

State of Oregon
Nitrate Reduction Plan for the
Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area

Quarterly Report to U.S. EPA
July 31, 2025

This is a combined report from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD), and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 describing State of Oregon actions to address nitrate groundwater contamination and protect public health in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) in northern Morrow County and northwestern Umatilla County.

The following report provides an update for each of the strategies contained within the [Nitrate Reduction Plan for the LUBGWMA](#). The state submits quarterly status reports to the U.S. EPA and beginning in 2025 will publish an annual report for each calendar year.

Reporting Agencies

Each strategy in the Nitrate Reduction Plan has a lead state agency responsible for implementation, monitoring, and reporting. The list below identifies the strategies associated with each lead agency.

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

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 - 4.2.3.1 Agricultural Water Quality Program
 - 4.2.3.2 Strategic Implementation Area
 - 4.2.3.3 Best Management Practices (BMP) for Nutrient and Irrigation Management
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Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

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 - 5.1.3 Hydrogeology of the Lower Umatilla Basin - Update of Conceptual Model
 - 5.1.4 Ongoing Groundwater Levels Data Collection

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 - 6.1.3.7 Data and Data Management
 - 6.1.3.8 Community Partner Relations
 - 6.1.3.9 Demographic Study
- 6.2 Intermediate Term Public Water Systems Solutions
 - 6.2.3.1 Technical and Funding Assistance for Public Water System Extension and Creation
 - 6.2.3.2 Identifying Public Water Systems Not Currently under OHA Oversight

4.2 Irrigated Agriculture

4.2.3.1 Agricultural Water Quality Program

4.2.3.1 Agriculture Water Quality Program	
OBJECTIVE: Prevent and control water pollution (including groundwater) from agricultural activities to achieve water quality standards. <i>[4.2 Irrigated Agriculture]</i>	
Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Investigate water quality complaints of agricultural activities with impacts to waters of the state. This includes irrigation and nutrient application practices that may be causing pollution to waters of the state.
Short-Term 2023-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Investigate locations identified through the Strategic Implementation Area assessment with potential to impact groundwater, as described below in Section 4.1.3.2.- Area Rules are reviewed every two years. The Willow Creek and Umatilla rules were last reviewed in Feb 2024. Rule changes may be done anytime the agency identifies a need.
Medium-Term 2027-2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Area Plans are reviewed on an alternating schedule of a full and light review of every 6 years for full and every 2 years for a light review. The Willow Creek and Umatilla area plans were last reviewed In February of 2024.- Develop regulatory requirements aimed at addressing nitrate contamination from irrigated agriculture operations inside the LUBGWMA designation. Engage with stakeholders in 2025 to target implementation of the new rules in 2026 (resources needed).

Monitoring Progress:

The AGWQ program tracks and reports on the number and types of compliance actions taken and receives reports from SWCDs on the achievements made to implement area plans. This data will be used to track trends of enforcement activities and engagement of area agriculture producers on achieving nitrate reductions from ag activities.

- Annual AGWQ Compliance Program Report
 - Compliance cases investigated
 - Type of Issues
 - Pre-enforcement actions
 - Enforcement actions
- Ag Water Quality Management Area SWCD Biennial Review Reports.
 - Landowner participation in outreach events
 - Landowners provided technical assistance
 - Site visits

- Conservation plans written
- Funding applications submitted
- Funding applications awarded

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

See other AgWQ and SIA related sections for Quarter 2 reported progress.

The Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) convened by ODA to assist in the development of rules for the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) has met four times to discuss the draft rules. Currently there are three more scheduled meetings for the RAC; one in July, one in August, and a final meeting in September.

RAC meetings are open to the public, and we encourage community members to attend and observe the discussions. However, only invited RAC members will have the opportunity to provide comments during the meetings. To find information on the scheduled RAC meeting and materials provided please visit [ODA's Rulemaking webpage here](#). Currently the RAC process is scheduled to conclude late August. After that the agency will publish the draft rules for public comment.

Three compliance cases have been initiated and completed in the LUBGWMA. Two cases were instances of pivot irrigation over canals. A pre-enforcement water quality advisory letter was sent to one landowner with a follow up date of April 1, 2026. A fix it letter was issued to the other landowner and the case was closed. The third compliance case was initiated due to a lack of a backflow prevention device on an irrigation ditch turn-out. The landowner installed a backflow prevention device and sent photos to ODA. ODA is issuing the landowner a letter of compliance. No enforcement actions have been initiated on these cases to date. Two other compliance cases have been initiated, and site visits will occur in Quarter 3.

4.2.3.2 Strategic Implementation Area

4.2.3.2 Strategic Implementation Area

OBJECTIVE: The Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) initiative is a proactive effort to conduct outreach in the LUBGWMA regarding agricultural water quality rules, develop irrigated agriculture Best Management Practices (BMPs), and emphasize the utilization of irrigation and nutrient management plans to protect groundwater. Achieve 100% compliance with agricultural water quality rules within the SIA, therefore preventing pollution of waters of the state. Repeat the SIA process as needed for other areas of the LUBGWMA. *[4.2 Irrigated Agriculture]*

Continuous

- Outreach materials will be developed and distributed throughout the SIA effort as needs are identified; multiple SIA presentations have been made already, and more than ninety brochures of LUBGWMA SIA Activities and Rules have been distributed to date, both English and Spanish versions.
- Community outreach will be ongoing throughout the SIA effort.
- In field data collection for demonstration, modeling and verification of appropriate area BMPs will occur over the span of the project.

Short-Term 2023-2027

- The remote evaluation completed in Feb 2024.
- The field evaluation is scheduled for Jul 2024.
- Community open-house in Fall/Winter, 2024.
- After the open-house, the owners of tax lots with areas of concern will be first contacted by the Morrow SWCD within 1 year of the open house. All observed issues must be addressed within 1 year of the open house. It is then moved to ODA for compliance follow up.
- ODA anticipates that new BMP development is to be started in 2024.
- Model irrigation and nutrient management plan as a resource for grower implementation.
- Area plans were updated with basic principles of irrigation and nutrient management in Feb 2024.

Medium-Term 2027-2031

- Add an additional LUBGWMA SIA every 4-6 years to eventually cover all of the area.

Long-Term 2031 - Beyond

- The SIA will be implemented over an extended period of time and can last up to 10 years from inception (2023-2033).
- BMPs will continue to evolve through the life of the SIA as data strengthens the BMPs.
- Ongoing outreach, technical assistance and education for BMP implementations.

Monitoring Progress:

There are a number of data points that are collected through the SIA process to evaluate impacts and success of the SIA overall. This data will also be collected for the LUBGWMA SIA to track performance over time.

- Acres evaluated
- Types of issues identified
- Landowners contacted
- Landowners participating in outreach events
- Landowners provided information
- Technical assistance provided to landowners
- Grant Funding applications for landowners
- Compliance data, tax lots/fields that are:
 - Likely in Compliance (LC)
 - Restoration Opportunity (RO)
 - Compliance Opportunity (CO)
 - Potential Violation (PV)

