



United States Department of Agriculture

# NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

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## National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

- Priority watersheds are selected in collaboration with state water quality agencies, public water utilities and other partners and facilitated by NRCS
- NWQI addresses surface waters impaired under the Clean Water Act, and protects/restores drinking water sources
- Long-term goal of NWQI is to achieve water quality improvements through accelerated conservation practice implementation



# National Water Quality Initiative

## 2012 – 2018 Investment (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)

<b>NRCS REGION</b>	<b># of Contracts</b>	<b>Acres Treated</b>	<b>Obligation \$\$</b>
Central	1499	284,200	\$49 M
Northeast	477	61,567	\$24 M
Southeast	1,377	190,625	\$47 M
West	524	291,488	\$44 M
Oregon	52	3728	\$2.4 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,877</b>	<b>827,880</b>	<b>\$166 M</b>

Source: USDA-FPAC-READ, October 2018





# Oregon

Department  
of Agriculture

## Watershed Selection Criteria

For Source Water Protection (SWP),

there are no specific selection criteria other than there is

agreement among partners that the SWP area is a priority for the state.

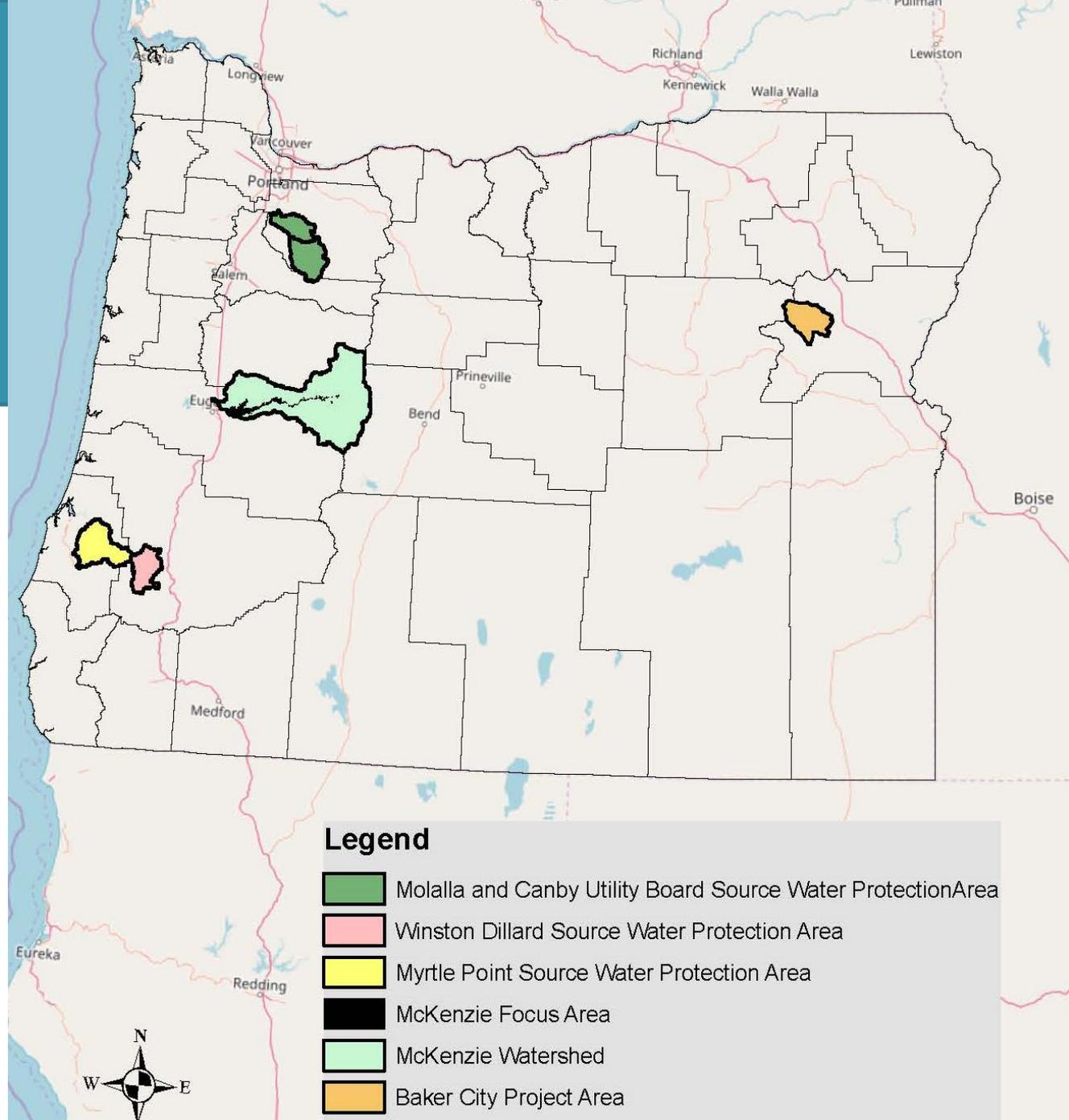
Non-SWP the watershed must be associated with a water body that:

