NRCS shall encourage the protection of drinking water sources through the following methods:

• Identify local priority areas for drinking water protection in each state
  ➢ In collaboration with State Technical Committees and community water systems
  ➢ May address water quality or quantity concerns

• Provide increased incentives for practices that relate to water quality and quantity and protect drinking water sources while also benefitting producers
Identifying State Local Priority Areas

Oregon NRCS collaborated with the Department of Environmental Quality to identify and delineate priority areas

- High priority areas were selected based on 3-phased GIS modeling

**Phase 1**: selection of HUC12s with a high percentage of:

- NRCS eligible lands: private agriculture and non-industrial private forest lands
- Acres in a drinking water source area (GW or SW)
- Public Water Systems wells/springs/intakes
- Size of population served
Identifying State Local Priority Areas

**Phase 2: Conditions for further prioritization**

- Percentage of NRCS eligible lands that are considered highly erodible
- Wildfire risk
- Recreational Harmful Algal Bloom advisory or water of potential concern for HABs in source area
- Listing in the Oregon DEQ Integrated Report and Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list for not meeting water quality standards
- Critical habitat for salmon, steelhead or bull trout
- In or near a Ground Water Management Area
- Public water system violations/alerts (Water Quality concerns for post-treatment water)
- Density of domestic water use
Identifying State Local Priority Areas

**Phase 3:** selection of Phase 1 & 2 HUCs that also meet the following feasibility conditions related to successful program participation

- High potential for participation by willing landowners/producers
- High potential that watershed partners will be willing and have capacity to help
- Lands historically enrolled in USDA programs or considered eligible for NRCS assistance (established farm records with USDA)
- Substantial number of producers/ag operations
- Located in/near agency focus area (i.e. Oregon NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy, ODA Strategic Implementation Area (SIA), ODA Focus areas, ODA/DEQ PSP, DEQ GWMA's
Oregon HUC12 Watersheds designated as High Priority Areas for Source Water Protection HUC12

At least 10% of the total funds available for Oregon NRCS programs will be used for source water protection.

- Tracked at the National level
- Based on the HUC12s identified in this map as High Priority for Source Water Protection
Conservation Implementation Strategies that fall within High Priority Source Water Areas
Conservation Practices for Source Water Protection – Targeted in CISs

Conservation Cover
  Cover Crop
  No-till
Field Border
Riparian Forest Buffer
Irrigation Water Management
Nutrient Management
Pest Management
Irrigation System, Micro-irrigation
Roof runoff Structure
Watering Facility
Sediment Basin
And more
Payment rates for practices that protect drinking water sources

In FY20, higher payment rates, up to 90% of the practice costs were authorized for 18 conservation practices

✓ Findings: the higher payment rates did not significantly increase the adoption of practices these 8 practices

✓ EQIP funding is not sufficient to warrant the use of higher payment rates.

For FY21, Payment rates for conservation practices within high priority SWPAs will be:

- **75%** for Historically Underserved participants (Beginning, Limited Resource, Socially Disadvantaged, Veteran)
- **50%** for Non-Historically underserved participants
- Dedicate at least **10% of the total funds** available for conservation programs each year beginning in FY 2019 through FY 2023, **to be used for source water protection**