

Chair Jose Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Committee members Mark Gomolski and Abby Reyes-Munoz; Council Representatives Maria Duron (arrived at 7:08pm) and Roy Barron; City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong, and Youth Advisor Heavenly Coleman. The pledge of allegiance was given.

## Youth Advisor Introduction

Heavenly Coleman stated she is a High School Senior and ASB President, participates in National Honor Society, Generation College, and other groups. She's participating in City meetings as she wants to be more involved in the community.

The Committee welcomed and thanked Heavenly for her participation.

## Minutes

Mark moved and Abby seconded to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Motion carried unanimously. There was no meeting in December.

(Maria arrived 7:08pm)

## Homeownership Programs Through Capeco

Ysenia Gomez, Capeco Homeownership Case Manager, gave information (attached) regarding the many services Capeco offers, to include: Financial Education and Counseling; Home Ownership Courses and all costs and responsibilities associated with homeownership; Helping clients understand what they can afford, foreclosure prevention, and creating a crisis budget; debt reduction, elimination and budgeting; and more. Classes are offered in English, Spanish and virtually. Point-in-Time Count regarding homeless individuals; UEC Mobile Home Replacement Program; financial assistance to help pay for utilities and replacement of windows and energy efficient appliances; and more.

## DEQ Presentation

Laura Gleim, DEQ Public Affairs Specialist and Shannon Davis, DEQ Eastern Region Administrator, presented information regarding (attached) nitrates in drinking water, the importance of testing water from private wells, trying to encourage people to prioritize safe drinking water practices, health issues caused by consuming unsafe water, ways to better inform the public, and more to include:

- **Drinking water safety:**
  - **If your water is from a private well:** The Oregon Health Authority [recommends you test your water regularly for nitrate, bacteria and arsenic](#). These are common drinking water contaminants in Oregon. Water in private wells must be tested during real estate transactions, but otherwise private wells are not regulated in Oregon and water quality is the responsibility of the well user. Find additional information from OHA on [well testing and maintenance](#).
    - **Printable fact sheets in English and Spanish:**
      - [Arsenic / Arsénico \(Spanish\)](#)  
**Fact sheet:** Basic information on Arsenic in well water, health impacts and interpreting results.
      - [Nitrate / Nitrato \(Spanish\)](#)  
**Fact sheet:** Basic information on Nitrate in well water, health impacts and interpreting results.
      - [Total Coliform Bacteria / Bacterias Coliformes \(Spanish\)](#)  
**Fact sheet:** Basic information on bacteria in well water, health impacts and interpreting results.
  - **If your water is from a city or community water system:** Your water is safe to drink. You don't have to test your water. Public water systems are required to regularly test the quality of their water and ensure it is safe to drink.

- [DEQ webpage on nitrate contamination in northern Morrow and Umatilla counties](#)
- [Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area Committee](#) – Committee of local government entities, tribal governments, businesses, community-based organizations, and other interested parties tasked with developing and implementing plans to reduce nitrate levels in the basin.

## Public Comment

Delores Veliz- Asked if there are other cities with these same struggles.

Zaira Sanchez- Stated she works for Oregon Rural Action and has specifically worked on nitrate water issues, information, and outreach. She stated because private wells are not regulated by the government, people need to do their own well water testing and this information isn't readily known so people aren't testing like they should.

Jesse Roa- Stated he has grown up in Umatilla and Morrow County all of his life and remembers seeing and hearing these water issues/information/resources for the last 30+ years; he believes people know about unsafe nitrate levels in drinking water but they just don't care anymore.

There was some discussion regarding other cities with similar issues, LUBGWMA Committee, the frustration with government inaction against groundwater polluters, and entities/organizations coming together to improve community outreach going forward.

## Changing Monthly Meetings to Bi-Monthly Meetings

Jose stated this item would be discussed at the next meeting.

## Closing Comments

### Public Comments

None.

## City Representatives

Maria and Jose spoke on the following:

- New Councilors Jackie Linton and David McCarthy
- EOTEC: Barn Expansions, HEROS Project, City taking over management of EOTEC instead of Venuworks, possibly changing EOTEC's branding
- Thanked Commissioner Murdock for all the work he did in the community before retirement, including the Hispanic Cultural Center
- Thanked Mark Gomolski for all the help he is giving to Latino families in the area, but specifically to those staying in Martha's House, stating Mark brought in immigration attorneys to help Columbian families on their way to become citizens. This is a great help as many immigrants are taken advantage of when going through this process. These families are spreading word of the graciousness of Mark and Martha's House.
- Stated they are proud of the youth for their participation in the community through participating in City meetings

## Youth Representatives

Heavenly spoke on the following:

- New Youth Committee Assignments for the upcoming year
- "Juntos" a school organization that encourages students who don't speak English to come together

## Committee Comments

Jose asked if the Mexican flag could be displayed in Council Chambers during HAC meetings. Roy asked if all Latin speaking Country Flags could be displayed during HAC meetings as they are representing more cultures. Lilly stated she will work with Administration on this request.

Abby presented information regarding free basic English-speaking classes offered at BMCC and free Floriculture dancing classes also offered at BMCC (flyers attached).

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm at City Hall Council Chambers as Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> is Presidents Day.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33pm.

DRAFT



Housing Stability

**Ysenia Gomez**  
*Case Manager*

1565 N First Street, Suite 1

Hermiston, OR 97838

Phone: 541-289-7755

Toll Free: 800-752-1139

Fax: 541-289-7757

[ygomez@capeco-works.org](mailto:ygomez@capeco-works.org)

[www.capeco-works.org](http://www.capeco-works.org)



# Financial Literacy Workshop

2 steps to save thousands of dollars and build Financial Wellbeing!!!



Educate yourself on:

- Budget and Money Management
- Debt elimination and Credit building tools
- Savings Programs
- Potential Home buying or Maintaining current lifestyle

## Class schedule:

- ⇒ **October 12, 2022 9am -12pm**
- ⇒ **November 3, 2022 9am-12pm**
- ⇒ **January 10, 2023 9am-12pm**
- ⇒ **February 21, 2023 9am-12pm**
- ⇒ **April 19, 2023 9am-12pm**



**No fee to attend**

**Certificate Provided**



RSVP for Link to CAPECO at 541-276-1926  
or Ysenia Gomez at [ygomez@capeco-works.org](mailto:ygomez@capeco-works.org)

**Homeownership  
Done Right™**

**Proud Adopter  
of the National  
Industry  
Standards**

National Industry Standards for  
Homeownership Education & Counseling



# Taller de Educacion Financiera

2 pasos para ahorrar miles de dólares y construir Bienestar Financiero!!!



