

Research Summary

PREPARED FOR NCCWP
BY INANNA HENCKE

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Research Topics

Pesticides & Contamination

"Are there examples of holding chemical companies and those that apply their products liable for health issues communities are reporting? Are there existing lawsuits (like Roundup litigation) in process?"

EXAMPLE 1:

- Vancouver, WA is part of a settlement with 3M for PFA Contamination. They also aim to raise \$210M for PFA removal from their drinking water.
 - <https://apnews.com/article/pfas-drinking-water-settlement-3m-fa41cadfe0d65b9723377a681df43af1>
 - <https://www.opb.org/article/2024/09/26/vancouver-raise-210-million-remove-forever-chemicals-drinking-water/>

This lawsuit benefits from recent EPA restrictions on PFOs and PFAs.

Pesticides & Contamination

"Are there examples of holding chemical companies and those that apply their products liable for health issues communities are reporting? Are there existing lawsuits (like Roundup litigation) in process?"

EXAMPLE 2:

- There have been over 100,000 settlements reached from Roundup lawsuits as of October of 2024.
- Results from cases that go to trial have been mixed, but still represent significant financial hits for Bayer.
- Most cases are cancer-related (non-Hodgkins lymphoma).
- The most common (unpaid) source of information about Roundup settlement cases is directly from law firms who may be involved with those cases. Examples include:
 - <https://www.beasleyallen.com/roundup-lawsuit/>
 - <https://www.lawsuit-information-center.com/roundup-lawsuit.html>

In addition to the above:

"Bayer Must Pay \$78 Million in Latest Roundup Cancer Trial, Jury Finds." Reuters, October 10, 2024.
<https://www.reuters.com/legal/bayer-must-pay-78-mln-latest-roundup-cancer-trial-jury-finds-2024-10-10/>.

Pesticides & Contamination

"Are there examples of holding chemical companies and those that apply their products liable for health issues communities are reporting? Are there existing lawsuits (like Roundup litigation) in process?"

EXAMPLE 3:

- Residents in Boardman are suing the Port of Morrow and other companies for the contamination of groundwater with nitrates from agricultural activities.
- The suit argues "that the defendants, which include industrial farms, expansive animal operations and the state's second largest port, should be held accountable by the Environmental Protection Agency under the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act**, which authorizes the federal agency to control hazardous waste and allows anyone to seek redress in federal court for polluting the environment and posing a threat to public health."
- The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) gives EPA the authority to control the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste.

Baumhardt, Alex. "Morrow County Residents Sue Port of Morrow, Businesses for Drinking Water Contamination." *Oregon Capital Chronicle*, February 28, 2024. <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2024/02/28/morrow-county-residents-sue-port-of-morrow-businesses-for-drinking-water-contamination/>.

Pesticides & Contamination

“What means exist to discover and report health problems of those living close to pesticide applications? What kinds of health surveys have been used to identify health issues?”

EXAMPLE:

- Case study conducted on behalf of Triangle Lake residents who filed complaints with the EPA about aerial spraying.
- Urine testing of 43 residents conducted by Dana Boyer Barr, Ph.D., former director of the Pesticide Exposure Assessment lab at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.
- Urine sampling conducted before and after pesticide application.
- Test results showed higher levels of pesticide following aerial spraying.
- All participants tested positive for exposure before and after, including children under the age of 12.
- Prompted official health investigation by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Bernstein, Laurie, Lisa Arkin, and Roberta Lindberg. "Oregon's Industrial Forests and Herbicide Use: A Case Study of Risk to People, Drinking Water and Salmon." Beyond Toxics, December 17, 2013. https://www.beyondtoxics.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FINAL_Report_OregonIndustrialForest_and_HerbicideUse_12-17-13.pdf

