

## Five simple actions to protect your local drinking water

- Use and dispose of hazardous materials properly.
- When using fertilizers and pesticides, apply only what you need.
- Get to know your watershed or groundwater recharge area.
- Share project ideas with local groups that help protect water quality (watershed councils and county soil and water conservation districts).
- Contact OHA – Drinking Water Services for assistance!

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## Resources

### OHA – Drinking Water Services

[www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Pages/index.aspx)

### Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

[www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Programs/Pages/DWP.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Programs/Pages/DWP.aspx)

### Drinking Water Source Protection Fund

[www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/SRF/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/SRF/Pages/index.aspx)

### US EPA – Drinking Water Protection

[www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection](http://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection)

### Rural Community Assistance Corporation

[www.rcac.org](http://www.rcac.org)

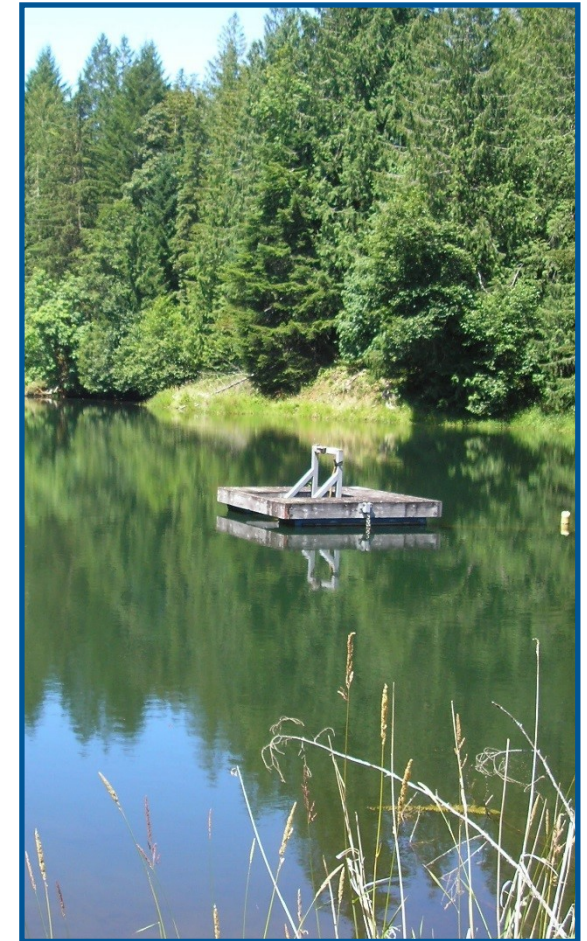
### Oregon Association of Water Utilities

[www.oawu.net](http://www.oawu.net)

**Oregon**  
**Health**  
Authority  
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
Drinking Water Services

OHA 8354 (10/18/2018)

OHA - Drinking Water Services  
444 A Street  
Springfield, OR 97477



# Protecting Drinking Water

Information and resources

**Oregon**  
**Health**  
Authority  
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
Drinking Water Services

## Healthy drinking water – it's up to all of us

Public water suppliers make every effort to provide safe drinking water to their customers. However, human activities near drinking water sources can adversely affect source water quality. It can be expensive to find another source or add treatment if a drinking water source becomes contaminated. Locally driven strategies to reduce contamination risk, best management practices and land-use planning are cost-effective approaches to protecting drinking water sources for future generations.

**Drinking Water Services** (a section of the **Oregon Health Authority [OHA]**) and **Oregon Department of Environment Quality (DEQ)** can assist with your source water protection needs. OHA and DEQ collaborate to provide technical assistance. Guided by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, dedicated staff from both agencies can help communities protect their water sources and reduce the risk of contamination to drinking water.



## Source water assessments

Source water assessments (SWAs) help water suppliers and policymakers decide where source water protection of public water systems is needed. SWAs identify potential contaminants within aquifer recharge areas for groundwater sources and watersheds that supply surface water sources. The susceptibility of a water source to contamination can be determined by evaluating activities on the land surface, soil and rock type, and well, spring or intake construction.

## Funding opportunities

Funding through the **Drinking Water Source Protection Fund** is available to assist communities in protecting their drinking water sources. Eligible public water systems may receive grants up to \$30,000 for projects to reduce the risk of contamination to a public drinking water supply. Examples include mapping and risk assessment of drinking water supply areas, landowner outreach and education, land conservation and restoration, ensuring proper well abandonment, and developing local source water protection ordinances. Direct assistance is also offered in the form of loans for up to \$100,000 to achieve incentive-based source water protection measures, such as the purchase of lands within the drinking water source area.

**Contact OHA – DWS for drinking water protection assistance**

541-726-2587

[Info.DrinkingWater@state.or.us](mailto:Info.DrinkingWater@state.or.us)

## Partnerships for protection

To prevent harmful bacteria and viruses, sediment and hazardous chemicals from entering drinking water supplies, OHA and DEQ can assist with regional efforts to monitor, protect and preserve shared water resources such as aquifers, watersheds and recharge areas.



Protection staff work with water suppliers, municipalities, citizen groups, counties, agencies, landowners and nonprofit organizations to evaluate local and regional source water contaminant issues. OHA and DEQ also sponsor local events to encourage community involvement in drinking water protection. Below are some examples of protection projects:

- Hold pesticide and hazardous household chemical collection events.
- Assess and/or replace older septic systems.
- Assist in community protection of coastal watersheds that supply drinking water.
- Monitor drinking water sources for toxics.
- Update source water and watershed assessments.
- Restore and improve management practices on agricultural lands.
- Remove old or leaking underground storage tanks.