

**Drinking Water Program  
Oregon Department of Human Services  
800 N.E. Oregon Street  
Portland, Oregon 97232-2162**

**Oregon's  
Drinking Water Protection  
Grants 2009**

***Oregon's Drinking Water Protection  
Grants – 2009***  
**Letters of Interest are due on August 15, 2008**

# Oregon's Drinking Water Protection Grants

Letters of Interest are due on August 15, 2008.  
If you need this information in an alternate format, call 971-673-0405

Original and 4 copies of the Letter of Interest (LOI) should be sent to Roberto Reyes-Colon, 800 NE Oregon St, Suite 640, Portland, Oregon 97232

In SFY2009, the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund is again offering Grants for drinking water source protection. Drinking water systems should prepare and submit information about their proposed projects on a Drinking Water Protection Grant application.

## Who is Eligible?

Public and privately owned Community and Nonprofit Non-Community water systems with a completed Source Water Assessment are eligible for a Grant up to \$20,000 for source water protection projects or activities.

## General Grant Project Requirements

Eligible activities include those that lead to a reduction in risk of contamination of the drinking water sources.

Operations, maintenance and treatment of the system are not eligible for funding.

## Drinking Water Protection Program Elements:

In order to be eligible, every project must contribute to improved protection of one or more public water supply sources. The following categories of project elements are not necessarily exhaustive.

Delineation—DHS/DEQ has completed delineations for all drinking water source areas (DWSA) for the community and non-community, non-transient public water systems. DWSAs include aquifer recharge areas for groundwater sources and watershed areas for surface sources. This was accomplished using available information. Grants can be used to refine DWSA delineations using additional site-specific information.

## 2. Assessment

A) Inventory – Improving upon existing inventories available from the DEQ database, Geographic Information System, and Assessment Reports prepared by DHS/DEQ, a project could involve expanding the inventory of land uses or existing and potential point and non-point sources of contamination, or establishing a water quality monitoring program.

B) Evaluation - Evaluating existing and potential threats to water quality, as well as existing protection measures. This could include prioritizing potential threats or protections based upon new or more detailed information.

## 3. Planning

Identifying appropriate protection measures such as educational programs, programs to ensure implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), developing relevant local protection ordinances. Adoption of source water protection rules, land acquisition, etc.

## 4. Implementation

Grants can be used to implement protection strategies in drinking water source areas. This can include implementation of any of the measures listed above under *Planning*. Grants can be used to prioritize lands for conservation or purchase.

**5. Security** - Grants can be used to implement **certain** security measures as long as the project **reduces the risk to** the source area. This can include fencing around **sensitive areas near wells or intakes, but does not include routine fencing around required setbacks**). Gates for well and intake access roads, alarms, signs, cameras, locks and lights for sources **may** also **be** eligible if it is clearly related to protecting the source water area **and not just facilities**.

Department of Human Resources  
Drinking Water Program  
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 640  
Portland, Oregon 97232  
Phone: 971-673-0405  
FAX: 971-673-0457

APPLICATION  
DRINKING WATER PROTECTION  
GRANTS 2009

SAFE DRINKING WATER  
Revolving Loan Fund

**SECTION 1: APPLICANT**

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Community Population:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Project Area Population:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C. County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Amount Requested** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach Project Budget**

**PLEASE SUBMIT AN ORIGINAL AND 4 COPIES**

**SECTION 2: PROJECT TITLE:**

**SECTION 3: PROJECT SUMMARY (CLEARLY ADDRESS WHAT RISK IS BEING ADDRESSED AND WHAT STRATEGIES WILL BE USED; ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NEEDED)**

- A. Describe your Drinking Water Protection Project: Describe the specific actions to be taken in the proposed drinking water protection project.
  
- B. Describe the work to be done, whether this project is part of another large project, and any other relevant information that will identify the location and scope of what is proposed.

**SECTION 4: BUDGET: SUBMIT INDIVIDUAL ESTIMATES RELATED TO EXPENSES**

**SDWRLF FUNDS REQUESTED AND PROJECT COSTS**

Drinking Water Protection Grant Request	\$ _____
Additional Applicant Funds	\$ _____
Other Funds (list source):	
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
<b>Total Cost of Project:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**SECTION 7: CERTIFICATION**

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all information contained in this pre-application and letter of interest is valid and accurate.

