## Appendix A Atlas of Groundwater-Dependent Biodiversity and Threats to Groundwater Quantity and Quality Across Oregon

Jenny Brown, Abby Wyers, Leslie Bach and Allison Aldous

This atlas of maps provides spatial information on the distribution and diversity of groundwaterdependent biodiversity across Oregon and the type and location of potential threats to their groundwater supply. It is part of an assessment developed by The Nature Conservancy to help fill data and information gaps in our understanding of groundwater-dependent ecosystems and species and the extent to which their groundwater supplies are impaired. The information will be used to help prioritize areas for conservation of groundwater-dependent biodiversity, and guide the development of targeted conservation strategies to reduce risks to groundwater quantity and quality. For a complete description of the assessment methods and results, please refer to the main text of this report "Groundwater-Dependent Biodiversity and Associated Threats: A Statewide Screening Methodology and Spatial Assessment of Oregon." (available online at http://conserveonline.org).

The maps in this atlas are divided into three sections: (1) base maps; (2) type and location of groundwater-dependent ecosystems and species (GDEs) and associated analysis information; and (3) type and location of potential threats to GDEs from alterations in groundwater quantity and quality. The Atlas consists of 37 maps, which display the data used in the assessment and some of the results. Each map contains a brief overview of the analysis methodology, as applicable. The complete assessment information is contained in the report and Appendix B, "Detailed Methods."

To manage the information and summarize the results at an appropriate scale, we divided the state into regional analysis units, which are based on the administrative basins of Oregon Water Resource Department. We identified 14 regions (Atlas Map 1), in which we expected similar biota and groundwater processes due to the relative homogeneity of hydrogeologic, ecological, and climatic conditions. We then summarized the findings within each region by watershed, using the sixth field Hydrologic Units of the USGS as the boundaries for the watersheds (BLM and USFS, 2006). These watersheds, referred to as HUC6 throughout the report, have a mean size = 8055 ha or 19905 acres (Atlas Map 2). All data maps contain a small inset map in the upper left hand corner that provides the data as summarized at the HUC6 scale.

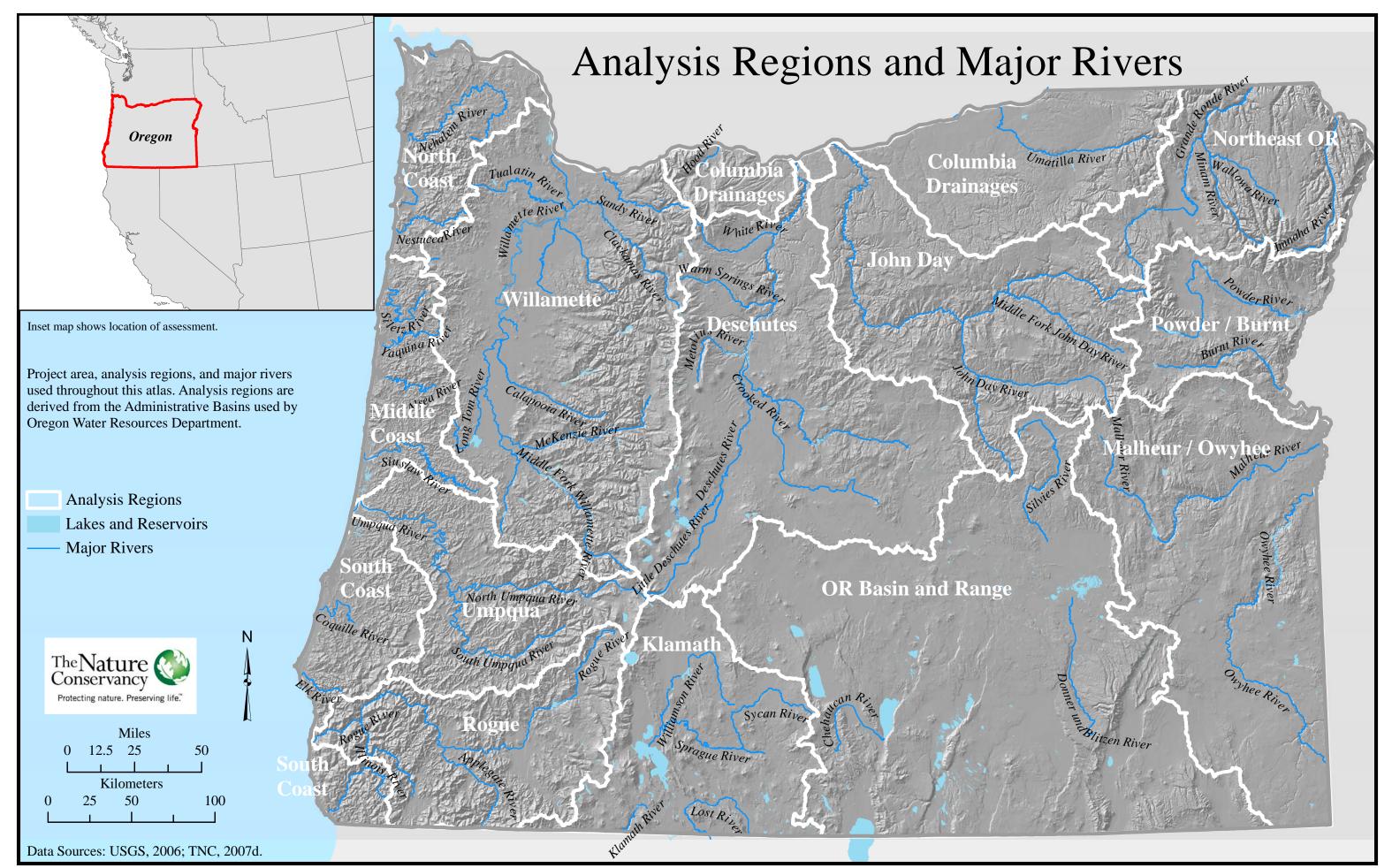
The analysis relies on existing, coarse-scale datasets. Because limited information exists about both groundwater-dependent biota and the condition of groundwater across the region, we developed new analytical methods for assessing biodiversity and threats based on a suite of surrogate indicators. In general, the indicators provide information on where GDEs may occur and serve to highlight potential threats to groundwater from land use activities. As such, this assessment functions as an inventory of information and a screening tool to identify high-priority areas for the conservation of groundwater-dependent ecosystems rather than a definitive assessment of effects to groundwater quantity and quality.

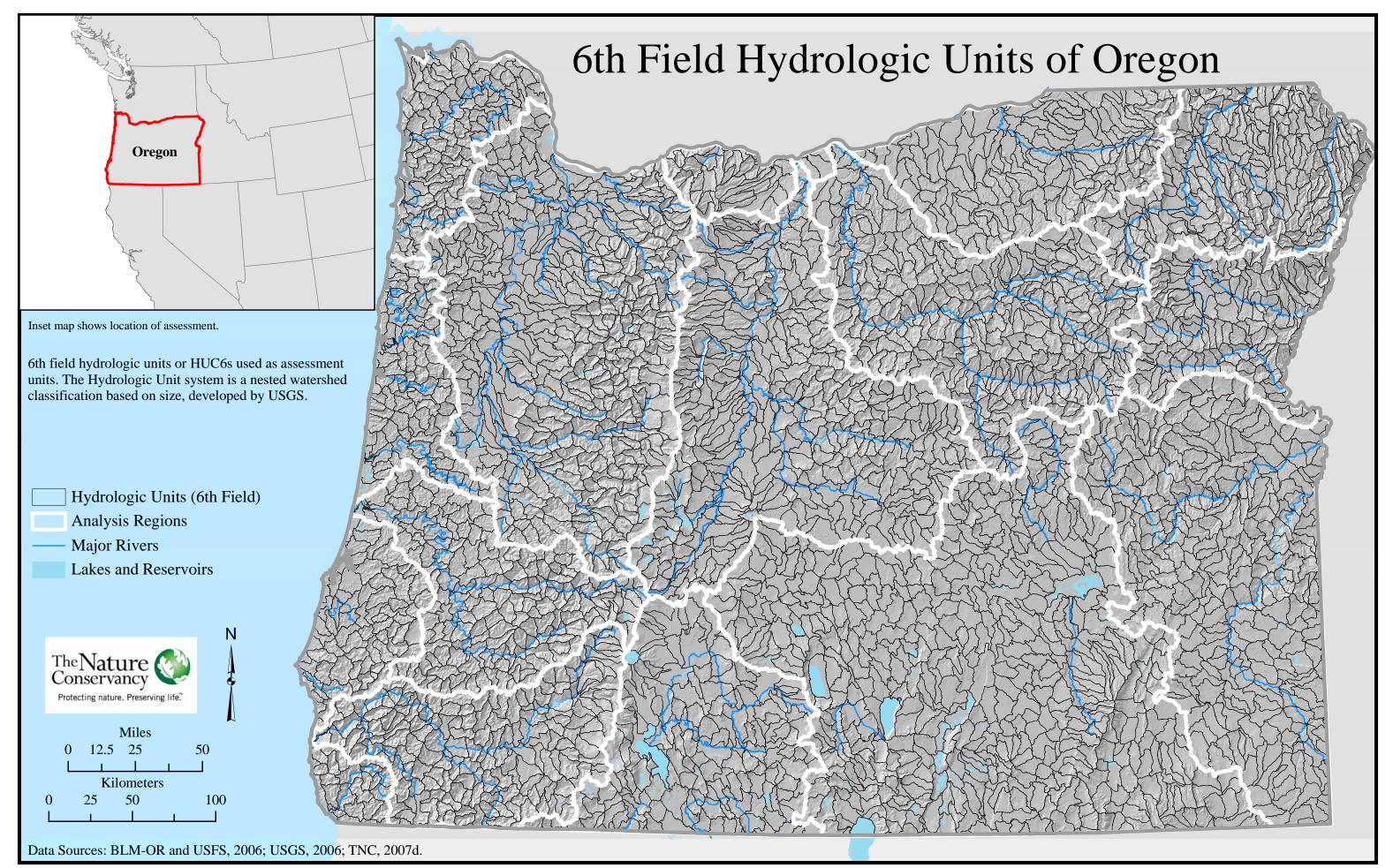
This Atlas is divided into three sections, containing the following maps:

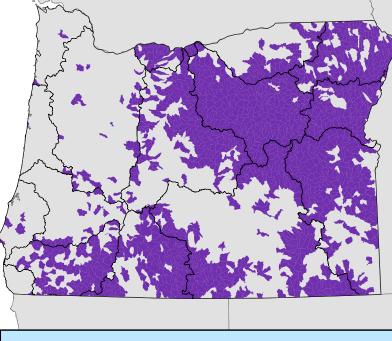
- A. Base maps
  - 1. Analysis Regions and Major Rivers
  - 2. 6<sup>th</sup> Field Hydrologic Units of Oregon
- B. Biodiversity and related analysis information
  - 3. Springs
  - 4. Hot Springs
  - 5. Groundwater-Dependent Wetlands
  - 6. Wetland Data Extent and Gaps
  - 7. Relative Permeability of Geologic Deposits
  - 8. USGS Stream Gages and Assessment of Groundwater-Dependent Streamflow
  - 9. HUC6s with Groundwater-Dependent Rivers
  - 10. Groundwater-Dependent Lakes
  - 11. Obligately Groundwater-Dependent Species and Communities
  - 12. Facultatively Groundwater-Dependent Species
  - 13. Richness of Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems
- C. Risks to groundwater quantity
  - 14. Groundwater Restricted Areas
  - 15. Irrigation, Community or Industrial Wells
  - 16. Domestic or Livestock Wells
  - 17. Construction of New Domestic Wells by Decade
  - 18. Pending Groundwater Right Applications
  - 19. Rural Residential Zoning in High Growth Counties
- D. Risks to groundwater quality
  - 20. Draft Groundwater Management Areas
  - 21. Known Groundwater Contamination Nutrients
  - 22. Known Groundwater Contamination Pesticides
  - 23. Known Groundwater Contamination Other Toxic Contaminants
  - 24. Risk of Nitrate Contamination of Shallow Groundwater
  - 25. High Nitrogen Fertilizer Use in Areas Susceptible to Groundwater Contamination
  - 26. High Rural Population Density
  - 27. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
  - 28. Class V Underground Injection Control Wells Nutrients
  - 29. Agricultural Use of Phosphorus Fertilizer
  - 30. Developed Landuse High and Medium Intensity
  - 31. Threat of Groundwater Contamination from Agricultural Pesticide Use
  - 32. Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUSTs) near GDEs

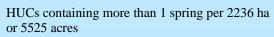
  - 34. Hazardous Waste Spill Sites near GDEs
  - 35. Landuses that Potentially Impact Groundwater Quality near GDEs
  - 36. Known Geothermal Resource Areas
  - 37. Potential Geothermal Resource Areas

33. Underground Injection Control Wells – Other Toxic Contaminants near GDEs







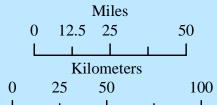


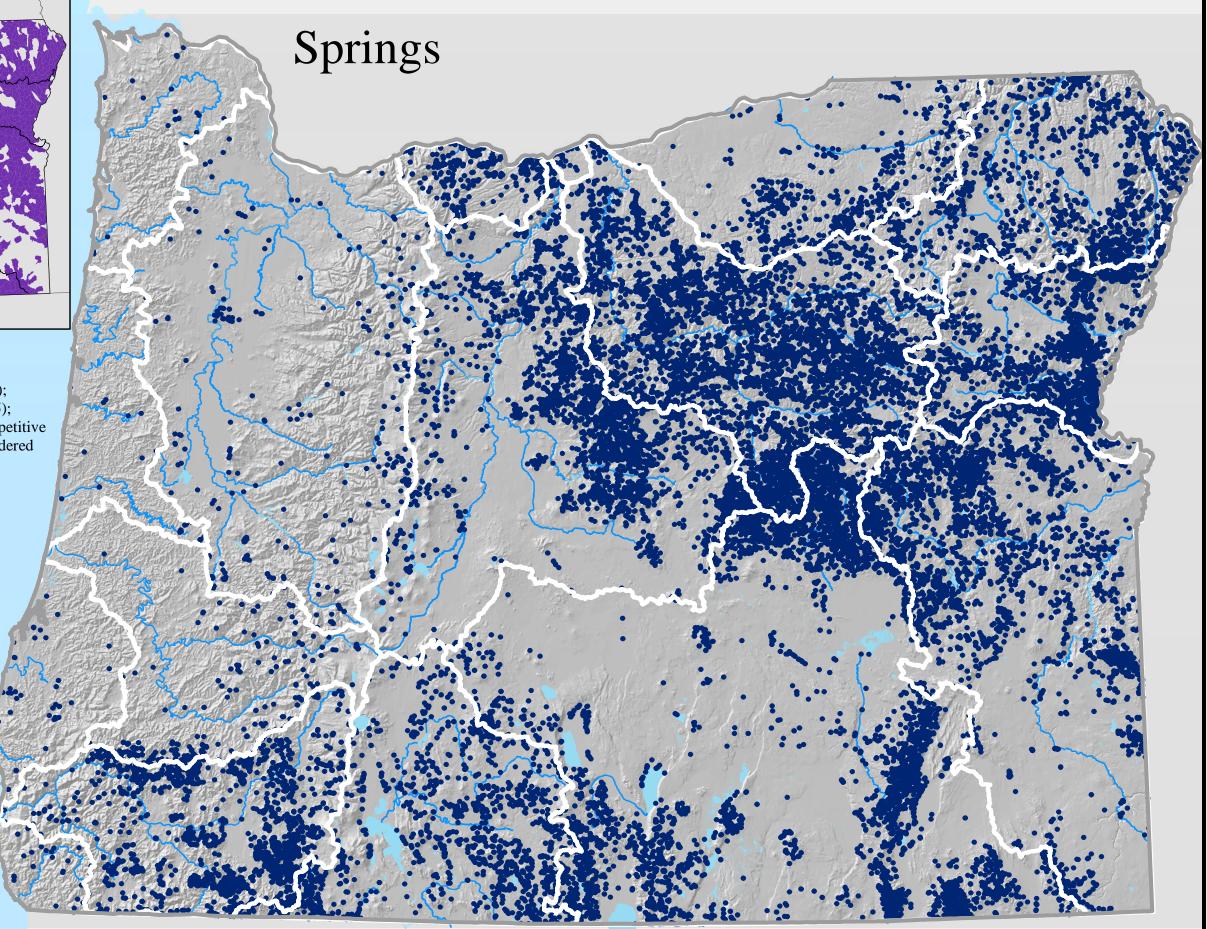
Mapped springs, based on data from USGS (1996); Pacific Northwest Hydrography Framework (2005); and Idaho Experimental Project to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) (2006). All springs are considered groundwater dependent.

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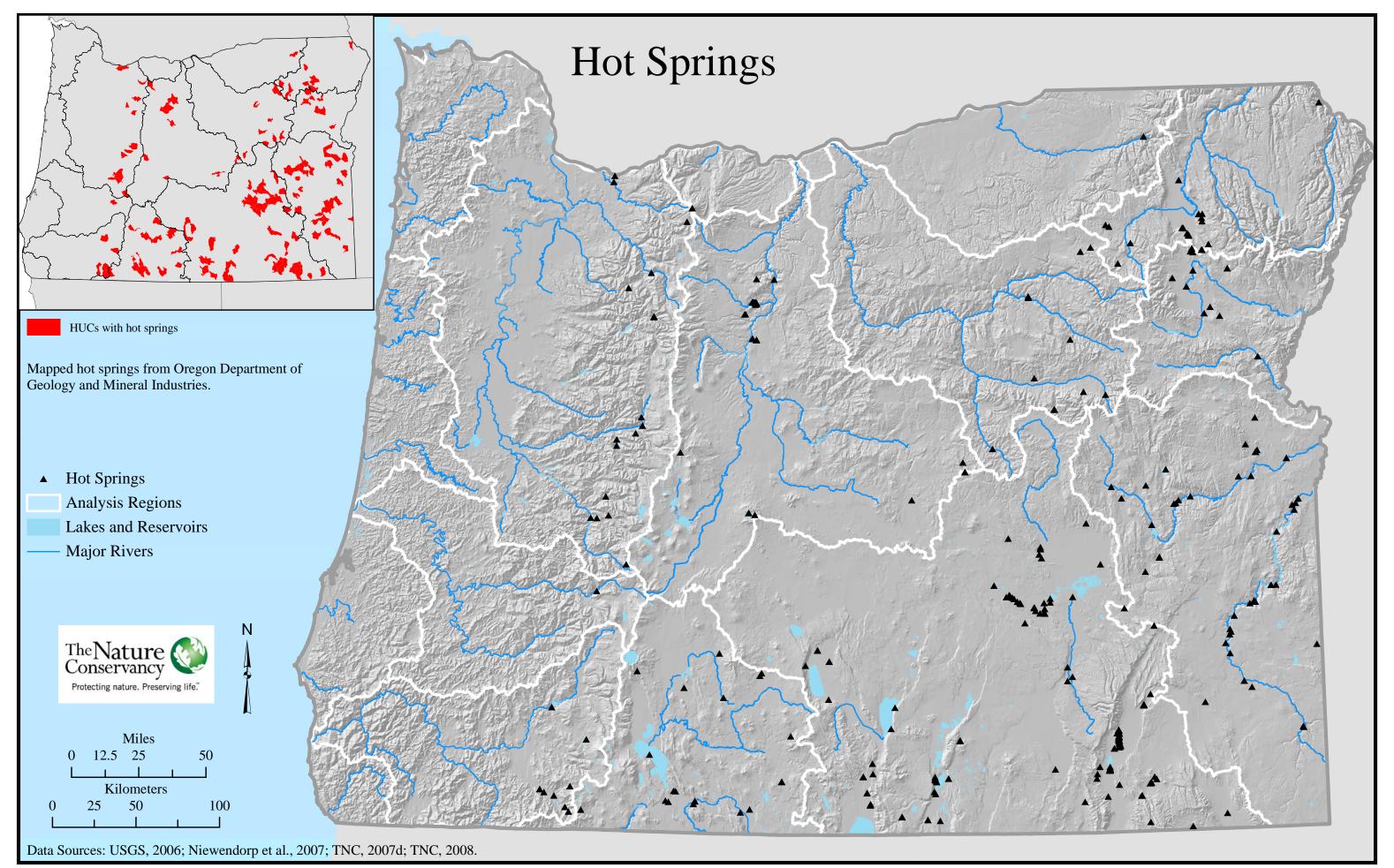
- Known SpringsAnalysis Regions
  - Lakes and Reservoirs
  - Major Rivers

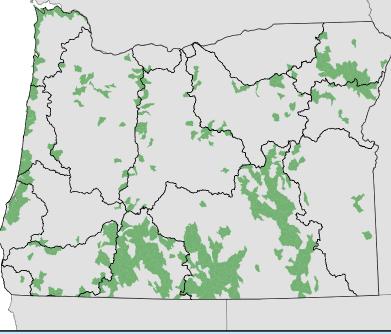






Data Sources: USGS, 1996; PNWHF, 2005; EPSCoR, 2006; USGS, 2006; TNC, 2007d; TNC, 2008.