Reporting Progress:**Quarter 2:**

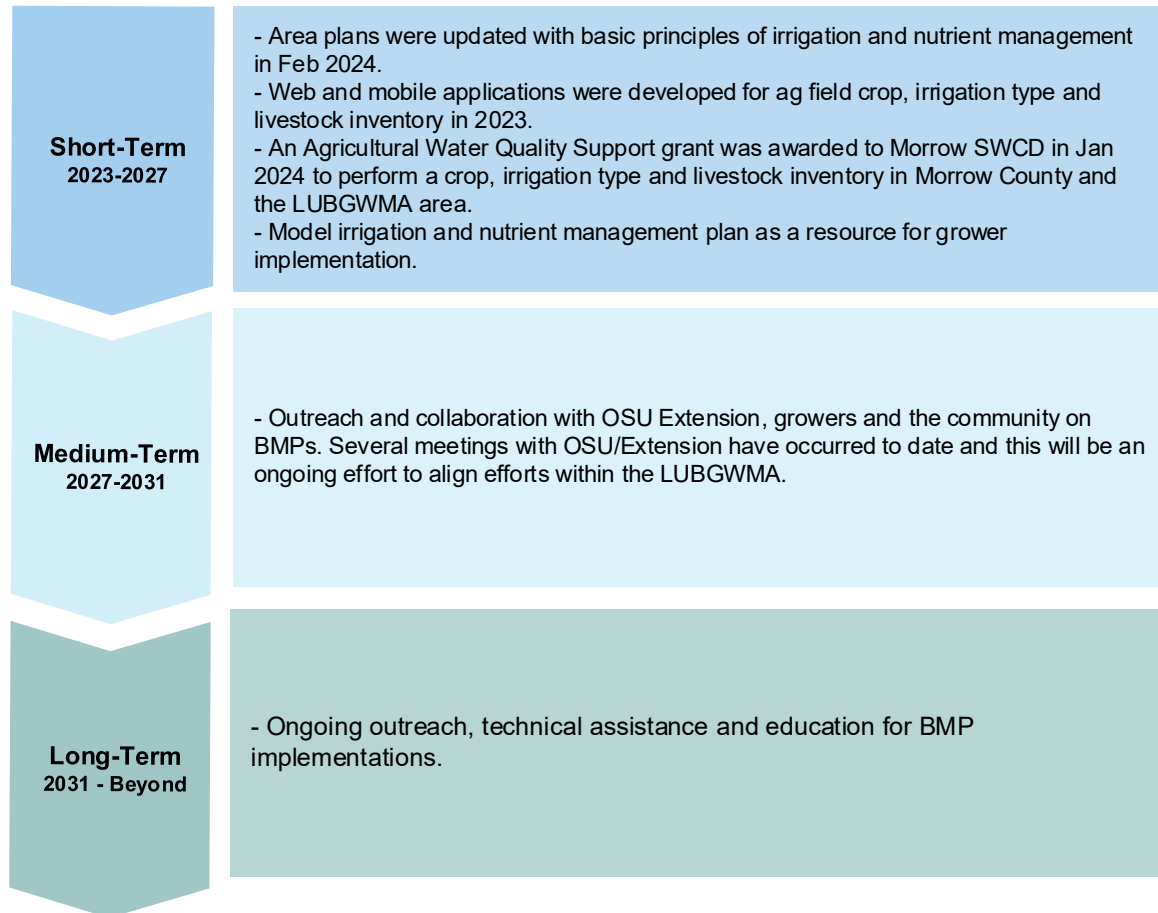
ODA called and set up site visits on two properties within the SIA that were flagged as potential violation. Both site visits were completed on April 16, 2025, and water quality advisory letters were sent out. ODA will conduct follow up site visits after November 1, 2025. The Morrow SWCD assisted with the site visits to provide technical assistance to the landowner.

The Morrow SWCD has completed site visits on three irrigated ag compliance opportunity properties. Two related to surface water observed during the remote evaluation, and one related to irrigation induced erosion and uneven irrigation application due to topography. They are working on setting up a site visit with one livestock landowner.

4.2.3.3 Best Management Practices (BMP) for Nutrient and Irrigation Management

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OBJECTIVE: Use irrigation and crop nutrient management data to develop BMPs. Conduct outreach and support for implementations of model irrigation and nutrient management model plans. [4.2 Irrigated Agriculture]



Monitoring Progress:

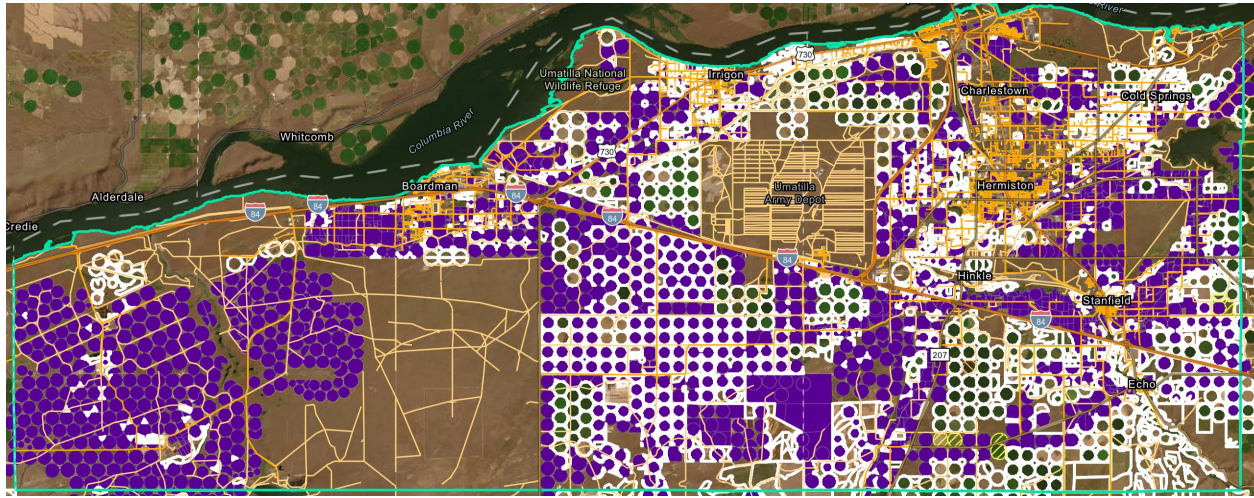
- This is a collaborative project with partners, progress will be shown in the number of collaborative activities between parties. Additional resources needed.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

The Morrow SWCD continues to work on an ag inventory of the LUBGWMA including crop type and irrigation type to provide basis and prioritization of BMP development. In the graphic below, the purple color are fields that have already been inventoried. Data inventoried includes crop type, rotation crop if known, crop stage, and irrigation type.

This data along with number and size of fields, location and soils will help prioritize outreach and BMP efforts in the area.



4.2.3.4 Fertilizer Registration Program

4.2.3.4 Fertilizer Registration Program	
OBJECTIVE: Provide consumer protection and ensure truth in labeling to ensure consumers are informed of the product contents and ensure all products that are sold in Oregon are registered according to requirements. <i>[4.2 Irrigated Agriculture]</i>	
Continuous	- The fertilizer registration and consumer protection market inspections are a well-established program. It will continue to ensure product registration meet state requirements.
Short-Term 2023-2027	- Fertilizer research and education grants are administered on an annual basis. The preferred scope of the grants was updated to give priority to projects focused on nitrate reductions in GWMA's.

Monitoring Progress:

- Refer to Section 4.2.3.1. for non-point source performance tracking related to fertilizer use.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

For information about the Fertilizer Research Committee, please see Oregon statute information at <https://oda.fyi/ORS633>.

The Fertilizer Research Committee has filled all vacant seats.

OSU BMP outreach to LUBGWMA – OSU received sign off from the internal watch group regarding the safeguarding of the information collected from the outreach. OSU has requested a 6-month extension via email on June 17, 2025, to account for the internal sign off delay, and ODA is awaiting the formal contract extension request from OSU to extend the project. The questions and mailing are prepped and ready to be sent out per Salini Sasidharan.

OSU project to identify novel amendments to mitigate fertilizer leaching from bark substrates in nursery production systems has been contractually extended to end on December 31, 2025. Currently awaiting the mid-term report due by the end of July.

4.3 Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

4.3.3.1 Confined Animal Feeding Operations Compliance

4.3.3.1 Confined Animal Feeding Operations Compliance	
OBJECTIVE: Continue to administer regulatory oversight of CAFOs in Oregon that exceed the federal standards, including the implementation of SB 85 provisions to ensure compliance and protection of groundwater. <i>[4.3 Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)]</i>	
Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implementation of the CAFO program is a continual ongoing effort. All operations that meet the definition requiring a permit are permitted and inspected at a minimum of every 10 months. This exceeds the current federal standard.
Short-Term 2023-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Development of an updated General NPDES permit is anticipated to begin fall 2024. Due to an extensive public comment process, it is difficult to identify an estimated date of completion.- Existing Individual NPDES permits in the LUBGWMA will be updated to incorporate SB85 provision following the adoption of the SB85 rules. Rules are anticipated to be adopted in Aug 2024.- Rulemaking to fully implement SB85 is in process and anticipated to be completed in Aug 2024.
Medium-Term 2027-2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Once the New General NPDES permit is complete, ODA will prioritize updating CAFO permits in the LUBGWMA. From there all other General NPDES permits will be updated by region.- Update existing Individual NPDES permits to be consistent with new general permit is dependent on the timeline for update of the general permit.

Monitoring Progress:

The CAFO program tracks program performance over time by the percent of permitted CAFOs found to be in compliance with their permit during annual inspections. This analysis is done based off data collected from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Additionally, we will track the status of updating permits in the LUBGWMA over time.

- Percentage of CAFOs in compliance with permit at annual inspection.
- Number of permits in LUBGWMA that have been updated.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

The program continues to work on updating the General NPDES permit and the individual permits in the LUBGWMA. Currently staff are in the process of reviewing and drafting the new permit language and are still on target to have it out for public comment later this summer.

The draft factsheet and draft General NPDES permit were shared with EPA on July 11, 2025, for review and feedback. Additionally, the documents are being reviewed by other internal program staff at ODA and DEQ.

The General WPCF permit will expire September 30, 2025. This permit will need to be administratively extended while we work to complete the NPDES permit. Renewal notices we sent out permittees on April 11. Permittees must submit their renewal forms along with a water supply plan by August 1 to remain on the permit once it is extended. The renewal of this permit will follow once the General NPDES permit is completed.