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Introduction**

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are pleased to announce the availability of Drinking Water Protection Grants. Specifically, grant money is available to implement programs to protect existing sources of public drinking water. Approximately \$200,000 is expected to be available in 2008, contingent upon receiving federal funds.

Please note that the evaluation criteria are focused on encouraging projects that support the Drinking Water Protection Program goals.

## **Background**

Safe drinking water is vital to the health of citizens in every Oregon community. Most drinking water, particularly in urban areas, is obtained through public water systems that serve multiple homes---these can be groundwater wells or surface water intakes (pipes drawing from streams or rivers). If the well or intake serves more than 3 homes, it is regulated as a public water system in Oregon. Approximately 75% of Oregon's citizens get their drinking water from public water systems regulated by DHS.

The 1996 Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments provided the means to initiate protection of public drinking water at its source in Oregon. In developing those amendments, the US Congress recognized the need to go beyond the traditional emphasis on treatment to address the new challenges to provide clean drinking water. The SDWA amendments mandated that states conduct "source water assessments" for all public water systems. These assessments include delineating the contribution zones or source areas for all groundwater and surface water- supplied public water systems and identifying potential sources of contamination for drinking water in each state. Source Water Assessments were required for all federally defined systems i.e., where people live (community), where they work or go to school (non-transient non community) and where they visit, e.g., campgrounds, restaurants, etc. (transient non community water systems)

To meet the federal requirements, DHS and DEQ formed a partnership to complete source water assessments for the public water systems in Oregon. The two agencies formed a citizen's advisory committee, which included nine public water system managers and eleven stakeholder representatives. The advisory committee worked for over a year (1998-99) to develop a detailed document called the "Source Water Assessment Plan" to describe the approach for Oregon's work. EPA provided guidelines, but encouraged states to develop their own unique approach for meeting the requirements. The EPA approved Oregon's plan in June 1999. The active list in Oregon as of 1999 included 2656 federally defined public water systems. Of those, 1171 were community or non-transient non-community systems, requiring a full assessment and report. Transient water systems received a limited assessment and streamlined report. *The required source water assessments were completed in Oregon in June 2005.*

A Source Water Assessment Report (SWAR) was prepared and provided to each of the federal-regulated public water systems. Each report includes a large-scale map that identifies the geographic area that supplies the public water system.

These source water areas were mapped for the surface water intakes by DEQ and for wells and springs by DHS. Potential sources of contamination were then identified by DEQ within those areas and the agencies prepared a written report for each system. Communities now have both a detailed map of where their water comes from and the potential contaminant sources (natural and man-made) that may affect their water quality. The assessments identify potential sources of contamination from both non-point and point sources.

Source water assessments are the foundation for planning for drinking water protection. There is no federal or state requirement for developing protection plans as a follow-up to the assessments. However, the SWAR clearly states the link between assessments and protection efforts.

***“Each Source Water Assessment needs to be a precursor to the development of a full Source Water Protection program to protect the drinking water in that area” (SDWA, Section 143(a)(1)).***

DHS and DEQ provide technical assistance to communities that choose to move beyond the assessments and develop [and implement drinking water protection strategies](#). These strategies can be prepared either by a consultant, or the community. In either case, it should be developed with a team of stakeholders and local leaders. Developing protection [strategies](#) facilitate local decision-making as the community determines how to protect their own drinking water sources. Since natural conditions and vulnerability to contaminants vary substantially from one part of Oregon to another, the protection of a public water supply can best be accomplished by the local community using an approach designed by that community. With agency assistance, the local community uses the assessment results to voluntarily develop a management approach to reduce the risks of contamination.

The primary incentive for local communities to voluntarily implement drinking water protection is the benefit of a more secure source of high quality water. Other incentives include lower costs to the public by: (a) a reduction in DHS public water supply monitoring requirements, and (b) reduced likelihood of costs for replacement and/or treatment of contaminated drinking water. It is extremely expensive to treat contaminated drinking water or to find an alternative source should a water supply be lost because of contamination. Long-term assurances of a safe and adequate drinking water supply also helps to protect property values and preserve the local and regional economic growth potential for the area.