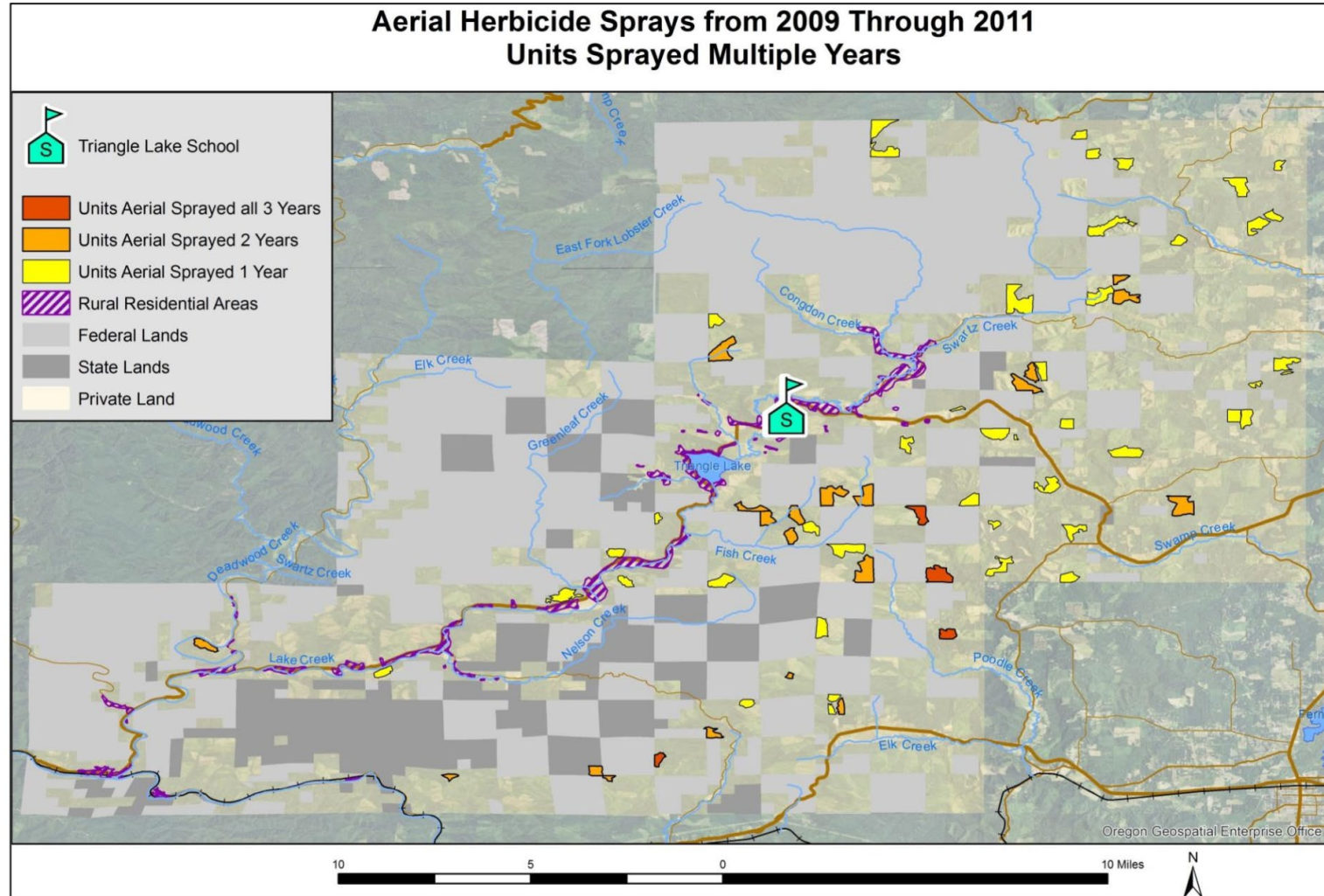


Figure 7. Units aerially sprayed multiple years.

- Pesticide residue also found in the school's drinking water.

Bernstein, Laurie, Lisa Arkin, and Roberta Lindberg. "Oregon's Industrial Forests and Herbicide Use: A Case Study of Risk to People, Drinking Water and Salmon." Beyond Toxics, December 17, 2013. https://www.beyondtoxics.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FINAL_Report_OregonIndustrialForest_and_HerbicideUse_12-17-13.pdf

Pesticide Regulations in Oregon

STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS:

- There are four (4) primary entities in Oregon concerned with water quality: Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).
- The Natural Resources Division (NRD) also deals with water for agricultural uses.
- The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) carries out the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), making it Oregon's primary regulatory entity for pesticide registration and use.
- ODA oversees and develops the Pesticide Management Plan (PMP), which directs pesticide management concerning water quality and aquatic health.

From Oregon's PMP: *“When registering a pesticide, the EPA considers the potential risk of the pesticide on water quality. EPA places restrictions or advisory statements on the pesticide label to mitigate that risk. **However, national level controls may not be adequate at local levels. Implementation of this plan will provide additional protections for Oregon waters beyond those provided by the EPA.**”*

Oregon Department of Agriculture. *Pesticide Management Plan for Water Quality*. Oregon Department of Agriculture, n.d. <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Documents/Publications/PesticidesPARC/PesticideManagementPlanWaterQuality.pdf>.

