



# Upper Willamette Basin Groundwater Assessment Summary Report – May 2002

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This report provides an overview of major activities and accomplishments completed to date related to the Upper Willamette Basin Groundwater Assessment. This report also includes goals for the upcoming months.

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The Department of Environmental Quality is committed to ensuring that Oregon's groundwater resources are protected for all present and future beneficial uses, including rural drinking water supplies. As a rapidly developing portion of the state with known groundwater contamination, the Upper Willamette Basin has been identified by DEQ as a high priority area for addressing non-point source groundwater problems. DEQ conducted groundwater assessments in the Upper Willamette Basin from 1993 to 1996 that documented significant groundwater contamination from nitrates and other pollutants in the Eugene to Albany corridor. DEQ conducted a focused initiative from 2000 to 2001 to monitor and assess the nitrate groundwater problems in the Upper Willamette Basin, including active engagement of stakeholders leading to the development of groundwater protection strategies, as needed. The activities conducted this year builds on the 2000/2001 study, and will include resampling those wells that had high nitrate contamination (greater than 7 parts per million) for nitrates, pesticides and other indicators of water quality. The project team includes Audrey Eldridge and Jack Arendt as the primary members, with support from Mary Camarata and Jennifer Boudin in Western Region, and by Greg Pettit, Rich Myzak, and David Cole in the Laboratory.

## **Work Performed from March to May 9, 2002:**

- Met with DEQ laboratory to develop a feasible scope of work that can be conducted with available resources.
- In coordination with DEQ lab, met with ODA to evaluate their ability to analyze 100 pesticide samples at no cost to DEQ.
- Discussed other GWMA's with Eastern Region Hydrogeologist.
- Participated in several discussions with OSU, Lane & Benton County Extension Services and ODA to facilitate their understanding of the current UW GW project and to gather their input and recommendations .
- Discussed project status and needs with DEQ's Groundwater Coordinator.
- Started finalizing the report for the 2000-2001 UW GW activities.
- Drafted the Sampling and Analysis Plan for the 100 wells to be sampled during the summer 2002.
- Discussed stakeholder involvement survey with consultant (hired by DEQ with 104(b)(3) grant funds.)
- Coordinated with volunteers to assure adequate field staff for the sampling program.

## **Goals for May-July 2002:**

- Complete private well sampling with collection of 100 samples.
- Finish 2000-2001UW Final Report.
- Begin compilation and management of data from field sampling.
- Begin compilation, reviewing and evaluating data results from laboratory.

## **Activities Planned for August -October 2002:**

- Send all DEQ laboratory results to well owners.
- Complete data compilation and interpretation.
- Conduct stakeholder involvement and community outreach in coordination with OSU/Extension.
- Present study results and conclusions to staff at DEQ, ODA, OHD, WRD, OSU Extension, USGS, and NRCS.
- Host community workshops for presentation and discussion of study results and conclusions.

If you have questions, suggestions or comments regarding the contents of this report please contact Audrey Eldridge, Hydrogeologist (541-776-6010 ext. 223), or <a href="mailto:eldridge.audrey@deq.state.or.us">eldridge.audrey@deq.state.or.us</a>
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