Protecting the drinking water supply in a community can also be a very effective way to encourage all “stakeholders” to participate in an issue that directly affects everyone in that community. Key concepts used in the development of Oregon’s Drinking Water Protection Program are listed below:

- Provide resources and funds to local communities/water systems for implementation of protection activities and projects;
- Promote voluntary participation through incentives;
- Provide detailed guidance materials to enable local plan development with minimal assistance;
- Incorporate all stakeholders in any decision-making processes;
- Provide flexibility in program to account for diverse local conditions;
- Utilize Oregon's land use planning process for groundwater protection, but maintain voluntary status for all systems serving less than 10,000 people;

- Maximize linkage with other state programs and technical assistance;
- Encourage local responsibility to protect the public drinking water system;
- Promote public awareness of the relationship between water quality and land use activities through public education.

### **General Grant Project Requirements**

Eligible activities include those that lead to a reduction in risk of contamination of the drinking water sources.

Community involvement and education is a central theme of the proposed program, and selected grant recipients are expected to provide long-term benefits to drinking water quality, quantity, awareness, and/or security.

Types of projects that may be eligible for funding include only those that are directly associated with drinking water protection measures, such as:

- Public education and development of educational flyers/brochures
- Water recycling and other conservation measures
- Support for pollution prevention and waste reduction
- Restoration and/or conservation of the drinking water protection area
- Development of a Drinking Water Protection Plan
- Implementation of best management practices
- Education on best management practices
- Installation of signs at boundaries of zones or protection areas
- Installation of fence around the immediate intake or well area
- Structures to divert contaminated runoff from the source
- Monitoring of specific wells to further evaluate the risk a given facility presents
- Purchase of easements to protect source areas
- Purchase of other land within the drinking water source area \*\*\*
- Closure of abandoned or unused wells
- Development of a drinking water protection-zoning ordinance
- Secondary containment for high-risk ABOVE ground tanks

\*\*\*can be funded only via low interest loans

Types of projects or activities that are not eligible for grant funding include:

- Operations and maintenance of the system
- Routine or follow-up monitoring of the system's water
- Purchase or maintenance of treatment facilities
- Fencing of routine 100 foot setbacks
- Fencing around storage tanks or reservoirs
- Security measures designed to reduce theft or vandalism of facilities

## **Drinking Water Protection Projects**

Projects can take either a local or regional approach. Local projects will concentrate on protection of a specific community public water system's [source](#) while regional protection activities will likely focus on building capacity to deliver services and education to communities or multiple systems. Grants will not exceed \$20,000 for each water system per year. Additional grants may be awarded to previously funded projects to the extent necessary to fulfill the objectives of the project, but only up to the maximum grant amount of \$20,000 for each water system per year.

### **Eligibility**

Any community or nonprofit non-community water system with a completed *Source Water Assessment* are eligible for a grant from the Drinking Water Protection Grant Fund. Final applications will be accepted by the state at any time.

A "community water system" is defined as a public water system that has 15 or more service connections used by year-round residents, or which regularly serves 25 or more year-round residents. This includes water systems that are owned privately, by non-profit or public entities such as a city, district or port.

A "nonprofit non-community water system" is a public water system that is not a community water system and that regularly serves at least 25 people and is legally recognized under Oregon law as a nonprofit entity.

Both Community and nonprofit non-community water systems may purchase land or land easements within a sensitive area of a Drinking Water Protection Area identified in the Source Water Assessment.

Only community water systems are eligible for assistance in implementing incentive-based source water protection activities, such as implementation of erosion control practices within a watershed, or activities designed to enhance or improve riparian areas along stream ways. Federally owned community and non-community water systems are not eligible.

### **Project Rating Criteria**

Project submittals will be rated on the following five criteria:

- area and level of sensitivity of the drinking water source,
- risk reduction potential,
- number and distribution of moderate- to high-risk sources within the drinking water protection area,
- the specific drinking water protection activities, and
- contaminant detections at the source.

(Please note that in submittals involving multiple systems, ratings will be scored based on the source area that has the highest risks.)

