



OREGON ENVIROTHON

CURRENT ISSUE ORAL PRESENTATION 2021

Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions

Forests are critical landscapes for managing surface water because nearly half of the State of Oregon is forested. Oregon's forestland is managed by several different groups, including federal, state, industrial, tribal, and small private landowners, creating management opportunities and challenges. All forest landowners are required to follow the Oregon Forest Practices Act which are laws in place to help protect surface water.

Recently, Institute for Natural Resources (INR), Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), and Oregon State University (OSU) worked together on a research study called "Trees to Tap." This study examined the quality of Oregon's drinking water and the effects that forestland has on water resources.

More information can be found on the website: <https://oregonforests.org/TreesToTap>

The *Trees to Tap* report highlighted three Case Studies that illustrate the complex relationships between water systems, forest ownership, and partnerships. They are:

1. Baker City Case Study
2. Oceanside & Cape Meares Case Study
3. Ashland Case Study

Your team has been hired by the Community Water Systems (CWS) Manager of the case study area of your choice to develop a water resource management plan for them.

This plan should accomplish the following:

- Implement the recommendations from the *Trees to Tap* report
- Improve the CWS manager's control over the quality and yield of their water source(s)
- Create a framework whereby local stakeholders collaborate to ensure the integrity of their raw water source(s)

Consider the following while developing your plan:

- Who are the stakeholders in your study area? What are their perspectives?
- Proposed actions should be feasible, practical, and cost-effective. Explain who should take the action and how it will be funded.
- Your plan should summarize the science covered by the *Trees to Tap* report, but focus more on the policy, communication, and collaboration required to implement it.
- You are encouraged to contact the stakeholders of your case study or your local watershed to understand more of the complexities and details.