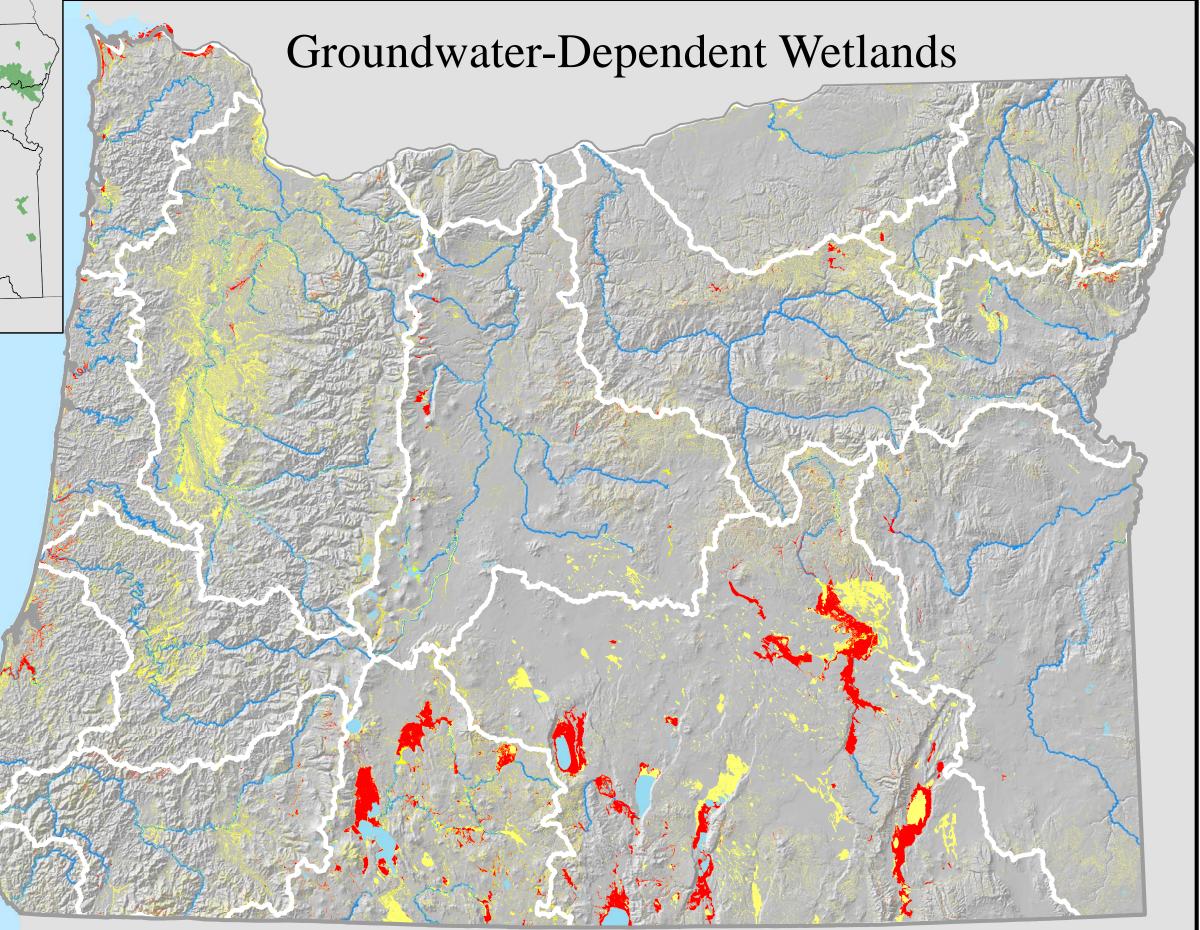
HUCs containing a fen or >1% of HUC area covered by groundwater-dependent wetlands

Mapped wetlands that are likely to be groundwater dependent. Groundwater-dependent wetlands are those i) with organic soils; ii) within 100 m of a mapped spring; or iii) that are known fens.

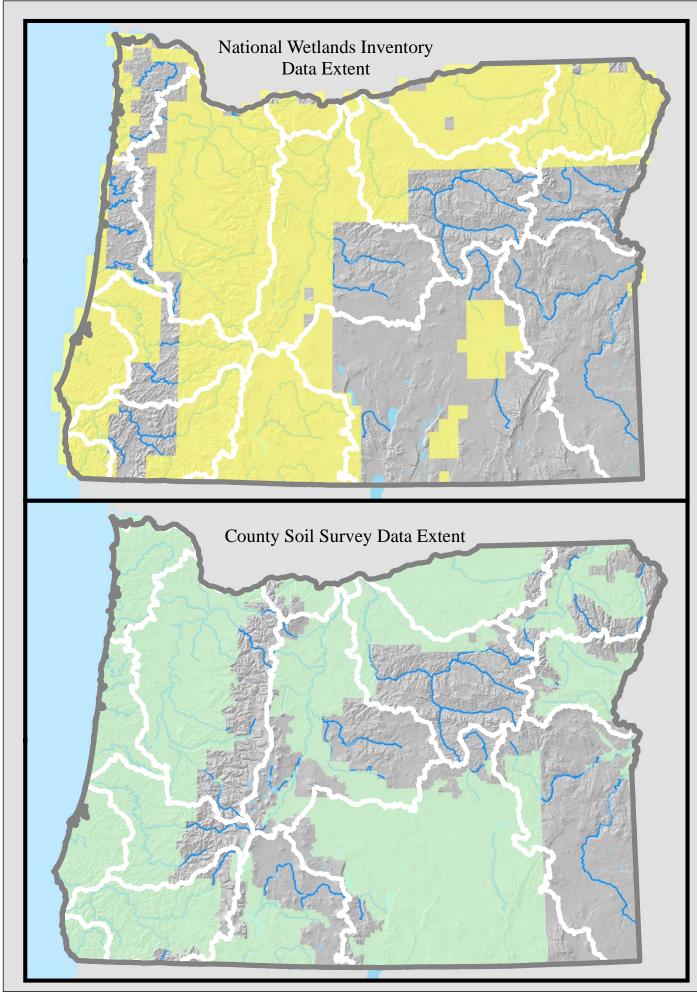
Groundwater-Dependent Wetlands
All Mapped Wetlands
Analysis Regions
Lakes and Reservoirs
Major Rivers



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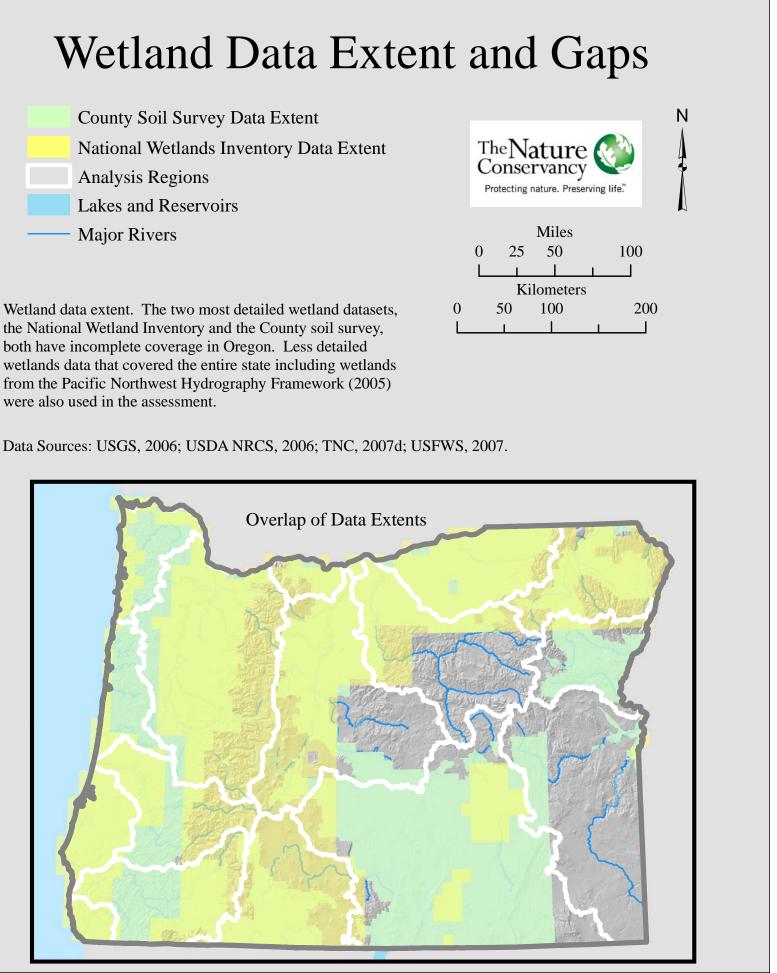


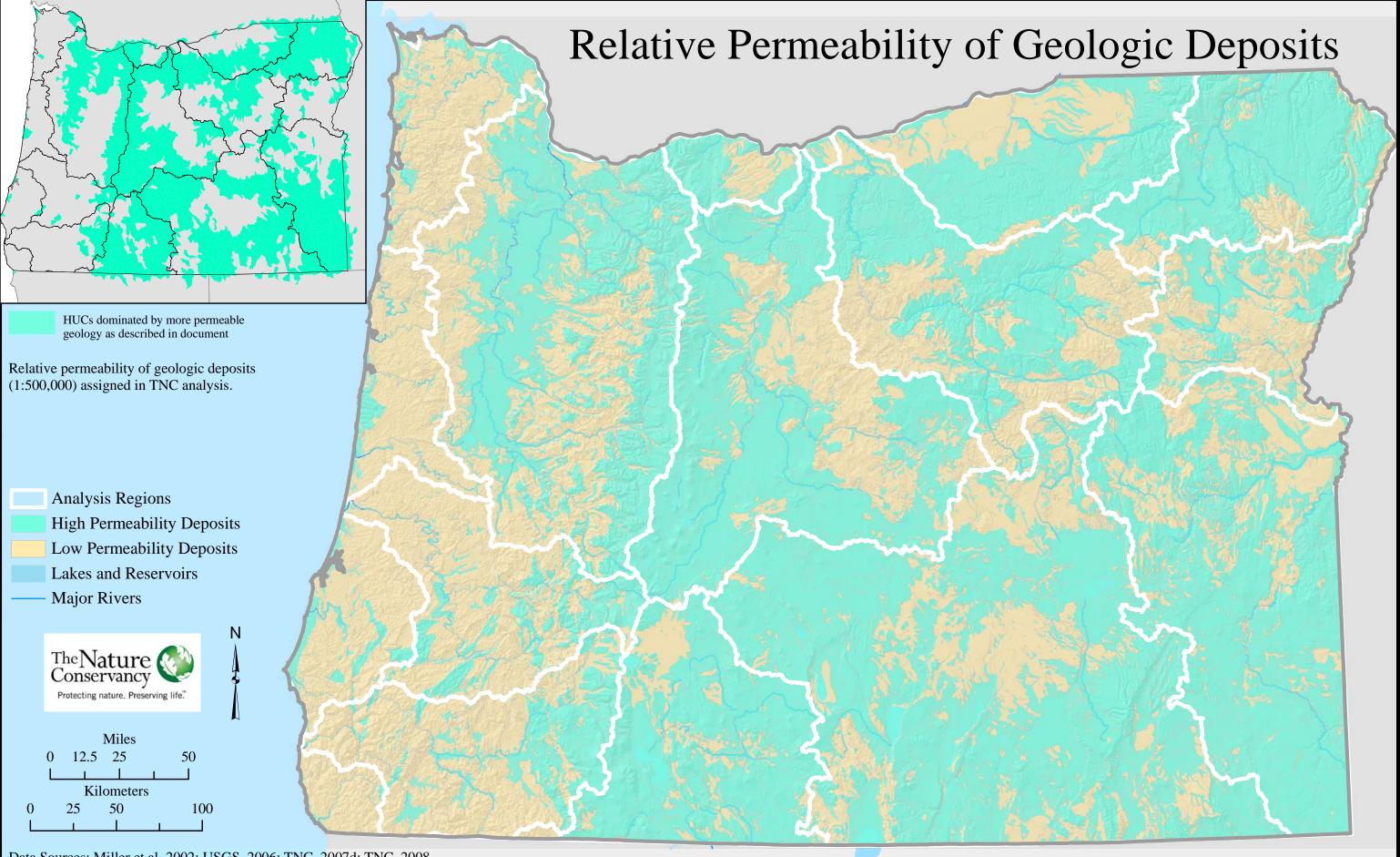
Data Sources: Vander Schaaf, 2004; PNWHF, 2005; USDA NRCS, 2006; USGS, 2006; ORNHIC, 2007; TNC, 2007c; TNC, 2007d; TNC eds., 2007; USFWS, 2007; TNC, 2008.





Wetland data extent. The two most detailed wetland datasets, the National Wetland Inventory and the County soil survey, both have incomplete coverage in Oregon. Less detailed wetlands data that covered the entire state including wetlands from the Pacific Northwest Hydrography Framework (2005) were also used in the assessment.





Data Sources: Miller et al. 2002; USGS, 2006; TNC, 2007d; TNC, 2008.

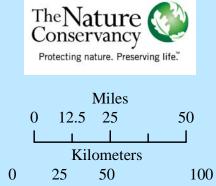
Assessment of groundwater-dependent rivers based on USGS Gage Data. We used all stream gage data for both active and inactive gages in Oregon from the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS). Hydrologic experts evaluated data from rivers unaffected by dams or glacial snowmelt that had at least two years of gage data. Of these, rivers with mean monthly low flows more than 15% of the mean monthly flows were identified as receiving significant groundwater inputs.

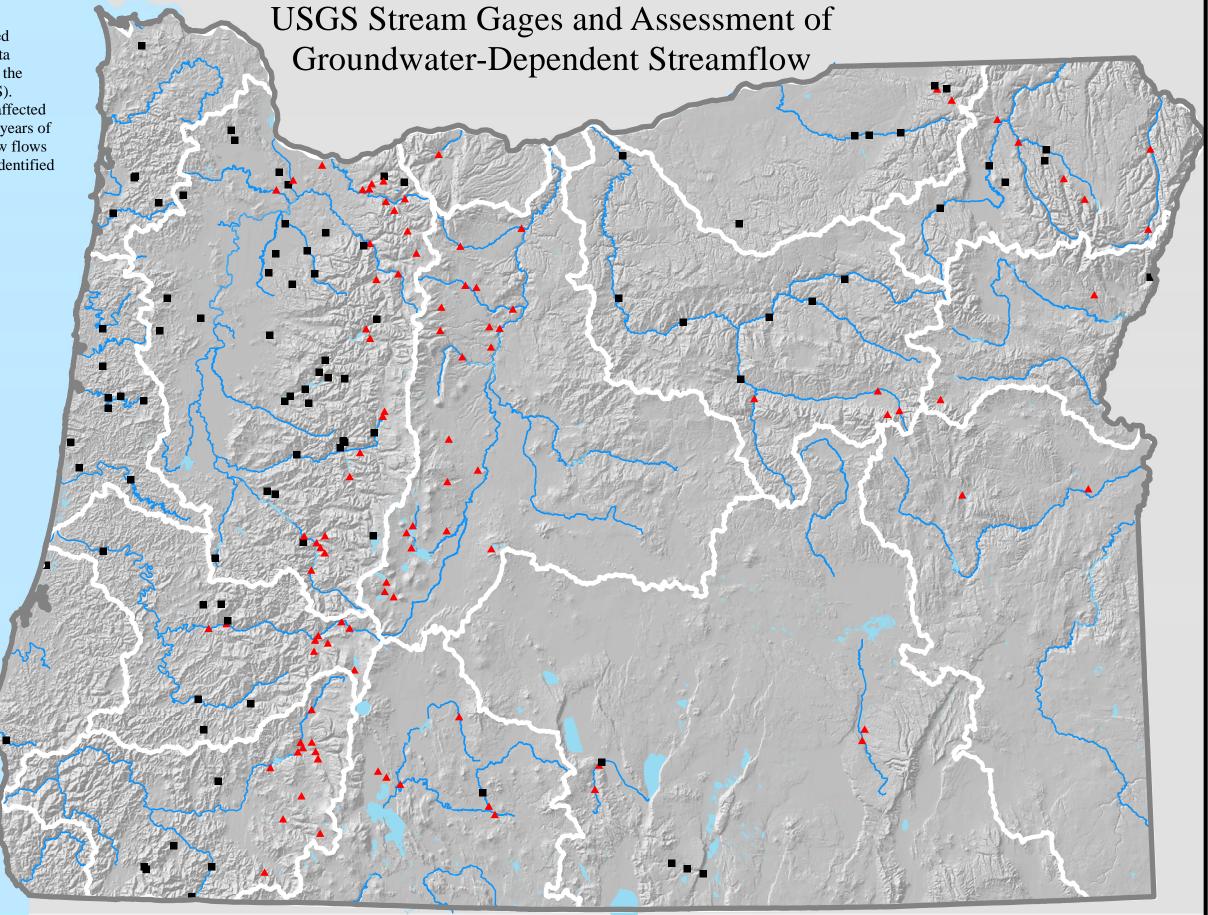
USGS Gaging Stations Assessed

- Groundwater-Dependent
- Other Gages

Analysis Regions

- Lakes and Reservoirs
- Major Rivers





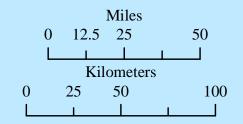
Data Sources: USGS, 2006; TNC, 2007d; USGS, 2007.