4.4 Livestock Grazing

4.4.3.1 Agricultural Water Quality Program (AGWQ)

4.4.3.1 Agriculture Water Quality Program (AGWQ)	
OBJECTIVE: Prevent and control water pollution (including groundwater) from agricultural activities to achieve water quality standards. <i>[4.4 Livestock Grazing]</i>	
Continuous	- Investigate water quality complaints of agricultural activities with impacts to waters of the state. This includes irrigation and nutrient application practices that may be causing pollution to waters of the state.
Short-Term 2023-2027	<p>- Investigate locations identified through the Strategic Implementation Area assessment with potential to impact groundwater, as described below in Section 4.1.3.2.</p> <p>- Area Rules are reviewed every two years. The Willow Creek and Umatilla rules were last reviewed in Feb 2024. Rule changes may be done anytime the agency identifies a need.</p>
Medium-Term 2027-2031	- Area Plans are reviewed on an alternating schedule of a full and light review of every 6 years for full and every 2 years for a light review. The Willow Creek and Umatilla area plans were last reviewed In February of 2024.

Monitoring Progress:

- See monitoring information listed in Section 4.2.3.1

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

No water quality complaints were filed or investigated this quarter in relation to livestock grazing.

Two potential violation site visits were completed related to livestock grazing. Both site visits were completed on April 16, 2025, and water quality advisory letters were sent out. ODA will conduct follow up site visits after November 1, 2025. The Morrow SWCD has talked with one compliance opportunity landowner related to livestock grazing and are working on setting up a site visit.

4.4.3.2 Inventory of Livestock Operations

4.4.3.2 Inventory of Livestock Operations

OBJECTIVE: Inventory all livestock operations that do not meet the definition of a CAFO and are not required to seek a permit and to do outreach and technical assistance to livestock owners to ensure compliance with groundwater protection requirements. [4.4 Livestock Grazing]

Continuous

- Outreach and technical assistance will start once the inventory is completed at the end of 2025 and will be ongoing.

Short-Term 2023-2027

- Conduct an inventory of livestock owners within the LUBGWMA, to be completed by the end of 2025.

- Input inventory data into a usable GIS layer, anticipated to be completed in 2025.

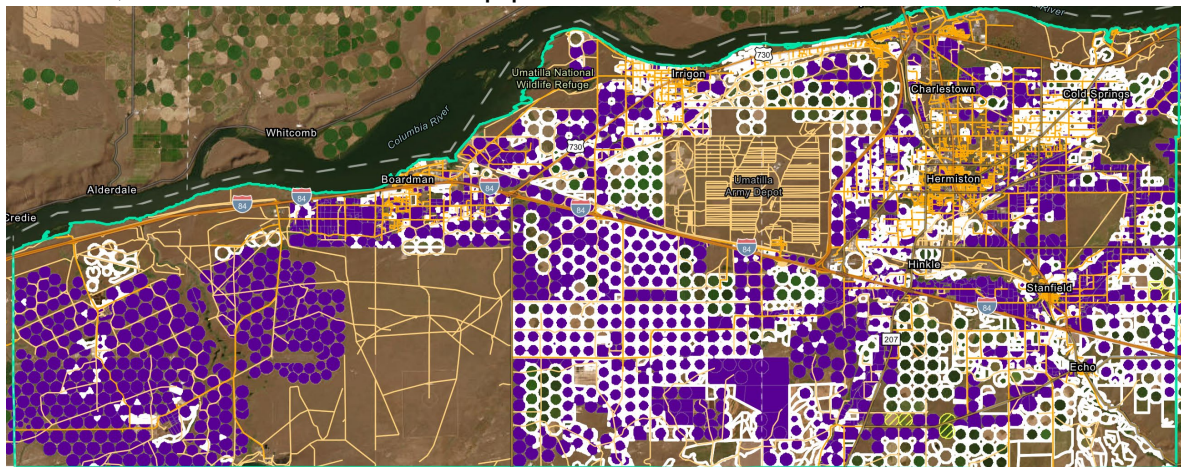
Monitoring Progress:

- It is estimated that the inventory project will be complete by August 2025. After completion the data will be completed to be used for outreach and technical assistance.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

The Morrow SWCD continues to work on an ag inventory of the LUBGWMA to provide basis and prioritization of BMP development. In the graphic below, the purple color are fields that have already been inventoried. Data inventoried includes livestock presence/absence, type of livestock, number of livestock, livestock use (heavy/light/none), crop type, and irrigation type. This data along with number and size of fields, location and soils will help prioritize outreach and BMP efforts in the area.



4.4.3.3 SB 85 Rules: Manure Management

4.4.3.3 SB 85 Rules: Manure Management

OBJECTIVE: To extend permit coverage and compliance requirements to those receiving and land applying animal nutrient exported from permitted CAFOs and land applied within a Groundwater Management Area boundary to ensure groundwater protection. *[4.4 Livestock Grazing]*

Short-Term 2023-2027

- Establish a rules advisory committee (RAC) and complete the rulemaking process to develop rules governing the Nutrient Application Permit, anticipated to occur late 2024.
- Draft and implement a General Nutrient Application Permit. General Nutrient Application Permit will be developed post rulemaking process, this process is anticipated to take 6-8 months.
- Recruitment of the Permit Coordinator and CAFO Inspector positions is anticipated to begin late 2024.

Monitoring Progress:

It is anticipated that the performance tracking used for the nutrient application permits will be similar to that of CAFO permits in evaluating the number that are in compliance with the permit on an annual basis.

- Percentage of permits in compliance with permit during routine inspection.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

The development of the nutrient application permit is currently on hold to prioritize the renewal of the General NPDES permit.

The program anticipates that the CAFO inspector recruitment process to begin in Quarter 3 and the permit positions recruitment will follow shortly after.

4.5 Land Application of Industrial and Domestic Wastewater

4.5.3.1 Wastewater Permitting and Compliance

4.5.3.1 Wastewater Permitting and Compliance

OBJECTIVE: Continue regulating land application of industrial and domestic wastewater to protect groundwater under state authority in the absence of applicable federal regulations. *[4.5 Land Application of Industrial and Domestic Wastewater]*

Continuous

- Continue implementing and enforcing requirements of Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) permits and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to ensure the collection, treatment, storage, and land application of wastewater is done in a manner that protects groundwater. Review facilities' required annual and monthly reports for compliance with permit conditions. Permits require facilities to continuously adapt operations to maintain compliance and minimize nitrate leaching potential.

Short-Term 2023-2027

- Prioritize modifications and renewals of wastewater permits in the LUBGWMA to be more protective of groundwater. WPCF permits can be issued for a term not to exceed 10 years. NPDES can be issued for a term not to exceed five years. DEQ may process permit modifications to further update conditions of permits in between renewals. Permit schedules are as follows:

* Port of Morrow: Permit updated and renewal issued 12/1/2017; Permit modifications issued since renewal: 11/1/2022, 2/1/2024, and 6/3/2024.

Lamb Weston - Hermiston: Permit update and renewal is currently underway. Permit expired 1/31/2009 but permit requirements remain in effect under an administrative extension until DEQ takes renewal action. Administrative extensions are authorized by Oregon rule (OAR 340-045).

* JR Simplot: Permit updated and renewal issued 11/1/2022. The facility has submitted a modification request to remove acreage from the land application program, which is under DEQ review as of July 2024.