Infórmese sobre:

- Gestión de presupuesto y dinero
- Herramientas de eliminación de deudas y creación de crédito
- Programas de ahorro
- Posible compra de vivienda o mantenimiento del estilo de vida actual

## Fecha y horario de Classes

- ⇒ Octubre 26, 2022 9am -12pm
- ⇒ Diciembre 5, 2022 9am-12pm
- ⇒ Enero 9, 2023 9am-12pm
- ⇒ Febrero 20, 2023 9am-12pm
- ⇒ Abril 26, 2023 9am-12pm



No hay Tarifa

Certificado Proporcional



Si tiene alguna pregunta o le gustaría registrarse para la clase, envíe un correo electrónico a Ysenia Gomez de CAPECO a: [ygomez@capeco-works.org](mailto:ygomez@capeco-works.org) o llame a CAPECO al 541-289-7755

Homeownership Done Right™

Proud Adopter  
of the National  
Industry  
Standards

National Industry Standards for  
Homeownership Education & Counseling



# Homebuyer Education Workshop

Realizing the American Dream Curriculum

Learn:

- If you are ready in pursuing Homeownership and what the process entails
- Money Management and how to improve your credit
- Types of Mortgage Loans
- Fair Housing and so much more

## Class schedule:

- ⇒ **November 1, 2022 9am-4pm**
- ⇒ **December 13, 2022 9am-4pm**
- ⇒ **January 23, 2023 9am-4pm**
- ⇒ **March 2, 2023 9am-4pm**
- ⇒ **April 17, 2023 9am-4pm**



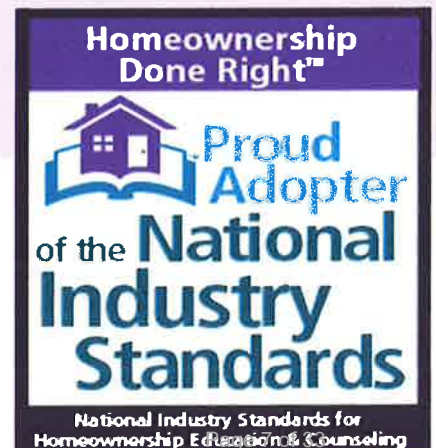
**No Fee**

**Certificate provided**



RSVP to CAPECO at 541-276-1926 or  
Ysenia Gomez at [ygomez@capeco-works.org](mailto:ygomez@capeco-works.org)

Classes offered as well in Spanish





# Educación para compradores de vivienda

REALIZANDO EL SUEÑO AMERICANO

Aprenda:

- Si está listo para buscar la propiedad de vivienda y lo que implica el proceso
- Gestión del dinero y cómo mejorar su crédito
- Tipos de préstamos hipotecarios
- Vivienda justa y mucho más

**Fecha de Clases:**

- ⇒ **Noviembre 15, 2022 9am-4pm**
- ⇒ **Diciembre 20, 2022 9am-4pm**
- ⇒ **Enero 31, 2023 9am-4pm**
- ⇒ **Marso 14, 2023 9am-4pm**
- ⇒ **Abril 25, 2023 9am-4pm**



**No ahi Tarifa**

**Certificado Proporcionado**



Si tiene alguna pregunta o le gustaría registrarse para la clase, envíe un correo electrónico a [ygoomez@capeco-works.org](mailto:ygoomez@capeco-works.org) o llame a CAPECO al 541-289-7755.







# Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

---

Hermiston Hispanic Advisory  
Committee Meeting

Shannon Davis, DEQ  
Laura Gleim, DEQ

Jan. 17, 2023

# Agenda

---

- Introduction to DEQ
- Air Quality Permit Renewal - Threemile Project
- Groundwater Nitrate Contamination Issues
- Questions





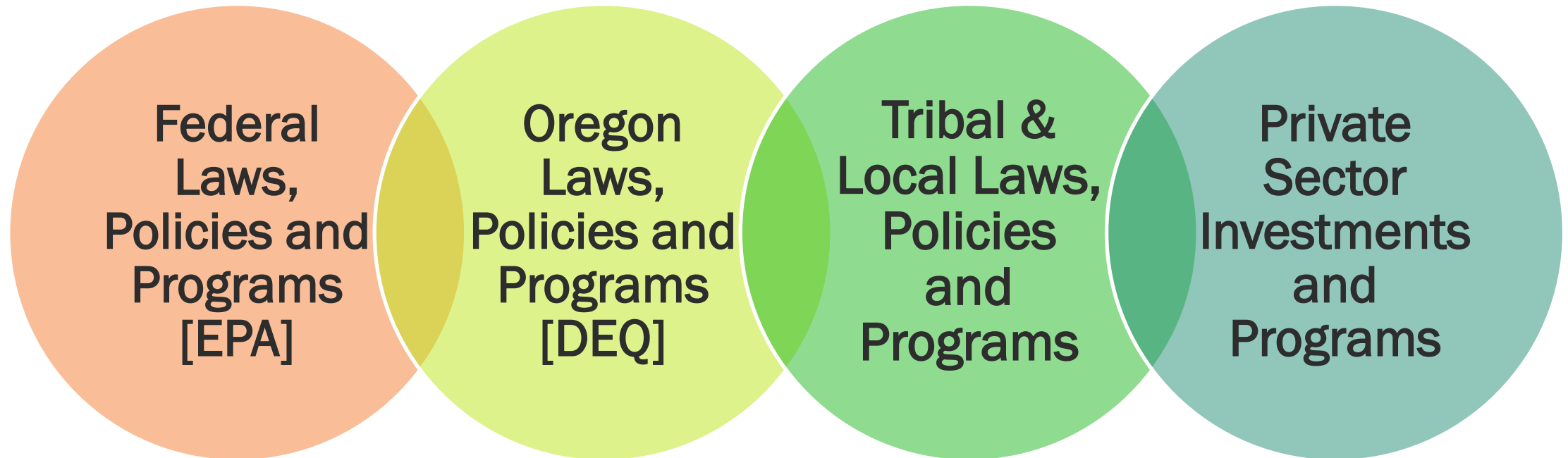
# Oregon. There's a lot to protect.

---

DEQ's mission is to restore, maintain and enhance the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