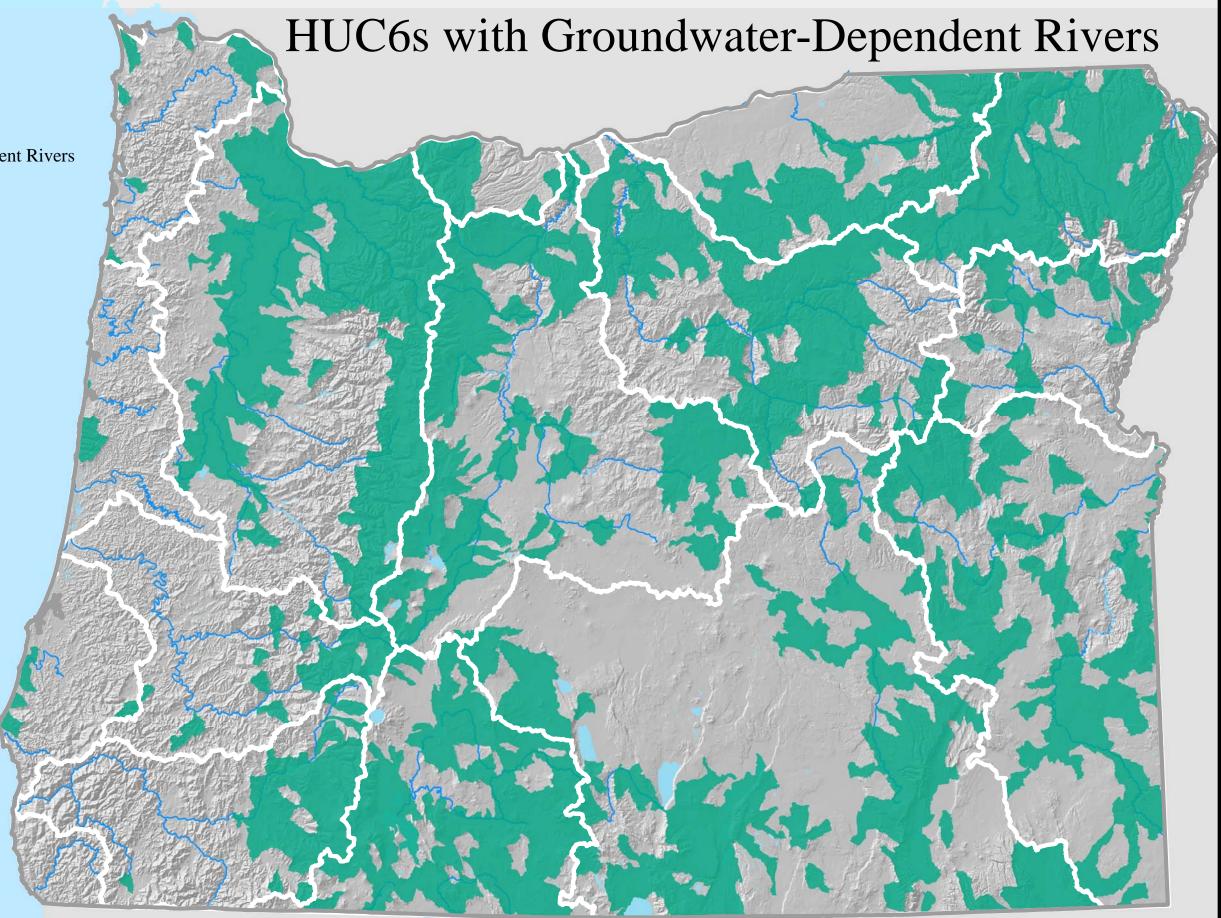
HUC6s with Groundwater-Dependent Rivers Analysis Regions

- Lakes and Reservoirs
- Major Rivers

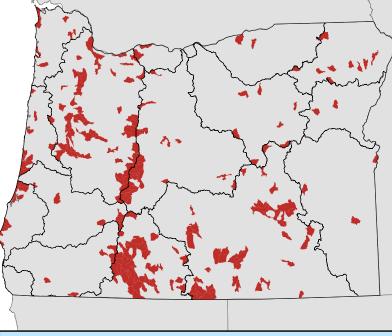
HUC6s in which groundwater is likely to be important to the hydrologic regime of rivers. We identified HUC6s with perennial streams that are likely to depend on groundwater by locating watersheds dominated by more permeable geology (Map 7) or with stream gaging data indicating significant baseflow (Map 8).







Data Sources: USGS, 2006; TNC, 2007d; TNC, 2008.

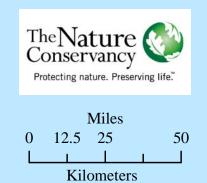




Lakes in Oregon that occur in landscapes where they are likely groundwater dependent. We defined lakes as water bodies >8.1 ha (20 acres) in size and assumed all perennial lakes, with the exception of reservoirs and a few removed by experts, are groundwater dependent. On the map, only the perennial portion of lakes is shown as groundwater dependent.

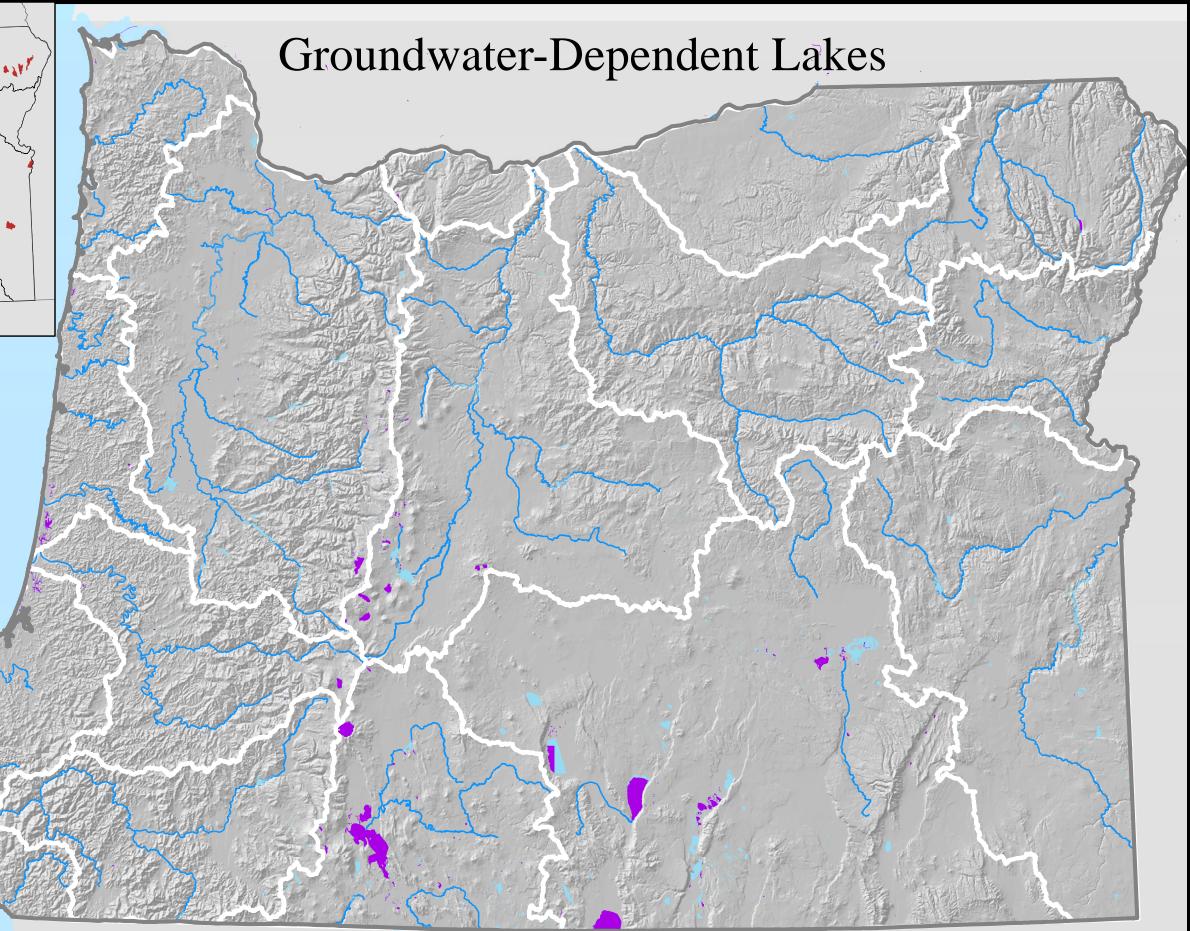
Groundwater-Dependent Lakes

- Analysis Regions
- Major Rivers
- Lakes and Reservoirs



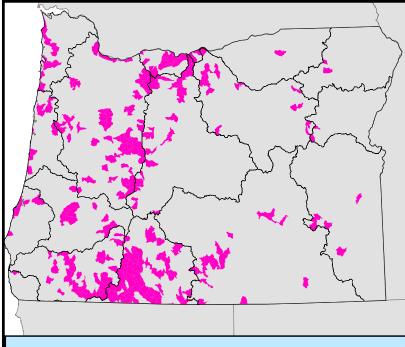
 Kilometers

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Data Sources: USGS, 2006; TNC, 2007a; TNC, 2007d; TNC, 2008.

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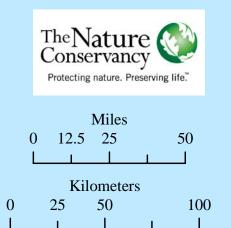
HUCs containing at least one obligately groundwater-dependent species

Species of conservation concern that are obligately dependent on groundwater based on their habitat requirements as indicated in on-line databases (e.g. NatureServe Explorer and Flora of North America) or in the published and gray literature. Larger dots mean that there is less certainty about the actual location of the species.

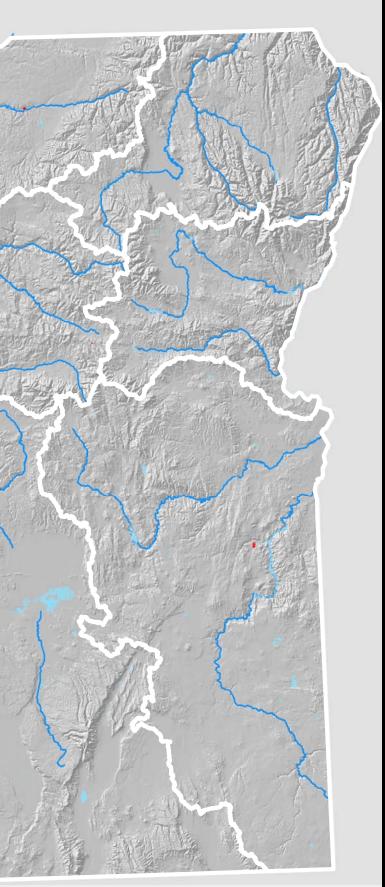
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Data Sources: USGS, 2006; TNC, 2007d; TNC and Natureserve 2007; TNC, 2008.

Analysis Regions **Obligate Species** Lakes and Reservoirs Major Rivers



## **Obligately Groundwater-Dependent** Species and Communities

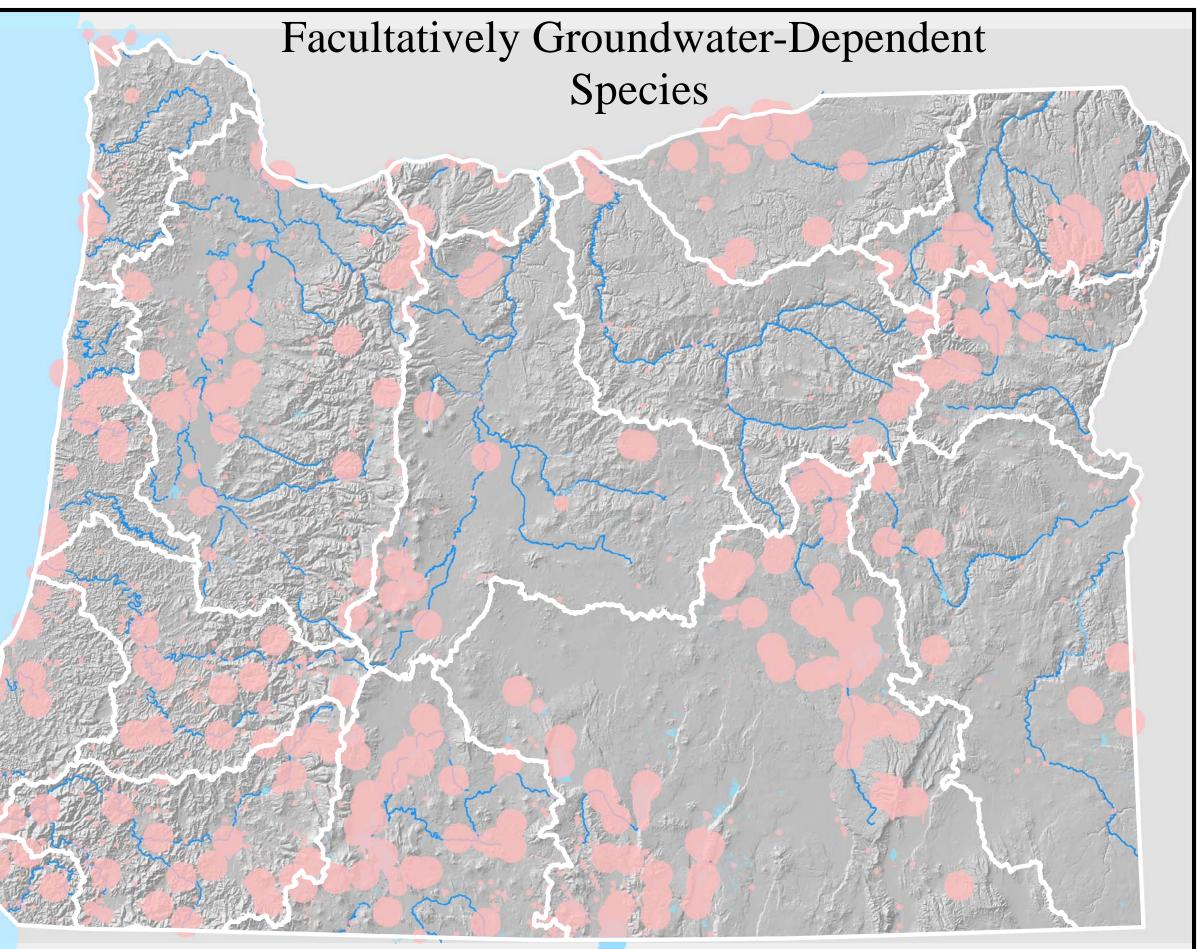


Species of conservation concern that are facultatively dependent on groundwater based on habitat requirements as indicated in on-line databases (e.g. NatureServe Explorer and Flora of North America) or in the published and gray literature. Larger dots mean that there is less certainty about the actual location of the species.

Analysis Regions
Facultative Species
Lakes and Reservoirs
Major Rivers

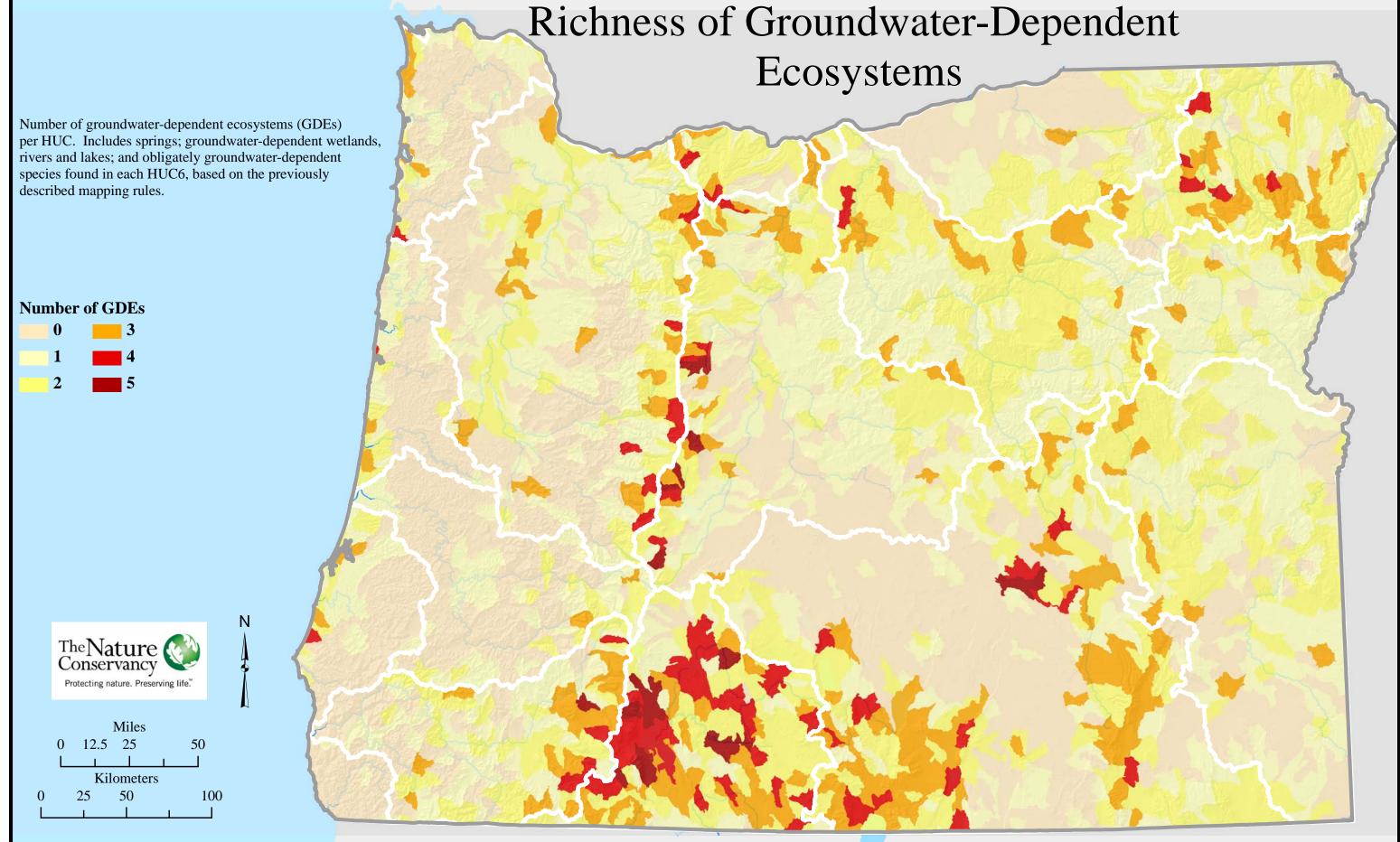


Miles 0 12.5 25 50 Kilometers 0 25 50 100

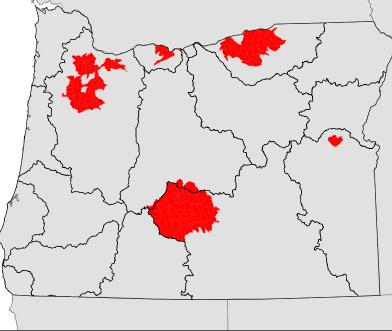


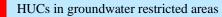
Data Sources: USGS, 2006; TNC, 2007d; TNC and Natureserve, 2007.

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Data Sources: USGS, 2006; TNC, 2007d; TNC, 2008.

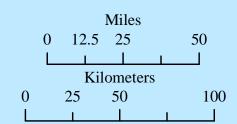


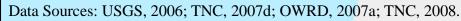


Groundwater Restricted Areas designated by the Oregon Water Resources Department. These are areas where the rate of groundwater pumping exceeds recharge and OWRD has restricted water use.

