



OREGON ENVIROTHON

CURRENT ISSUE ORAL PRESENTATION 2020

Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions

Groundwater Management Areas are designated by the DEQ when groundwater in an area has elevated contaminant concentrations resulting, at least in part, from nonpoint sources. Once the GWMA is declared, a local groundwater management committee composed of affected and interested parties is formed. The committee then works with and advises the state agencies that are required to develop an action plan that will reduce groundwater contamination in the area.

Oregon has three designated Groundwater Management Areas (GWMA). These areas have elevated contaminant concentrations, often a result of nonpoint pollution sources. These areas are:

- Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area
- Northern Malheur County Groundwater Management Area
- Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/GWP-Management-Areas.aspx>

Instructions:

Your team shall choose one of the three Oregon GWMAs to study. Your objective is to deliver an oral presentation to a panel of community members. Consider including the following elements in the presentation.

Identify:

- 1) the cause of the GWMA designation
- 2) the area affected (map)
- 3) the impact of the designation for the community
- 4) the proposed recommendations in the GWMA Action Plan that will improve the problem

Consider the following:

- 1) What might be the perspectives of various stakeholders (farms, industry, residents, recreationists, tribes, local government, etc.) in your study area?
- 2) What other solutions might help meet the goal of reducing nitrates in the area? Make sure to emphasize local decision-making when developing solutions. Proposed actions should be reasonable, politically feasible and cost-effective. Explain who should take the action and how it will be funded.