AGENCY	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL AUTHORITY
<p><i>Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) – Pesticides Division</i></p>	<p>Addresses Registration, Distribution and Use of pesticides in Oregon as well as Licensing and Certification for Pesticide Applicators and Operators.</p> <p>Establishes policies, guidelines and specific requirements and restrictions for the implementation of ORS 634.</p>	<p><i>FIFRA</i> <i>Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 634</i> <i>Oregon Pesticide Control Act</i></p> <p><i>Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR 603-057)</i></p>
<p><i>ODA-Natural Resources Division (NRD)</i></p>	<p>Authorizes ODA to develop and implement an Agricultural Water Quality Management Area plan for agricultural and rural lands where required by state or federal law. The department has developed and adopted agricultural water quality management area plans in the applicable geographic areas. These plans are reviewed periodically.</p> <p>Establishes policies, guidelines and specific requirements for the development and content of plans as allowed in ORS 568. Coordinates program activities of the State's Soil, Water & Conservation Districts (SWCDs).</p>	<p><i>Agricultural Water Quality Management Act;</i> <i>(ORS 561.191);</i> <i>Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 568)</i></p> <p><i>Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR 603-090)</i></p>

<p><i>Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)</i></p>	<p>Directs DEQ to cooperate with other agencies of the state to prevent or mitigate pollution of waters of the state.</p> <p>Enforcement Procedure and Civil Penalties Groundwater Water Quality Standards Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)</p>	<p>CWA</p> <p><i>Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 468B</i></p> <p>OAR 340-012 OAR 340-040 OAR 340-041 OAR 340-042</p>
<p><i>Oregon Health Authority (OHA)</i></p>	<p>Administers and enforces drinking water quality standards for public water systems in the state of Oregon. The drinking water program emphasizes prevention of contamination through source water protection, technical assistance to water systems and training of water system operators.</p>	<p><i>The Safe Drinking Water Act (U.S.C. §300f et seq.); Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 448)</i></p>

AGENCY	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL AUTHORITY
<p><i>Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)</i></p>	<p>Sets policies, procedures, and standards for forest practice regulation in Oregon. Grants the Oregon Board of Forestry exclusive authority to adopt further procedures and standards in the forest practice rules.</p> <p>Prescribes additional standards beyond those protections provided by the EPA/FIFRA for natural resource protection when chemicals (including pesticides) are used in forest environments.</p>	<p><i>Forest Practices Act (ORS 527.610 to 527.770, 527.990 & 527.992)</i></p> <p><i>Forest practice rules (OAR 629-620)</i></p>

Water Levels, Soil Moisture, & Clear Cutting

"What specific mapping exists to show communities and residents where their water originates and the routes it takes?"

- Drinking Water Source Areas
 - Shows watersheds, groundwater areas, stream pathways, and flow restoration need (among other categories):
https://tools.oregonexplorer.info/OE_HTMLViewer/Index.html?viewer=orwap_sfam
- Ground and Surface Drinking Water (DEQ),
 - Includes different map options, such as showing potential contaminants:
<https://hdcgcx2.deq.state.or.us/Html5Viewer211/?viewer=drinkingwater>

Water Levels, Soil Moisture, & Clear Cutting

"Has any data been collected that demonstrates a correlation between falling water levels and nearby clearcuts?"

SHORT ANSWER:



- Yes, but it depends on the time of year, vegetation, and how long ago the clear-cut took place.

DETAILS:


- Timber harvest has been shown to have persistent, long-term effects on summer low-flows.
- Clear-cutting increases peak flows significantly in the rainy season, due to increased runoff.
- Soil moisture tends to increase following a clear cut, then decrease once new vegetation begins to grow.
- Evidence suggests that stream flow is heavily impacted by young trees and woody vegetation becoming established within the watershed following a clear-cut (increased rates of evapotranspiration).

Research papers

Long-term effects of forest harvesting on summer low flow deficits in the Coast Range of Oregon

Catalina Segura ^a  , Kevin D. Bladon ^a, Jeff A. Hatten ^a, Julia A. Jones ^b, V. Cody Hale ^c, George G. Ice ^d

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2020.124749>

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Highlights

- Streamflow was 50% lower in a 40–43-yr-old plantation relative to 110-yr-old forest.
- Summer low flow deficits persisted over six or more months of each year.
- Contemporary forestry practices produced persistent, large summer low flow deficits.

