



United States Department of Agriculture



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Source Water Protection

Highlighted in the 2018 Farm Bill



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



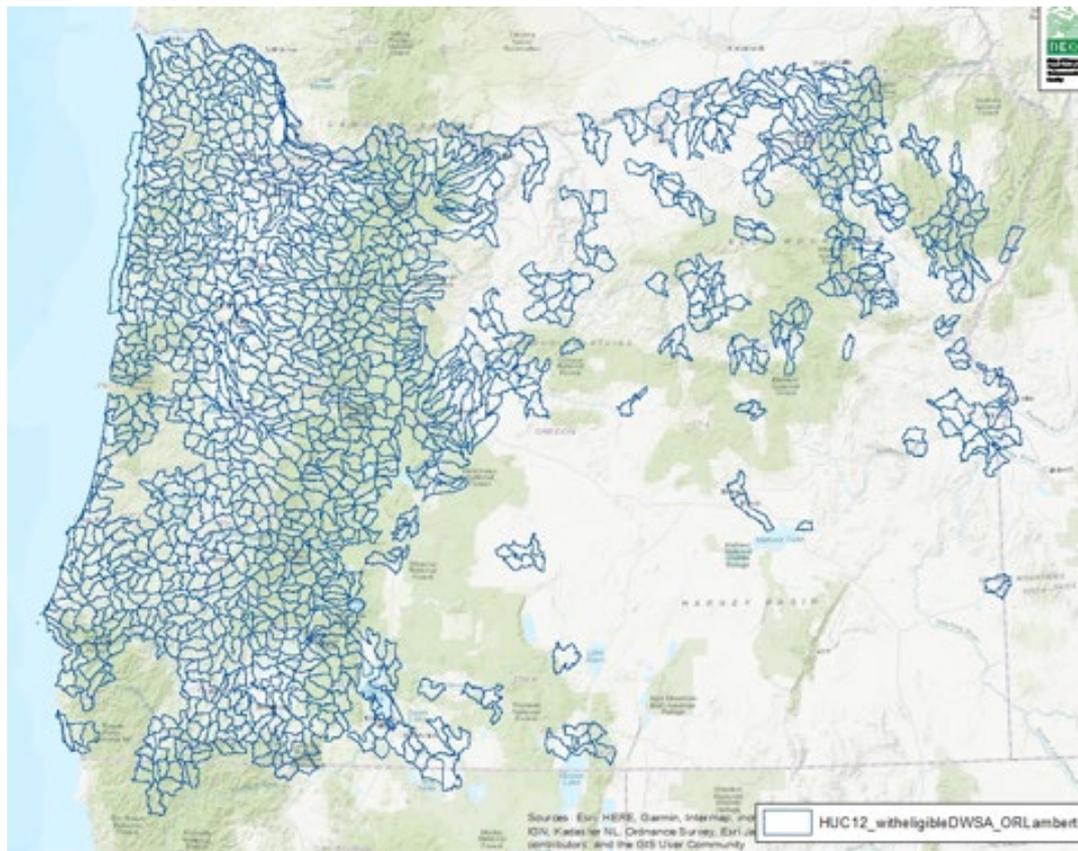
Identifying State Local Priority Areas

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



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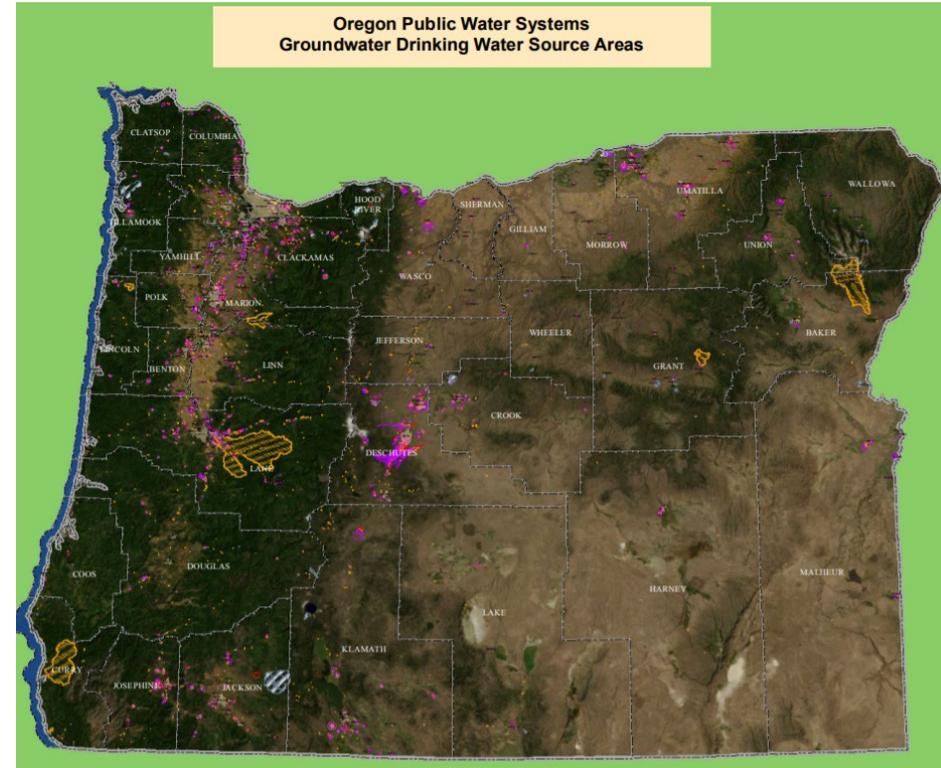
Identifying State Local Priority Areas