1. Area in which the proposed project is focused (either A or B): [maximum 15 points]
  - A. For surface water, within identified sensitive areas in the source watershed, defined as:
    1. Within 1000 feet from the centerline of all perennial streams or canals, and within an 8-hour time-of-travel upstream from the stream/canal intake [15]
    2. Within 1000 feet from the perimeter of a reservoir or lake, and within 1000 feet from the centerline of all perennial streams flowing into the reservoir or lake [15]
    3. Other sensitive areas as identified in the Source Water Assessment Report [15]
  - B. For groundwater, within identified sensitive areas in the source area, defined as:
    1. High sensitivity ([Aquifer/Vadose characteristics or well construction only](#))
      - a. Within 2-year time-of-travel boundary for wells or within Zone 1 for springs [15]
      - b. Outside the 2-year time-of-travel boundary for wells or outside Zone 1 for springs [5]
    2. Moderate sensitivity
      - a. Within 2-year time-of-travel boundary for wells or within Zone 1 for springs [10]
      - b. Outside the 2-year time-of-travel boundary for wells or outside of Zone 1 for springs [5]
2. Number and distribution of potential contaminant sources within the drinking water source area; [Note that area-wide potential contaminant sources are counted twice, i.e., two times the actual number of sources.](#) [maximum 25 points]
  - A. Surface water systems
    1. The number of identified high and moderate risk sources within the sensitive areas
      - a. <3 [5]
      - b. 3-7 [10]
      - c. >7 [15]
    2. The density of identified potential contaminant sources within the entire source area
      - a. <2/mi<sup>2</sup> [3] (mi<sup>2</sup> = square miles)
      - b. 2-10/mi<sup>2</sup> [7]
      - c. >10/mi<sup>2</sup> [10]
  - B. Groundwater systems
    1. The number of identified potential contaminant sources within the sensitive areas
      - a. Within the 2-year time-of-travel boundary for wells or within Zone 1 for springs
        - 1 <3 [3]
        - 2 3-10 [7]
        - 3 >10 [10]
      - b. Outside the 2-year time-of-travel boundary for wells or outside Zone 1 for springs
        - 1 <10 [2]
        - 2 10-20 [3]
        3. >20 [5]

2. The density of high-risk sources within the 2-year time-of-travel for wells or within Zone 1 for springs
  - a.  $<10/ \text{mi}^2$  [3] ( $\text{mi}^2 = \text{square miles}$ )
  - b.  $10\text{-}25/\text{mi}^2$  [7]
  - c.  $>25/\text{mi}^2$  [10]
  
3. The density of identified potential contaminant sources within the entire source area
  - a.  $<15/\text{mi}^2$  [2]
  - b.  $15\text{-}50/\text{mi}^2$  [3]
  - c.  $>50/\text{mi}^2$  [5]

3. Drinking water protection activities [Maximum 20 points]
  - A. The water system/community has developed detailed risk-reduction plans for the high and moderate risks within their source area or has a certified Drinking Water Protection Plan [10]
  - B. The project involves multiple public water systems, addresses local land-use planning issues, or is connected to regional water quality issues [10]
  
4. **Confirmed** contaminant detections at a system's well(s), spring(s) or intake(s) [Maximum 10 points]
  - A. Turbidity
    1. Routinely  $>1.0$  ntu [3] (ntu = nephelometric turbidity units)
    2. Occasional spikes  $> 5.0$  ntu [5]
  - B. Source-related microorganisms
    1. Total coliforms [3]
    2. Fecal coliforms, viruses, or protozoa [5]
  - C. Toxics
    1. At or above the MCL [10] (MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level)
    2. At or above 50%, but less than the MCL [7]
    3. Detection, but  $<50\%$  MCL [3]

Risk Reduction Potential [maximum 30 points]

- A. Project focuses on priority pollutants:
  1. Surface water systems: turbidity, sediments, microorganisms, nitrates, toxics (e.g., **Volatile organics or pesticides**) [10]
  2. Groundwater systems: nitrates, microorganisms, toxics (e.g., volatile organics or **pesticides**) [10]
- B. The likelihood that the proposed project will reduce the risk or pollutant load from identified potential sources of contamination. Effectiveness and ease of implementation; expected results will be evaluated based on similar project successes. [20]

If you have questions about the Protection Grants or the Revolving Loan Fund and need help completing the *Letter of Interest* form, contact: Roberto Reyes-Colon, Drinking Water Program, Roberto.Reyes-Colon@state.or.us, 971-673-0422.