

Certification Updates



Fall 2024

Topics

Meet the Team

Workload Management

Important Dates

Website Navigation

Questions

Why Certification Matters



Staffing Updates

OHA Certification Team

- Op Cert Coordinator – **Carolyn Clemons**
- Cross Connection & Backflow Prevention Coordinator – **Molly Keller**
- Certification Administrative Support Specialist – **Rebecca Nyberg**
- Office Support Specialist – **Matt Bergquist**

Contacting DWS

Certification

Main Line: Rebecca Nyberg

(971) 673-0321

Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Cross Connection & Backflow Prevention

Molly Keller

(503) 758-2834

Monday – Thursday, 6:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Molly.A.KELLER@dhsosha.state.or.us

cross.connection@odhsosha.state.or.us

Operator Certification:

Carolyn Clemons

(541) 966-0902

Monday – Thursday, 6:30 AM – 5:00 PM

carolyn.m.clemons@dhsosha.state.or.us

DWS.OpCert@odhsosha.state.or.us



Additionally

Unit Manager

Tony Fields

(503) 752-8229

Monday through Friday 6:30 am – 3:00 PM

DWS Phone Duty

M-F, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

(971) 673-0405

info.drinkingwater@odhsoha.oregon.gov

On Call DWS Manager

Emergencies - after hours, evenings, and weekends

(503) 704-1174



By The Numbers

Certified Distribution Operators: **1597**

Certified Treatment Operators: **807**

Combos (holding two or more certificates): **175**

Certified SWS Operators: **583**

Certified Testers: **1483**

Certified Specialists: **421**

Combos (Tester & Specialists): **183**

By The Numbers

Typical Workload (Pre-COVID)

Late Renewals (~50 or so)

Paperwork (filing renewal docs)

New Applications (typically 35-50 annually)

CEU Audits (~300 operators)

Annual Report to EPA

Biennial report to Legislature (odd years)

Represent OHA on OESAC

Why Certification Matters



By The Numbers

“New” Typical Workload

As before, but with increased workload -

Late Renewals (more than 100 last year)

Late CEU responses (~25 – much improved!)

New Applications (**484** as of 10/02/2024)*

New Small Water System Operator Written Exam – implemented 08/01/2022

New SWSTC Training Agreement 09/11/2024

* ≠ Backflow or SWS Operators

By The Numbers

Backflow

New Applications: **308** (previously averaged <40 per year)

Late renewals: 145

Annual cross connection fee invoicing

Annual Summary Report

Cross Connection Advisory Board

Instructor's meetings

Annual Summary Report Data

Year	ASR Reports	Total # of connections	# of high hazard connections	RPs Installed	RPs Tested	PRs % Tested	DCs Installed	DCs Tested	DCs% Tested	PVBs Installed	PVBs Tested	PVBs % Tested
2022	919	1,592,431	43,747	61,863	54,449	88%	425,775	370,116	87%	8,609	7,351	85%

Important Dates

Certification Renewals

- Renewals go out in October, due NLT 12/31
- Last names beginning with **A-K** this year

Cross Connection Annual Fees

- Invoices go out in November, due NLT 12/31
Late Fees Assessed **February 1st.**

Annual Summary Reports

- Available first week of January, due NLT 03/31

SWS Renewals

- Due NLT 07/31

Speaking of small water systems...