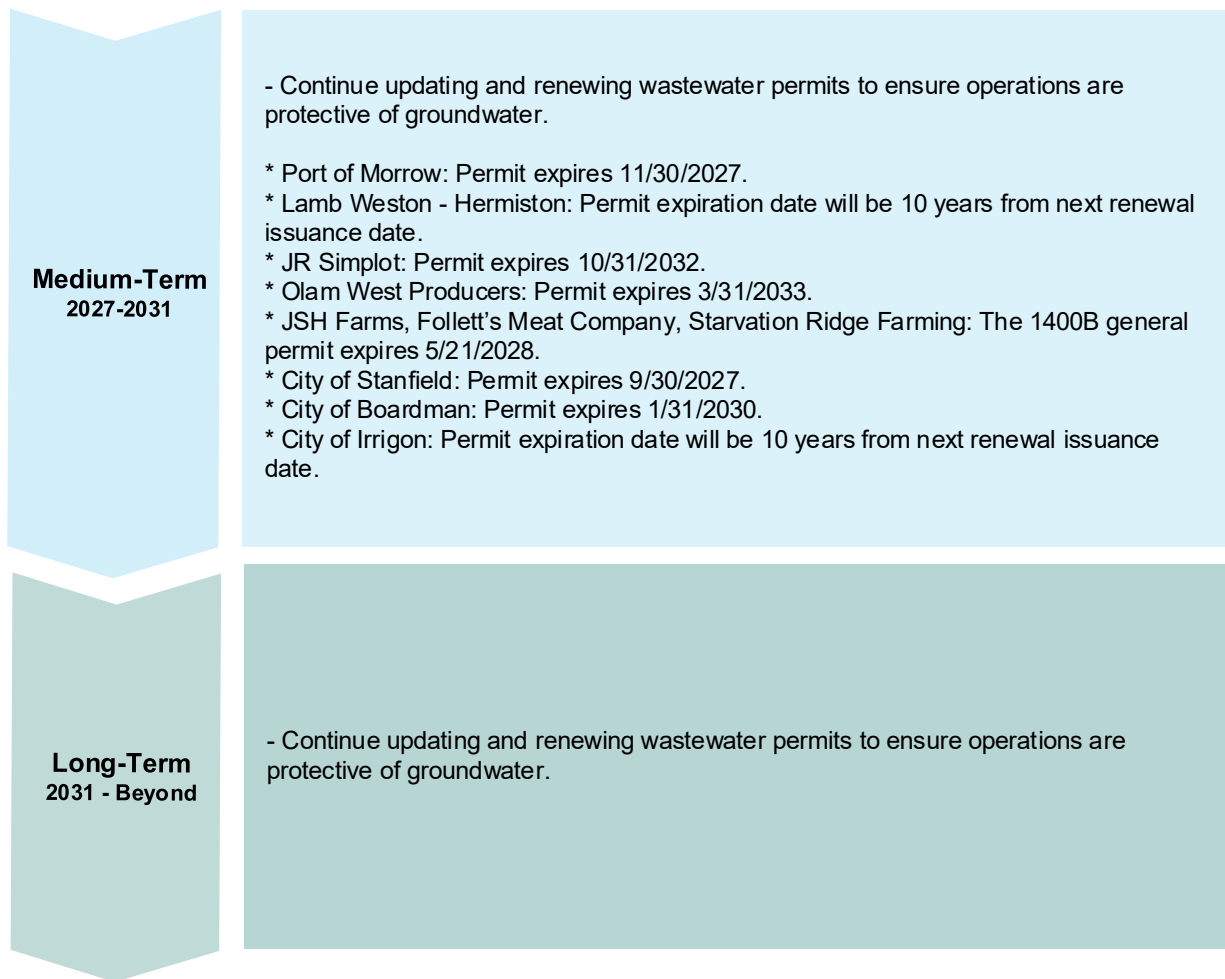
Olam West Producers: Permit updated and renewal issued 6/1/2023.

General permit holders: JSH Farms, Follett's Meat Company, Starvation Ridge Farming: These facilities are under the 1400B general permit that was updated and renewed 5/21/2018.

* City of Stanfield: Permit updated and renewal issued 10/13/2022.

* City of Boardman: Permit updated and renewal issued 2/13/2020.

* City of Irigon: Permit expired 4/30/2009 and is under administrative extension. The facility completed an MAO with DEQ in 2021 that required wastewater treatment improvements to discharge below 7 mg/L nitrate. Permit renewal is pending.



Monitoring Progress:

- Number of permits that have been updated via renewal or modification.
- Ensure annual compliance reports are submitted to DEQ each year. Permits require that facilities monitor groundwater nitrate fluctuations and trends at their individual sites to monitor and remediate potential impacts.
- Number of facilities on track with completing compliance schedule and order milestones.
- Number of engineering reviews completed for wastewater infrastructure improvement projects.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

Four facilities in the LUGBWMA are under DEQ orders or compliance schedules (see below). All are currently on track to meet requirements and milestones in their permits and orders, with specific updates as shown below:

- **Port of Morrow:** The Port of Morrow reported that the lined lagoon project required by the permit to cease the winter irrigation program is on-time. The first lagoon is estimated to be complete in July 2025 and the second lagoon is estimated to be complete in September 2025 for a total of ~1.5 billion gallons of wastewater storage to prevent further winter disposal of effluent by November 1, 2025 per the permit schedule. The facility continues to assess options for design of secondary treatment and is required to submit a pre-design report for the proposed upgrades by September 1, 2025.
- **Lamb Weston Hermiston:** DEQ completed an applicant review period for the facility's WPCF permit renewal and is updating the draft permit renewal to be placed on public notice.
 - DEQ approved the facility's compliance plan required by the Mutual Agreement and Order in March 2025, which includes interim measures to aid in protection of groundwater as the permit process continues. This includes nitrogen budgeting/accounting, and flow restrictions in the winter months.
 - DEQ reviewed the facility's draft RI/FS technical scope of work documents and provided feedback to be included in the RI/FS required due to the facility's land application impacts to groundwater.
- **Olam West Coast, Inc:** The facility is in process of designing an additional lagoon to manage flows in the winter months. The facility sporadically discharges in the winter, which is required to be ceased by November 2026. In February 2025, DEQ reviewed the engineering design documents for the facility's new lined storage pond and received final 100% design documents for review at end of June 2025, which are currently under review.
- **J.R. Simplot Hermiston:** DEQ completed the public notice period for a proposed permit modification to add a small amount of acreage, adjust monitoring requirements, and update the groundwater monitoring plan for the facility. DEQ approved the permit modification and issued it on June 18, 2025. DEQ is working to resolve an open enforcement case with the facility for agronomic rate exceedances and groundwater exceedances.

4.6 Rural Residential

4.6.3.1 Agricultural Water Quality Program

4.6.3.1 Agriculture Water Quality Program	
OBJECTIVE: Prevent and control water pollution (including groundwater) from agricultural activities to achieve water quality standards. <i>[4.6 Rural Residential Strategies Schedule]</i>	
Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Investigate water quality complaints of agricultural activities with impacts to waters of the state. This includes irrigation and nutrient application practices that may be causing pollution to waters of the state.
Short-Term 2023-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Investigate locations identified through the Strategic Implementation Area assessment with potential to impact groundwater, as described below in Section 4.1.3.2.- Area Rules are reviewed every two years. The Willow Creek and Umatilla rules were last reviewed in Feb 2024. Rule changes may be done anytime the agency identifies a need.
Medium-Term 2027-2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Area Plans are reviewed on an alternating schedule of a full and light review of every 6 years for full and every 2 years for a light review. The Willow Creek and Umatilla area plans were last reviewed in Feb 2024.

Monitoring Progress:

- See monitoring information listed in Section 4.2.3.1

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

No water quality complaints were filed or investigated this quarter in rural residential areas.

4.6.3.2 Onsite Septic System Permitting and Compliance

4.6.3.2 Onsite Septic System Permitting and Compliance

OBJECTIVE: Continue regulating onsite septic systems to protect groundwater and public health. [4.6 Rural Residential Strategies Schedule]

Continuous

- Partner with Umatilla County Public Health Department to ensure implementation of rule requirements for the construction, alteration, repair, operation, and maintenance of residential onsite septic systems.

- Implement and enforce Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) Onsite permits for large onsite septic systems, such as commercial or community systems, that receive over 2,500 gallons of wastewater per day or wastewater that is stronger than residential strength.

Monitoring Progress:

- Track residential onsite septic system applications submitted to Umatilla County Public Health Department.
- Track number of WPCF Onsite permits issued or renewed in Morrow and Umatilla counties.
- Ensure annual WPCF discharge monitoring reports are submitted to DEQ each year when required by permit. All new and renewed WPCF permits require annual submission of discharge monitoring reports.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

- Umatilla County Public Health continues to manage residential onsite septic system permits.
- DEQ will report number of residential onsite septic system applications submitted to Umatilla County Public Health in the annual report.
- DEQ will report the number of WPCF Onsite permits issued and annual discharge monitoring reports received in the annual report.

4.6.3.3 Onsite Septic System Repair and Replacement Funding

4.6.3.3 Onsite Septic System Repair and Replacement Funding

OBJECTIVE: Continue providing homeowners with affordable financing options to repair or replace failing septic systems. *[4.6 Rural Residential Strategies Schedule]*

Continuous

- Partner with public agencies or qualified nonprofit lender(s) to offer affordable financing options for septic system repair and replacement when funding is available for this purpose.

Monitoring Progress:

- Assess if residents in the area received financing for repair or replacement of their septic systems through DEQ managed programs.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

- DEQ worked with its nonprofit lending partner, Craft 3, this spring to target additional outreach about available financing to septic system installers and repair companies, community leaders, and county planning and public health departments in Morrow and Umatilla counties. Since that outreach, Craft 3 has received two applications for septic system financing from homeowners in these counties. Both applications are currently in underwriting.

