

HOW DO FORESTS AFFECT OUR DRINKING WATER?

Clean water is among life's basic necessities. Healthy forest soils provide natural filtration, to keep streams clean and water quality high. Most of Oregon's municipal water systems use water that originates in forest watersheds, including those managed for wood production. The quality of this source water is among the best in the nation.

THE FOREST WATER CYCLE

Forest soils act as a natural filter, resulting in high-quality source water that requires minimal treatment.



HOW DO FORESTS KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN?

As water reaches healthy forest soils, most is absorbed and, over time, is released to nearby streams or groundwater aquifers. In the process, the water is filtered. Most communities in the United States get water from watersheds where mixed land uses, such as agriculture and residential development, may reduce the water's quality.

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area, usually bounded by mountains and ridges, that collects the rain and snow that falls on it and drains it through a network of streams into a common river or other body of water. All land in Oregon is within one watershed or another.

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