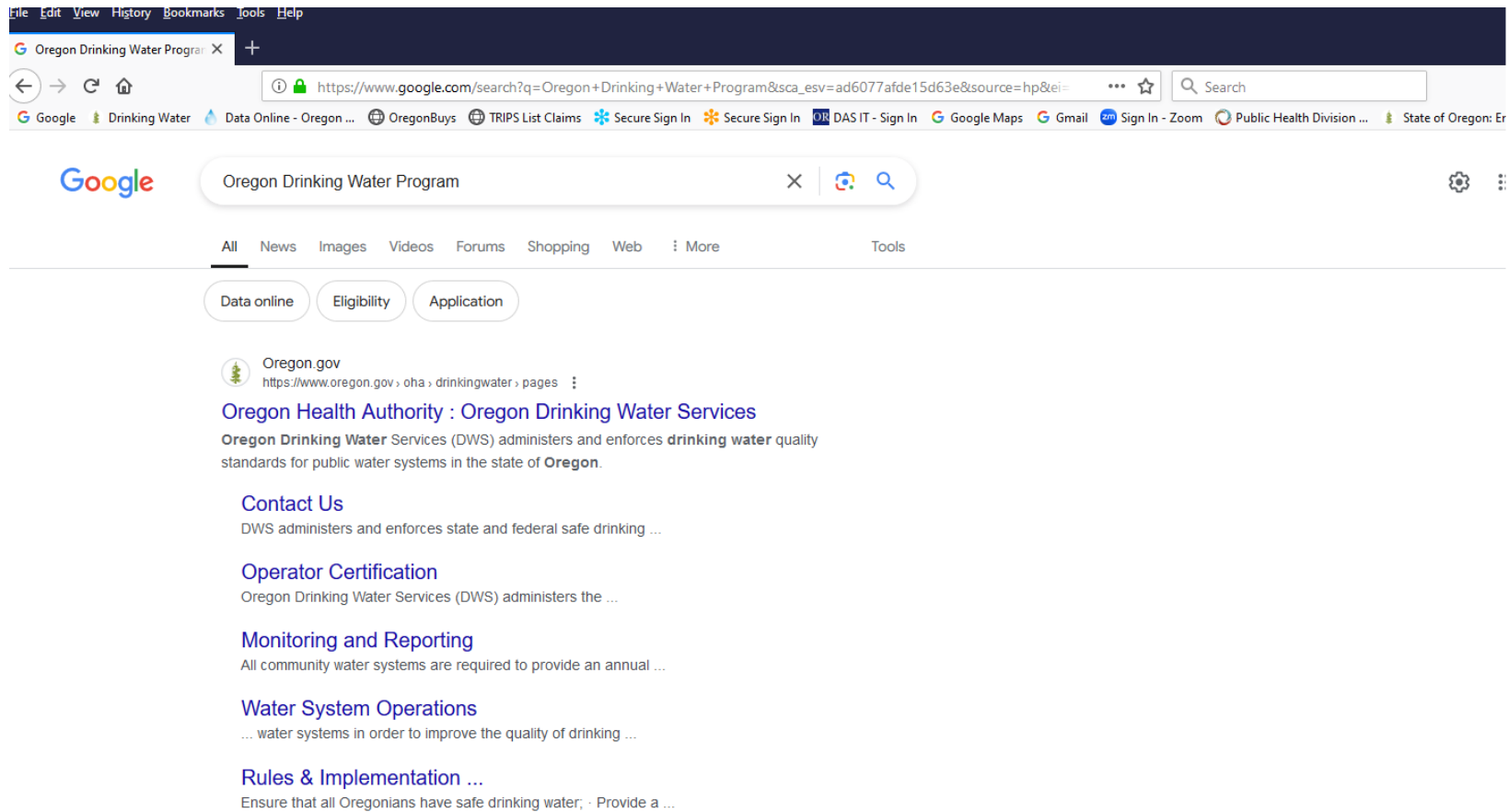
- The new training agreement for the Small Water System Operator Training Class is final.
- The Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU) is the vendor for this agreement.
- There four in-person classes and one virtual class scheduled through the end of 2024
- There will be 16 in-person classes, and four virtual classes held annually beginning in 2025.
- Additional information available here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/OPERATORCERTIFICATION/SMALLWATERSYSTEMS/Pages/basics.aspx>

Why Certification Matters



Locate the DWS Webpage

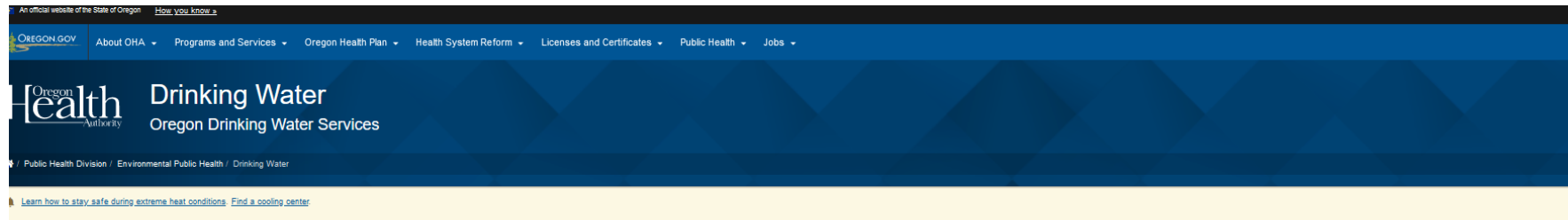


The screenshot shows a web browser window with a Google search for "Oregon Drinking Water Program". The search results page includes several filters: "Data online", "Eligibility", and "Application". The top result is from Oregon.gov, titled "Oregon Health Authority : Oregon Drinking Water Services". Below the title, there is a brief description: "Oregon Drinking Water Services (DWS) administers and enforces drinking water quality standards for public water systems in the state of Oregon." Below this description are several links with brief descriptions:

- Contact Us**: DWS administers and enforces state and federal safe drinking ...
- Operator Certification**: Oregon Drinking Water Services (DWS) administers the ...
- Monitoring and Reporting**: All community water systems are required to provide an annual ...
- Water System Operations**: ... water systems in order to improve the quality of drinking ...
- Rules & Implementation ...**: Ensure that all Oregonians have safe drinking water; - Provide a ...



DWS Website Navigation



Oregon Drinking Water Services

Working to keep drinking water safe for Oregonians

Access to safe drinking water is essential to human health. Oregon Drinking Water Services helps to keep drinking water safe for Oregonians.

Oregon Drinking Water Services (DWS) administers and enforces drinking water quality standards for public water systems in the state of Oregon. DWS focuses resources in the areas of highest public health benefit and promotes voluntary compliance with state and federal drinking water standards. DWS also emphasizes prevention of contamination through source water protection, provides technical assistance to water systems and provides water system operator training.



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- [Water Advisories Map](#)
- [Data Online](#)

Services

- [Cross Connection & Backflow Prevention](#)
- [Emergency Planning and Response](#)
- [Groundwater & Source Water Protection](#)
- [Monitoring & Reporting](#)
- [Operator Certification](#)
- [Plan Review](#)
- [Drinking Water Funding](#)
- [Water System Operations](#)
- [Capacity Development](#)

Resources

- [County & Department of Agriculture Resources](#)
- [Data Online](#)
- [Domestic Well Safety Program](#)
- [Drinking Water Advisory Committee \(DWAC\)](#)
- [For Consumers](#)
- [Online Maps](#)
- [Rules & Implementation Guidance](#)
- [Training Opportunities](#)
- [Site Map](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

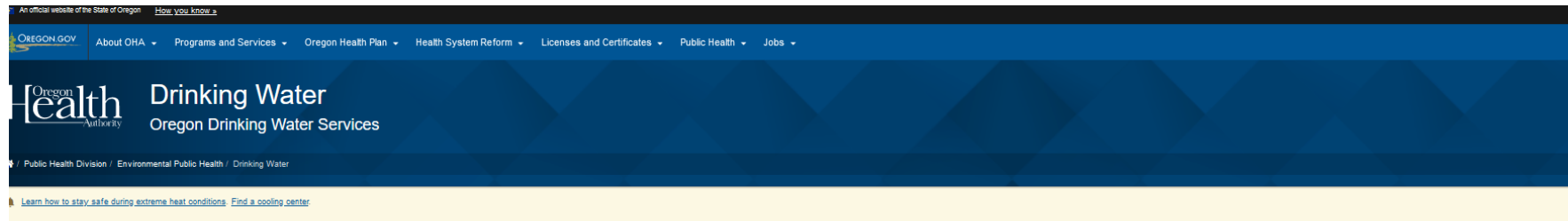
News and Hot Topics

Link

- [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) Rule](#)
- [2024 Source Protection Grant LOI](#)
- [Startup tips for seasonal systems](#)
- [Annual Water System Fee Info](#)
- [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding](#)
- [Compliance Monitoring Data Portal](#)
- [Current Rulemaking: Proposed Rule Amendments](#)
- [Cyanotoxin Resources for Water Systems](#)
- [DWS Annual Compliance Report](#)
- [LCRR Service Line Inventory Requirements](#)
- [Wildfire Information for Water Systems](#)
- [View archived hot topics and news items](#)