SOURCE:

Segura, Catalina, Kevin D. Bladon, James A. Hatten, Julia A. Jones, Valerie C. Hale, and George G. Ice. "Long-term Effects of Forest Harvesting on Summer Low Flow Deficits in the Coast Range of Oregon." *Journal of Hydrology* 585 (2020): 124749.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2020.124749>.



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Hydrological Processes

SPECIAL ISSUE CANADIAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION 2019

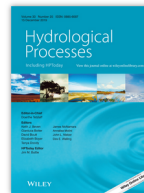
Effects of forestry on summertime low flows and physical fish habitat in snowmelt-dominant headwater catchments of the Pacific Northwest

Stefan Gronsdahl, R. Dan Moore ✉, Jordan Rosenfeld, Rich McCleary, Rita Winkler

First published: 02 September 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/hyp.13580> | Citations: 36[Read the full text >](#)[PDF](#) [TOOLS](#) [SHARE](#)

Abstract

Periods of summertime low flows are often critical for fish. This study quantified the impacts of forest clear-cutting on summertime low flows and fish habitat and how they evolved through time in two snowmelt-dominant headwater catchments in the southern interior of British Columbia, Canada. A paired-catchment analysis was applied to July–



Volume 33, Issue 25

15 December 2019

Pages 3152-3168

This article also appears in:
Canadian Geophysical Union
2019

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SOURCE:

Gronsdahl, Stefan, R. Dan Moore, Jordan Rosenfeld, Rich McCleary, and Rita Winkler. "Effects of Forestry on Summertime Low Flows and Physical Fish Habitat in Snowmelt-Dominant Headwater Catchments of the Pacific Northwest." *Hydrological Processes* 33, no. 25 (2019): 3152–3168.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/hyp.13580>.

LONG-TERM CHANGES IN STREAMFLOW FOLLOWING LOGGING IN WESTERN OREGON AND ASSOCIATED FISHERIES IMPLICATIONS¹

Brendan J. Hicks, Robert L. Beschta, R. Dennis. Harr

First published: April 1991 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1752-1688.1991.tb03126.x> | Citations: 90

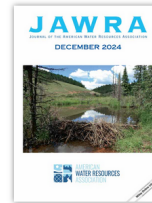
¹ Paper No. 90082 of the *Water Resources Bulletin*. Discussions are open until December 1, 1991.

PDF TOOLS SHARE

Abstract

ABSTRACT: The long-term effect of logging on low summer streamflow was investigated with a data set of 36 years. Hydrologic records were analyzed for the period 1953 and 1988 from Watershed (WS) 1 (clear-cut logged and burned), WS 2 (unlogged control), and WS 3 (25 percent patch-cut logged and burned) in the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest, western Cascade Range, Oregon. These records spanned 9–10 years before logging, and 21–25 years after logging and burning. Streamflows in August were the lowest of any month, and were unaffected by occasional heavy rain that occurred at the beginning of summer. August streamflows increased in WS 1 compared to WS 2 by 159 percent following logging in WS 1, but this increase lasted for only eight years following the start of logging in 1962. Water yield in August for 1970–1988 observed from WS 1 was 25 percent less than predicted from the control (WS 2, ANOVA, $p=0.032$).

Water yield in August increased by 59 percent after 25 percent of the area of WS 3 was patch-cut logged and burned in 1963. In contrast to WS 1, however, water yields from WS



Volume 27, Issue 2
April 1991
Pages 217-226

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Journal of the American Water Resources Association

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References Related Information

Recommended

[Comparative streamflow characteristics in urbanizing basins in the Portland Metropolitan Area, Oregon, USA](#)

Heejun Chang

[Hydrological Processes](#)

SOURCE:

Hicks, B., Beschta, R., & Harr, R. (1991). LONG-TERM CHANGES IN STREAMFLOW FOLLOWING LOGGING IN WESTERN OREGON AND ASSOCIATED FISHERIES IMPLICATIONS. *Journal of The American Water Resources Association*, 27, 217-226. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1752-1688.1991.tb03126.x>.