# DEQ Carries Out its Mission Working With Others

---



# DEQ Programs

---

## Water Quality

*Permitting, standards,  
groundwater protection*

## Air Quality

*Planning, permitting, vehicle  
inspection, GHG, air toxics*

## Land Quality

*Materials management,  
cleanup, emergency response*

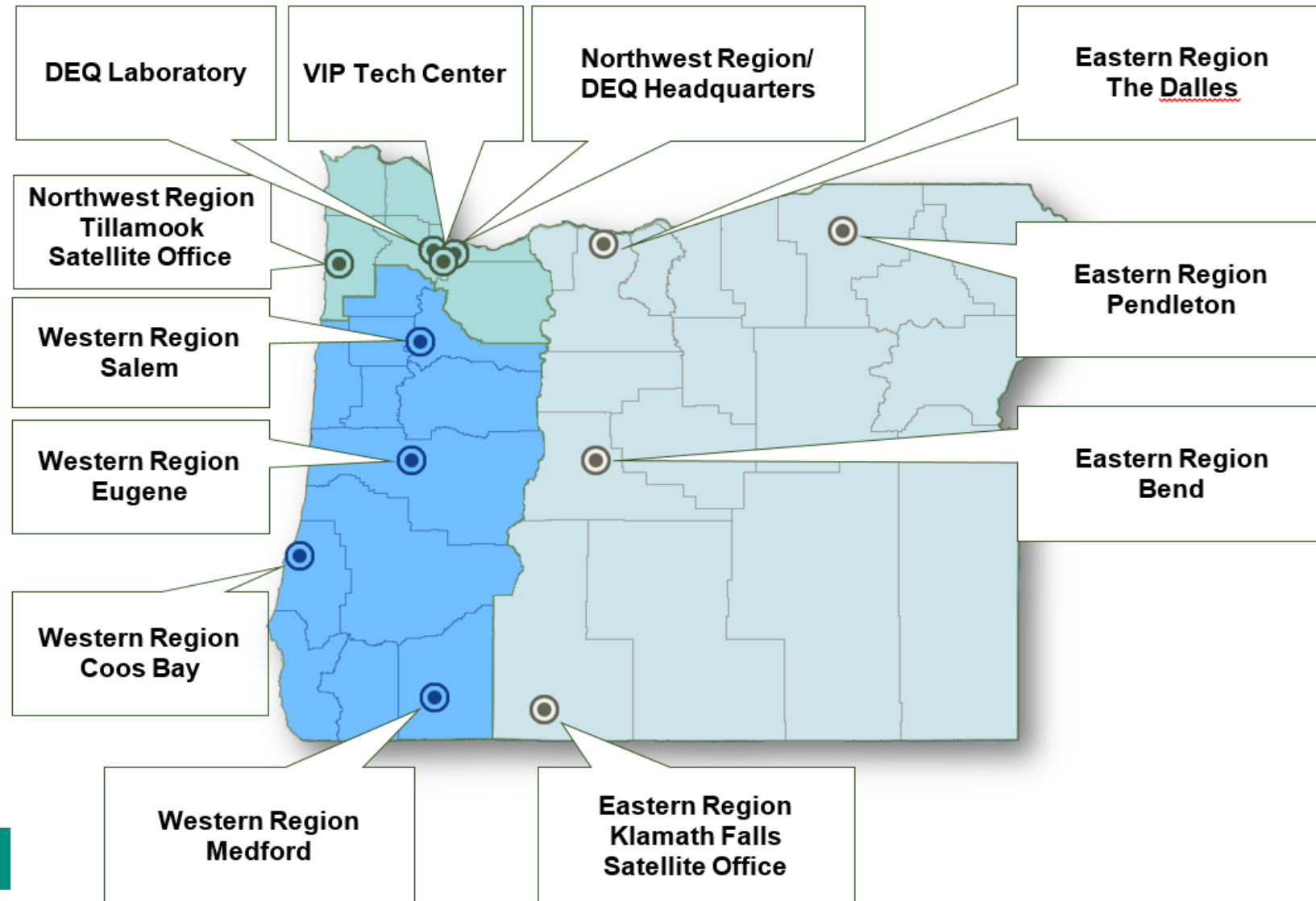
## Agency Management

*Director's Office, HR, IT,  
financial services, Compliance  
and Enforcement*

## Laboratory

*Monitoring, assessing and  
analysis of Oregon's  
environment*

# DEQ in Oregon's Communities



# Air Quality Regulation

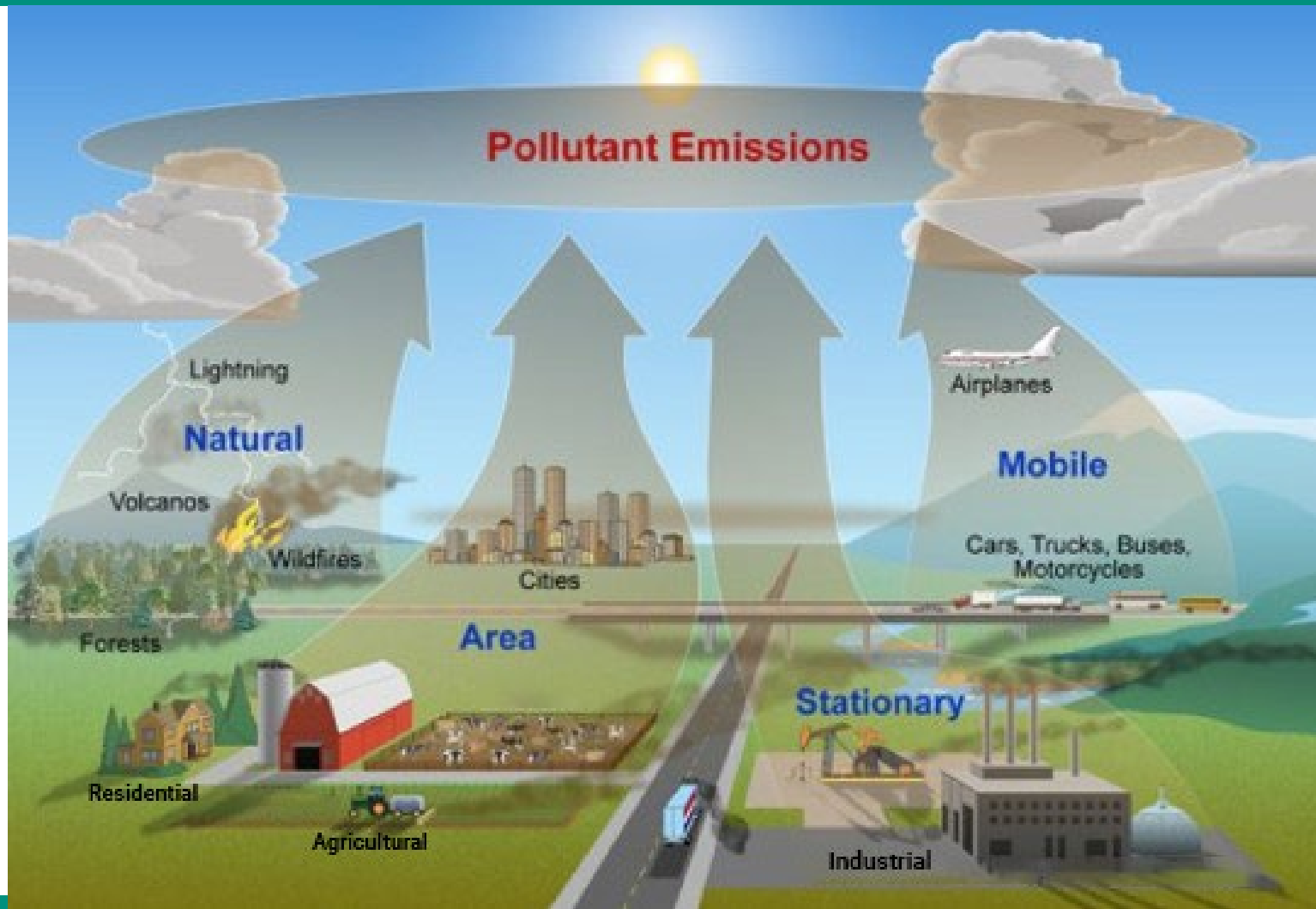


Image credit: National Park Service, 2017

# What is an Air Quality Permit?

- Limits pollution from industrial facilities so air quality remains within state and federal standards.
- Includes:
  - operating conditions
  - emission limits
  - monitoring and reporting





