

Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area Committee Overarching Goals

The GWMA Committee is charged with making recommendations to the Department of Environmental Quality regarding:

- ◆ Strategies to reduce nitrate in the groundwater from all contributing land use groups.
- ◆ Specific actions to implement strategies.
- ◆ Identification of who is responsible for implementing strategies.
- ◆ Identification of how strategies will be measured for success.

The GWMA Committee will consider the following overarching goals while developing and overseeing the implementation of the Action Plan:

- To reach and sustain nitrate levels to less than 7 milligrams per liter throughout the region in order to rescind the declaration of the Groundwater Management Area.
- Disseminate information about the project, soliciting input and encouraging actions that will protect the groundwater resource in order to engage and involve all groups and citizens concerned with, interested in and/or affected by GWMA plans or programs.
- Support efforts to reduce nitrate and protect the aquifer from other potential contaminants by encouraging both a short and long term commitment from federal, state, and local agencies.
- Preserve and enhance the health of the aquifer while maintaining traditional and/or locally appropriate land uses. Emphasis should be on the development of specific voluntary strategies that avoid leaching nitrate to groundwater.
- By working together, all land use sectors in the region will work to reduce nitrate contributions. Although some measurement is necessary, the Committee recognizes that measuring every outcome would be a long term and expensive prospect and emphasis should be placed on broadly measuring effectiveness from the various land use groups.