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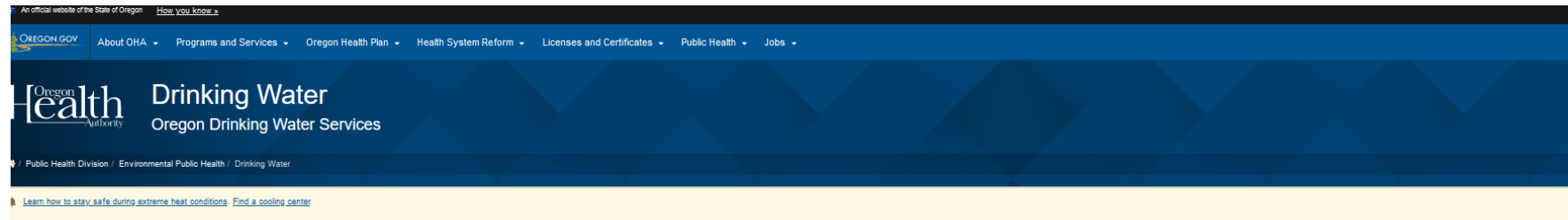
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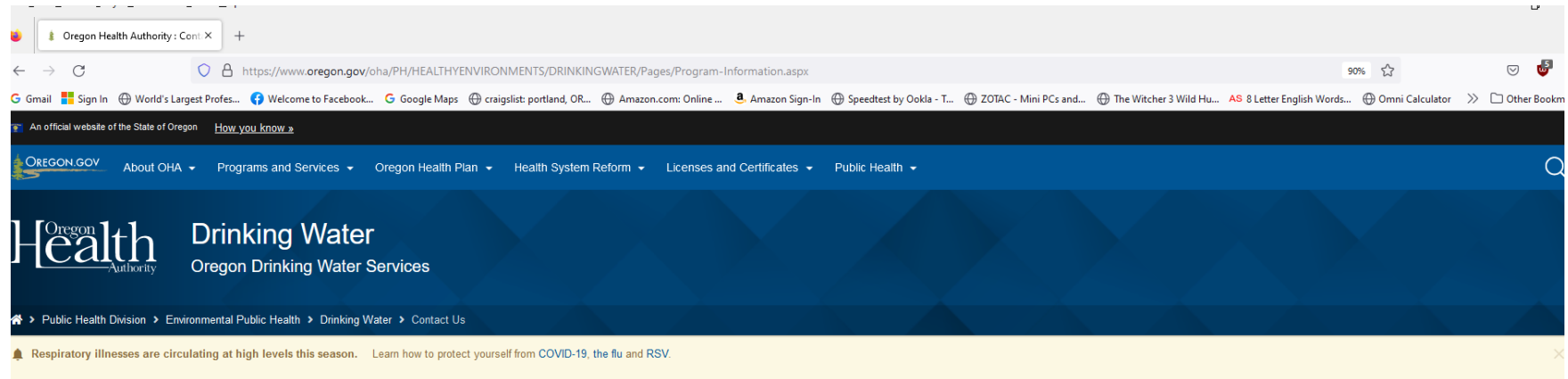
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DWS Website Navigation



Contact Us

Drinking Water Services

Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention

Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund

Emergency Preparedness & Security

Ground & Source Water Protection

Monitoring and Reporting

Operator Certification

Plan Review

Water System Operations

Advisory Committee

Contact Us

Drinking Water Services

Contact Us

E-mail: info.drinkingwater@dhsosha.state.or.us
Phone: 971-673-0405
Fax: 971-673-0694

Emergency Response

After hours emergencies: evenings, weekends & holidays
Contact the on-call DWS manager.
Phone: (503) 704-1174

To report a spill, contact
Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS)
1-800-452-0311 (or in Salem 503-378-6377)

Resources

- [Public Records Requests](#)
- [Contract County Directory](#)

Certification

Phone: 971-673-0321
cross.connection@dhsosha.state.or.us
dws.opcert@dhsosha.state.or.us

Address

Drinking Water Services
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 640
Portland, OR 97232

Mailing Address

Drinking Water Services
PO Box 14450
Portland, OR 97293-0450

Compliance Report Submission

Drinking Water Services
PO Box 14350
Portland, OR 97293-0350
E-mail: dwp.dnce@dhsosha.state.or.us
Fax: 971-673-0458

Plan Review Email

dws.planreview@dhsosha.state.or.us

Hours of Operation

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Mon-Fri



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DWS Website Navigation

Oregon Public Health
Drinking Water Data Online



[Introduction](#) :: [Data Search Options](#) :: [Water System Search](#) :: [DWS Home](#) :: [DWS Rules](#)

Drinking Water Data Online

Welcome to **Data Online**, the data access site for [Oregon Drinking Water Services](#).

Here you can access data on public drinking water systems in Oregon, such as coliform and chemical testing, violations, enforcements, public notices, and basic system information.

The [Search Options](#) page explains many of the data pages that are available. Use the [Water System Search](#) page to find a water system by water system ID number, name, or location.