# WOF PNW Threemile Project LLC



# Air quality permit modification

---

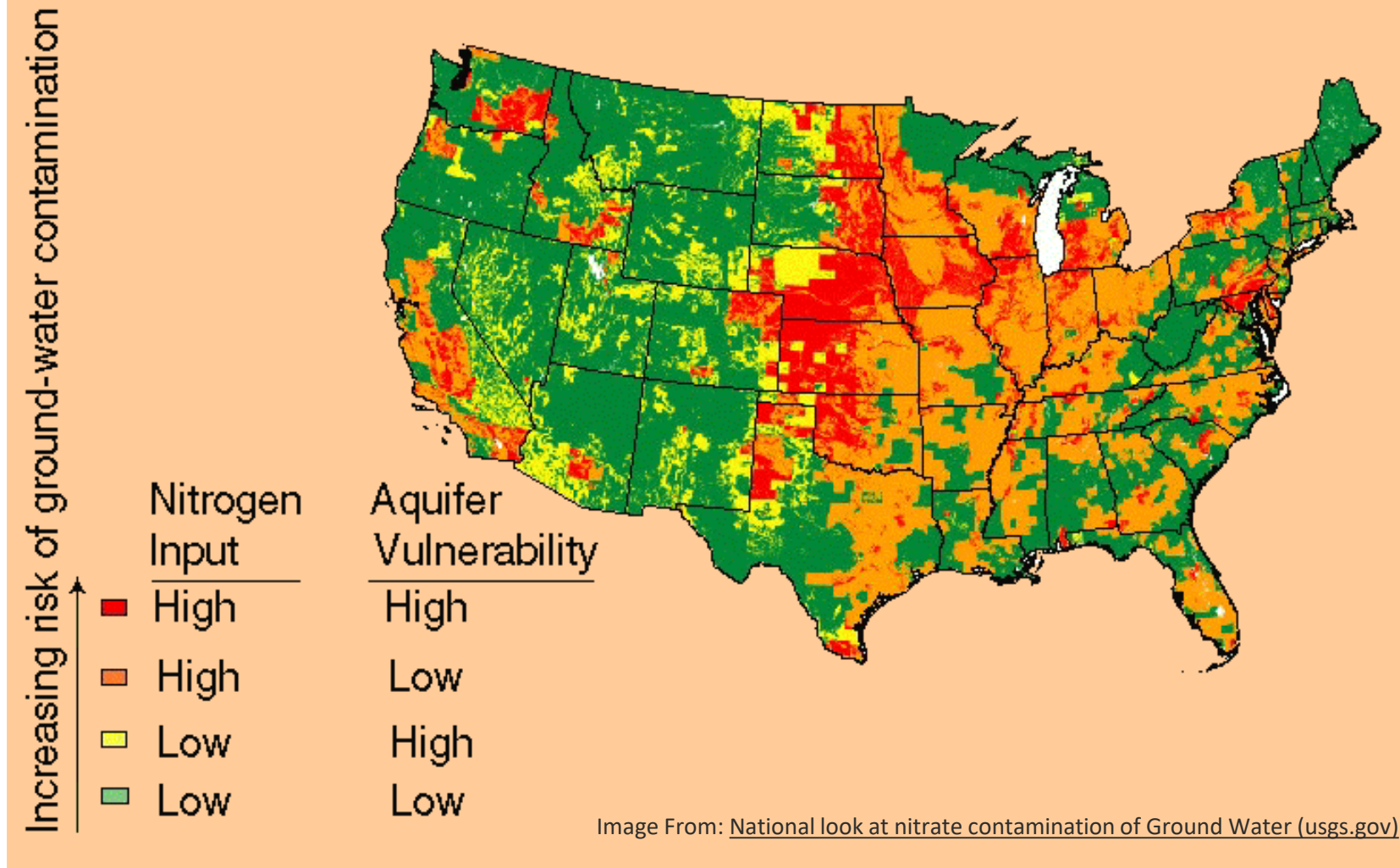
- Facility produces electricity and renewable natural gas from cow manure.
- Permit regulates emissions from these systems.
- Does not regulate emissions from the dairy itself.
- Proposes to increase some emissions limits and decrease others.
- Analysis shows air quality will remain within healthy levels.
- Learn more: <https://ordeq.org/threemile>
- Comments due to DEQ Thursday, Feb. 9.