- Is impaired
- Has a TMDL
- Is threatened
- Is critical



# Oregon FY19 NWQI SWP Readiness Projects

- Oregon conservation partners responded by submitting 5 proposals in the state, all of which were selected by USDA to undergo a readiness phase.
- Geographically diverse
- Address differing contaminant sources/ag types



USDA news release  
generated  
community interest



## 5 Oregon communities selected for USDA assistance to improve drinking water quality

Five communities in Oregon have recently been selected for federal assistance to improve water quality on surface and groundwater sources of drinking water.

These five Source Water Protection Areas (SWPAs) will undergo a “readiness phase” throughout 2019, during which project partners will develop a detailed watershed assessment and an outreach strategy to address agricultural-related impacts to source water quality.

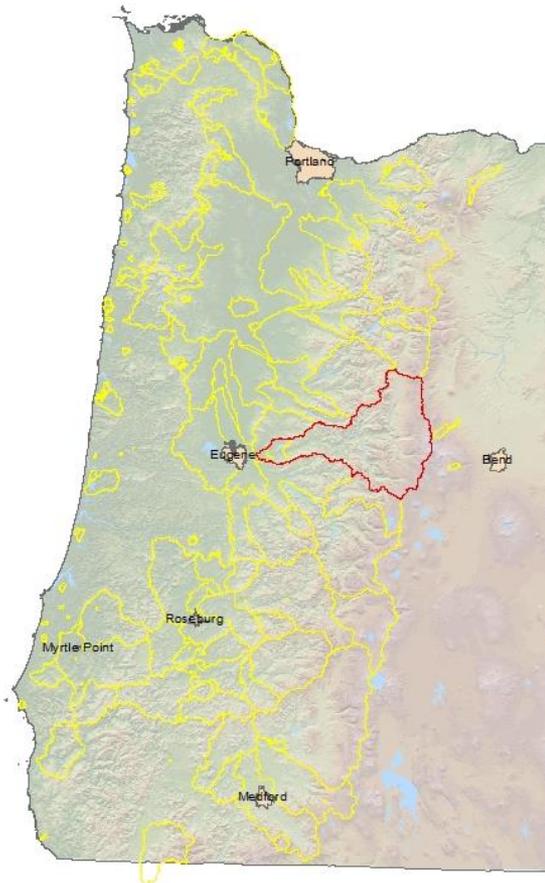


# Eugene Water and Electric Board McKenzie River



**Population served:** 168,000 +wholesale customers

Vicinity - Western Oregon



## Partners

**Upper Willamette SWCD (lead)**

Eugene Water & Electric Board

NRCS

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Lane Council of Governments

McKenzie Watershed Council

Oregon Department of Agriculture

US. Forest Service- Willamette National Forest

Metropolitan Wastewater Management  
Commission

The Freshwater Trust

McKenzie River Trust



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# Myrtle Point Source Area

**Population: 2,600**

Myrtle Point Public Water System: turbidity, periodic geosmin (causing taste and odor concerns), and bacteria in the source water impacts treatment operations and can potentially impact public health.

