



# Water Resources Department: LUBGWMA Well Survey Project

## Get Your Well Surveyed!

Your collaboration and support in understanding how nitrates move through the aquifer is invaluable! You can help us with this project by volunteering your well to be assessed. This project is free and will help us better understand the water bearing zones that contain high nitrate levels. Once the project is completed well owners will be provided a summary of the data collected.

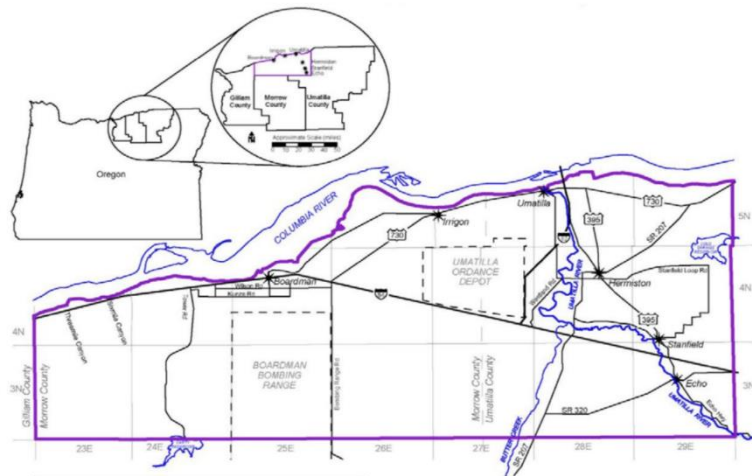
## Background

The Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) encompasses northwestern Umatilla County and northern Morrow County. This region has been recognized as an area of elevated nitrate risk and in 1990 was declared a Ground Water Management area by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

## Project Goal

The goal of this project is to improve our understanding of which aquifers are being tapped by domestic wells in the LUBGWMA and measure nitrate levels in those wells. OHA's domestic well testing effort produced over 1000 samples, but most of these samples cannot be confidently tied to a specific aquifer (e.g., alluvial aquifer, shallow basalts, or deep basalts) because the wells do not have original well logs detailing well construction and lithology. This project will work to address that knowledge gap by performing geophysical surveys at approximately 20 wells in key locations across the LUBGWMA.

### **Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA)**





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## Frequently Asked Questions

Who is leading the Water Sampling Project?

- The Water Resources Department, in collaboration with a licensed Pump Service, is leading the project. The pump service will handle pump removal, while the Water Resources Department will manage data collection related to well construction and aquifer identification.

What areas are being covered?

- The project focuses on the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. The particular areas of interest are Boardman, Irrigon, Umatilla, NE Hermiston, W Hermiston, and Fourmile Gap (south of Cold Springs Reservoir).

How is the survey being conducted?

1. Site Selection: Sites are chosen based on landowner permission, well location, local geology, and nitrate test results (if available). Not everyone that volunteers will be selected.
2. Pump Deactivation and Removal: The pump is deactivated and removed, leaving the site without well water for up to three days. Understanding this is a hardship, OWRD will work with those effected and provide potable water for households not already receiving this service or pay for hotel accommodations.
3. Well Survey: The well is surveyed using downhole camera and geophysics tools.
4. Pump Reinstallation: the pump is reinstalled and reactivated, ensuring it functions as it did prior to removal.

What is the schedule?

- Pump removal and data collection are set to be completed by the end of June 2025, with survey results expected by August 2025.

What data is being collected?

- The assessments will include well depth, static water level, well construction, aquifer identification, and high-definition video.

*If you are interested in participating in this project or want more information:*

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