Long-term patterns in soil moisture and revegetation after a clearcut of a Douglas-fir forest in Oregon

Paul W. Adams ^a, Alan L. Flint ^{a,1}, Richard L. Fredriksen ^b

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1127\(91\)90107-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1127(91)90107-7)

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Abstract

Soil moisture levels during 1960–1980 were compared for two areas within a 101 ha watershed in the Oregon Cascade Range. In winter 1962–1963, the old-growth Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco) forest in one area was clearcut. The site was then lightly broadcast-burned in September 1963. An adjacent forested area was left

Recommended articles

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Kathryn A. Lord, ..., Elinor K. Karlsson

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SOURCE:

Adams, Paul W., Alan L. Flint, and Richard L. Fredriksen. "Long-term Patterns in Soil Moisture and Revegetation after a Clearcut of a Douglas-fir Forest in Oregon." *Forest Ecology and Management* 41 (1991): 249–263.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1127\(91\)90107-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1127(91)90107-7).

Water Levels, Soil Moisture, & Clear Cutting

"What water conservation measures are in place for coastal communities? For which months? Are water rates increasing?"

EXAMPLES:

- Arch Cape
- Corbett
- Lincoln County
- Wheeler

DETAILS:

- Water rate increases are primarily due to treatment facility upgrades due to sedimentation.

Castillo, Elizabeth. "Uncommon Drought Emergency Affects Coastal Lincoln County." *Oregon Public Broadcasting*, September 13, 2023. <https://www.opb.org/article/2023/09/13/drought-lincoln-county-oregon/>.

Schick, Tony, and Rob Davis. "Timber Tax Cuts Cost Oregon Towns Billions. Then Clear-Cuts Polluted Their Water and Drove Up Its Price." *Oregon Public Broadcasting*, December 31, 2020. <https://www.opb.org/article/2020/12/31/oregon-logging-clear-cuts-drinking-water/>.

“What have other Oregon communities, states and countries done to protect community drinking water sources from degradation caused by logging practices or industrial/commercial operations?”

Mass. Watershed Protection Act (MWPA)

Straightforward land-use regulation enacted in Massachusetts “within critical areas of the Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River, and Wachusett Reservoir watersheds for the purpose of protecting the quality of drinking water.”

DETAILS:

- Primary Protection Zone: All alterations (including construction, excavation, grading, paving, dumping, etc) **prohibited within 400 feet of reservoirs and 200 feet of tributaries and surface waters.**
- Secondary Protection Zone: Certain activities prohibited between 200-400 feet of tributaries and surface waters, and on land within flood plains, over some aquifers, and within bordering vegetated wetlands.
- Exemptions for structures that existed before July of 1992.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. *Watershed Protection Act Brochure*. Accessed January 29, 2025. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/watershed-protection-act-brochure/download>.

Bull Run Watershed Protection

Protections for the Bull Run watershed have unfolded over 100+ years. Portland has had the advantage of the Bull Run being primarily US Forest Service land, not private timberland.

DETAILS:

- Bull Run is protected not only as a National Forest, but also under the Bull Run Act of 1977, the Northwest Forest Plan, and Oregon Resources Conservation Act.
- Bull Run is further protected in the City of Portland's Charter and City Code – Charter protections mean that any changes or proposed development in Bull Run can only be approved by the voters (not City Council).

City of Portland. "How Bull Run Is Protected." Portland.gov. Accessed December 20, 2024.
<https://www.portland.gov/water/about-portlands-water-system/how-bull-run-protected>.

Cape Meares Watershed Protection

Coleman Creek, which provides Cape Meares with its drinking water, is now part of a holding by the Conservation Fund. The long-term plan is for this parcel to be purchased by the US Department of Fish & wildlife to expand an existing wildlife refuge.

DETAILS:

- The community found out about planned logging in their watershed and offered to purchase the property before it caused significant damage. They hired lawyers and negotiated pricing after signing on for the initially proposed amount (ultimately, they were able to bring the price down through information gathering and partnerships).
- There is a point in the article that states Stimson **gave** the community part of their logging land due to its susceptibility to landslides – this may be worth looking into in Rockaway.

Foden-Vencil, Kristian. "Tiny Oregon Community Works to Protect Wildlife and Water along Cape Meares — the 'Land That Walks'." OPB, December 19, 2024. <https://www.opb.org/article/2024/12/19/tiny-oregon-community-works-to-protect-wildlife-and-water-along-cape-meares-the-land-that-walks/>.