Project lead is Coos SWCD

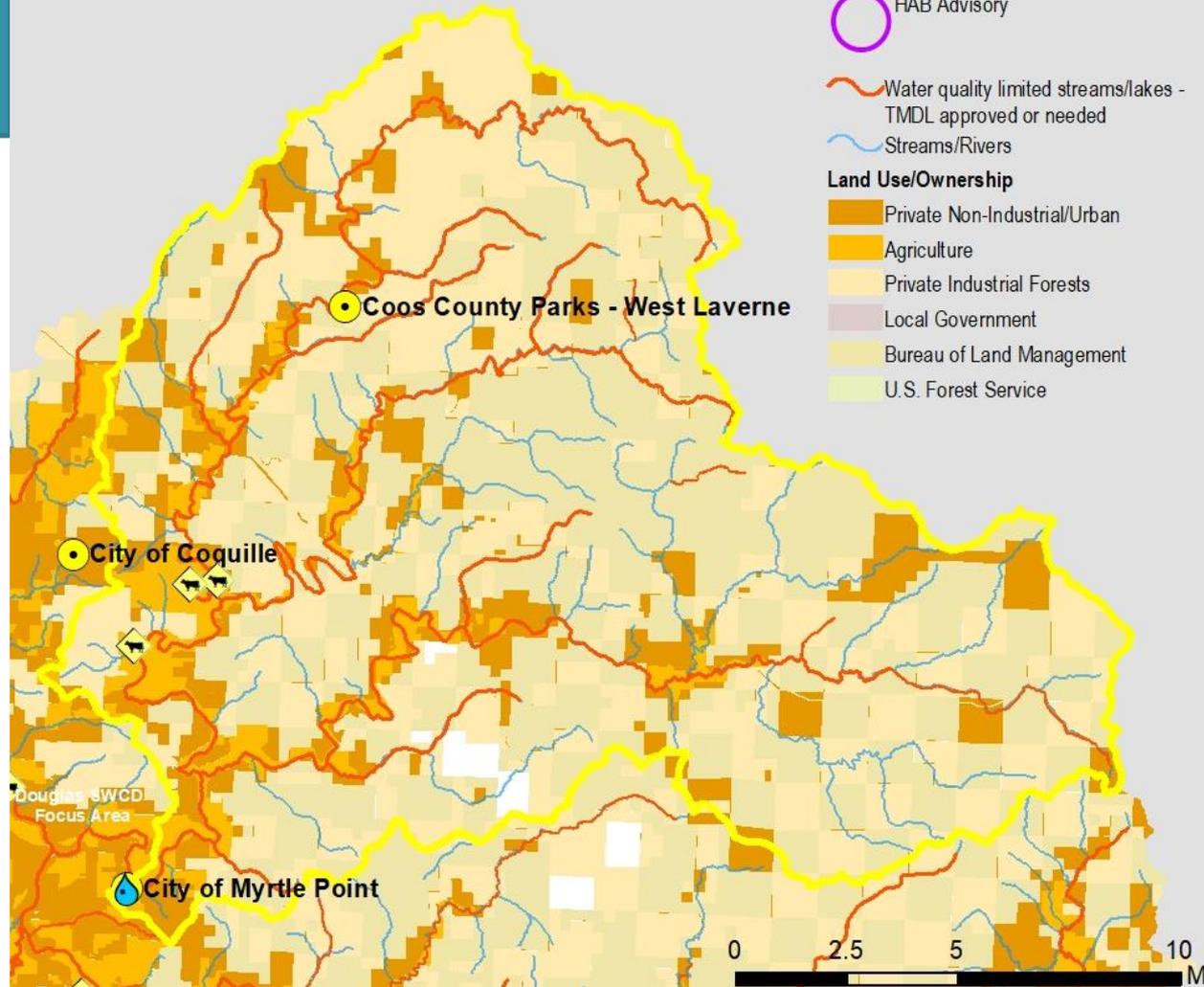
## Oregon NRCS NWQI SWP Pilot Project City of Myrtle Point - North Coquille River



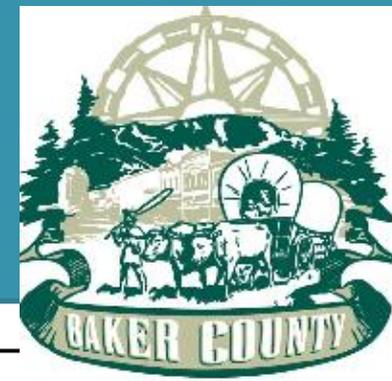
Coos Soil and Water Conservation District

### Legend

- City of Myrtle Point surface water intake (NF Coquille Rvr, PWS 00551)
- City of Myrtle Point drinking water source area
- WBDHU8 selection
- Public Water System, surface water intake
- CAFO
- HAB Advisory
- Water quality limited streams/lakes - TMDL approved or needed
- Streams/Rivers
- Land Use/Ownership**
  - Private Non-Industrial/Urban
  - Agriculture
  - Private Industrial Forests
  - Local Government
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - U.S. Forest Service