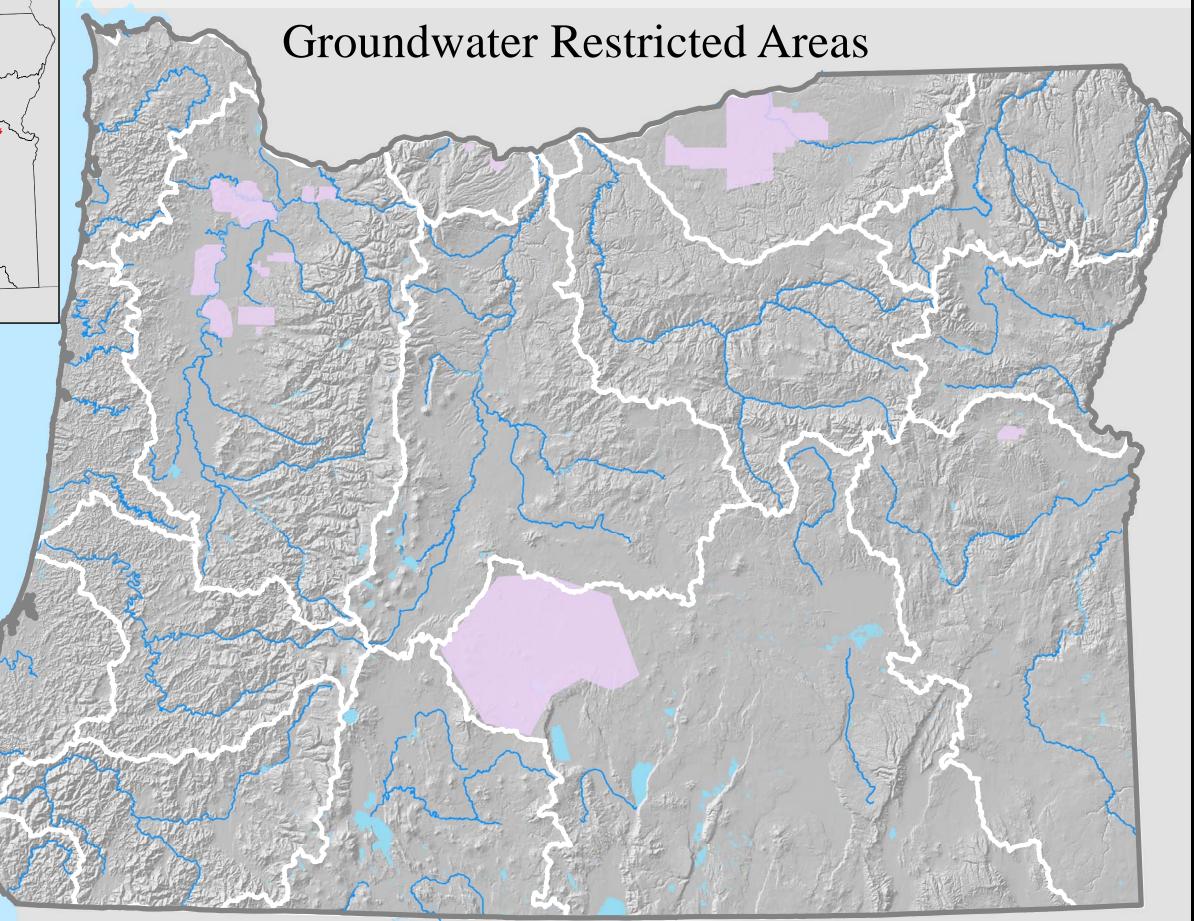
> Groundwater Restricted Areas Analysis Regions Lakes and Reservoirs Major Rivers

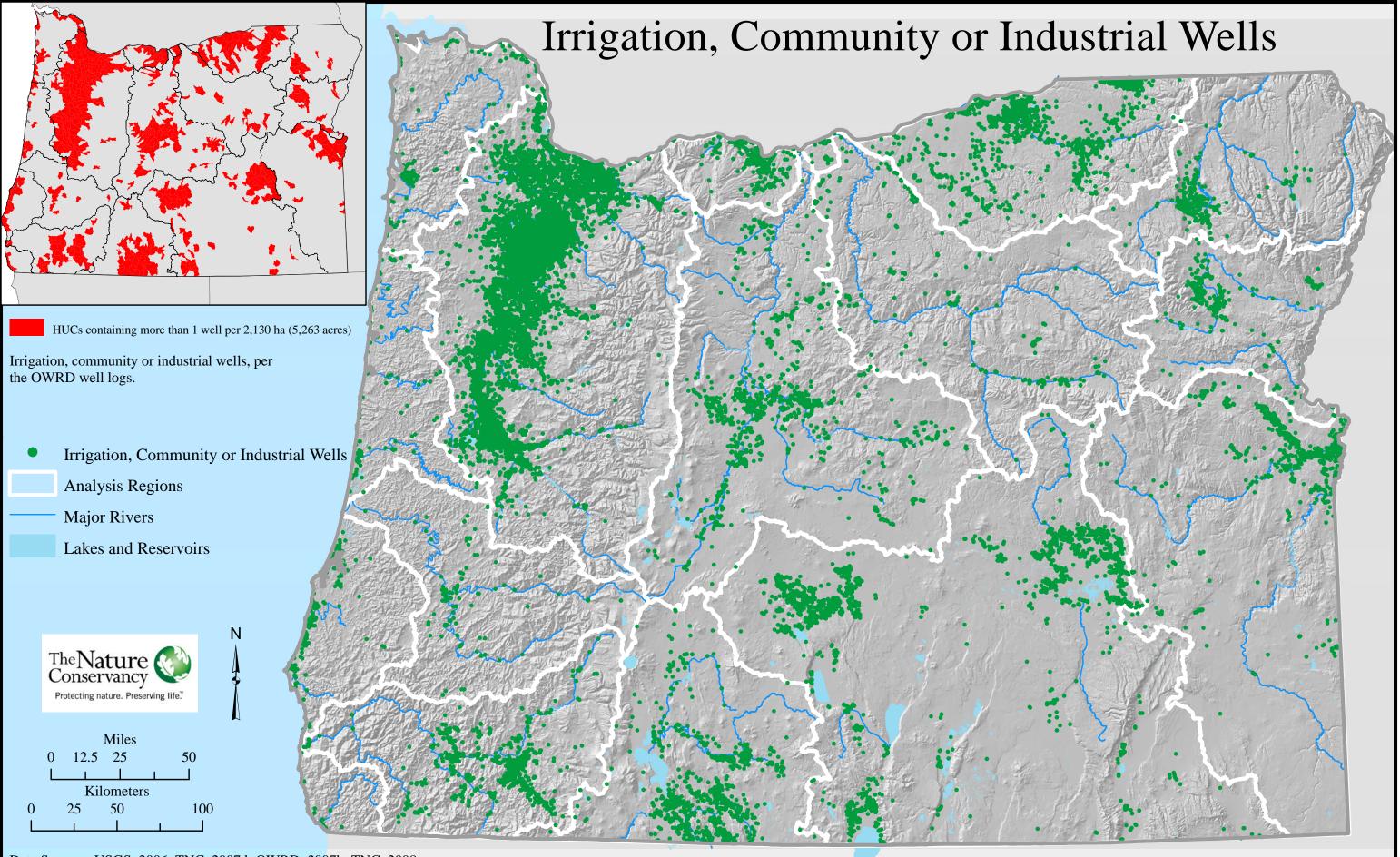




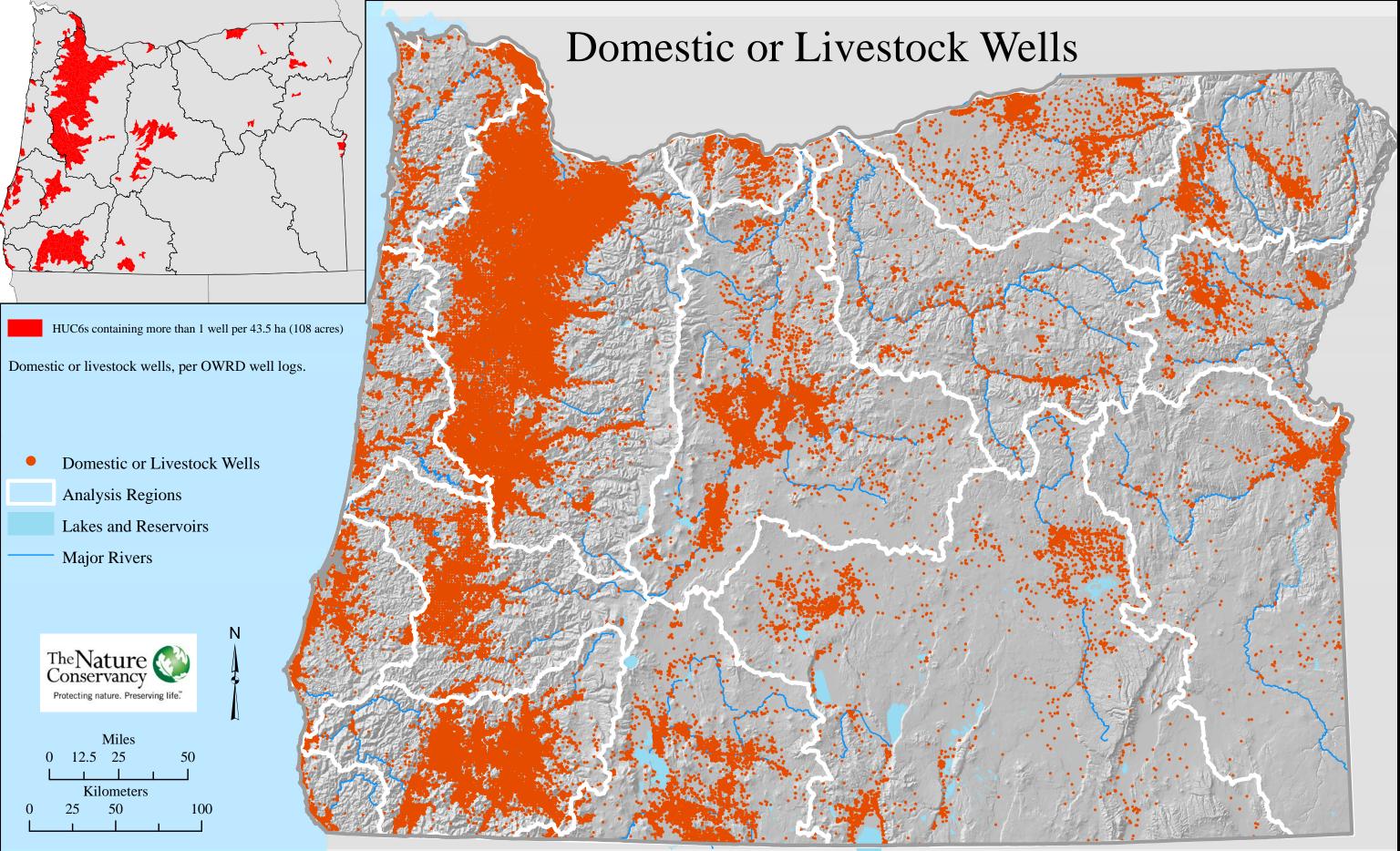


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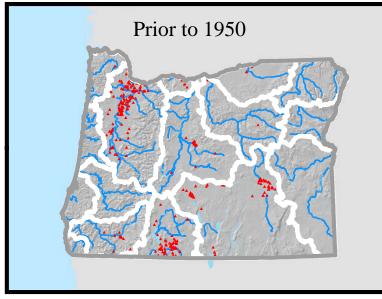


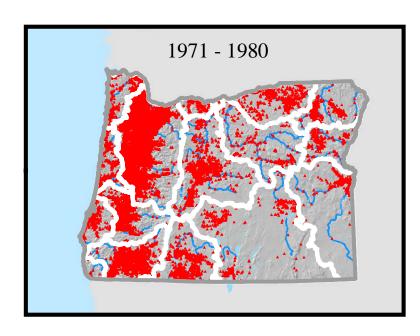
Data Sources: USGS, 2006; TNC, 2007d; OWRD, 2007b; TNC, 2008.

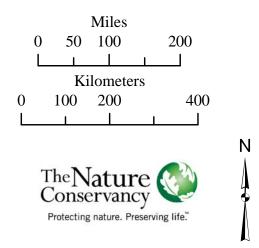


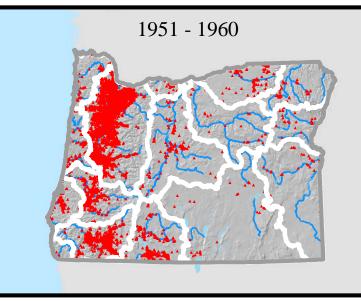
Data Sources: USGS, 2006; OWRD, 2007b; TNC, 2007d; TNC, 2008.

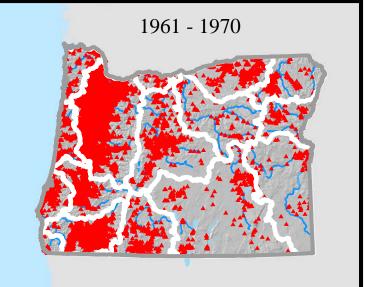
# Construction of New Domestic Wells by Decade

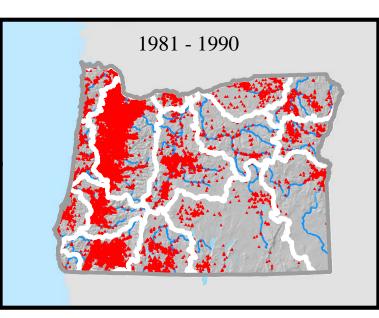






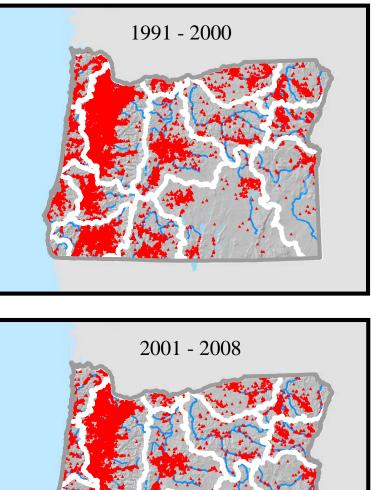


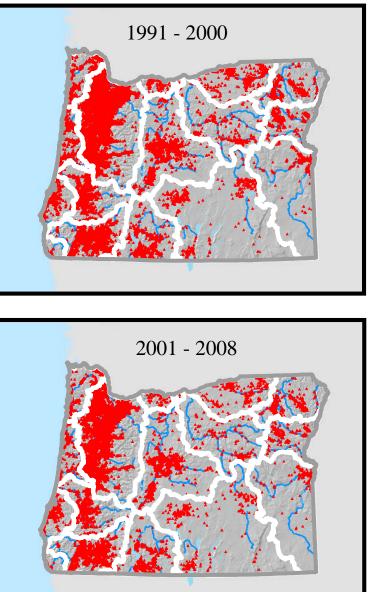


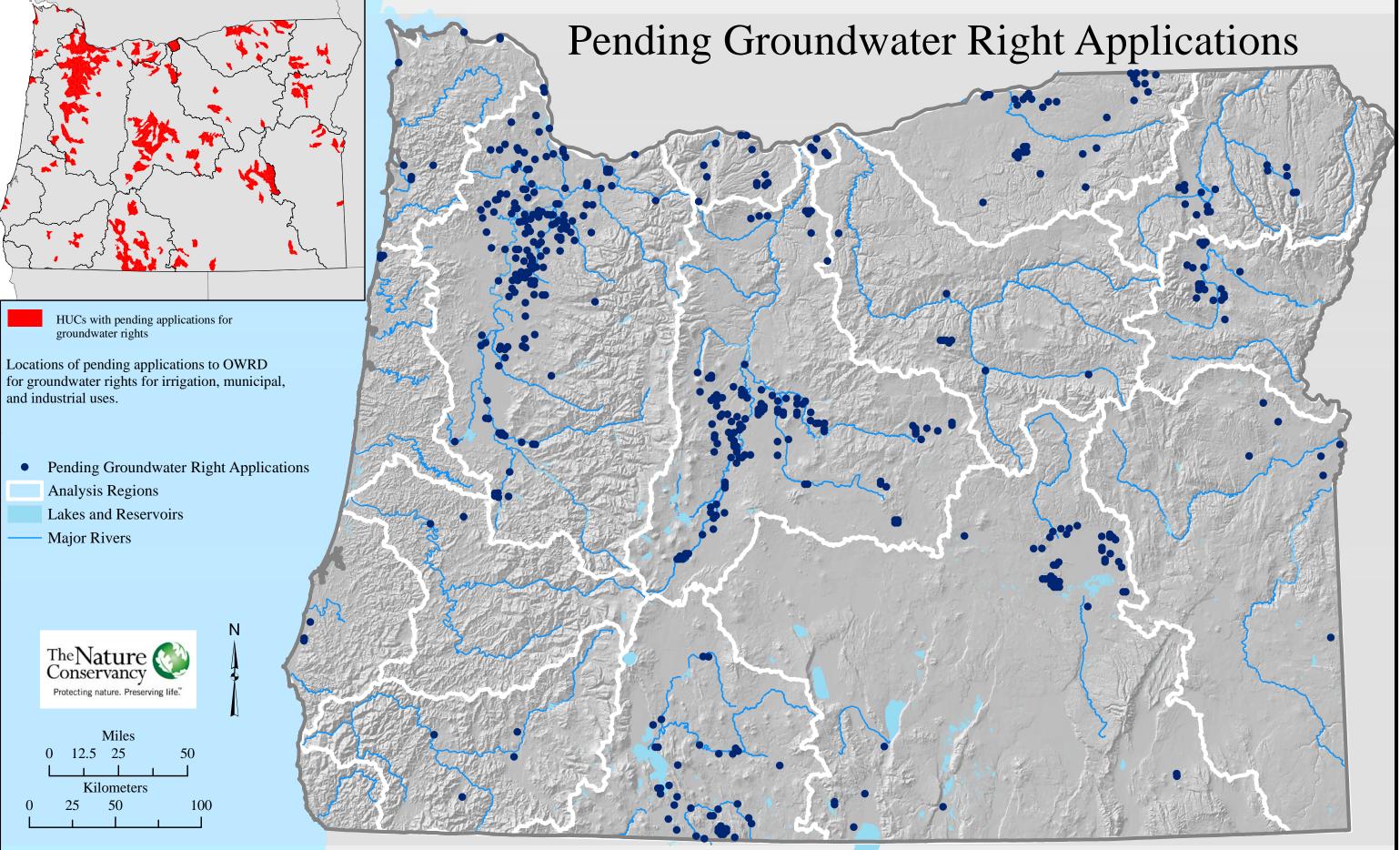




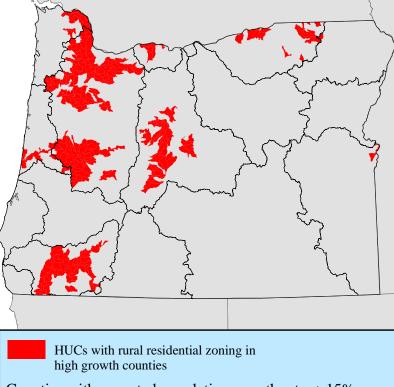
New domestic wells for each specified time period, per OWRD well logs.