More Examples

ARCH CAPE

- Purchased 1,500-acre watershed for \$2.5 million in 2022 and created a public forest

Alex Baumhardt. "Clear-Cutting Forests near Watersheds Could Threaten Drinking Water Supplies, Conservationists Warn." OPB, October 18, 2023. <https://www.opb.org/article/2023/10/18/clear-cutting-forests-watersheds-drinking-water-supplies/>.

Starker Lecture Series

Hosted by Oregon State University's College of Forestry: "The 2025 Starker Lecture series brings together top experts to explore water-related challenges we face across western North America including climate change and land use impacts."

DETAILS:

- Three lectures, in person or available via Zoom
- February, March, April
- Free to attend

Oregon State University College of Forestry. "Starker Lecture Series." Accessed January 29, 2025.
<https://www.forestry.oregonstate.edu/starker-lectures>.



February 19, 2025

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Starker Forests Classroom PFSC 117 and Zoom

[Register for the Zoom webinar](#) *(registration not required if attending in person)*

Lecture: Interagency Infrastructure for Landslide Risk Reduction in Southeast Alaska

Speakers: Ron Heintz, Senior Researcher at the Sitka Sound Science Center and **Lindsey Pierce**, Environmental Specialist at Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Join us for an engaging talk about the Kutí project — a groundbreaking collaboration between the Sitka Sound Science Center and the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Learn how scientists, Tribal governments, and municipalities are working together to tackle the growing threat of landslides fueled by extreme precipitation. Discover how innovative tools like hazard maps, enhanced weather forecasts, and the transformative power of a Community of Practice are empowering communities across Southeast Alaska to understand, prepare for, and respond to landslide risks.



March 12, 2025

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Starker Forests Classroom PFSC 117 and Zoom

[Register for the Zoom webinar](#) *(registration not required if attending in-person)*

Lecture: The Dynamic Aquatic Landscape: A New Perspective and Approach

Speakers: Paul Hessburg, Research Landscape Ecologist USDA-FS, PNW Research Station, Wenatchee, WA, & University of Washington and Oregon State University and **Gordon Reeves**, Research Aquatic Ecologist, retired USDA-FS, PNW Research Station, Corvallis, OR & Oregon State University

Aquatic ecosystems are constantly changing due to flooding, wildfires, drought and other natural disturbances. Instead of trying to keep them in a consistent, stable state over time, this talk highlights how working with natural shifts can improve conservation and management efforts. Using the remarkable persistence of Pacific Salmon as an example, the speakers will explore innovative strategies to restore processes that support resilience and adaptability. Join us to discover a fresh perspective on aquatic ecosystem management driven by the ebbs and flows of nature.



April 9, 2025

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Starker Forests Classroom PFSC 117 and Zoom

[Register for the Zoom webinar](#) *(registration not required if attending in-person)*

Lecture: Collective Action and Resilience; Learning from Northern Colorado's Fireshed Collaboration

Speaker: Daniel Bowker

This talk highlights the transformation of the Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative from a small group into a network of over 30 organizations tackling wildfire risks along the Colorado Front Range. Through shared goals, science-based strategies, and strong collaboration, they've improved forest management and community safety. Now integrating stream restoration and watershed health, their work offers powerful lessons in addressing environmental challenges through innovation and teamwork.



Potential Partner Organizations

Oregon Water Justice Alliance

“The Oregon Water Justice Alliance is a voluntary collective of Water Protectors – Indigenous people, rural residents, fishers, boaters, environmental stewards, and other stakeholders – coming together to resolve the injustices at the root of our growing water scarcity issues for nature and people.”

DETAILS

- Aims to improve water policy, increase funding for water protection, and provide solidarity for other activist groups and campaigns
- Administered by the Water Climate Trust
- Based in Fort Klamath, OR
- Offers water justice stipends and mentoring to BIPOC, youth, and more
- **Actively seeking connections and members**

Oregon Water Justice Alliance. "Oregon Water Justice Alliance." Accessed February 10, 2025.
<https://orwja.org/>.

Water League

An activist group primarily focused on balancing water overuse by the few super-irrigators in the state with protecting and conserving water for the public good and future generations.

DETAILS

- Primarily focused on water rights, governmental structure, and overuse by special interests
- References the Public Trust
- Based in Cave Junction, OR

Water League. "Engaging the Public in Stewardship of Water." Accessed February 10, 2025.
<https://www.waterleague.org/>.