# Proposed emissions limits

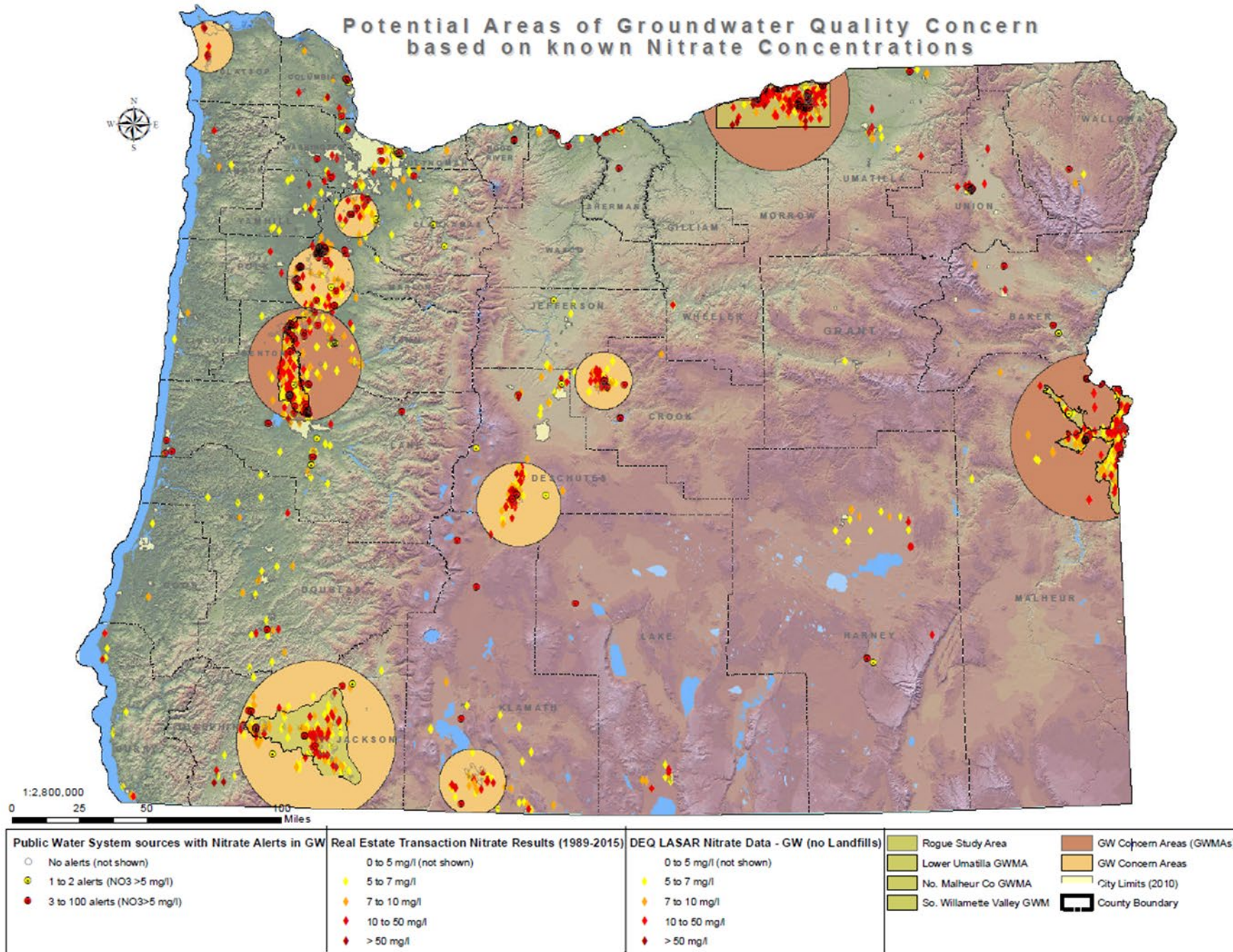
**Table 1**

<b>Criteria Pollutant</b>	<b>Current Limit (tons/yr)</b>	<b>Proposed Limit (tons/yr)</b>
Particulate matter	24	17
Small particulate matter	14	14
Fine particulate matter	9	11
Nitrogen oxides	39	39
Sulfur dioxide	39	17
Carbon monoxide	151	194
Volatile organic compounds	39	29
Greenhouse Gases (including biomass CO <sub>2</sub> )	74,000	101,269
Greenhouse Gases (excluding biomass CO <sub>2</sub> )	74,000	74,000

# Nitrate Contamination in Groundwater



## Potential Areas of Groundwater Quality Concern based on known Nitrate Concentrations



OR DEQ Environmental Solutions (JN 122014) deq/h1 10WP Co-ordination/Other Programs/GWMA

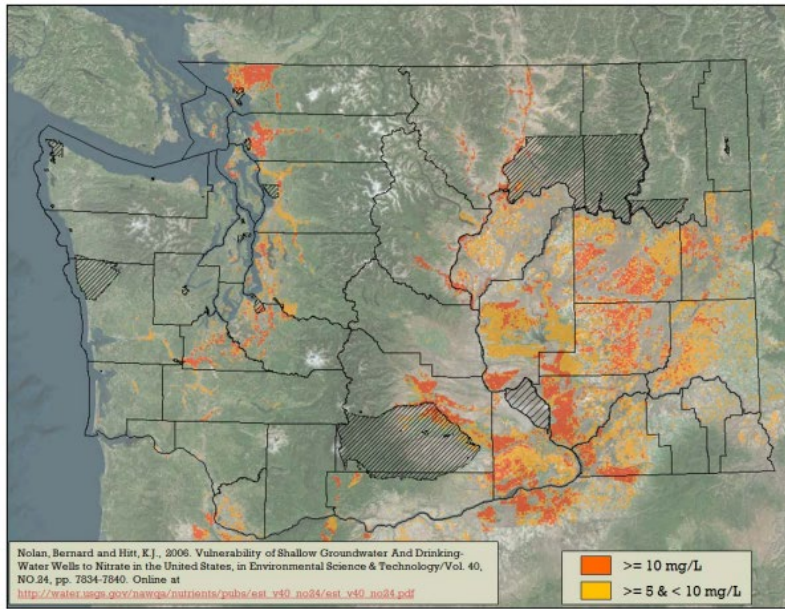
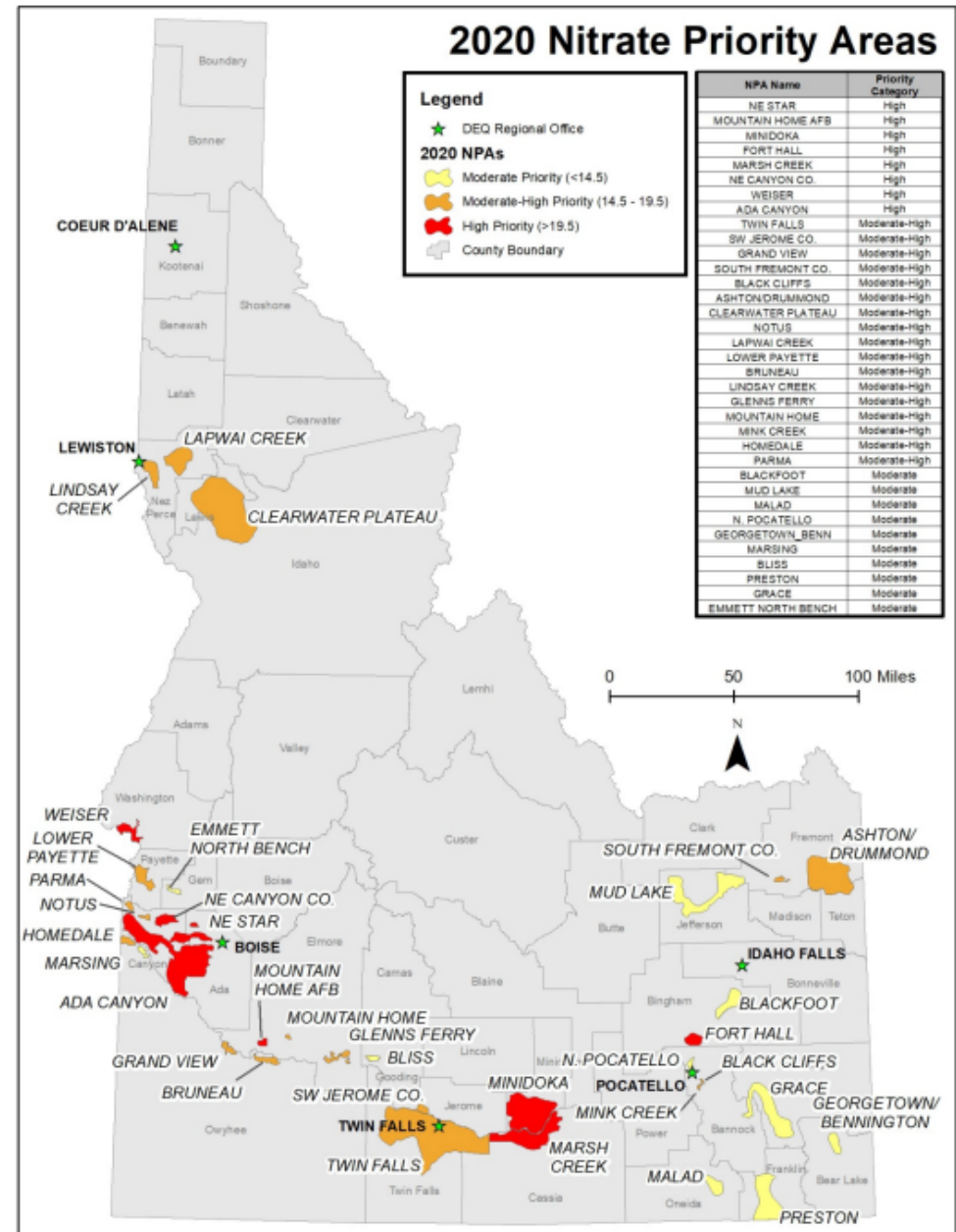
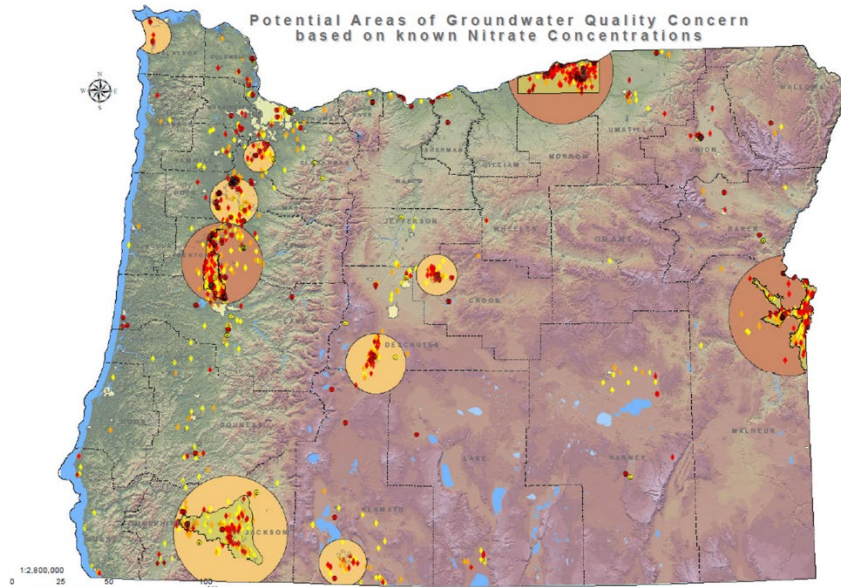