Data Sources: OWRD, 2008; USGS, 2006; TNC, 2007d; TNC, 2008.



Counties with expected population growth rates >15% between 2005 and 2020 and areas zoned rural residential that are outside urban growth boundaries in these counties. Domestic water demand in these areas will most likely be supplied by "new" domestic exempt wells.

Rural Residential Zoning

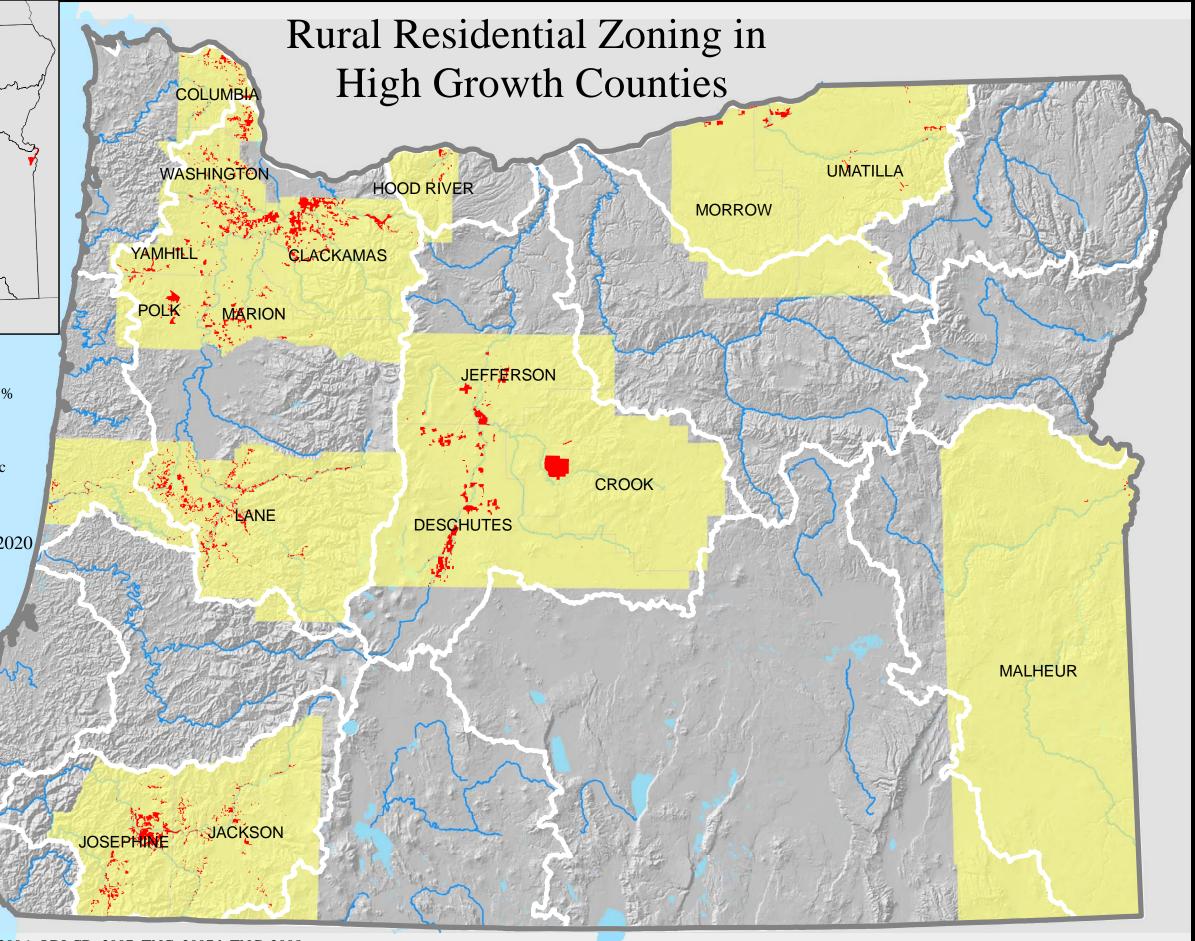
Counties Expected to Grow> 15% by 2020

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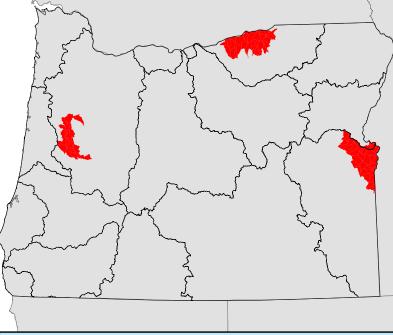
- Analysis Regions
- Lakes and Reservoirs
- Major Rivers



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Kilometers							
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Data Sources: ODOT, 1995; OOEA, 2004; USGS, 2006; ODLCD, 2007; TNC, 2007d; TNC, 2008.



HUCs with draft groundwater management areas

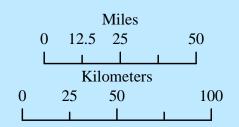
Draft Groundwater Management Areas designated by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) due to groundwater contamination by nitrates from nonpoint sources.

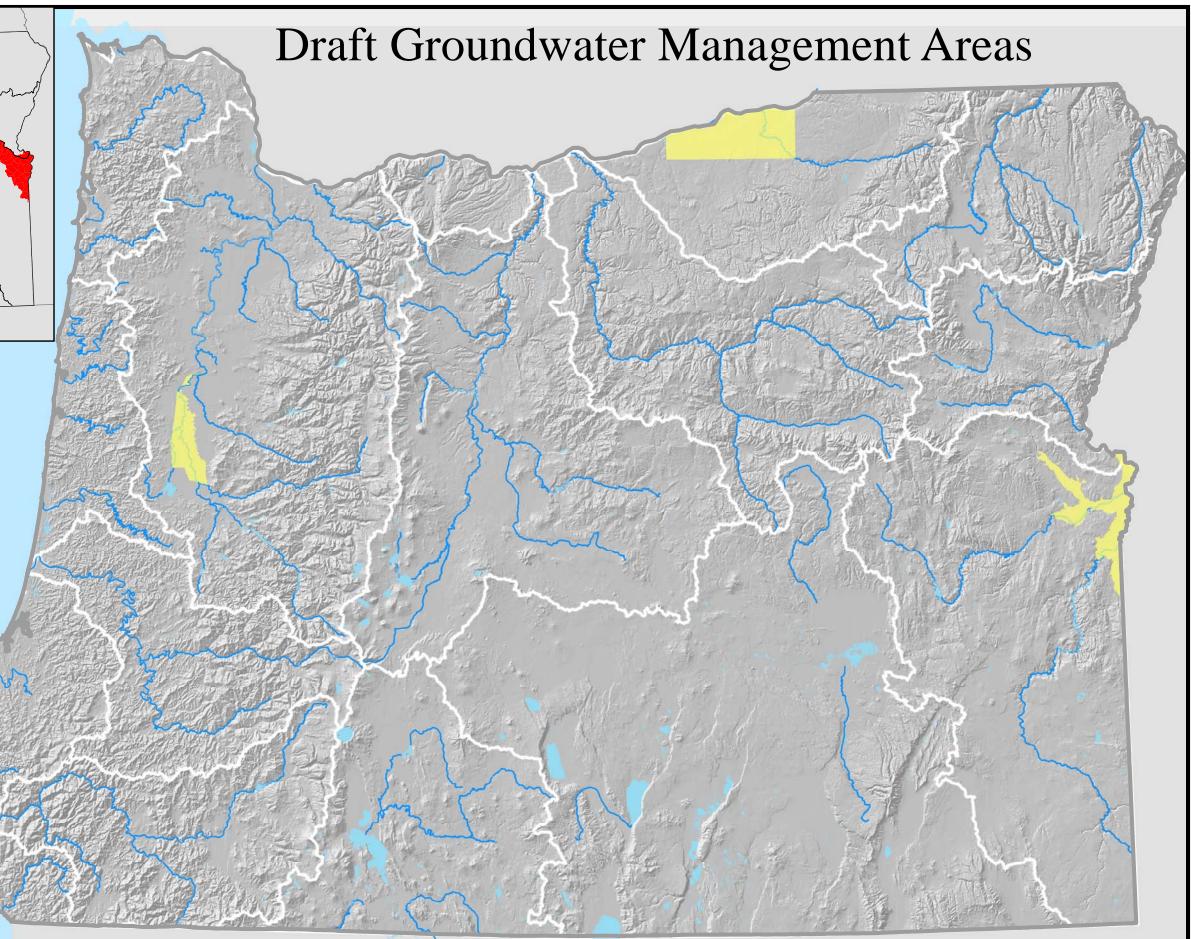
> Draft Groundwater Management Areas Analysis Regions Lakes and Reservoirs

> > Ν

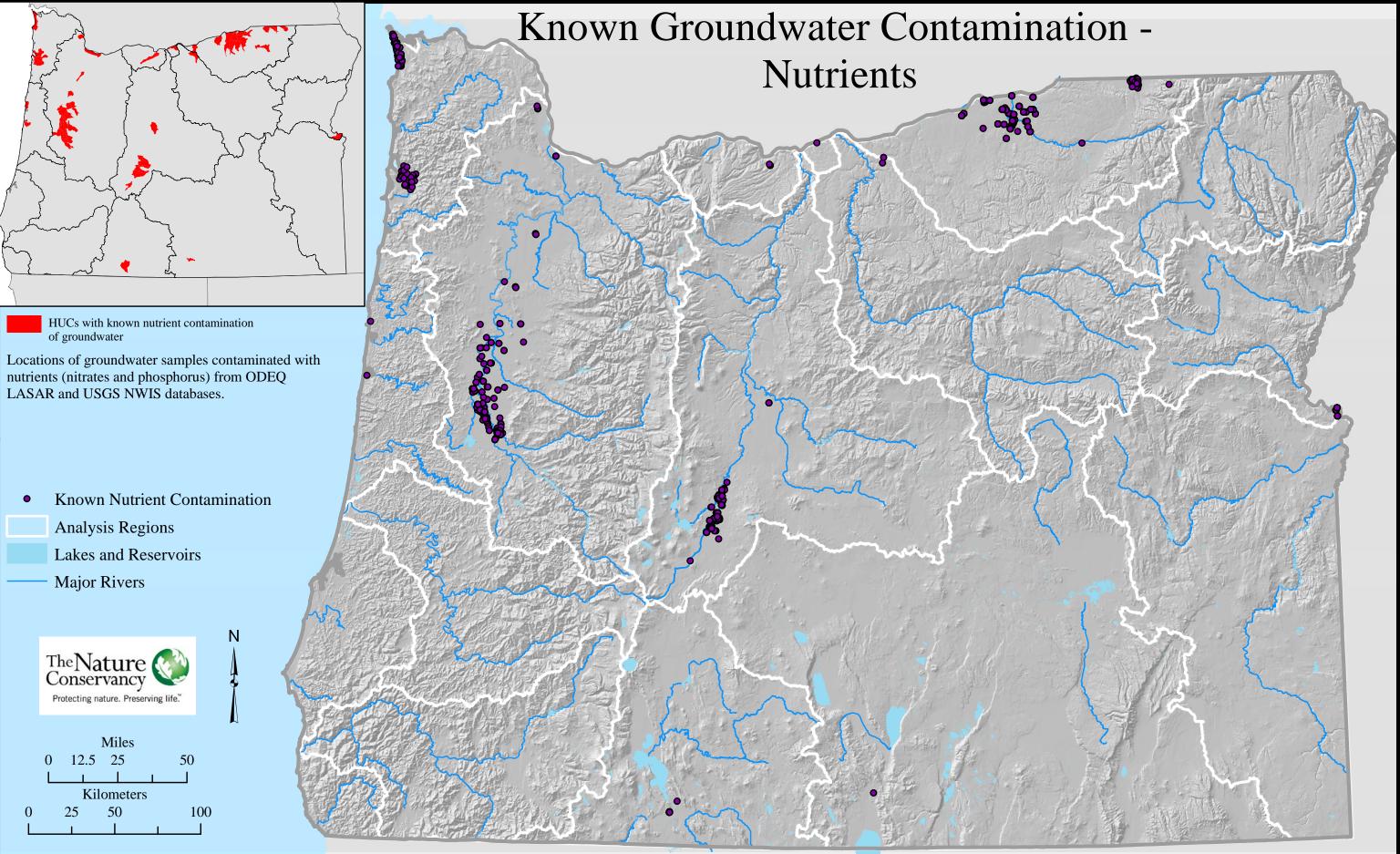
Major Rivers



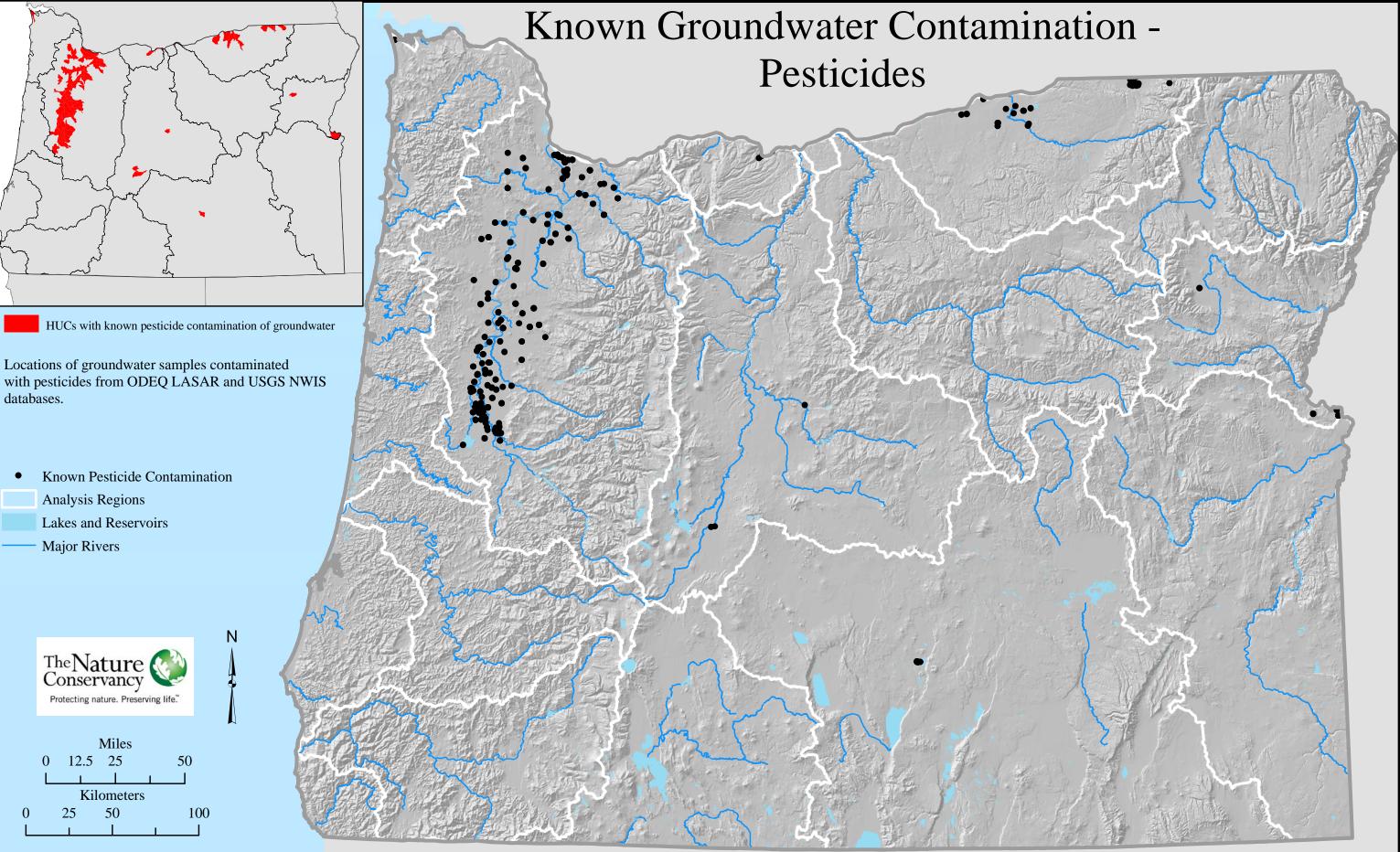




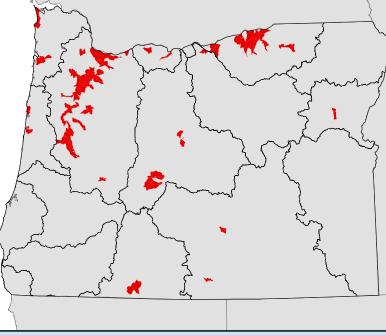
Data Sources: ODEQ, 2003; USGS, 2006; TNC, 2008.



Data Sources: USGS, 2006; ODEQ, 2007e; USGS, 2007; TNC, 2008.



Data Sources: ODEQ, 2007e; USGS, 2006; USGS, 2007; TNC, 2008.

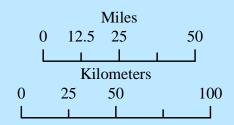


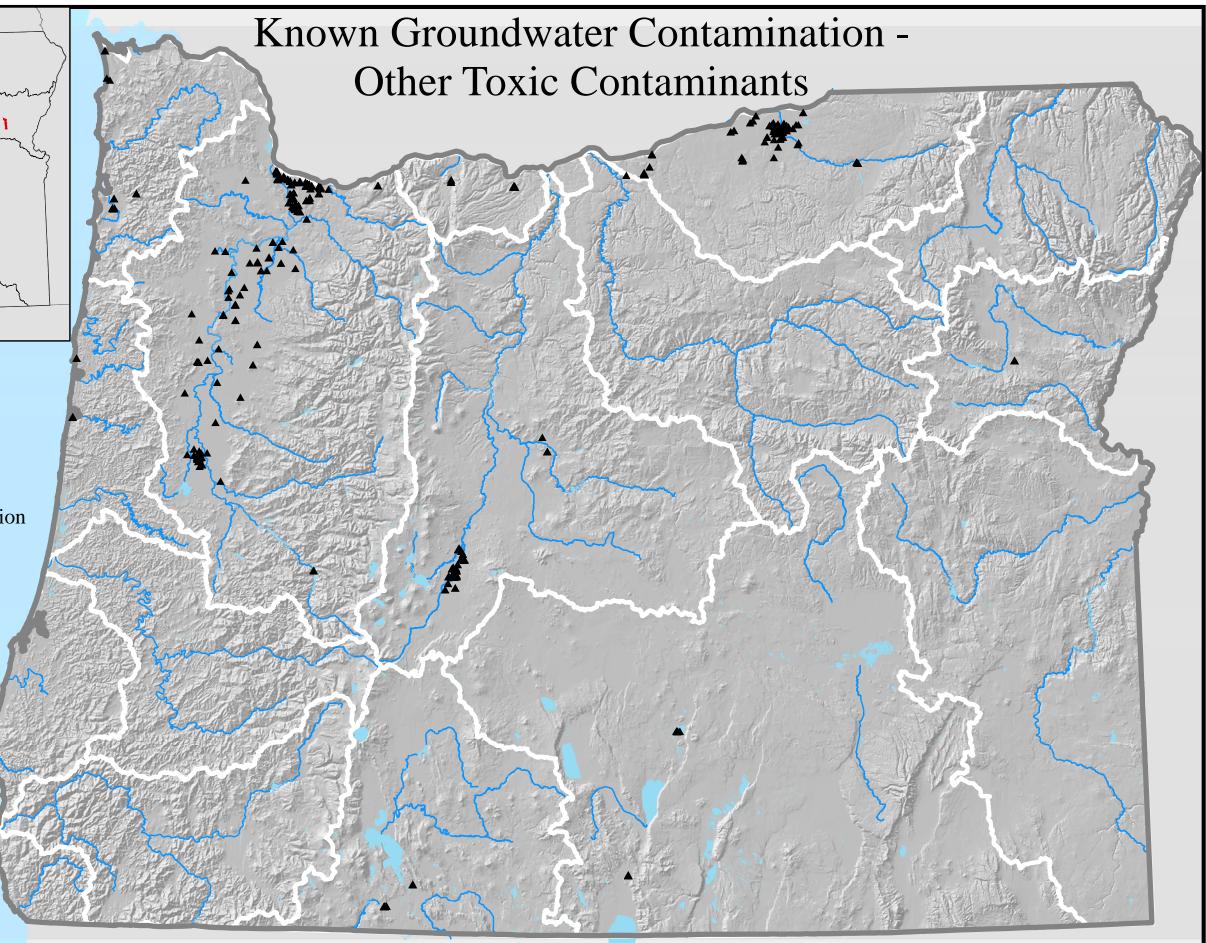
HUCs with known chemical contamination of groundwater

Groundwater samples contaminated with chemicals other than pesticides or nutrients, per ODEQ LASAR and USGS NWIS databases.