4.6.3.4 Public Wastewater Treatment System and Irrigation Modernization Funding

4.6.3.4 Public Wastewater Treatment System and Irrigation Modernization Funding

OBJECTIVE: Continue providing public entities with low interest loans and additional subsidies to support public wastewater system upgrades or expansion and irrigation modernization. *[4.6 Rural Residential Strategies Schedule]*

Continuous

- Support public entities with funding and technical resources through DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund program. Subsidies are dependent on funding availability.

Monitoring Progress:

- Assess how many communities in the area have applied for funding, are on the intended use plan, or have received financing from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.
- For communities that have received financing, include the anticipated water quality benefits of the funded projects.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

- Please see Quarter 1 report for status of recent loan agreements and applications. There were no additional updates this quarter.

4.6.3.5 Domestic Well Construction and Compliance

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OBJECTIVE: Protect groundwater resources through ensuring that new and modified wells are constructed properly, abandoned wells are providing education to the public and well drilling community, and utilizing enforcement actions when necessary. *[4.6 Rural Residential Strategies Schedule]*

Continuous

- Ensure wells are properly constructed, altered, maintained, and decommissioned so as to prevent contamination, loss of artesian pressure, and waste of Oregon's groundwater resources.

Monitoring Progress:

- Inspect 90% of new, altered, and abandoned wells in the LUBGWMA.
- Conduct in-depth well assessments at 10 wells per year (more if federal funds are secured).

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

OWRD staff were able to complete or attempt to complete 93% of the new, altered, or abandoned wells in the LUBGWMA.

The well survey and assessment project has been paused until early fall due to staff and contractor availability.

5. Monitoring, Data, and Analysis

5.1.1 Groundwater Quality Sampling and Monitoring

5.1.1 Groundwater Quality Sampling and Monitoring

OBJECTIVE: Monitor groundwater quality to understand current nitrate concentrations and track changes over time. *[5.1 Technical Work]*

Continuous

- Quarterly sampling of DEQ's long-term well network of about 30 wells; occasional larger-scale sampling events as resources allow.

Monitoring Progress:

- Confirm quarterly sampling occurred and report results from previous year.
- Report results of any additional DEQ sampling events.

Reporting Progress:

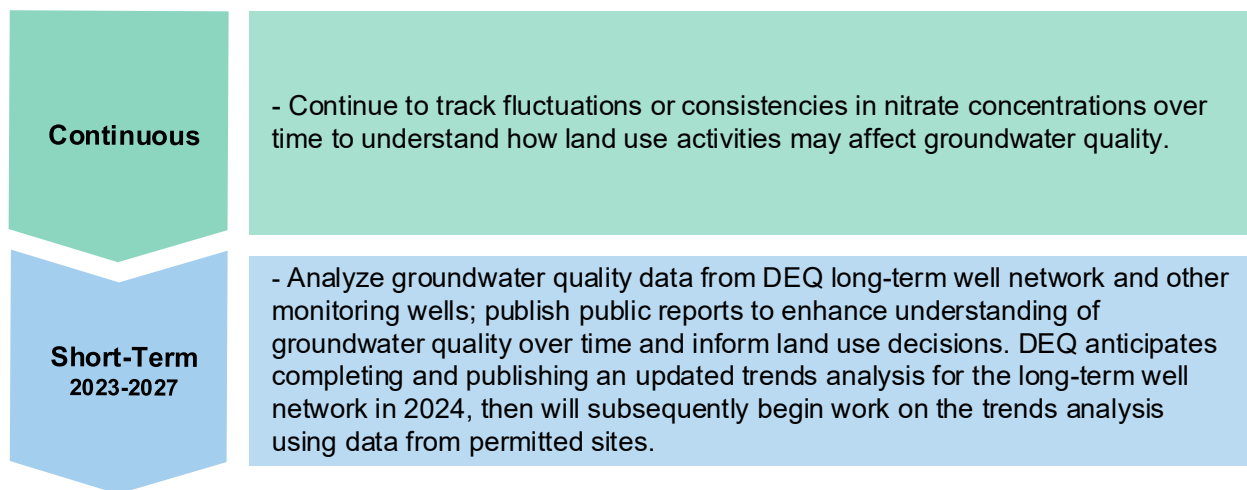
Quarter 2:

- DEQ sampled the LUBGWMA well network in June 2025 as part of a larger-scale synoptic sampling event of 72 wells, including irrigation wells, monitoring wells from permitted land application (agricultural) operations, and domestic wells.
- The June 2025 sampling is the fifth synoptic sampling event DEQ has done in the LUBGWMA over the decades, with the previous events occurring in 1992, 2003, 2009, and 2015. In addition to nitrate, DEQ is also analyzing the synoptic samples for inorganic compounds, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and dissolved organic carbon.
- DEQ submitted the first quarterly sampling this year to the EPA lab in Corvallis for isotope analysis. Isotope sampling can aid in identifying the sources of nitrate in the groundwater. The EPA Corvallis lab has experienced reductions in resources and continuation of this work is uncertain at this time.
- Once finalized, results are publicly available through DEQ's Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS) and can be accessed here: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/WQdata.aspx>. Sample results will be summarized in the annual report.
- DEQ delivers water quality results and related health information in both English and Spanish once a year to well users in the long-term DEQ network. Once finalized, DEQ will also send water quality results to the well users who participated in the synoptic sampling event.

5.1.2 Groundwater Quality Trends Analysis

5.1.2 Groundwater Quality Trends Analysis

OBJECTIVE: To track fluctuations or consistencies in nitrate concentrations over time to understand how land use activities may affect groundwater quality. *[5.1 Technical Work]*



Monitoring Progress:

- Provide summary of any trends reports DEQ has published in the previous year.

Reporting Progress:

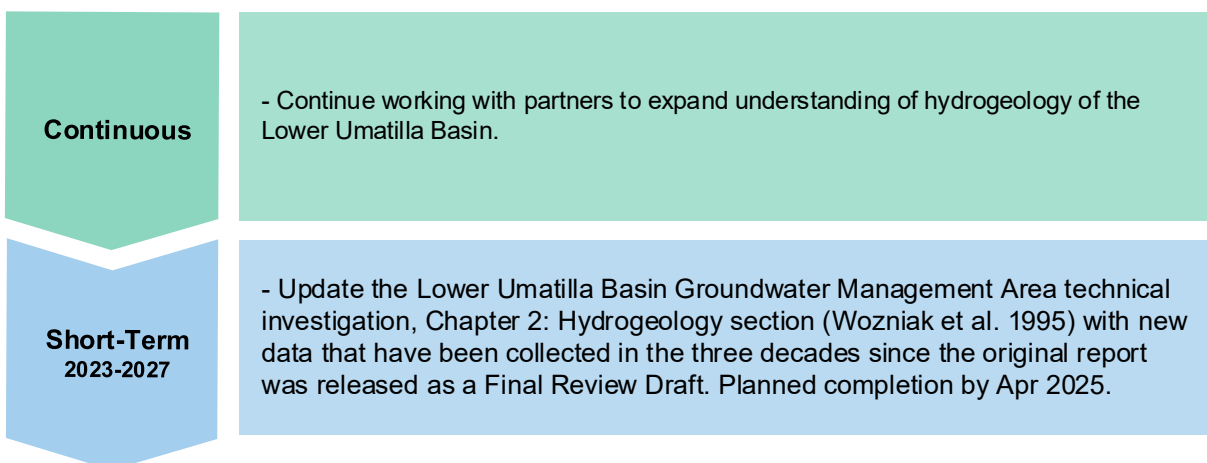
Quarter 2:

- DEQ finalized and released an [updated trend analysis report](#) in January 2025 for DEQ's long term well network. Details are included in the April 2025 quarterly report and will also be included in the 2025 annual report.

5.1.3 Hydrogeology of the Lower Umatilla Basin - Update of Conceptual Model

5.1.3 Hydrogeology of the Lower Umatilla Basin - Update of the Conceptual Model

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this project is to update the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area technical investigation, Chapter 2: Hydrogeology section (Wozniak et al. 1995) with new data that have been collected in the three decades since the original report was released as a Final Review Draft. *[5.1 Technical Work]*



Monitoring Progress:

- Complete update of the 1995 report by April 30, 2025.
- USGS completes peer review of updated report by October 31, 2025. If USGS is unable to complete the peer review, seek other qualified reviewers from state agencies, academic institutions, and/or other professionals as appropriate.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

The update to the conceptual model of the LUBGWMA has been completed and is out for external peer review. Due to feedback received from the Oregon Water Science Center, the USGS will not be able to provide a peer review. Other academic and professional organizations are providing the review. A final report is still scheduled to be released by the end of October.

5.1.4 Ongoing Groundwater Levels Data Collection

5.1.4 Ongoing Groundwater Levels Data Collection

OBJECTIVE: Track groundwater levels over time to inform understanding of the aquifer system. [5.1 Technical Work]

Continuous

- Collect quarterly groundwater level data through OWRD's well monitoring network in the LUBGWMA.