Figure 11: USGS nitrate prediction grid categories greater than or equal to: 5 ma/L Nitrate as N in shallow groundwater (extracted from Nolan, 2006).



# % of residents drinking groundwater



**>70%**

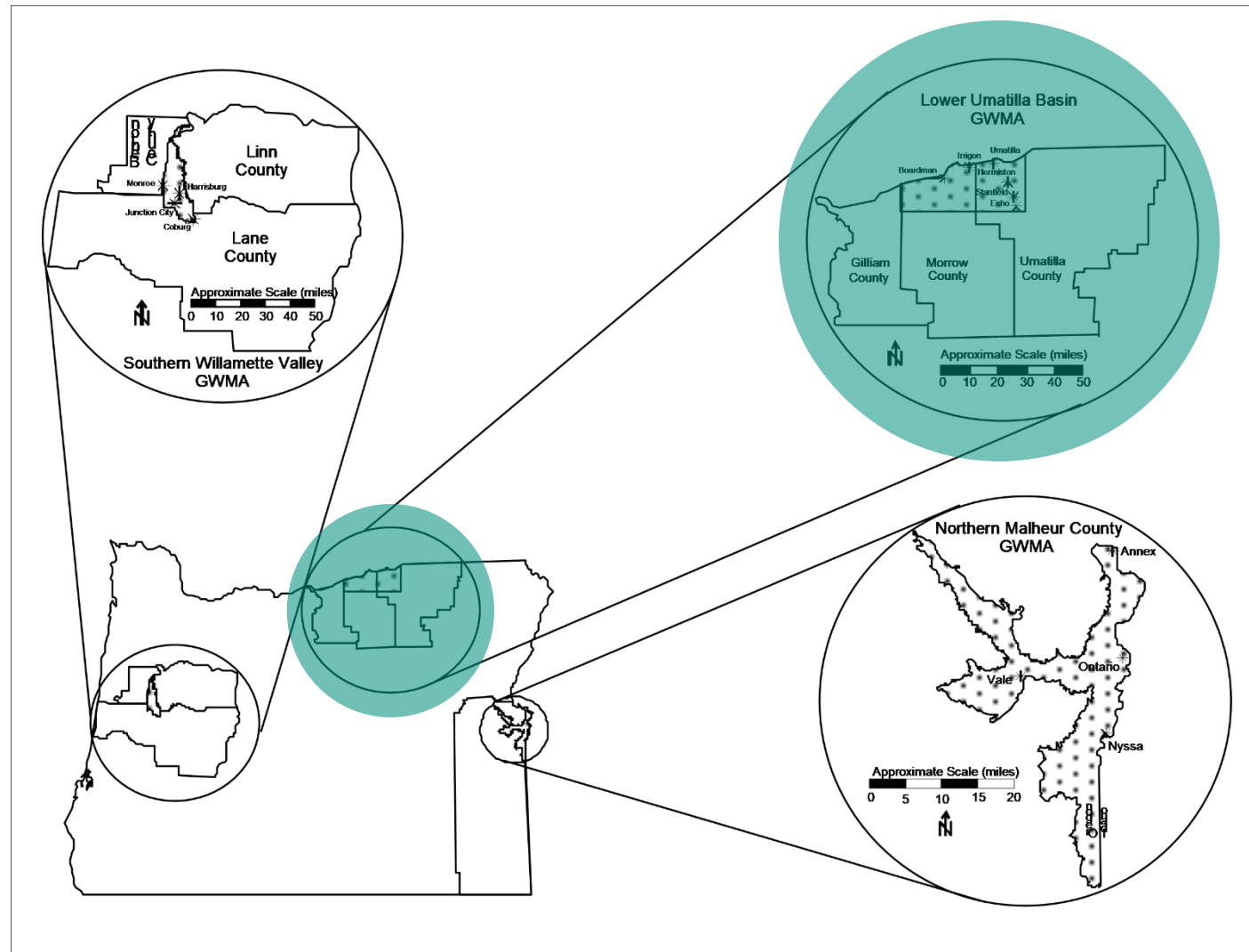
# % of residents on private wells



23%



# Oregon's Three Groundwater Management Areas



1. Northern Malheur County (1989)

2. Lower Umatilla Basin (1990)

3. Southern Willamette Valley (2004)

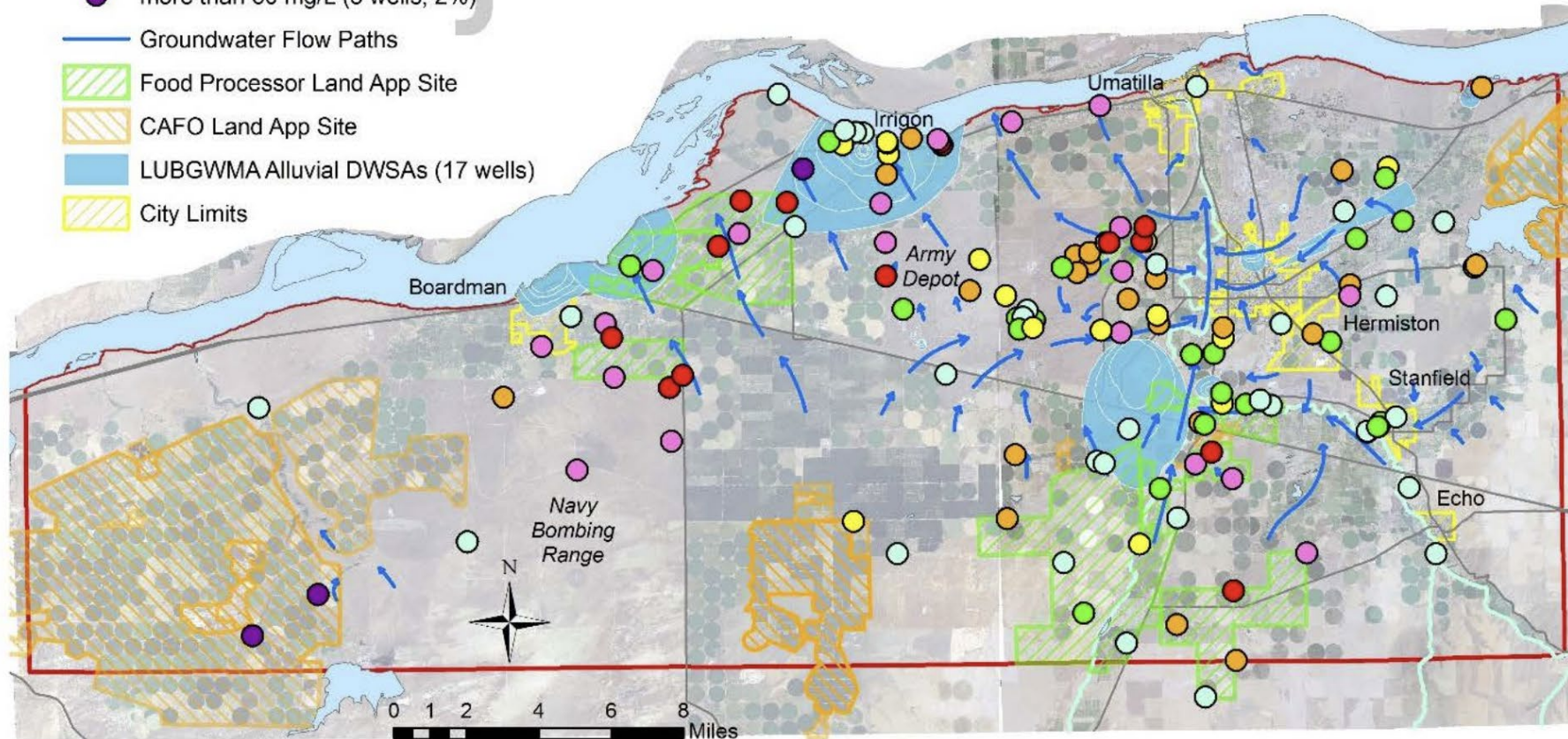
Figure 2-9  
Fourth Synoptic Sampling Event Nitrate Results  