▲ Known Groundwater Contamination Analysis Regions Lakes and Reservoirs Major Rivers

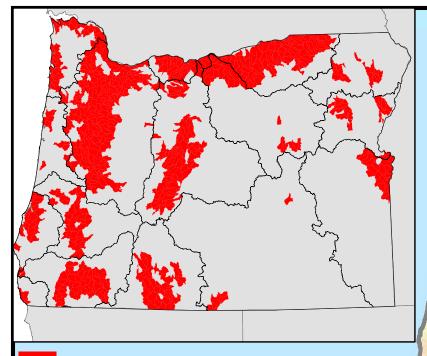






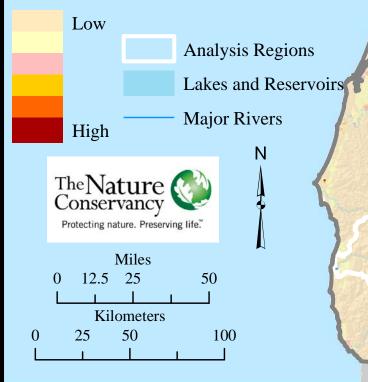
Data Sources: USGS, 2006; ODEQ, 2007e; TNC, 2007d; USGS, 2007; TNC, 2008.

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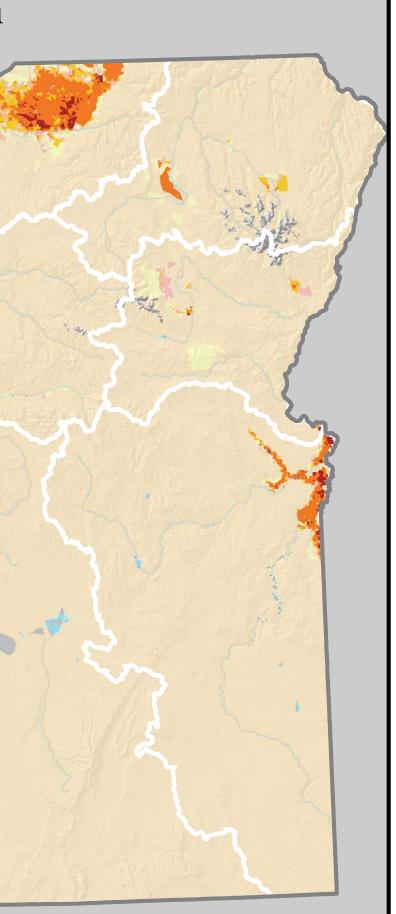
HUCs with medium to high risk of nitrate contamination Logistic regression model of risk of nitrate contamination of shallow (<5 m) groundwater based on vulnerability and sensitivity. Areas most vulnerable to nitrate contamination are determined based on i) nitrogen fertilizer use rates; ii) % of crop land; and iii) population density. Most sensitive areas are those with i) well drained soils and ii) a seasonally high water table. High risk areas are both vulnerable and sensitive.

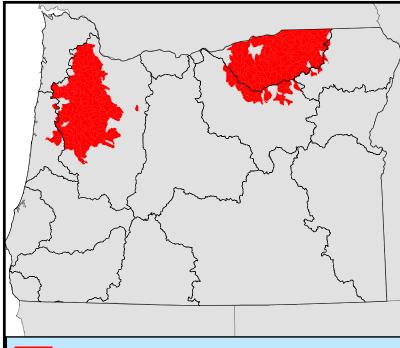
## **Groundwater Risk**

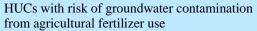


Data Sources: Nolan et al., 2002; USGS, 2006; TNC, 2008.

# Risk of Nitrate Contamination of Shallow Groundwater





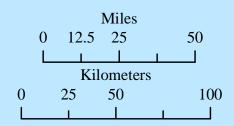


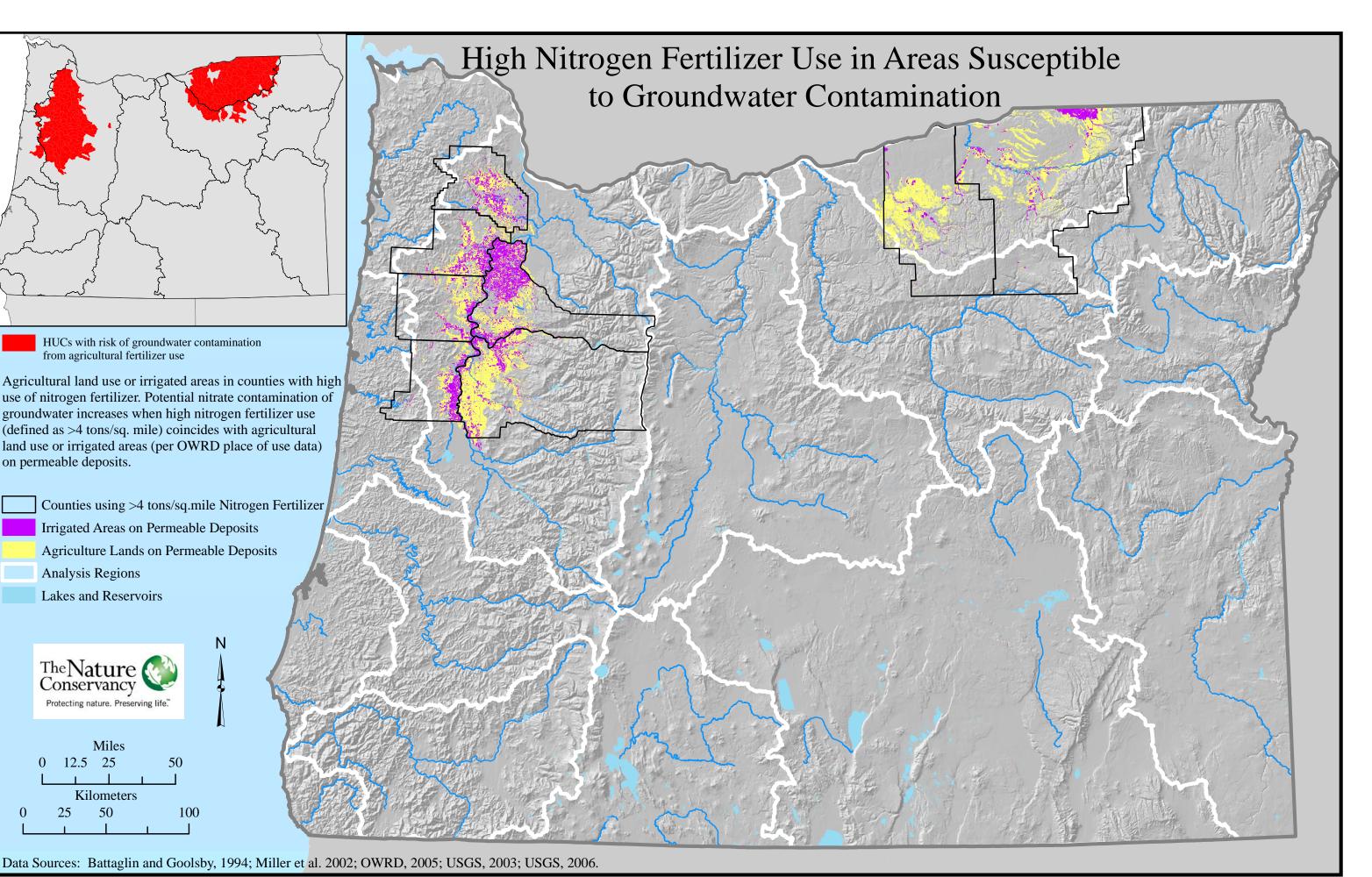
Agricultural land use or irrigated areas in counties with high use of nitrogen fertilizer. Potential nitrate contamination of groundwater increases when high nitrogen fertilizer use (defined as >4 tons/sq. mile) coincides with agricultural land use or irrigated areas (per OWRD place of use data) on permeable deposits.

> Counties using >4 tons/sq.mile Nitrogen Fertilizer Irrigated Areas on Permeable Deposits Agriculture Lands on Permeable Deposits Analysis Regions

Lakes and Reservoirs







Population density used as a surrogate for septic system density. Census block areas with population densities greater than 6.15 people/ha (2.46 people/acre), the equivalent of 2.5 septic systems/ha (1 system/acre) based on average Oregon household size. HUCs with high rural population density are shown under census blocks.

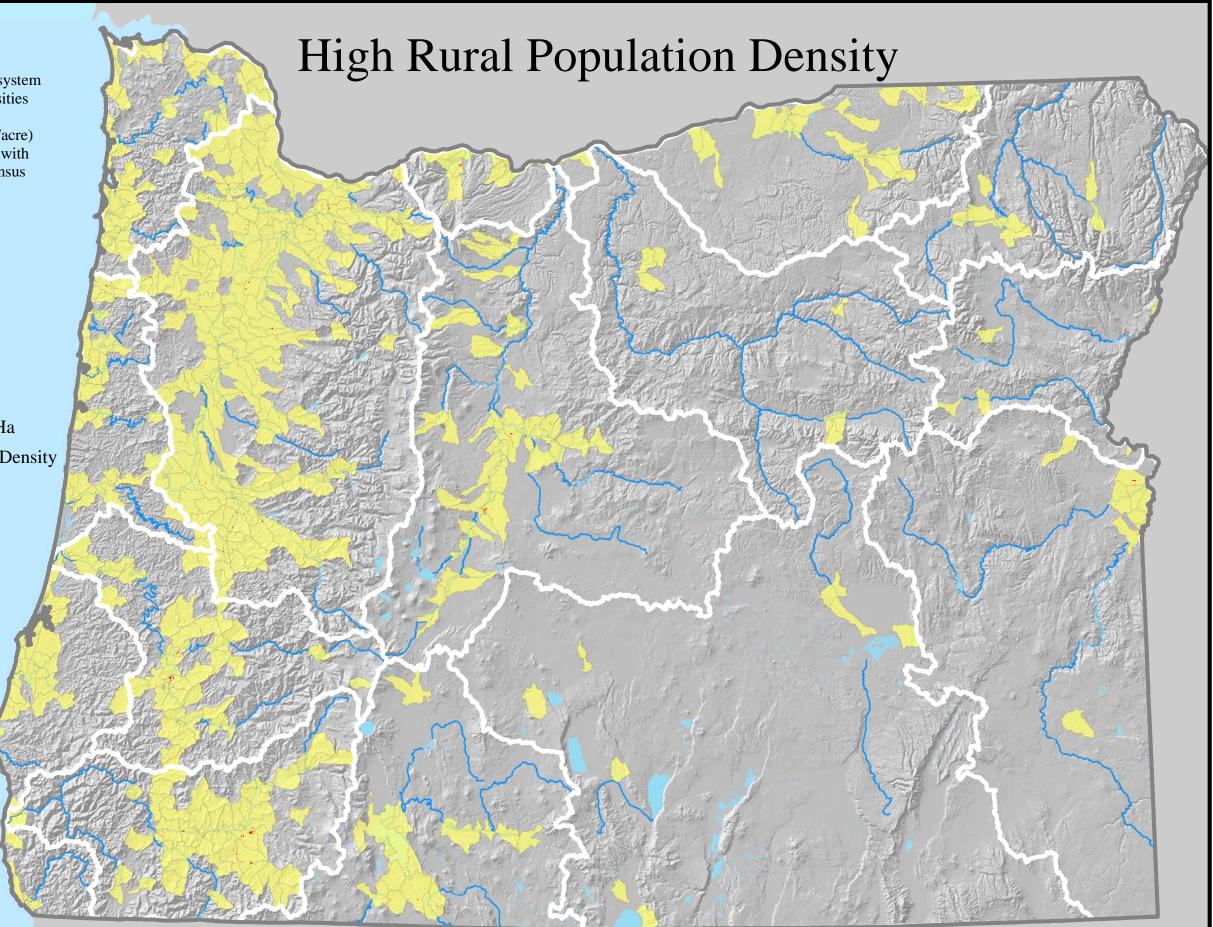
> Analysis Regions Population Density > 6.15 People/Ha