Monitoring Progress:

- Continue to collect quarterly data from existing well network in the LUBGWMA.
- Conduct in-depth well assessments at 10 wells per year (more if federal funds are secured).
- Expand network to fill data gaps as funding is available.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

Groundwater staff completed the spring synoptic at all established wells in the LUBGWMA and that data has been uploaded to OWRD's Groundwater Information System (GWIS) database.

As mentioned, the well survey and assessment project has been paused until early fall.

5.1.5 Nitrate Leaching Estimation Update

5.1.5 Nitrate Leaching Estimation Update

OBJECTIVE: Determine what additional data and resources would be needed to complete an updated nitrate leaching analysis. *[5.1 Technical Work]*

Short-Term
2023-2027

- Develop a plan to identify what additional data and resources would be needed to update a nitrate leaching analysis.

Monitoring Progress:

- Provide status update about plan development.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

- Oregon agencies have not yet received updated nitrate application estimates from U.S. EPA's contractor.

5.2 Groundwater Data Coordination Effort and GIS Platform

5.2 Groundwater Data Coordination Effort and GIS Platform

OBJECTIVE: Coordinate and compile data from local, state, and tribal partners to build a publicly accessible GIS platform that displays groundwater data with the goal of having a common, high quality data set for the region to improve understanding of the hydrogeology and groundwater quality and inform management and planning decisions.

Continuous

- *Proposed Action:* GIS platform would pull data from existing disparate data portals to display an up-to-date unified dataset to increase understanding of groundwater quality in the basin and inform planning and management decisions.

Short-Term 2023-2027

- *Proposed Action:* EPA utilizes the services of one of its third-party contractors to coordinate and compile data and build a standardized GIS platform that would display groundwater data from the various local, state, and tribal entities working in the basin.

Monitoring Progress:

- Provide update about status of GIS platform development.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

- EPA is working to finalize the GIS platform, and state agencies are working with the governor's staff and local partners to determine who is best equipped to house the platform long term.

6. Safe Drinking Water For Well-Dependent Households

6.1 Immediate Safe Drinking Water Services

6.1.3.1 Community Education, Outreach and Engagement About Nitrate in Domestic Well Water

6.1.3.1 Community Education, Outreach and Engagement About Nitrate in Domestic Well Water

OBJECTIVE: Ensure all residents who depend on a domestic well for drinking water understand there are potential health risks from elevated nitrates in their well water, that safe water services are available to them, and how and whom to contact to access needed services and support. *[6.1 Immediate Safe Drinking Water Services]*

Continuous

- Maintain and as needed, develop new outreach and education materials and pathways, including updates to the OHA website, fact sheets and outreach materials. Partner with LPHAs and CBOs to carry out community engagement and education.

Short-Term 2023-2027

- Executed grant awards running through June 30, 2025, to renew funding of three CBOs (Douglas Latinas, Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living, and National Center for Alternatives to Pesticides).
- By September 30, 2024, finalize a scope of work for a client services agreement with the CBO Euvalcree and by October 30 execute the contract backdated to July 1, 2024.
- Completed July 1, 2024 annual funding agreements with Morrow and Umatilla County Public Health Departments through June 30, 2025.
- Posted by July 31, 2024 maps presenting household well test results in a format that protects privacy of individual households to testmywell.oregon.gov and pruebadepozo.oregon.gov.
- Added by July 31 an interested party email sign up to OHA LUBGWMA websites, and an archive of OHA press releases related to the domestic wells public health project.
- By September 15, 2024, finalize a scope of work with strategic communication consultants the Metropolitan Group to review and provide recommendations for improvements to OHA website and CBO engagement.
- By September 30, 2024, begin publishing a monthly bulletin for dissemination via email and on the website.

Monitoring Progress:

- OHA to receive quarterly work reports from funded community-based organizations.
- OHA to receive and provide update on outreach needs and activities at biweekly partner meetings.

Reporting Progress:

- **Quarter 2:** OHA finalized the design for a Storymap created with the support of contractor, The Metropolitan Group. The Storymap, hosted in ArcGIS, includes quotes and full stories from community members in the LUBGWMA who have been impacted by nitrate contamination. It ties these stories with tips to help connect public health recommendations to the daily experiences of community. OHA will finish populating the site and post it to the testmywell.oregon.gov and pruebadepozo.oregon.gov websites in fall 2025.
- OHA and partners are sponsoring community “Open House” events in Boardman and Hermiston on July 30 and July 31, 2025, similar to events hosted and well attended in 2023. These events will provide community-requested presentations on human and animal health and nitrates, opportunities for residents to have one-one-one conversations with OHA toxicologists and Domestic Well Safety Program staff, OHA’s CBO partners, county public health staff, state natural resource agency staff, and OHA plumbing contractors.
- In May OHA distributed its second quarterly newsletter to 394 recipients, an increase in 56 recipients from the first newsletter which OHA sent to 338 recipients in March. Based on the recommendation of OHA’s local LUBGWMA partners, going forward the newsletter’s title will be changed to “My Well, My Health,” selected for its likelihood to resonate with residents.
- After each processed well water test, OHA sends a letter in both English and Spanish to tested households explaining their laboratory results. The letter also includes the health risks associated with high levels of nitrate contamination and potential qualifying resources available to the well user which is determined by the test result. During this quarter, OHA made significant changes to these letters based on feedback from both community partners and well users regarding length, formatting, and content. OHA plans to start sending these new letters to well users in August 2025.
- OHA continues to invest in social and online media, radio, direct mail and other marketing to support outreach and education about health risks from elevated nitrate in well water and accessing testing and other safe water services.

6.1.3.2 Free Initial Domestic Well Water Testing

6.1.3.2 Free Initial Domestic Well Water Testing

OBJECTIVE: By Jun 30, 2025, complete testing of 30%, or 420 of the 1,400 domestic wells that remain untested as of Jul 1, 2024. [6.1 Immediate Safe Drinking Water Services]

Short-Term 2023-2027

- By Jun 30, 2024, completed a minimum of two mailings of at-home nitrate test strips to unreached households (no trespassing/guard dogs/not home households).
- By Nov 30, 2024, complete canvassing of unreached households that do not receive mail at their physical address.
- By Dec 31, 2024, complete a mailing to households whose residents refused testing in summer 2023 renewing the free testing offer and including an “opt out” return mailer to request no further communication.

Monitoring Progress:

- OHA will regularly (generally a weekly or biweekly basis) log new initial water quality test results from its contract laboratory to OR-Wells database.
- OHA will update tabular data for well water nitrate testing and mapped data for highest nitrate results monthly on the English and Spanish versions of its website (testmywell.oregon.gov and pruebadepozo.oregon.gov; click on “Data and News”/“Datos y Noticias”)

Reporting Progress:

- **Quarter 2:** Initial Well Tests: As of June 30, 2025, OHA and its operational partners ODHS and Morrow and Umatilla County Health Departments, with support from local CBOs, have provided nitrate testing for 2,038 households in LUBGWMA that receive their water from domestic wells. This is an increase of 29 new households tested since last quarter’s report of 2,009 households.
- **Objective Complete:** OHA had the objective to complete well water testing of 30% of households that remained untested a year earlier. By the end of June 2024, out of the estimated 3,300 well-dependent LUBGWMA households, OHA had completed 1,706 tests, with approximately 500 households having declined testing, leaving approximately 1,094 households untested due to no trespassing signs or other access barriers. As of June 30, 2025, OHA completed an additional 332 tests, or just over 30% of households untested a year ago.

All testing is voluntary, and the remaining untested households have been the focus of multiple attempts and pathways to extend the offer of free well water testing and other safe water services.

6.1.3.3 Free Domestic Well Water Retesting

6.1.3.3 Free Domestic Well Water Retesting

OBJECTIVE: Ensure households with initial nitrate test results below 10 mg/L are monitored and provided alternate water sources if nitrate in their domestic well water rises above the action level due to seasonal fluctuations and still-increasing nitrate concentrations in groundwater in the LUBGWMA. *[6.1 Immediate Safe Drinking Water Services]*

Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For these households at high risk of exceeding 10 mg/L range, implement a program of OHA direct mailings, followed by ODHS repeat phone calls to schedule and carry out water sample collection and deliver samples to the OHA contract laboratory for testing.- For households with initial tests below 5 mg/L or above 25 mg/L, offer access to self-sampling by picking up and dropping off test kits at county public health department for ODHS to deliver to OHA contract laboratory, except that ODHS will provide sample collection assistance upon request.
Short-Term 2023-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- By June 30, 2024, completed a mailing to all households describing retesting protocols and pathways for retesting depending on their nitrate level.- By June 30, 2024, mailed a second, individualized letter to households that completed their initial tests prior to June 2024. This letter provided the specific household's test results, corresponding testing schedule, and details about the sample collection scheduling.- By June 30, 2024, incorporated retesting information into post-initial-test-results letter OHA mails to newly tested households.- By December 31, 2024 develop a new reporting template to post to the OHA LUBGWMA websites with information about retesting progress.- By June 30, 2025, complete quarterly well water re-testing of 75% of households identified as being at highest risk of exceeding 10 mg/L nitrate (i.e., households between 5mg/L - 9.99mg/L) and maintain this completion rate as new households are identified in this range.