Second LUBGWMA Action Plan

**Legend**

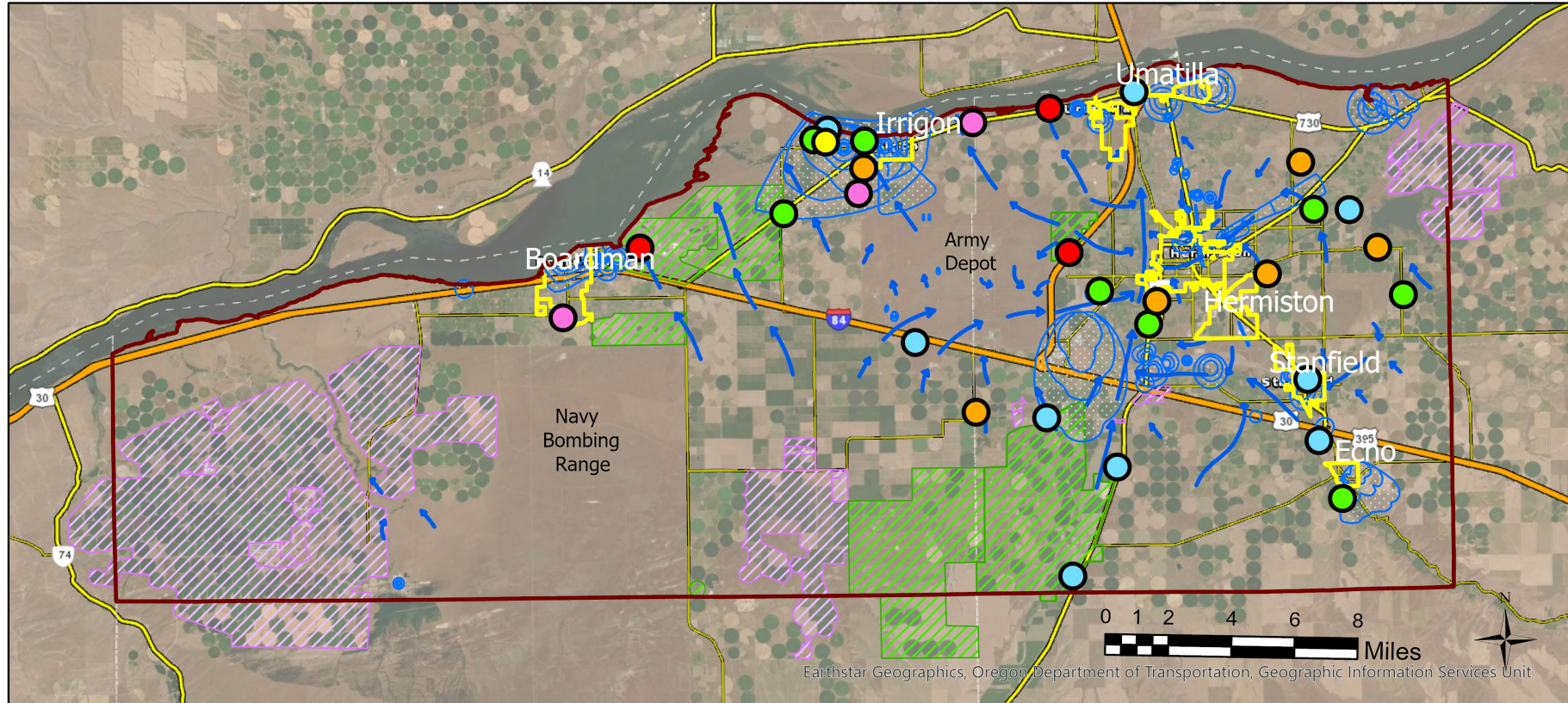
- less than 3 mg/L (33 well; 25%)
- 3 to 7 mg/L (26 wells; 20%)
- 7 to 10 mg/L (15 wells; 11%)
- 10 to 20 mg/L (22 wells; 17%)
- 20 to 40 mg/L (19 wells; 14%)
- 40 to 60 mg/L (14 wells; 11%)
- more than 60 mg/L (3 wells; 2%)

44% Exceed 10 mg/L Drinking Water Standard  
55% Exceed 7 mg/L GWMA Trigger Level

- Groundwater Flow Paths
- ▨ Food Processor Land App Site
- ▨ CAFO Land App Site
- ▨ LUBGWMA Alluvial DWSAs (17 wells)
- ▨ City Limits