HUCs with High Rural Population Density Lakes and Reservoirs

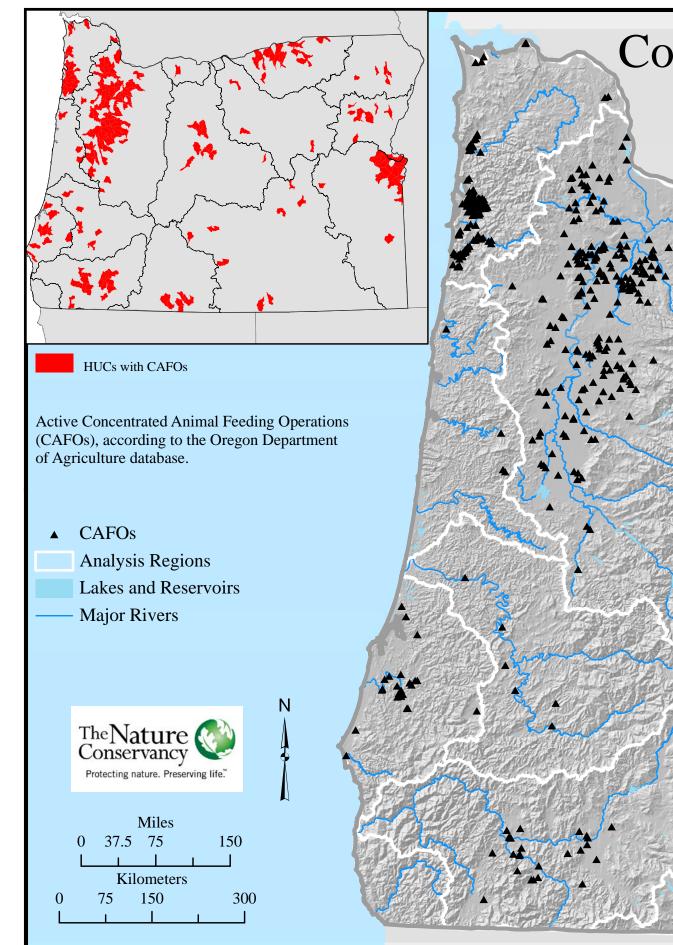
Major Rivers

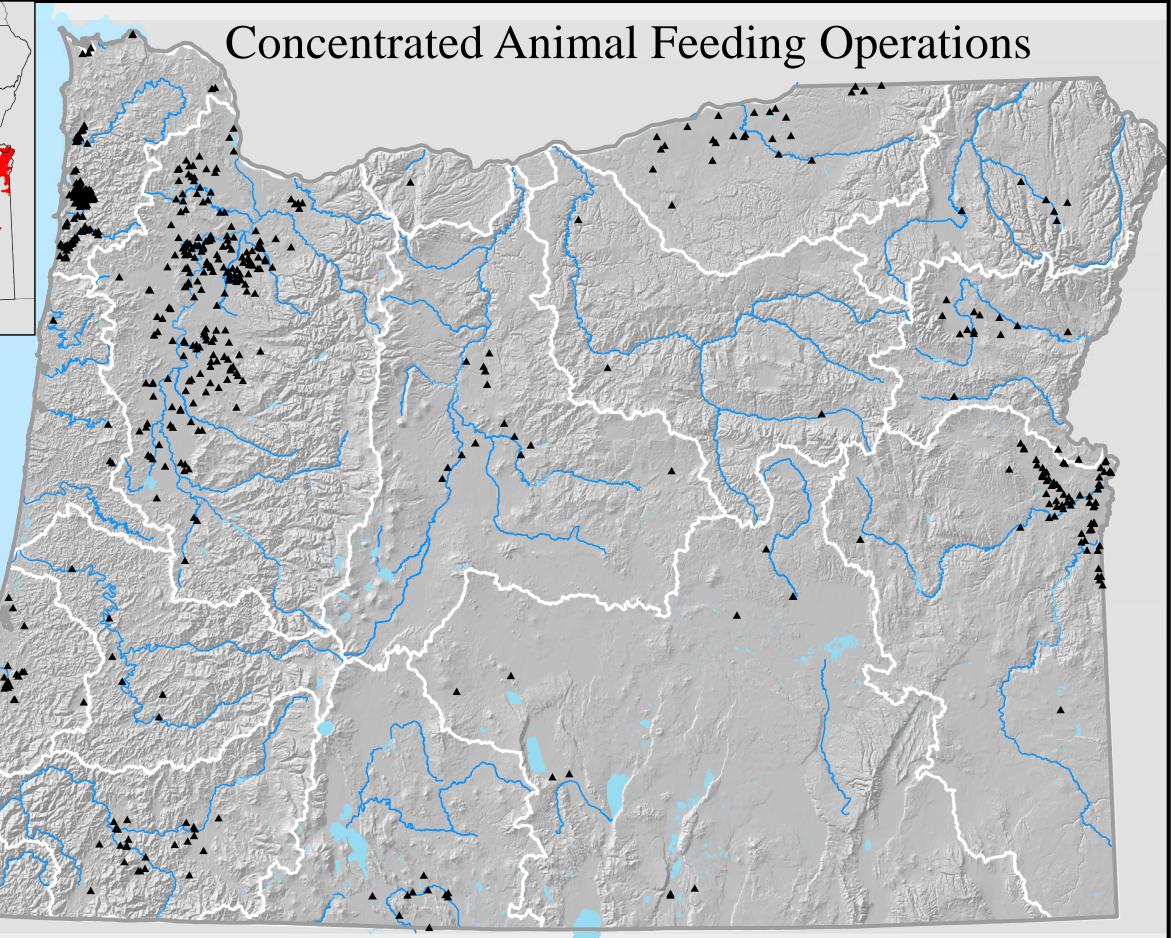


Miles 0 12.5 25 50 Kilometers 0 25 50 100

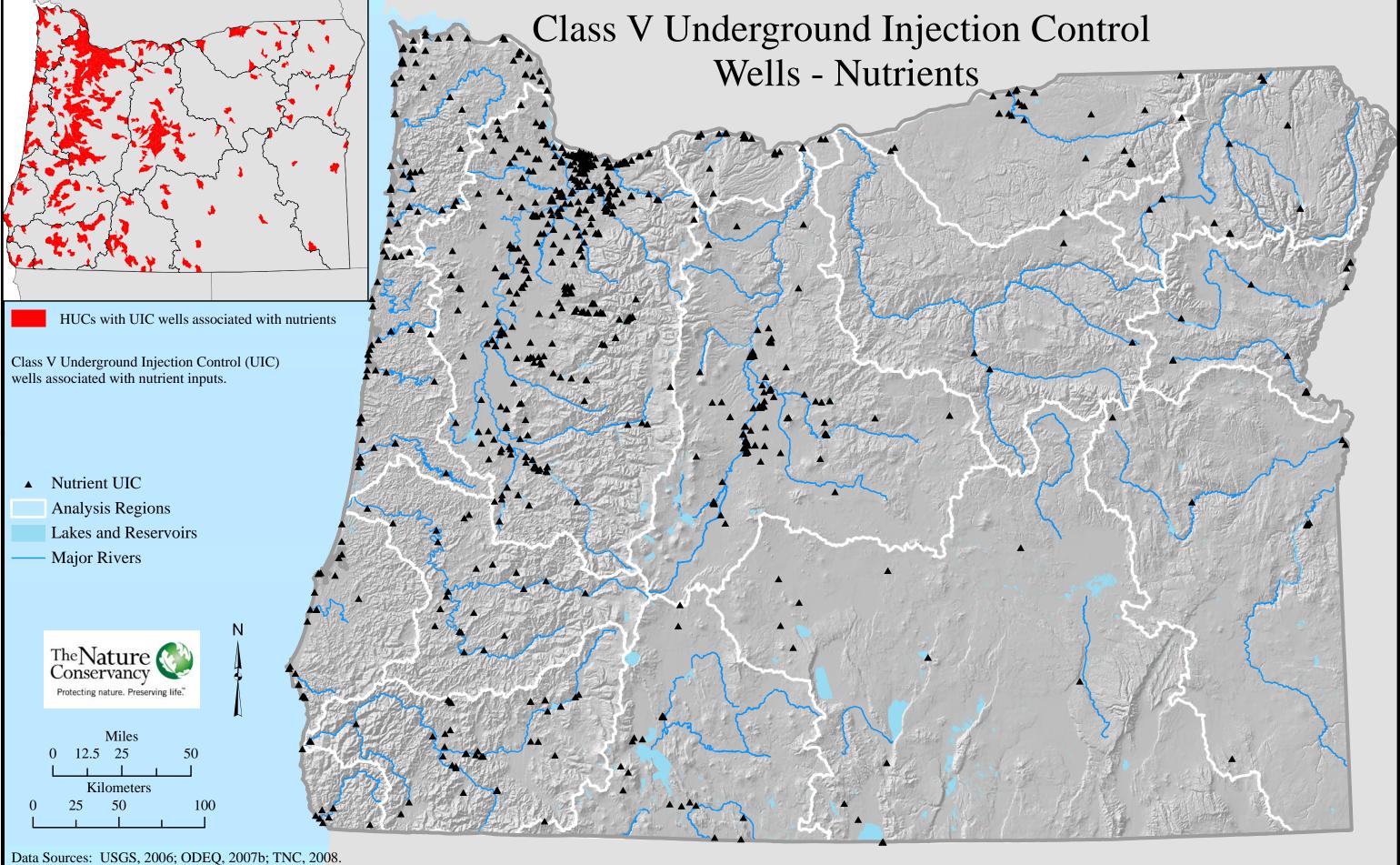


Data Sources: US Census Bureau, 2000; USGS, 2006; TNC, 2008.

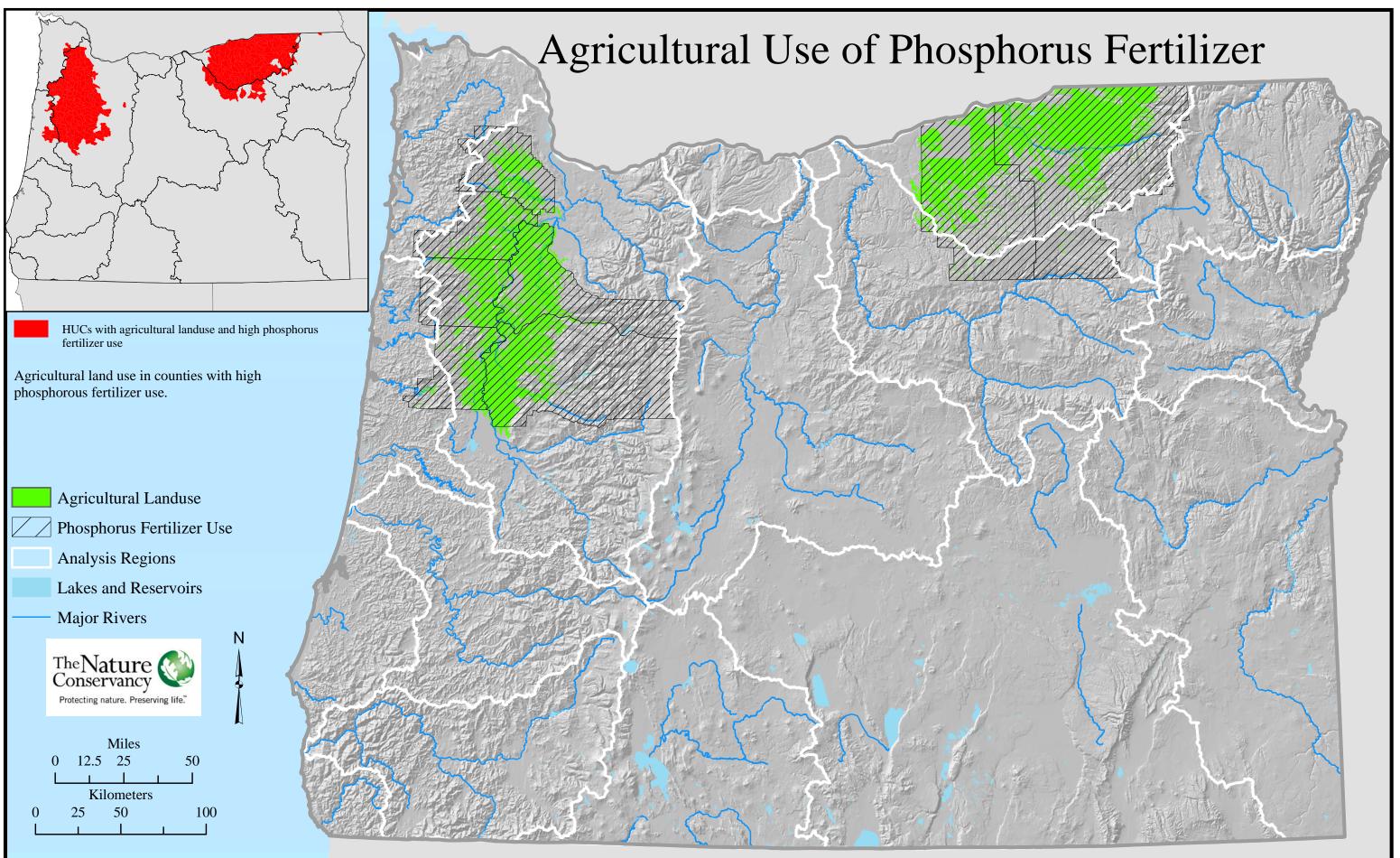




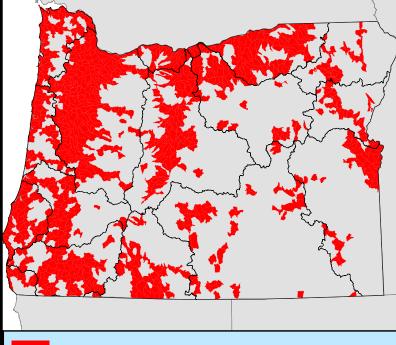
Data Sources: USGS, 2006; ODA, 2007; TNC, 2008.



Map 28



Data Sources: Battaglin and Goolsby, 1994; USGS, 2003; USGS, 2006; TNC, 2008.



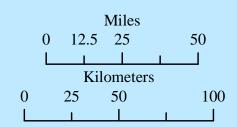
HUCs with high and medium intensity developed landuse

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Urban landuse (high and medium intensity developed landuse) per the National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD).

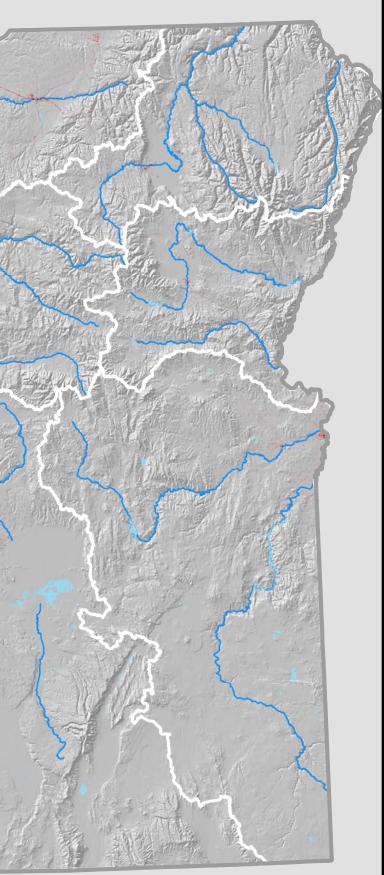
> Urban Landuse Analysis Regions Lakes and Reservoirs Major Rivers

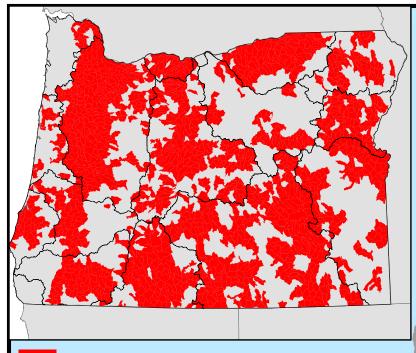




Developed Landuse - High and Medium Intensity

Data Sources: USGS, 2003; USGS, 2006; TNC, 2008.

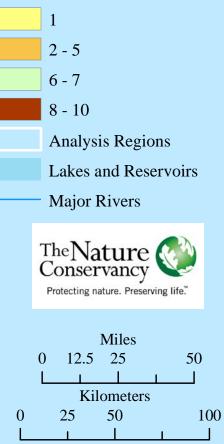




HUCs with estimated use of 2 or more pesticides

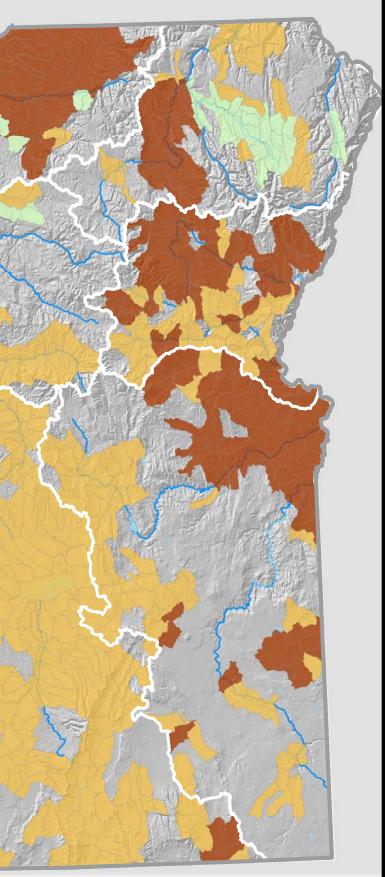
1997 estimated use of 10 agricultural pesticides toxic to aquatic life and likely to contaminate groundwater. Colors indicate the number of these pesticides estimated to be used in each HUC6.

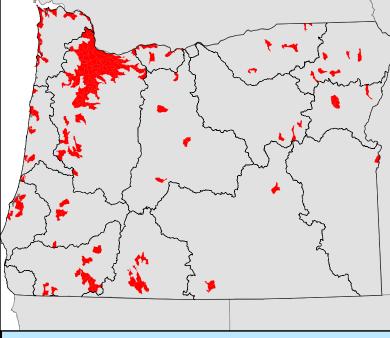
Number of Pesticides



Threat of Groundwater Contamination from Agricultural Pesticide Use

Data Sources: Nakagaki and Wolock, 2005; USDA NRCS, 2006; USGS, 2006; TNC, 2008.

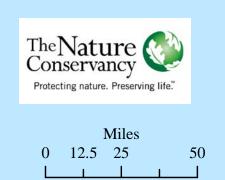






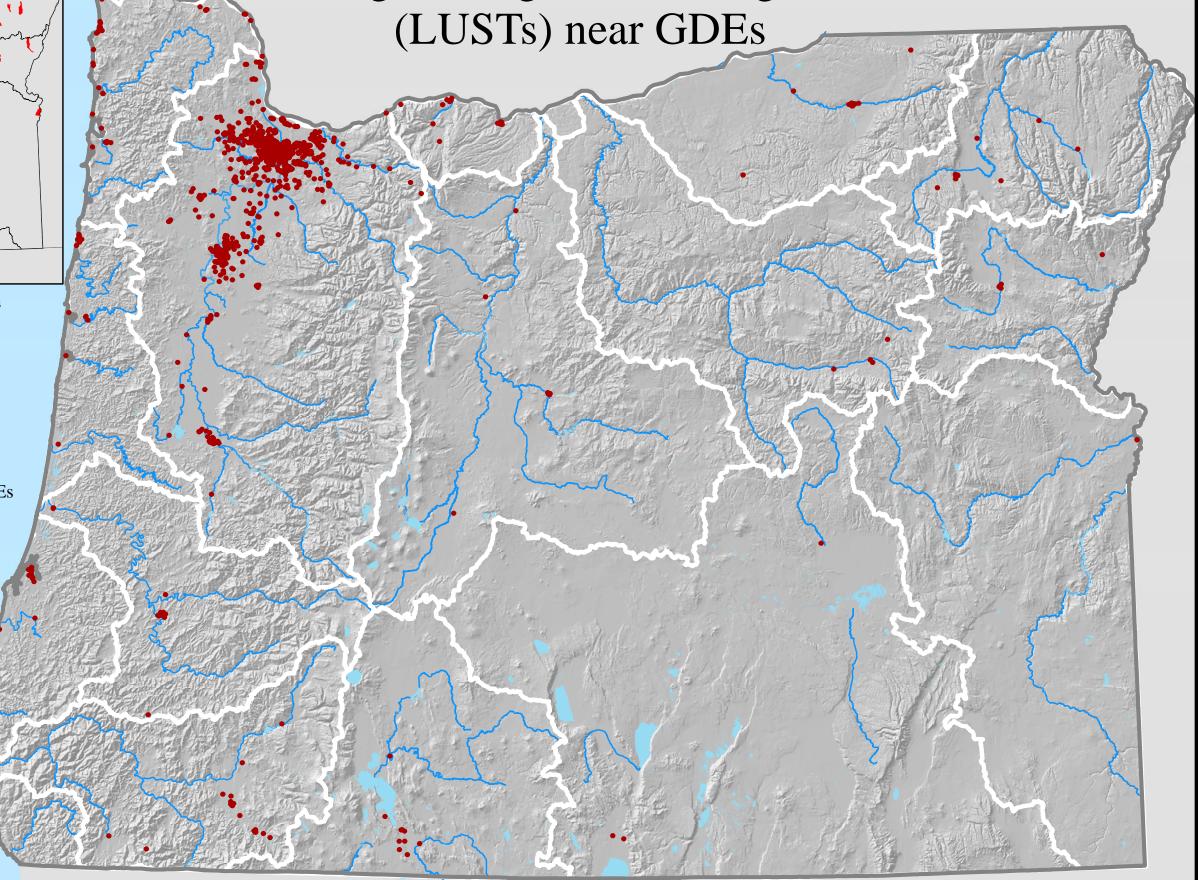
Leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs) in the ODEQ Facility Profiler database that are unregulated or have confirmed leaks and are within .8 km (.5 miles) of groundwater-dependent ecosystems or species (GDEs).

- LUSTs within .8 km (.5 miles) of GDEs
  - Analysis Regions
  - Lakes and Reservoirs
  - Major Rivers



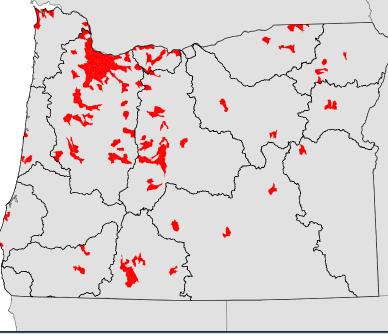
Kilometers 0 25 50 100

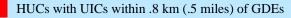
# Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUSTs) near GDEs



Data Sources: USGS, 2006; ODEQ, 2007a; TNC, 2007d; TNC, 2008.





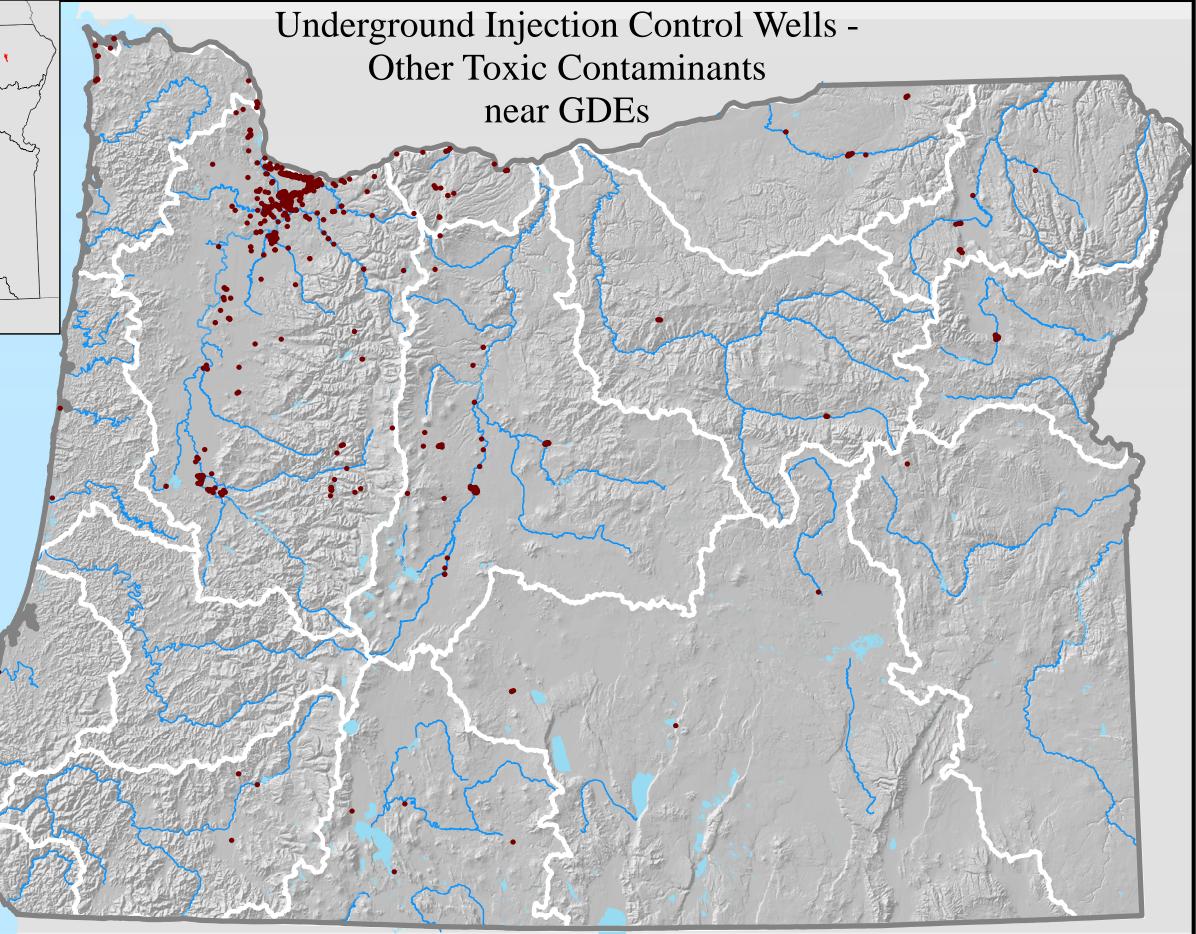


Class V Underground Injection Control (UIC) wells in the ODEQ database that are i) not used for gray water or drinking water disposal; ii) not associated with nutrients, pesticides, or thermal inputs; and iii) are within .8 km (.5 miles) of groundwater-dependent ecosystems or species (GDEs).

