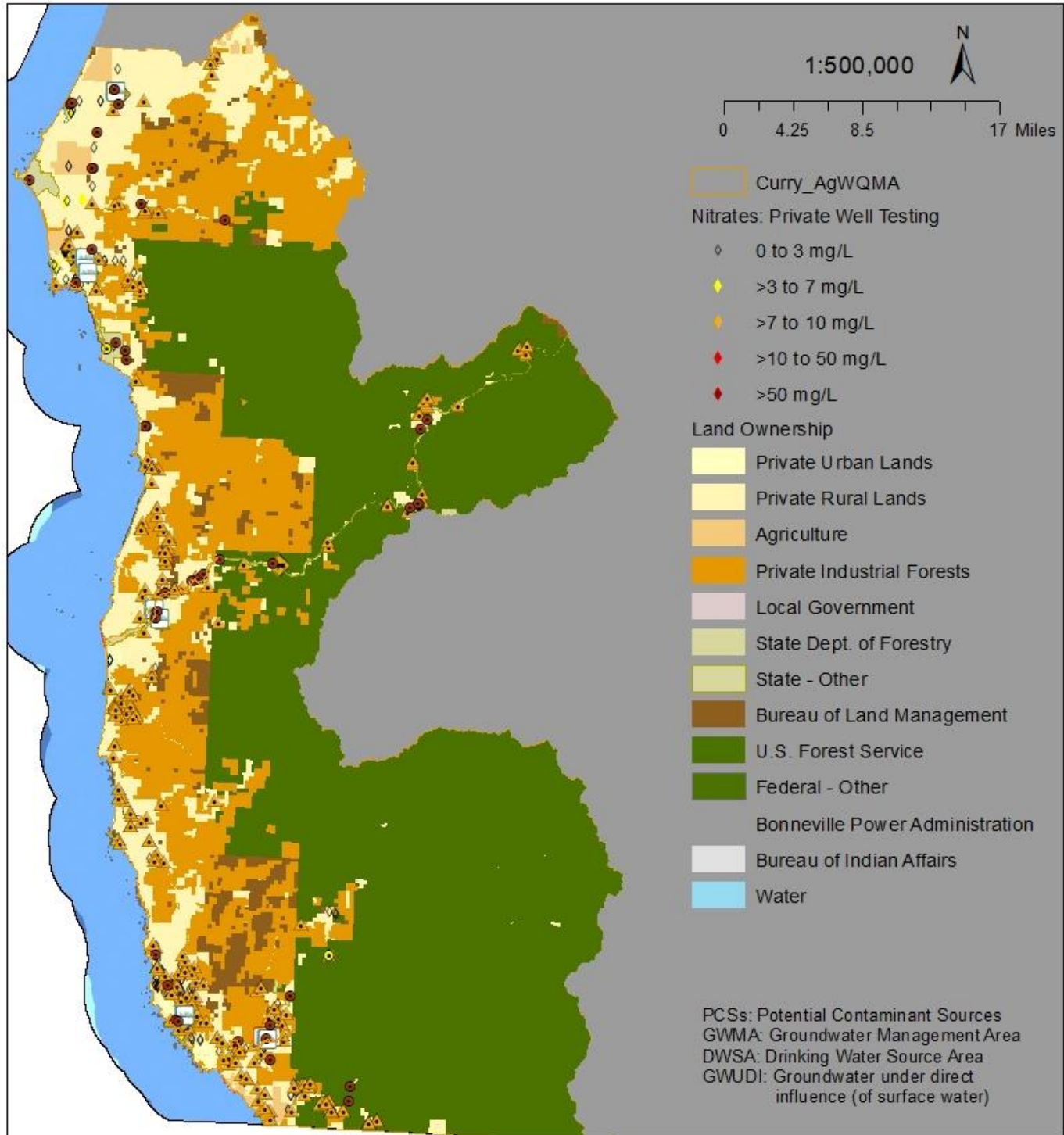
Drinking Water Source Areas for Public Water Systems in the Curry Agricultural WQMA: Nitrate Leaching



Drinking Water Source Area (DWSA) delineations define areas that supply drinking water systems. For groundwater this is defined as the area on the surface that overlies the portion of the aquifer that supplies water to a well or spring. DWSAs for wells typically show 1-, 2-, 5-, and 10- or 15-yr time of travel zones indicating the amount of time it takes groundwater to move to the wellhead. DWSAs for springs typically show area of short-, intermediate-, and long-term groundwater flow to the spring. DWSAs for surface water represents the watershed that supplies the waterbody where the intake is located.