# Baker City – addressing Wildfire Risk



Baker County  
Oregon

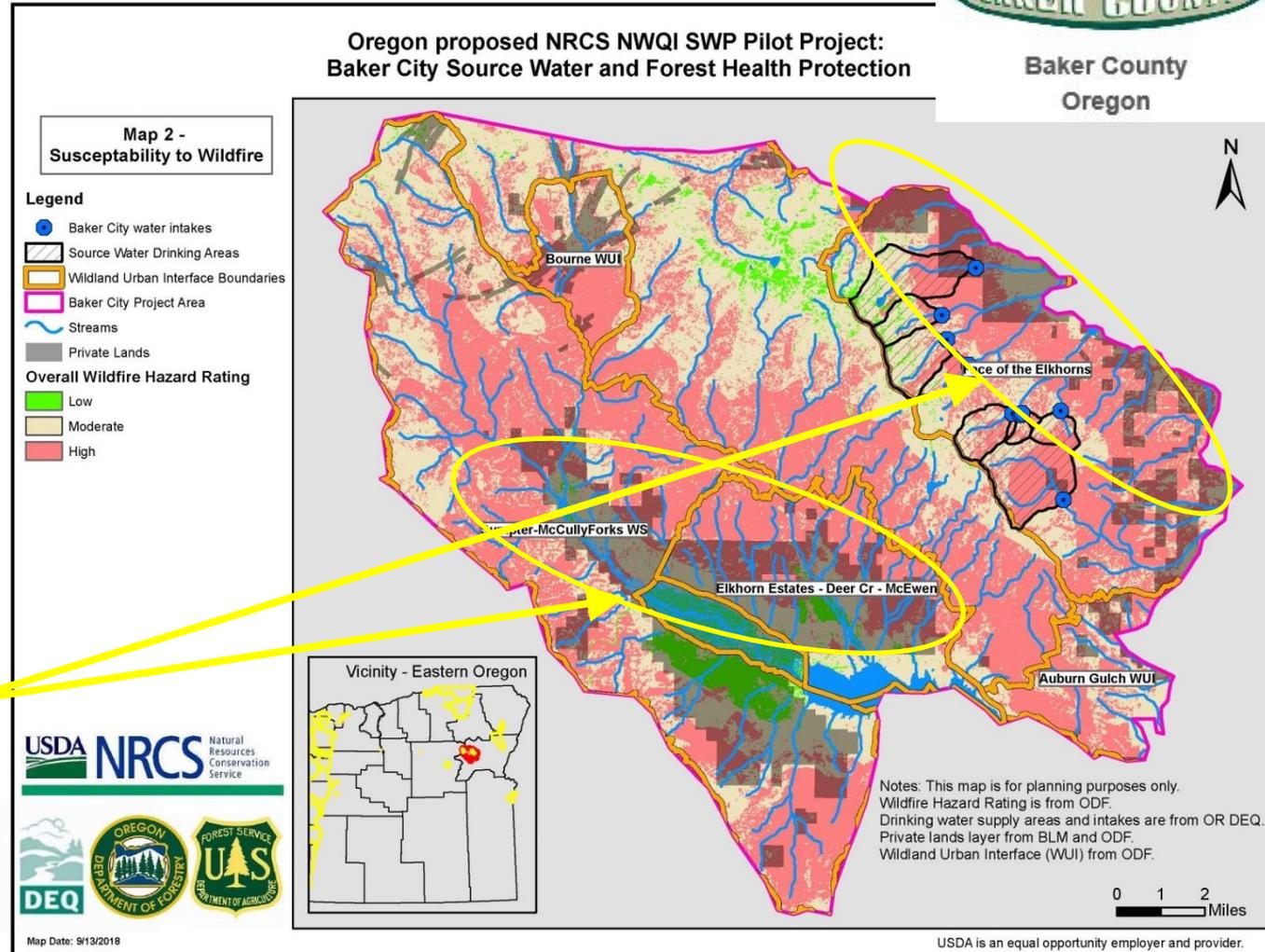
**Population: 9,890**

11 intakes/diversions in the Elkhorn Mountains

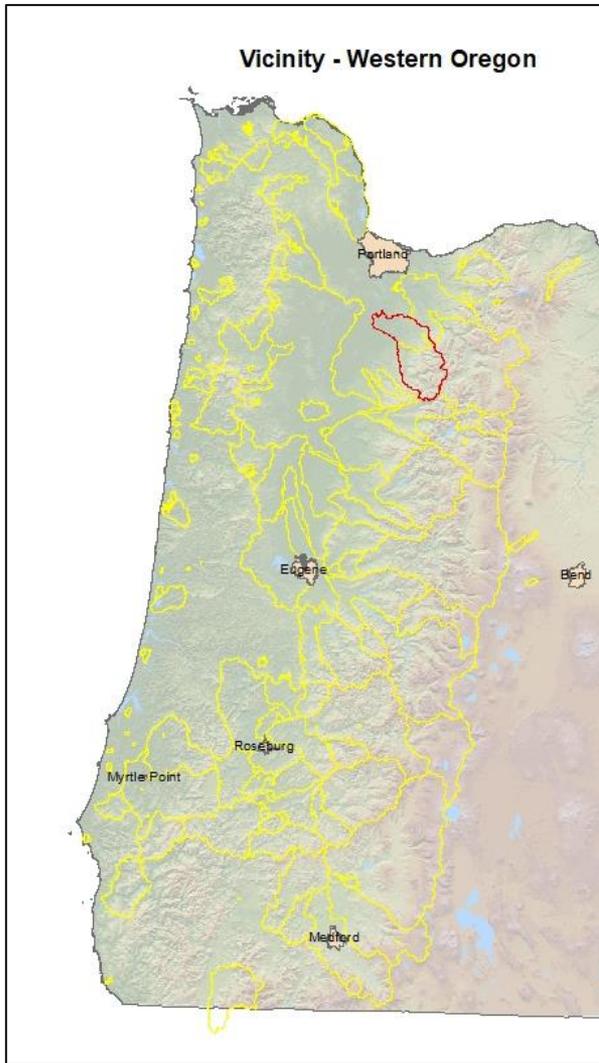
Majority of municipal watershed owned by USFS

The threat of wildfire with subsequent erosion and runoff poses an extreme hazard to the drinking water supply

SWP Project Area includes 28,000 ac. of private land outside of the SWP area to create a defensible buffer reducing the risk of fire and pest infestations.



# Canby Water Utility Molalla River Watershed



## Population served:

16,866 (City of Canby)

9,139 (City of Molalla)

## Partners:

**Clackamas SWCD (lead)**

NRCS

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Molalla Riverwatch (watershed council)