Willamette Partnership

“Willamette Partnership is a conservation non-profit with a deep commitment to helping build stronger, healthier, and more equitable communities that are sustained by nature.”

DETAILS

- Focused on helping communities access funding for environmental justice projects
- Mostly reliant on federal funding, looking to diversify funding sources
- Looking for a new Executive Director

Willamette Partnership, "Willamette Partnership," accessed February 10, 2025, <https://willamettepartnership.org/>.

Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

A group dedicated to serving and strengthening Land Trusts in Oregon by building connections and advancing policies.

DETAILS

- Clean Water is one of their priorities
- Drafted a 44-page guide named “[Protecting Oregon’s Drinking Water](#)” which has a host of useful information from policy structure, land conservation strategies, and success stories specifically related to drinking water
- Their website also has a [legal library](#) of land trust-related agreements, such as conservation easements, for reference

Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts. "Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts." Accessed February 10, 2025. <https://oregonlandtrusts.org/>.

Highlights: Protecting Oregon's Drinking Water Sources

- Overview of Oregon's water policy structure, including federal protections
- Information about needed water investments, private water source ownership, and surface water reliance in Oregon
- List and description of land conservation tools, financial considerations, and available funding sources
- Case studies of source water protection in the PNW:
 - Arch Cape, OR
 - Ilwaco, WA
 - Forest Grove, OR
 - Port Orford, OR
 - Rhododendron, OR
 - Astoria, OR

ACCESS THE GUIDE HERE: <https://oregonlandtrusts.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Source-Water-Guide-June-2023-Update.pdf>

Oregon Water Futures Project

“The Oregon Water Futures Project is a collaboration between water and environmental justice interests, Indigenous peoples, communities of color, low-income communities, and academic institutions.”

The project leveraged a combination of personal experience from interviewing community members, and insights from tribal governments, researchers, state agencies, utilities, and environmental organizations to develop the Water Justice Framework

WATER JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

- A document outlining legislative priorities for the State of Oregon regarding drinking water protections
- Intended to help direct spending of the \$530 million water package passed by Oregon’s legislature
- Centered on water justice for rural and BIPOC communities

Oregon Water Futures. "Elevating Water Priorities for Oregon Communities." Accessed December 20, 2024. <https://www.oregonwaterfutures.org/>.

Natural Resources Defense Counsel (NRDC)

A non-profit, non-partisan environmental advocacy group that utilizes the expertise of scientists, lawyers, and environmental specialists to protect the Earth and its people.

- Helped to pass the Clean Water Act and get lead pipes replaced in Flint, MI, among many other victories
- Provides advocacy and litigation assistance for environmental issues

Natural Resources Defense Council. "Be a Force for the Future." Accessed December 20, 2024.
<https://www.nrdc.org/>.

Environmental Law Center Insights

Meeting with Douglas Quirke and Michelle Smith from the University of Oregon's Environmental Law Center to discuss precedents, strategies, and potential partner organizations.

SHORT ANSWER:

- There is no simple approach or existing precedent for holding timber companies accountable for drinking water degradation on private land in Oregon.
- Legislative change will likely require a long-term 'indirect' approach, educating legislators and raising public awareness about the issue.

DETAILS:

- Most successful legal precedents for protecting drinking water in Oregon are either on Federal land, relate to groundwater, are voluntary programs, or address point-source pollution. These categories offer the greatest legal weight based on standing laws and the regulatory climate in Oregon.
- Currently, protecting habitat for salmon is a stronger legal argument than protecting drinking water in Oregon.

Environmental Law Center Insights

SUGGESTIONS:

- **Make Friends:**
 - Find sympathetic legislators who can go to bat for this cause.
- **Get the Word Out:**
 - Find ways to present this information in front of panels, caucuses, commissions, etc.
 - Consider a public information campaign.
- **Collect Evidence / Become a Watchdog:**
 - Work with partner organizations, such as Beyond Toxics, to implement regular testing of water sources.
 - Establish a formal way for individuals to report health effects related to exposure.

RECOMMENDED RESEARCH:

- Three Basin Rule, EWEB (Point Source Pollution)
- Forest Practices Act (Habitat Protection)
- Mechanisms for agency rulemaking (such as DEQ)
- Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (Oregon Program)
- VERDE, Willamette Partnership, NW Environmental Defense Center (Possible Partners)
- DEQ “Outstanding Resource Waters” (Possible Protections)