Map 2: Drinking Water Source Area for Public Water Systems in the Curry Agricultural Water Quality Management Area, Nitrate Leaching

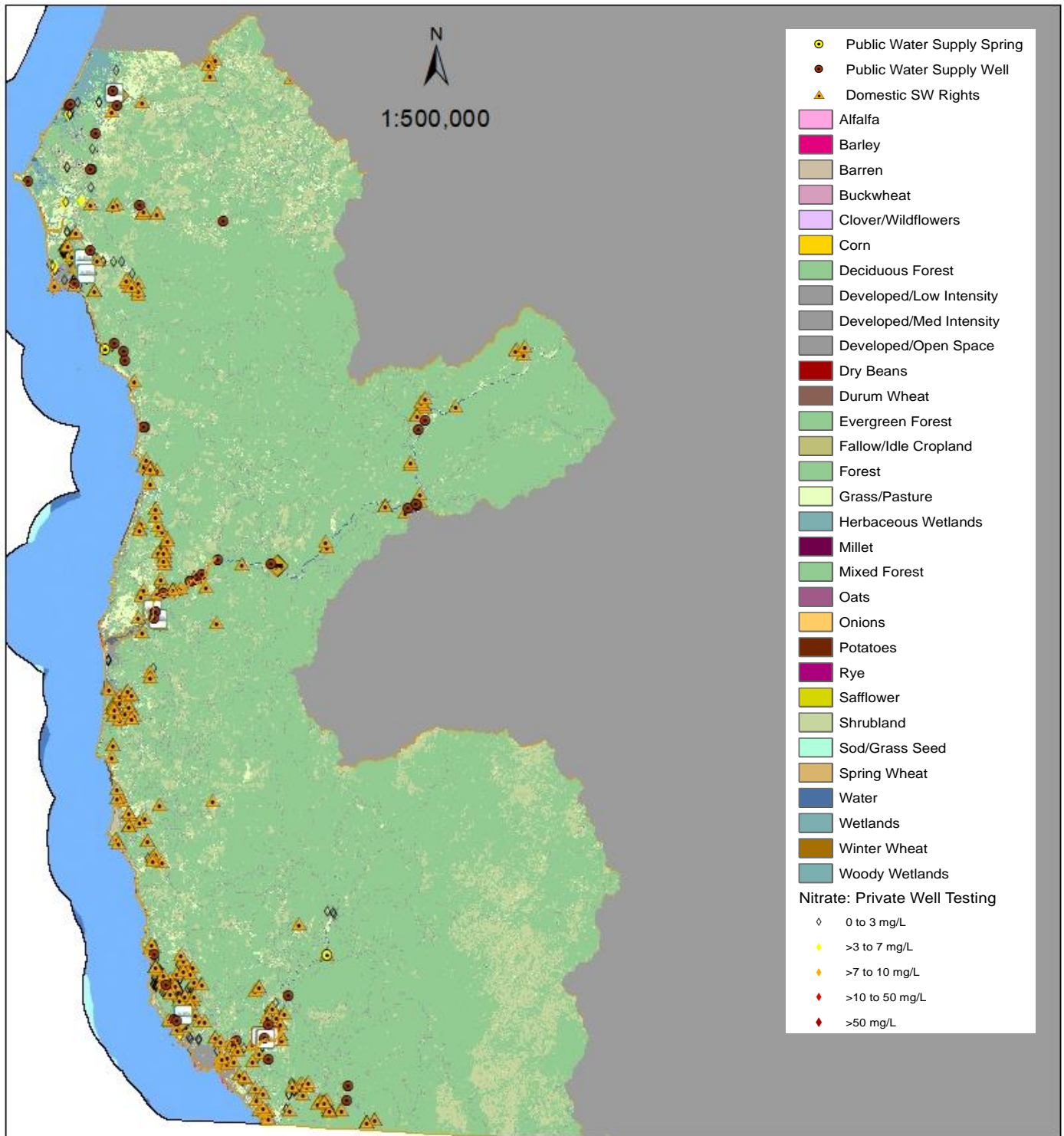
Drinking Water Source Areas for Public Water Systems in the Curry Agricultural WQMA: Land Use / Ownership



Drinking Water Source Area (DWSA) delineations define areas that supply drinking water systems. For groundwater this is defined as the area on the surface that overlies the portion of the aquifer that supplies water to a well or spring. DWSAs for wells typically show 1-, 2-, 5-, and 10- or 15-yr time of travel zones indicating the amount of time it takes groundwater to move to the wellhead. DWSAs for springs typically show areas of short-, intermediate-, and long-term groundwater flow to the spring. DWSAs for surface water represents the watershed that supplies the waterbody where the intake is located.

Map 3: Drinking Water Source Area for Public Water Systems in the Curry Agricultural Water Quality Management Area, Land Use/Land Ownership

Drinking Water Source Areas for Public Water Systems in the Curry Agricultural WQMA: Crops (NASS 2019)



Drinking Water Source Area (DWSA) delineations define areas that supply drinking water systems. For groundwater this is defined as the area on the surface that overlies the portion of the aquifer that supplies water to a well or spring. DWSAs for wells typically show 1-, 2-, 5-, and 10- or 15-yr time of travel zones indicating the amount of time it takes groundwater to move to the wellhead. DWSAs for springs typically show area of short-, intermediate-, and long-term groundwater flow to the spring. DWSAs for surface water represents the watershed that supplies the waterbody where the intake is located.

Map 4: Drinking Water Source Area for Public Water Systems in the Curry Agricultural Water Quality Management Area, Crops