Monitoring Progress:

- OHA will regularly (generally a weekly or biweekly basis) log new water quality retesting results from its contract laboratory to OR-Wells database.
- OHA will post tabular data for well water nitrate retesting on a monthly basis on the English and Spanish versions of its website (testmywell.oregon.gov and pruebadepozo.oregon.gov; click on "Data and News"/"Datos y Noticias"). (Note: this monitoring action to be implemented once OHA adds a retesting report to the webpage.)

Reporting Progress:

- **Quarter 2: LUBGWMA residents actively retesting their wells:** As of June 30, 2025, 608 households in LUBGWMA have had an initial test and at least one follow-up retest of their domestic well. This is an increase of 84 households from the previous period, where 524 households had engaged with retesting.
- **Objective Complete:** OHA had the objective to complete quarterly well water retesting of 75% of households identified as being at highest risk of reaching or exceeding 10 mg/L nitrate. Households with nitrate test results between 5mg/L and 9.99mg/L are at risk of reaching or exceeding the 10mg/L health action level due to seasonal fluctuations and continued increase in nitrate levels in groundwater. As of June 30, 2025, there are 508 households in this category.
 - OHA provided at least one quarterly retest to 354, or 70% of these households.
 - 154 households from this group (30%) declined or were unresponsive to the offer of retesting.
 - This means OHA tested, or meaningfully offered testing, to all 508, or 100% of all households prioritized for retesting.
- **Strengthen protection for at-risk households.** OHA's original commitment to households at risk of reaching or exceeding the health action level of 10 mg/L nitrate (i.e., households with well water testing between 5mg/L-9.99mg/L) was three additional deployed retests (field staff collect these samples, once per quarter), with annual testing thereafter if they remained below the health threshold. OHA is modifying this commitment to be more health-protective by offering these households continued free quarterly tests by collecting their own water samples (using a sample kit from OHA's contract testing laboratory) and drop them off at one of several collection locations for free testing. OHA will provide sample collection upon request to any resident who is not able or comfortable to collect their own sample.

6.1.3.4 Free Kitchen-Tap Treatment System Installation and Maintenance

6.1.3.4 Free Kitchen-Tap Treatment System Installation and Maintenance

OBJECTIVE: Provide safe drinking water to households whose domestic well water test results are 10 mg/L to 25 mg/L nitrate. [6.1 Immediate Safe Drinking Water Services]

Continuous

- Newly tested households with levels between 10-25 mg/L nitrate are immediately started on bottled water delivery and added to the list for treatment system installation.
- Households with OHA-installed systems are provided 6 months worth of replacement filters which they can install themselves or call OHA's vendor to perform maintenance.
- OHA vendor conducts post-system-installation nitrate test to confirm nitrate reduction.

Short-Term 2023-2027

- By Dec 31, 2024, reduce by 50% the backlog of eligible households waiting for installation of treatment systems as of Jun 30, 2024.
- By Jun 30, 2025, reduce by 100% the backlog of eligible households waiting for installation of treatment systems as of Jun 30, 2024.

Monitoring Progress:

- OHA will regularly (generally a weekly or biweekly basis) update its tracking Smartsheet of new installations and post tabular data on a monthly basis on the English and Spanish versions of its website (testmywell.oregon.gov and pruebadepozo.oregon.gov; click on "Data and News"/"Datos y Noticias").

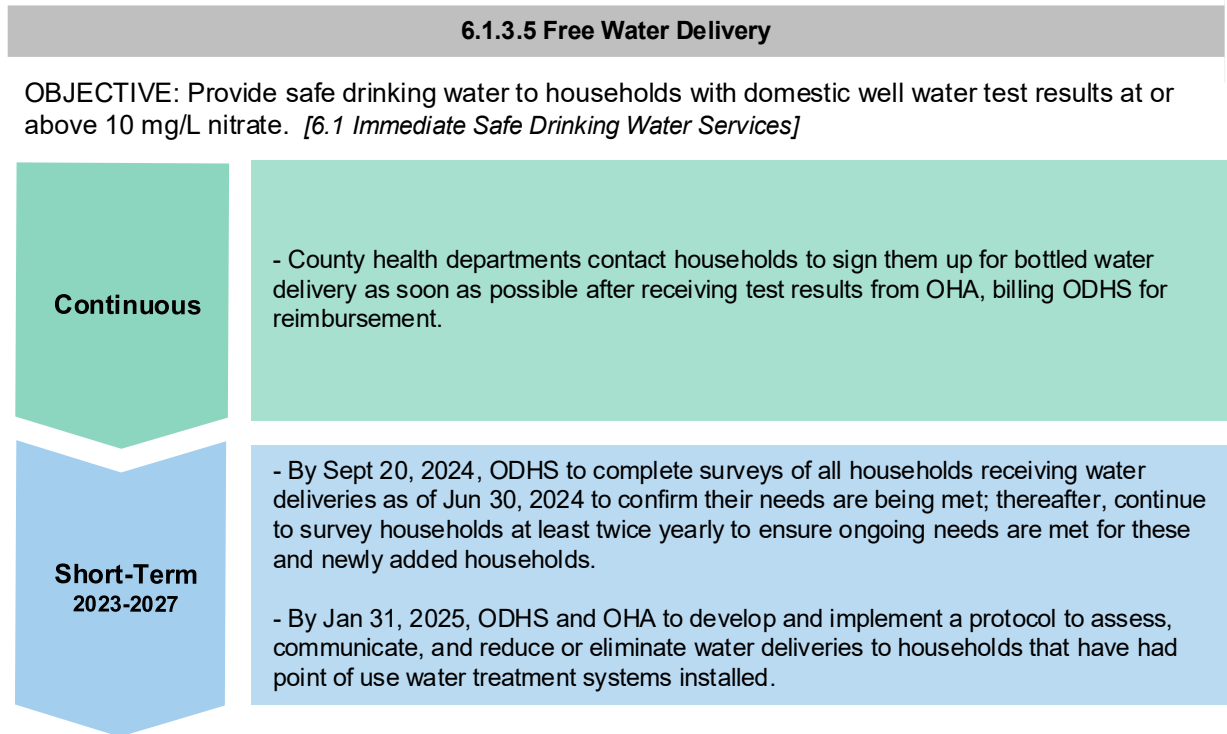
Reporting Progress:

- **Quarter 2: Objective Complete:** OHA had the objective, for households with treatable levels of nitrate that were awaiting installation of end-of kitchen-tap reverse osmosis systems as of June 30, 2024, to reduce the installation backlog by 100% by June 30, 2025.
- As with all the safe water services, accepting water treatment is voluntary. For the 256 households eligible for RO water treatment systems as of June 30, 2024, OHA can report:
- 113 households from this group (44%) have had treatment systems installed.
- 95 (37%) households from this group have been contacted one or more times by OHA's plumbing contractors to schedule a treatment system install and have

been unresponsive. The contractors are required to provide services in Spanish where needed.

- 41 (16%) households from this group declined the offer of a RO system installation when contacted by OHA's plumbing contractors.
- 7 households (13%) from this group expressed interest and have been scheduled for installation.
- Based on the above figures, all 256 households eligible for treatment systems as of June 30, 2024, had systems installed, are scheduled for installation, declined the offer, or have been non-responsive.
- In June consistent with OHA's commitment to meaningfully offer assistance to all eligible households, OHA staff contacted every household that declined or was unresponsive to the plumbing contractors, to try again to offer treatment system installation. Those who accepted are included in the seven households scheduled for upcoming installations.
- **There are 150 households that are still eligible for treatment systems as of current data.** OHA has instructed contractors to attempt contact to all households that qualify for RO systems, and to document their attempts. The most significant barrier OHA has encountered is that households have proven difficult to reach and schedule.

6.1.3.5 Free Water Delivery



Monitoring Progress:

- ODHS will regularly log information about residents receiving water deliveries in its case management database, DLAN and Morrow and Umatilla Counties will maintain their spreadsheet tracking of residents signed up for water deliveries.
- OHA will post tabular data on residents receiving potable water deliveries on a monthly basis on the English and Spanish versions of its website (testmywell.oregon.gov and pruebadepozo.oregon.gov; click on “Data and News”/“Datos y Noticias”).