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



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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)

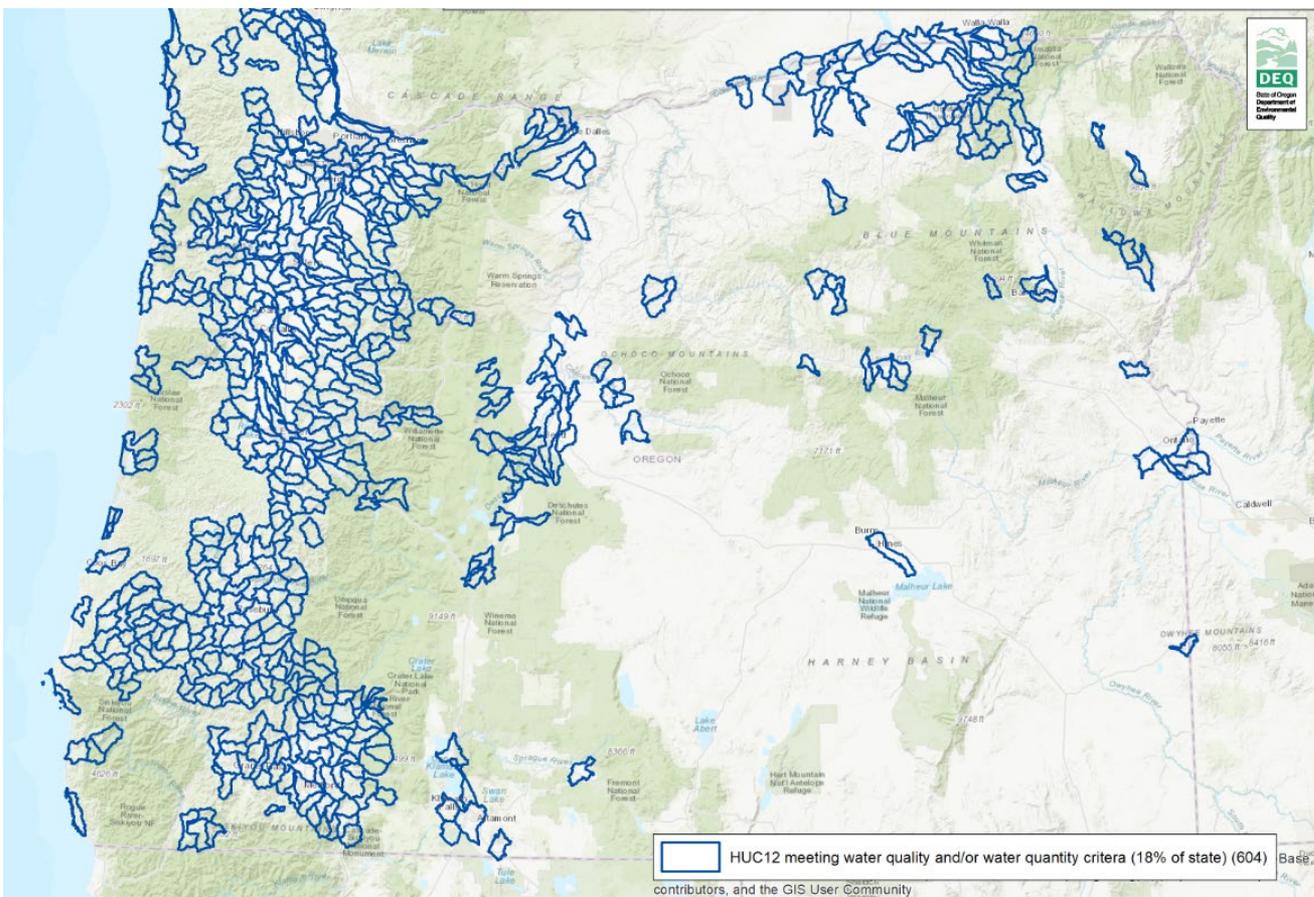


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Oregon HUC12 Watersheds designated as High Priority Areas for Source Water Protection HUC12



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

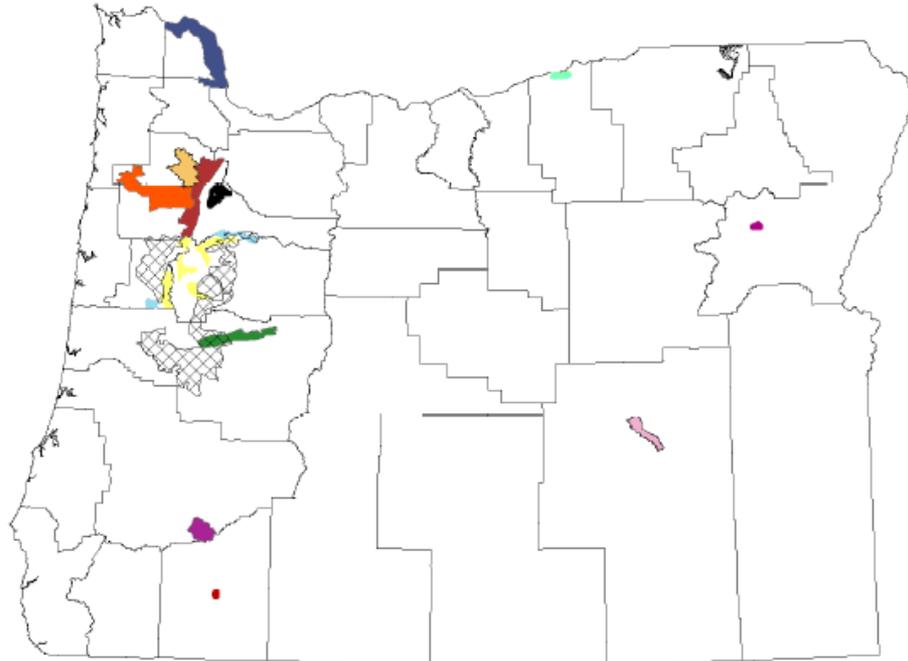
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Conservation Implementation Strategies that fall within High Priority Source Water Areas

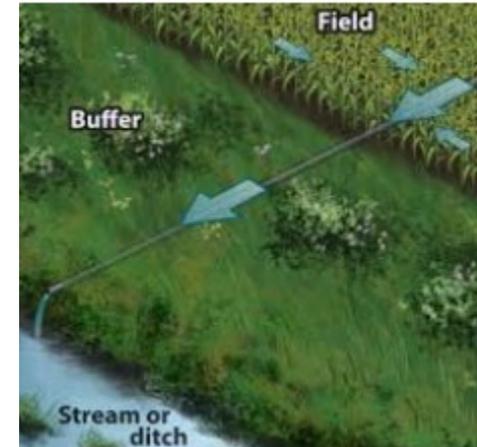


Name	
	Benton/Linn SWCD Water Quality Focus Area
	Bradshaw Drop Agricultural Water Quality Improvement Project
	Columbia Corridor Soil Health
	Elk Creek Watershed Restoration Partnership Project
	Filbert Irrigation Improvement
	Howell Creek - Pudding River Watershed Strategy
	Lower Yamhill River Water Quality for Fish Habitat
	McKenzie Watershed Degraded Riparian Habitat
	Meadow Restoration Polk Phase 1
	Middle Willamette Water Quantity and Soil Quality
	North Morrow Russian Olive Removal
	Oak Habitat Enhancement Project
	Pocahontas M&I Irrigation Efficiency and Water Quality
	Saving Groundwater in the Harney Basin Using Efficient Irrigation Technologies
	Walla Walla Mill Creek Fuels Reduction
	West Extension Irrigation District Efficiency Improvement



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**





Questions?