Data shown here are "live" data. That means they're as current as the reports we have in our system. This is the same data that Drinking Water Services (DWS) staff see and use. If something is missing, that usually means it has not been reported to us or we have not entered it yet. If you (water system personnel, county staff, lab staff, etc.) find a report is missing, please forward a copy to us at: **DWS, PO BOX 14350, Portland, OR 97293**.

For questions or updates regarding water system sampling, inventory, or compliance, please contact Drinking Water Services at 971-673-0405 or Info.DrinkingWater@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

See the [Contact Us](#) page on the main Drinking Water site for more contact options.

Information for all water systems:

[Water System Inventory](#) :: [Water System Surveys](#) :: [Outstanding Performers](#) :: [Treatment Plant Inspections](#) :: [Treatment](#) :: [Plan Reviews Alerts](#) :: [Violations](#) :: [Compliance & Enforcement](#) :: [Deficiencies](#) :: [System Scores](#) :: [Exceedances](#) :: [Public Notices](#) :: [Service Lines](#)
[Water Advisories](#) :: [Contact Reports](#) :: [Cyanotoxins](#) :: [PFAS](#) :: [Post-wildfire VOCs](#) :: [Fluoride](#) :: [Certification List](#) :: [DW Source Protection](#)

New! Visit our new [Drinking Water Source Protection](#) page.

[Introduction](#) :: [Data Search Options](#) :: [Water System Search](#) :: [DWS Home](#) :: [DWS Rules](#)

Need help? [Email Drinking Water Services](#) for assistance.

[Staff/Partner Login](#)



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Why Certification Matters



New Stuff!

- The new data includes much greater detail
 - Which systems the certificate holder is affiliated with.
 - Whether their certification is current or delinquent, and their expiry dates.
 - Contact information, including phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

New Stuff!

- There is a guidance chart labeled *More Information* at the top of the data page
 - Contacts
 - How to use this data table
 - Public Tester List.
- All of the data within the table is downloadable in Excel, CSV and PDF formats, and can also be printed.

New Online Maps

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/Pages/maps.aspx>

Oregon Drinking Water Advisories

Map displays active system-wide drinking water advisories in Oregon, as well as partial advisories that affect a significant portion of the population served.



ORELAP Accredited Drinking Water Labs

Map displays ORELAP accredited drinking water labs that accept commercial samples, along with contact information and accreditation status for common analytes.



Oregon Public Water Systems and Wildfires

Map displays proximity of water systems to wildfires and evacuation areas.

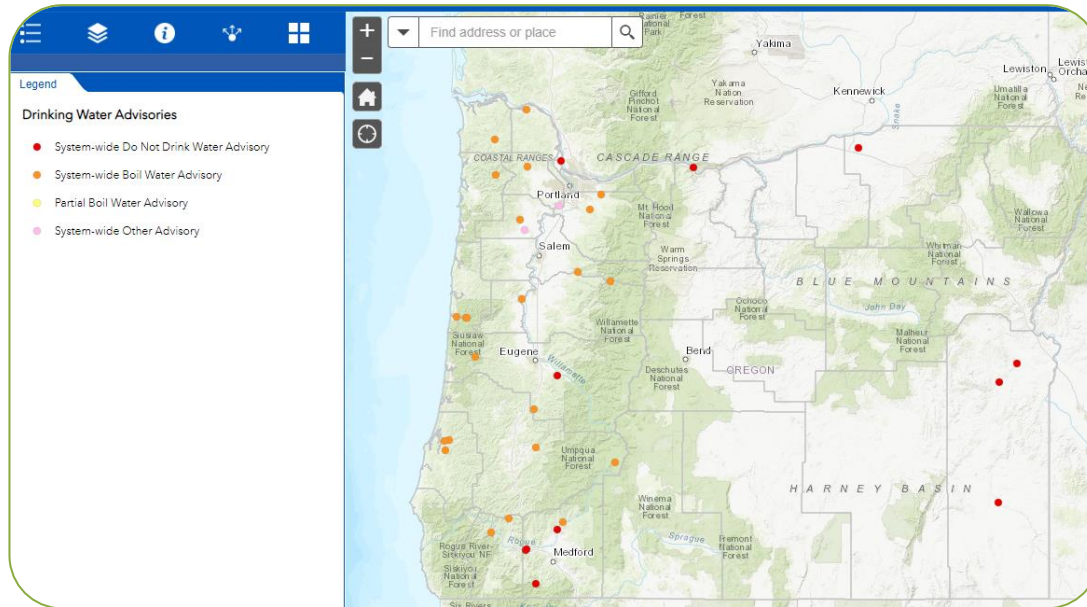


Oregon Public Water Systems

Map displays active public water systems in Oregon. Points represent approximate center of service area.