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2:

- **ODHS water delivery case management data.** ODHS has maintained records for 676 water delivery clients, 569 of which are currently active, 23 are suspended (temporarily vacant rental residence, typically), and 53 have cancelled delivery.

6.1.3.6 Longer Term Water Provisioning for Households Above 25 mg/L

6.1.3.6 Longer Term Water Provisioning for Households Above 25 mg/L

OBJECTIVE: Provide an alternative to bottled water delivery to households with domestic well water test results above 25 mg/L nitrate. *[6.1 Immediate Safe Drinking Water Services]*

Short-Term 2023-2027

- By December 31, 2024, ODHS to issue a Request for Information to solicit public or private sector solutions for providing drinking water to households with well water over 25 mg/L nitrate where reverse osmosis filters are not certified to remove nitrate to safe drinking water levels.

Monitoring Progress:

- ODHS to report on progress issuing and results at biweekly LUBGWMA partner meetings.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2: ODHS OREM is working with Umatilla and Morrow County LPHA's and partners to schedule another meeting with Industrial Service Solutions this quarter to go over longer-term water delivery options to LUBGWMA residents that tested 25mg/L or higher. The date is still being set.

6.1.3.7 Data and Data Management

6.1.3.7 Data and Data Management

OBJECTIVE: Maintain and as needed build out OHA and ODHS databases as the systems of record for all household data related to safe water services to support delivery of services and transparent communications about households served and awaiting service. *[6.1 Immediate Safe Drinking Water Services]*

Continuous

- Data systems are maintained on an ongoing basis.

Monitoring Progress:

- OHA will run routine database queries on a monthly basis and special queries to address non-routine information needs, and post updates to the OHA LUBGWMA websites and respond to public record requests.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2: Database queries and monthly reporting: OHA continues to provide monthly data reports to Morrow and Umatilla counties, as well as their subcontractors. In addition, OHA updates the [LUBGWMA Data and Reporting website](#) on a monthly basis with new statistics related to testing and treatment, typically by the fifth of the following month.

In collaboration with OIS, OR Wells has improved in the following ways:

- As referenced above, households that have completed a year of quarterly deployed testing will move to a self-sample model. OR Wells has to generate two testing schedules; one list for deployed testing and the other list for self-sampling. The update to OR Wells is to eliminate a manual separation of the two lists going forward.
- By September 30, 2025, OHA will implement a new treatment installation scheduling and completion tracking platform for use by the agency's plumbing contractors to support a faster rate of installations and increase reporting accuracy and timeliness.

6.1.3.8 Community Partner Relations

6.1.3.8 Community Partner Relations

OBJECTIVE: Maintain partnerships with local community-based organizations and local governments and fund these partners to: inform the design and implementation of OHA's LUBGWMA domestic well safety activities and perform community education and outreach regarding health risks and how residents can access safe water services. [6.1 Immediate Safe Drinking Water Services]

Continuous

- Meet biweekly or as partners agree to carry out the actions above.
- OHA to execute annual funding agreements with Morrow and Umatilla County LPHAs and CBOs noted in the "Description" below.

Monitoring Progress:

- OHA will provide and receive updates at biweekly LUBGWMA partner meetings.

Reporting Progress:

- **Quarter 2:** Metropolitan Group conducted interviews with community partners of the LUBGWMA effort from January-April 2025 and submitted a report to OHA of the findings in May. The purpose of these sessions was to provide a space for partners to share their perspective on how the collective work is going, and what can still be improved. There were four themes synthesized from this report; 1) relationships are good and coordination has improved, however gaps remain. 2) a desire for greater recognition of partner contributions, 3) the need for simpler communication with community, and 4) unclear or varying expectations around roles and responsibilities within the effort. OHA continued a dialogue on the results of the report in a regularly held meeting in July 2025 and will continue this dialogue with partners and implement changes to our collective work based on this feedback whenever possible, in addition to the actions already taken below.
- **Actions to improve partnership already taken, based on feedback:**
 - Community partner logos and contact information was made more visible on the [OHA website](#) (moved from Frequently Asked Questions page).
 - A new monthly opportunity for partner engagement has been introduced—an informal conversation space designed to foster stronger relationships and enhance collaboration. Additionally, more meetings are now being held in-person, leading to more effective conversations, collaboration, and improved event planning.
 - OHA created and presented a presentation that OHA's role is to provide short-term resources and information to community, while other agencies (DEQ, ODA, WRD) work on long-term solutions in the area.

- OHA has developed new outreach materials for community to clearly explain what nitrate is and what milligrams per liter means
- The agency continues to update the structure of the LUBGWMA partner workgroups as needed, balancing time and capacity with an eye on increasing strategic impact of held meetings and focusing instead on working together on specific, discrete projects.

6.1.3.9 Demographic Study

6.1.3.9 Demographic Study	
OBJECTIVE: Survey LUBGWMA residents receiving safe water services to assess whether the program is equitably serving the community and comply with the state requirements to ask individuals receiving health services about their race, ethnicity, language and disability status. [6.1 Immediate Safe Drinking Water Services]	
Continuous	- OHA will continue to survey newly added households.
Short-Term 2023-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- By Jun 30, 2024, OHA sent mass emailing to all households receiving services before that date.- By Dec 31, 2024, OHA will complete a preliminary analysis of responses.

Monitoring Progress:

- OHA will track via project management tracking and demonstrate completion of initial analysis by publication on OHA's LUBGWMA websites, with periodic updates.

Reporting Progress:

Quarter 2: Survey implementation: As reported in the previous quarter, OHA continues the pause on the distribution of any survey requesting demographic data. The perception by OHA's community partners is that this type of survey may be seen as invasive and could negatively impact engagement efforts if implemented. OHA will continue to explore options for a demographic survey at a future date.

6.2 Intermediate Term Public Water Systems Solutions

6.2.3.1 Technical and Funding Assistance for Public Water System Extension and Creation

6.2.3.1. Technical and Funding Assistance for Public Water System Extension and Creation

OBJECTIVE: To provide technical and funding assistance to Counties and Public Water Systems so that public water system service lines are extended or new systems are created to provide safe drinking water to residents with high nitrate levels in their private domestic wells. [6.2 Intermediate Term Public Water Systems Solutions]

Continuous

- OHA entered into a data use agreement with the two counties to provide counties access to OHA's database of nitrate and other analyte results to inform the work of the counties' Drinking Water Investigation team.
- OHA's Drinking Water Services will reach out, encourage and guide counties and local PWSs to apply for DWSRF/BIL funding.

Short-Term 2023-2027

- Counties, with congressionally directed funding through EPA, carry out a Drinking Water Investigation to lay the groundwork for the design and planning of possible public water system solutions for areas currently relying on contaminated domestic wells.
- Counties, with an engineering consultant, conduct feasibility studies of public water system service area extensions or new public water systems.
- Counties or local PWS reach out to DWS for feasibility study grant (~\$20K) for line extension or PWS creation.
- Counties or local PWS submit Letters of Interest (LOI) to OHA-DWS by Q1 2025 or Q1 2026 to be considered for funding for service line extensions or creation of new PWS.

Monitoring Progress:

- OHA will reach out to county planners and engineering consultant to see if Letters of Interest (LOI) for funding for service line extensions or PWS creation are ready to be submitted in Q1 2025 and Q1 2026. Also, OHA to see if any data or technical assistance are needed.

Reporting Progress:

- OHA provided funding and Letter of Interest (LOI) information to the City of Boardman but haven't received a response yet.

Quarter 2:

- Despite providing Boardman info on DWSRF/IIJA funding, OHA has not yet received any interest regarding federal DWSRF/IIJA funding.

6.2.3.2 Identifying Public Water Systems Not Currently under OHA Oversight

6.2.3.2 Identifying Public Water Systems Not Currently under OHA Oversight

OBJECTIVE: Ensure all Public Water Systems in the LUBGWMA are identified and meeting federal and state requirements for monitoring and treating nitrate. *[6.2 Intermediate Term Public Water Systems Solutions]*

Continuous

- By December 31, 2024, OHA to meet with county and state agency partners to strengthen outreach to identify PWS not under state oversight. Include criteria and requirements in annual trainings with local and state partners to identify new or previously unknown PWS.

Monitoring Progress:

- Reach out to local and state agency partners to identify previously new or unknown PWSs.
- Identified PWSs are listed in OHA-DWS online database and are complying with federal and state requirements.

Reporting Progress:

Four new PWSs were identified during EPA led inspections:

- [Columbia Basin Onion](#)
- [Beef Northwest Feeders](#)
- [Walchli Farms](#)
- [Fewel Farms](#)

Quarter 2:

The four newly identified PWSs are now in OHA's public water system inventory.