CLACKAMAS  
SWCD

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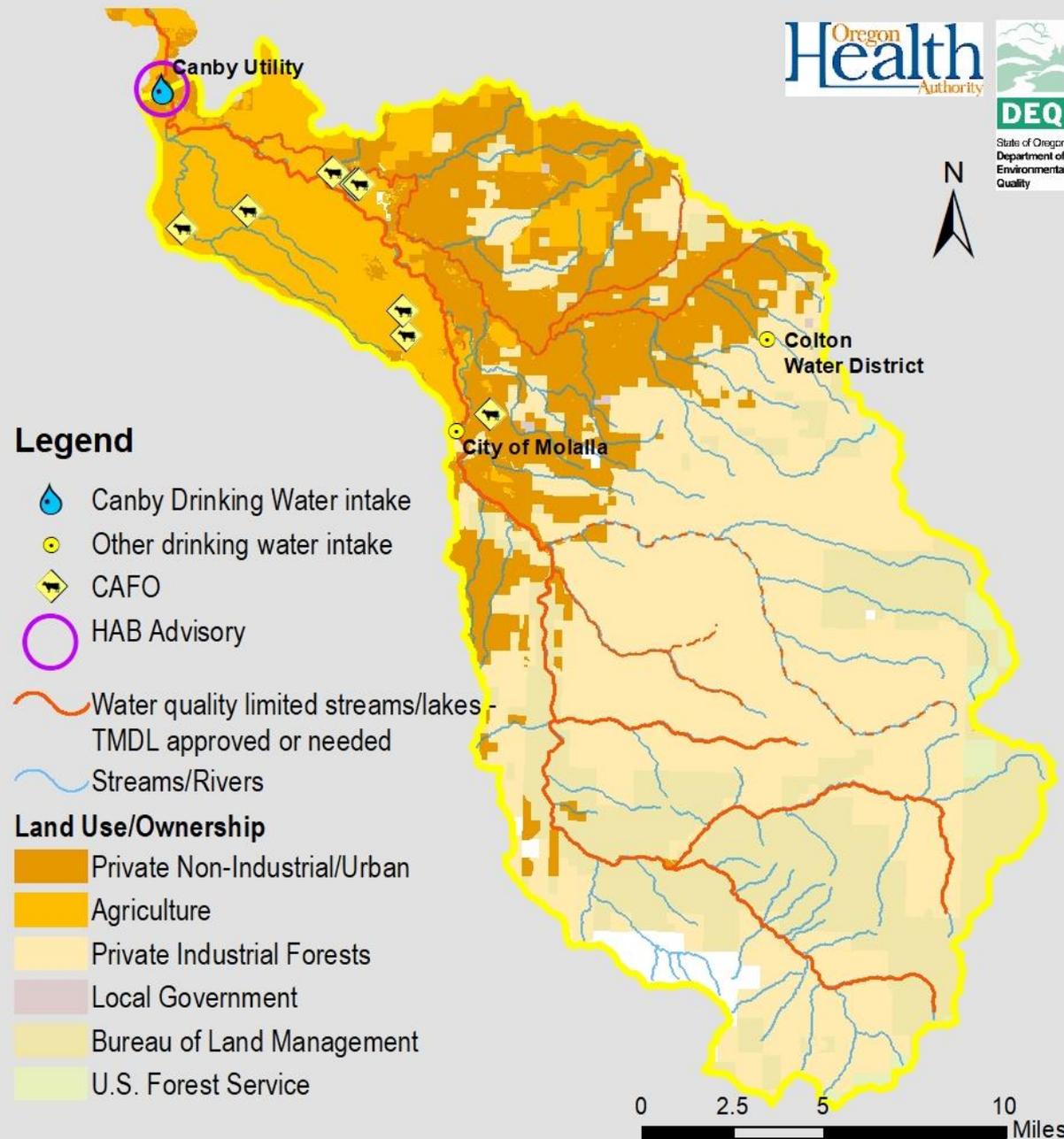
# Canby Source Area

## Mixed Agricultural Land Uses:

- Container nursery
- Cane/field berries
- Filberts
- Field vegetables
- Hay/pasture
- Grazing/livestock
- Non-industrial private forest
- Christmas trees



## Oregon NRCS NWQI SWP Pilot Project Canby Water Utility/City of Molalla - Molalla River





## Winston Dillard – South Umpqua

- Lead: Partnership for Umpqua Rivers (PUR)
- Focus on agriculture and private rural small woodland areas in the Olalla-Lookingglass Creek sub watershed
- Builds on work for ODA/ Douglas SWCD Focus Area and PUR Focus Investment Area (OWEB)
- Serves 8000 people
- Covers 103,000 acres