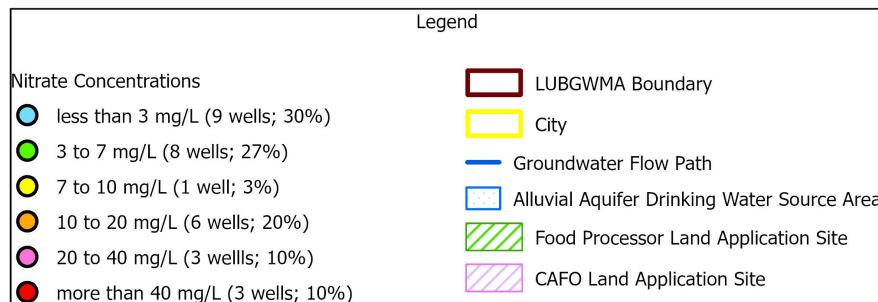
# March 2022 Nitrate Concentrations Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area



## Summary of 30 Samples collected March 2022

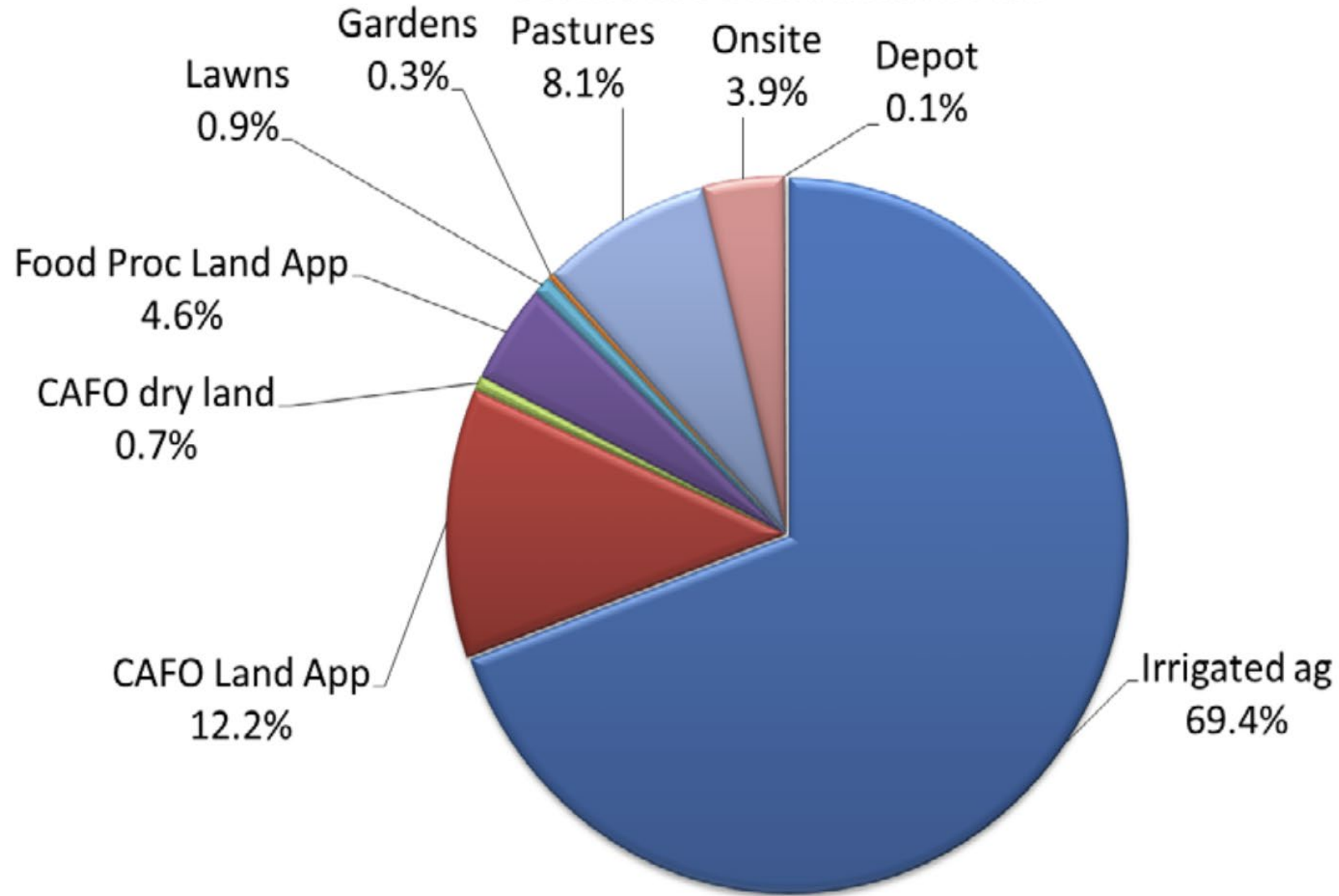
Minimum = < 0.005 mg/L  
 Median = 5.9 mg/L  
 Average = 12.6 mg/L  
 Maximum = 57.7 mg/L

40% exceed 10 mg/L Drinking Water Standard  
 44% exceed 7 mg/L GWMA Trigger Level



X:\ER GWMA\Lower Umatilla Basin\ArcGIS Pro Projects\Lower Umatilla Basin Mar 2022 Nitrate.aprx

## Estimation of Nitrogen Leached to Groundwater Second LUBGWMA Action Plan



# Separate but related issues:

---



**1. Short/medium-term:**  
Safe drinking water



**2. Long-term:** Minimize  
nitrate loading, reduce  
contamination

# LUBGWMA Committee: <https://lubgwma.org>

1. **Morrow County** – Tamra Mabbott (Interim Appointment replacing Commissioner Melissa Lindsay)
2. **Umatilla County** – Commissioner Dan Dorran (**committee vice chair**)
3. **Science and Research** – Dr. Salini Sasidharan, Oregon State University (**committee chair**)
4. **Industry and Business** – Brian Crawford, Lamb Weston
5. **Irrigated Agriculture** – Aaron Madison, Madison Farms
6. **Livestock/Dairy/CAFO** – Greg Harris, Threemile Canyon Farms
7. **Environmental** – Karen Lewotski, Oregon Environmental Council
8. **City Government** – Aaron Palmquist, City Manager, City of Irrigon
9. **Tribal Government** – Eric Quaempts or Kate Ely, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)
10. **General Public** (2 positions) – #1) Kristin Anderson Ostrom, Oregon Rural Action; #2) TBD

# Questions?

- **Laura Gleim**, Public Affairs, [laura.gleim@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:laura.gleim@deq.oregon.gov), 503-577-3697
- **Shannon Davis**, Regional Administrator, [shannon.davis@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:shannon.davis@deq.oregon.gov), 503-875-4924



# CLASES DE INGLÉS

¿Te gustaría aprender inglés?

- **¿Cuándo?** Martes y jueves
- **¿Horario?** 6:00pm a 7:30pm
- **¿Dónde?** 980 SE Columbia Dr.  
Hermiston OR 97838.  
Puerta #108

El programa de educación Migrante ofrece clases de inglés para principiantes Gratis.



Para más información, comuníquese con Abby Munoz al 541-561-4922.





## **CLASES DE BAILE FOLCLORICO**

### **¿TE GUSTARÍA APRENDER BAILES FOLCLÓRICOS?**

**Tenemos clases los martes y jueves de 6:30pm a 7:30pm en el  
BMCC de Hermiston (975 SE Columbia Dr)**

**¡Todos son Bienvenidos!**

**Para más información llame a**

**Abby Munoz (541) 561-4922**