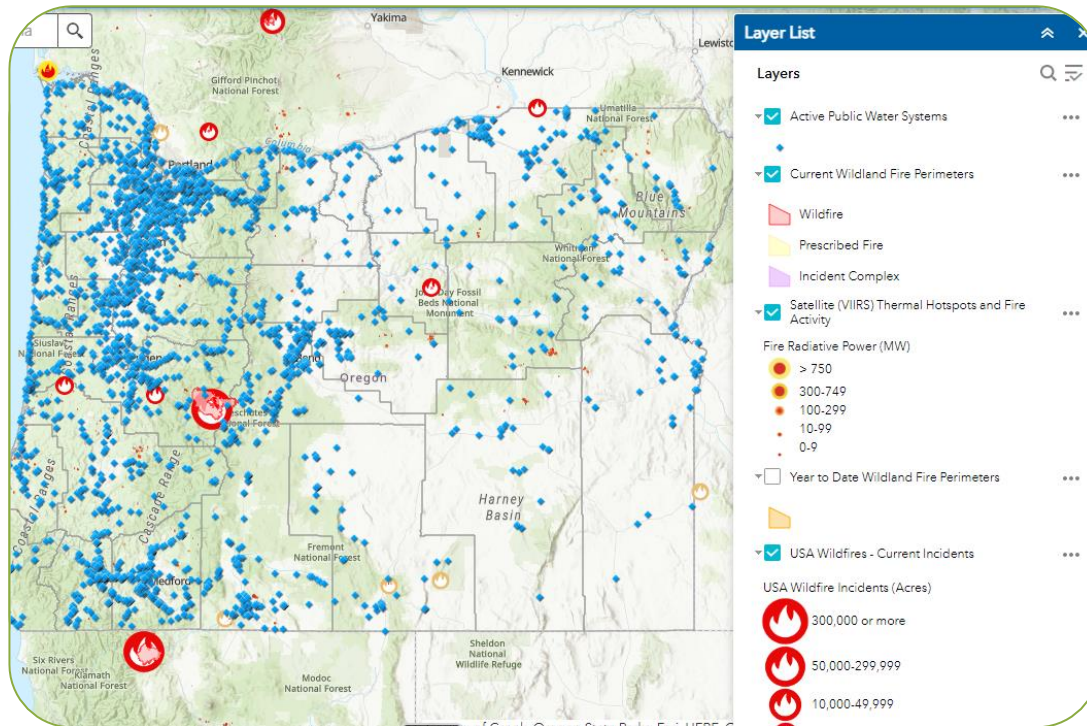


New Online Maps



- Drinking Water Advisories

New Online Maps



- Wildfires and water systems

Why Certification Matters



Program Updates

New Circuit Rider Contract

- Asset Management
- Project Management
- New funding to allow assistance for water systems not traditionally eligible for CR assistance

Program Updates

New Circuit Rider Contract

Through Oregon's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), contracts have been established with drinking water Circuit Riders to provide short-term (typically 10 hours or less) on-site technical and engineering assistance **for community water systems serving populations under 10,000, as well as nonprofit transient and non-transient water systems.** For these systems, services are free.

Program Updates

Beginning with the 2022-2027 Circuit Rider contract, Oregon will also utilize state general funds to provide technical assistance **to water systems that are not eligible for traditional circuit rider assistance, excepting only federally owned water systems.** As above, these services are intended to provide short term technical and engineering assistance (typically 10 hours or less) and are provided free of charge.

Program Updates

New Circuit Rider Contract

Contact

Marlin Gochnour, PE, MBA - President
Civil West Engineering Services, Inc.

486 E Street

Coos Bay, OR 97420

Phone: **541-266-8601** | Fax: 541-266-8681 | Email:
mgochnour@civilwest.net



Why Certification Matters



Questions?



Thank you!

Anthony J. Fields, R.E.H.S.

Protection, Planning and Certification Unit Manager

Oregon Health Authority
Center for Health Protection
Drinking Water Services

800 NE Oregon Street
Suite 640
Portland, Oregon 97232

Cell: (503) 752-8229

E-mail: anthony.j.fields@oha.oregon.gov