Map Reference: Partnership for Umpqua Rivers Umpqua Basin Action Plan, June 2007



# Oregon's NRCS NWQI SWP Pilots

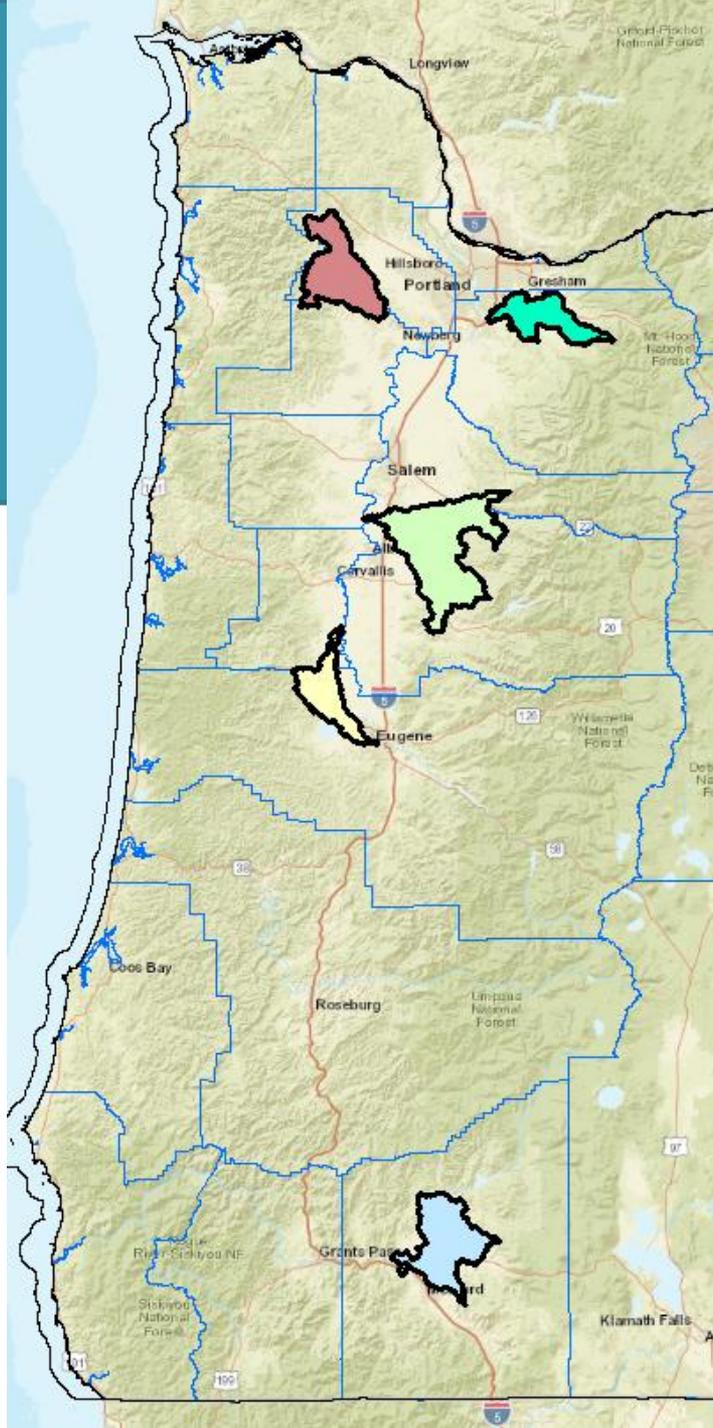
- In FY19, Oregon NRCS received \$492,420 in Conservation Technical Assistance dollars to fund these 5 pilot Source Water Protection readiness plans.
- Project partners are developing detailed watershed assessments and an outreach strategies to address agricultural-related impacts to source water quality.



# Oregon FY20 NWQI SWP Readiness Projects

## Legend

- 2020 Clackamas NWQI
- 2020 Rogue NWQI
- 2020 Santiam NWQI
- 2020 Long Tom NWQI
- 2020 Tualatin NWQI



Oregon NRCS plans to submit **5 proposals** to National Headquarters to undergo a readiness phase in 2020

September 20, 2019:  
proposals due

November, 2019:  
funding announced

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# Oregon Take-Away's

- Build on partnerships between NRCS, OWEB, ODA and ODEQ that connect federal Farm Bill programs with state drinking water agencies and utilities that can benefit from investments in Oregon communities.
- Use existing Source Water Assessment info to prioritize and identify areas for implementation
- Conduct outreach to local partners to build capacity for future NWQI applications
- Define the interim metrics to demonstrate progress in meeting water quality goals. Are we making a difference?



# QUESTIONS?





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## Watershed Selection Considerations (NHQ)



- Sufficient technical capacity and producer interest to warrant a long-term investment?
- Does a network of partnering agencies already exist?
- Sufficient density of producers to provide the expected water quality improvement within the watershed?
- Can partners conduct monitoring to track the change in water quality attributed to NWQI practices?



# Oregon NRCS and Partner Selection Criteria for NWQI Source Water Protection funding

Willing watershed partners with capacity

Substantial number of willing landowners/producers within sensitive areas

Completed Source Water Assessment or Plan

Existing monitoring data (to establish baseline)

Project would address nutrients, sediment, pathogens, pesticides

Harmful Algal Bloom concern in source area

Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list for not meeting water quality standards

Critical habitat for salmon, steelhead or bull trout

Socioeconomic/Environmental Justice issues

Located in/near agency focus area (i.e. CIS, ODA Strategic Implementation or Focus area, Pesticide Stewardship Partnership area, or groundwater management area)

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