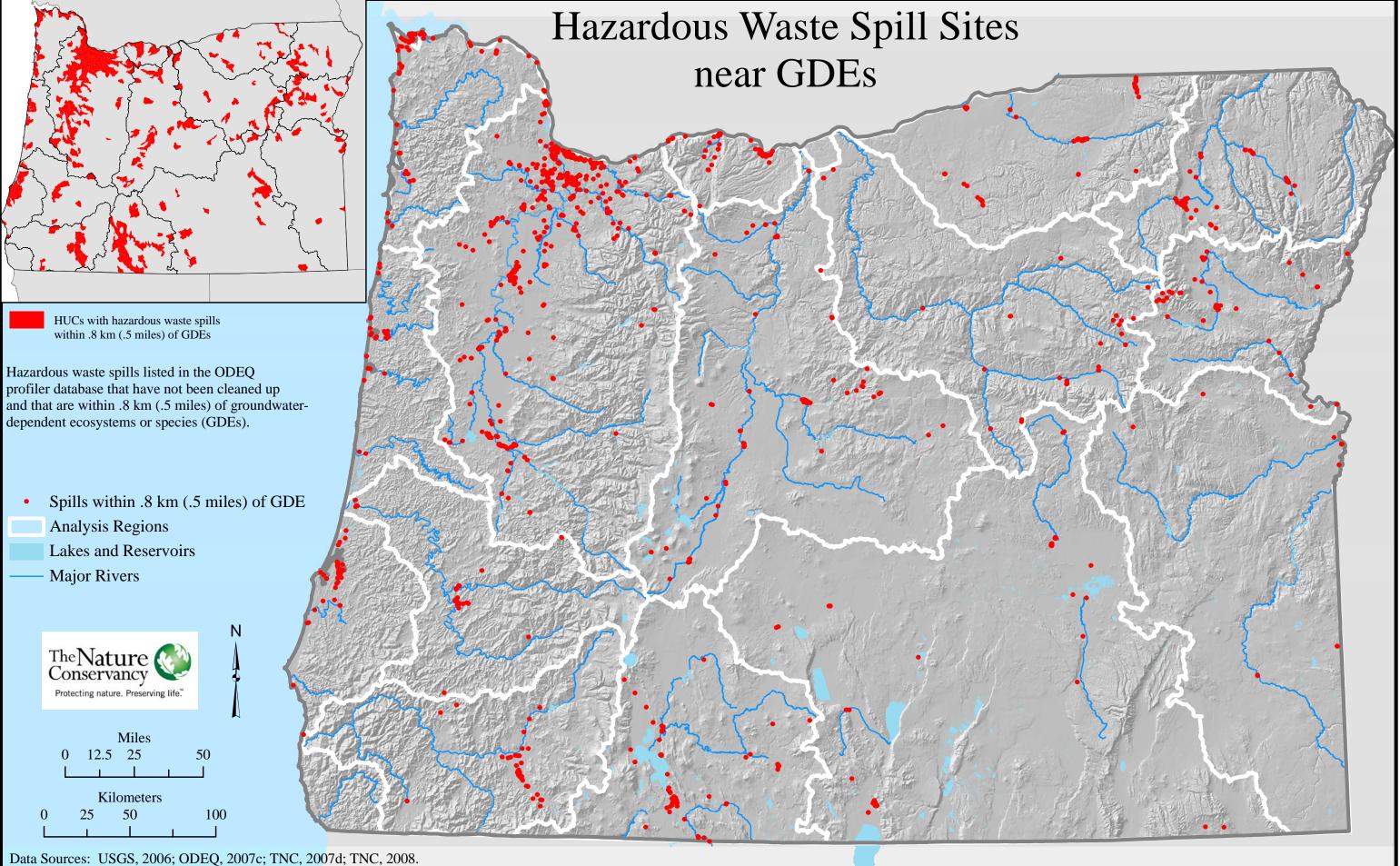
- UIC within .8 km (.5 miles) of GDEs Analysis Regions
  - Lakes and Reservoirs
  - Major Rivers

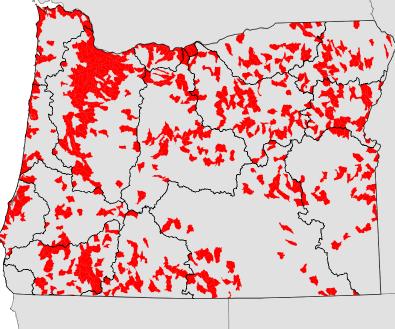


		]	Miles		
	0	12.5	25		50
		Kilor	neter	s	
0	25	5	50		100
1			1		1



Data Sources: USGS, 2006; ODEQ, 2007b; TNC, 2007d; TNC, 2008.





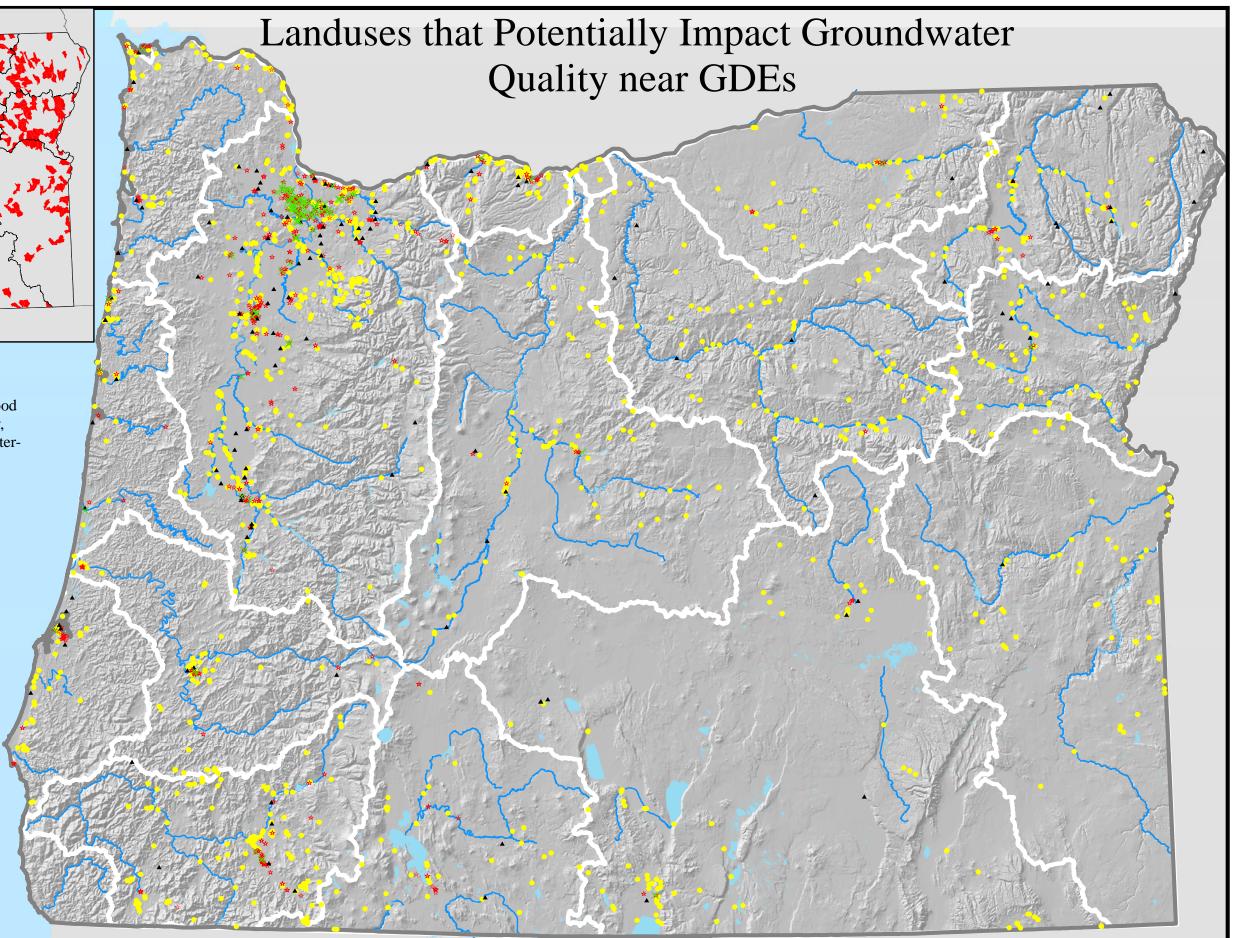
HUCs with specific landuses within .8 km (.5 miles) of GDEs

Landuses associated with an increased likelihood of spills that could impact groundwater quality, occurring within .8 km (.5 miles) of groundwaterdependent ecosystems or species (GDEs).

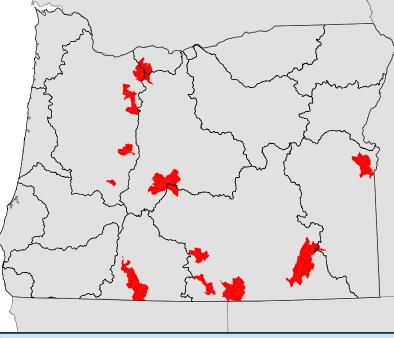
- × Dry Cleaners near GDEs
- Airports near GDEs
- \* Gas Stations near GDEs
- Mines near GDEs
- Analysis Regions
- Lakes and Reservoirs
- Major Rivers



Miles 0 12.5 25 50 Kilometers 0 25 50 100



Data Sources: USGS, 1996; USGS, 2006; ODEQ, 2007a; ODEQ, 2007d; ODGAMI, 2007; TNC, 2007d; TNC, 2008.





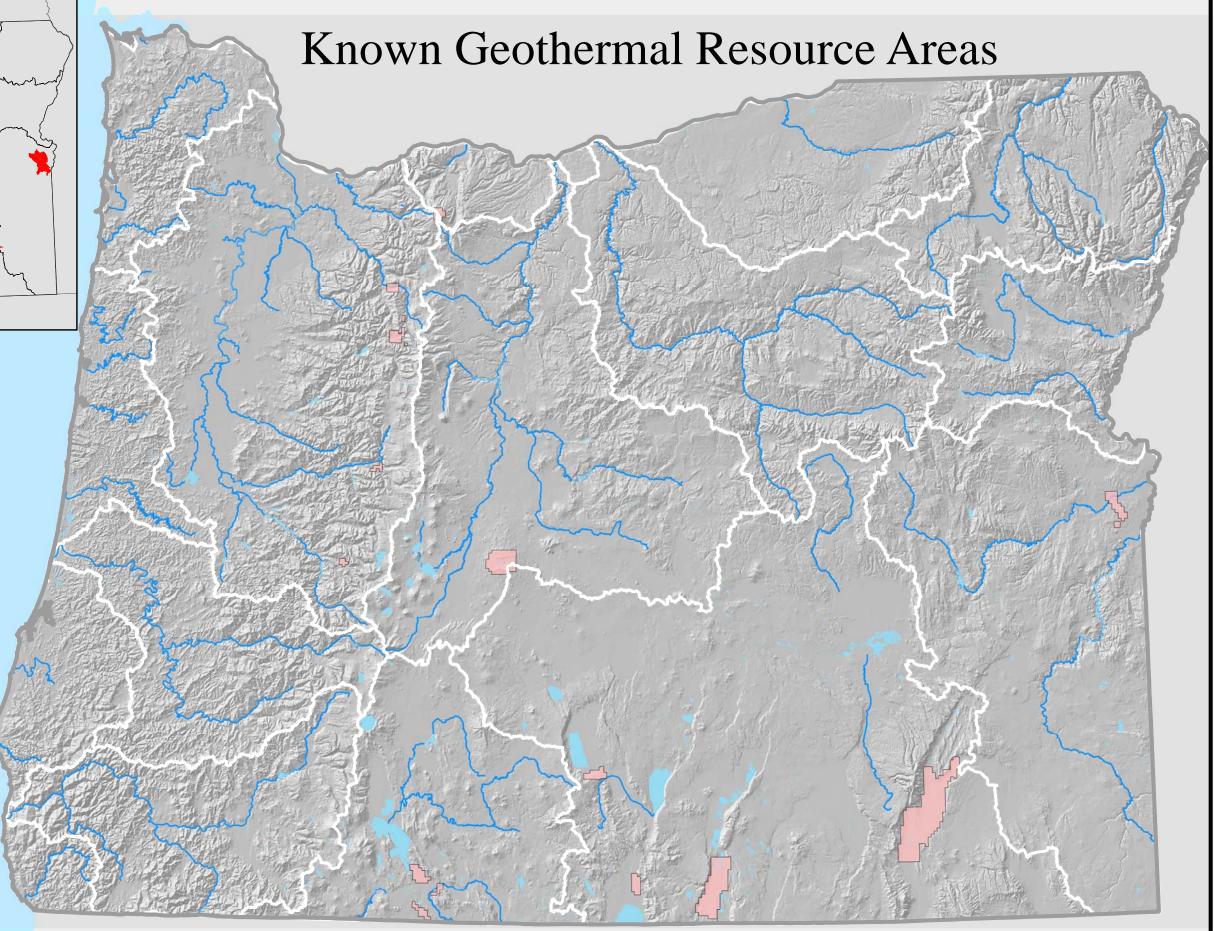
Known geothermal resource areas, per Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (ODGAMI). These are areas identified by the presence of thermal springs, thermal wells, and geohydrologic settings generally favorable for recovery of thermal water.

Known Geothermal Resource Areas Analysis Regions

- Lakes and Reservoirs
- Major Rivers

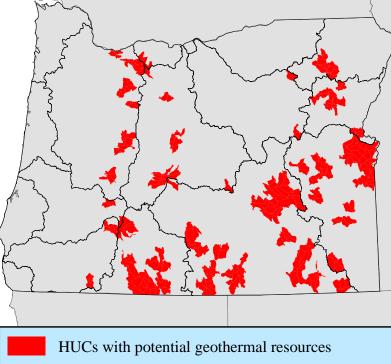


Miles 0 12.5 25 50 Kilometers 0 25 50 100



Data Sources: USGS, 2006; Niewendorp, et al. 2007; TNC, 2008.

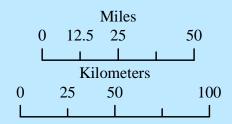
Ν

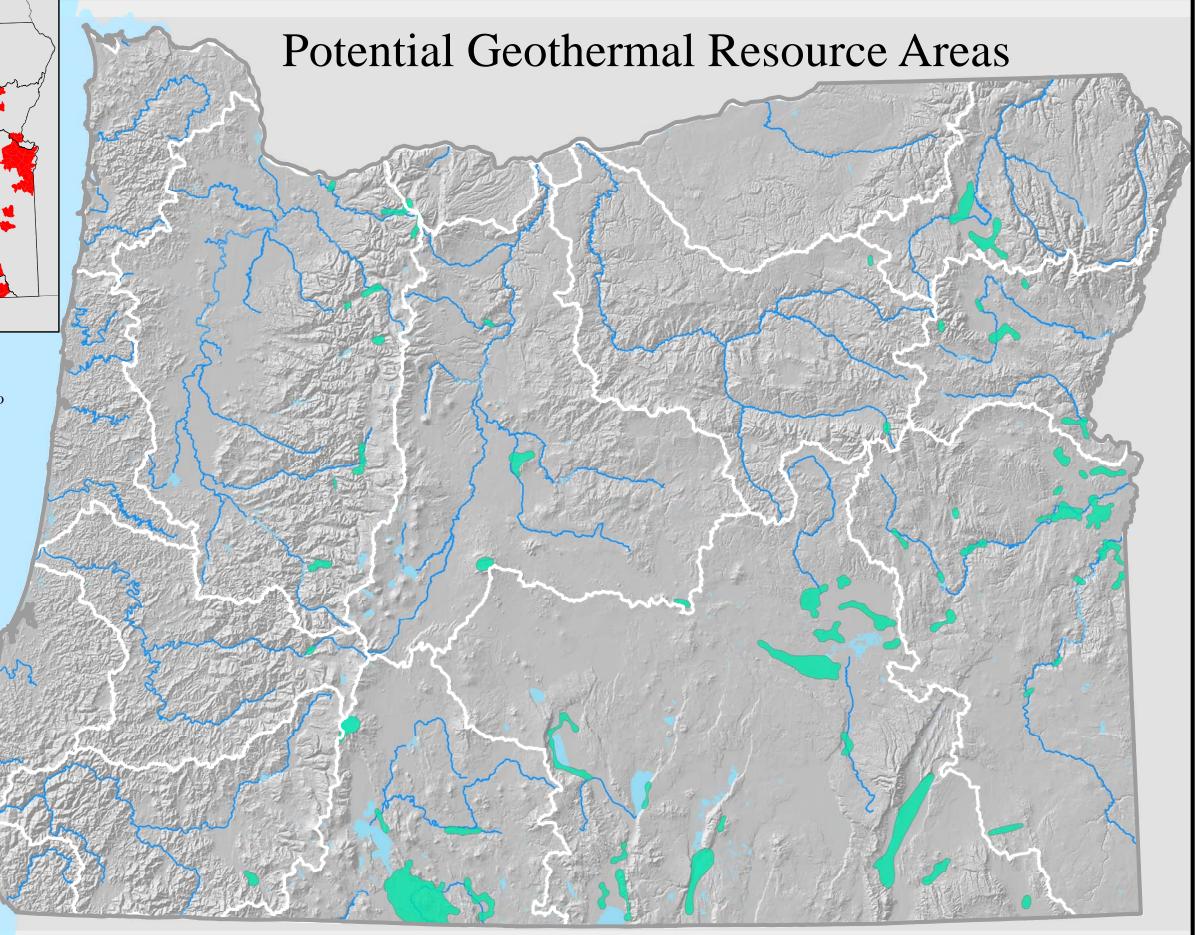


Potential geothermal areas are those that are likely to contain geothermal resources, due to their geologic similarity to known geothermal areas.

Potential Geothermal Resources Analysis Regions Lakes and Reservoirs Major Rivers







Data Sources: USGS, 2006; Niewendorp, et al. 2007; TNC, 2008.

Ν

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