

Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Survey

Results: Frequency Distributions



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The following are preliminary results for the 2008 Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Survey. This survey was sent to a random sample of 923 homes within the Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) in September and October of 2008. The purpose of the survey was to gain a better understanding of the knowledge and perceptions concerning groundwater quality within GWMA community. The response rate for the mail survey is as follows (two waves of mailings):

Sample Size: 923
Surveys Returned: 438
Response Rate: 47%

Note: Not all percentages add to 100% due to rounding.

SECTION 1

In this first section of the survey we would like to ask you some general questions about your interests in, activities relating to, and knowledge of groundwater issues. Please circle the number that most closely represents your view.

Q-1 In general, how well informed do you consider yourself to be concerning groundwater quality in your community?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Not informed | 23% |
| 2. Somewhat informed | 55% |
| 3. Informed | 18% |
| 4. Very well informed | 4% |

Q-2 How often do you talk about issues related to groundwater quality with your family, friends, or other acquaintances?

- | | |
|----------------|-----|
| 1. Never | 18% |
| 2. Hardly ever | 41% |
| 3. Sometimes | 37% |
| 4. Often | 5% |

Q-3 Overall, how much impact do you think PEOPLE LIKE YOU can have in making Oregon's groundwater policy?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. No impact at all | 8% |
| 2. A small impact | 42% |
| 3. A moderate impact | 34% |
| 4. A big impact | 15% |

Q-4 Have you ever heard of the Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Yes (go to Q-5) | 16% |
| 2. No (go to Q-6) | 80% |
| 3. Don't know (go to Q-6) | 4% |

Q-5 Do you know if you live within the boundary of the Southern Willamette Groundwater Management Area?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Yes, I live within the boundary area | 34% |
| 2. No, I do not live in the boundary area | 10% |
| 3. Don't know | 56% |

Q-6 In general, how well informed do you consider yourself to be about where your drinking water comes from?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Not informed | 10% |
| 2. Somewhat informed | 31% |
| 3. Informed | 33% |
| 4. Very well informed | 26% |

Q-7 Where does your drinking water come from?

1.	A domestic well	52%
2.	The city/municipal water	42%
3.	Bottled water	2%
4.	Don't know	1%
5.	Other	1%
6.	Mc Kenzie River	2%
7.	Willamette River	.2%

Q-8 If your drinking water comes from a well, how often (if ever) do you test the quality of your well?

1.	Never	11%
2.	Rarely (once during ownership)	49%
3.	Occasionally (once a year)	31%
4.	Somewhat frequently (twice a year)	5%
5.	Very frequently (more than twice a year)	4%

Q-9 How would you rate the quality of your drinking water?

1.	Poor	3%
2.	Fair	13%
3.	Good	45%
4.	Excellent	37%
5.	Don't know	2%

Q-10 How would you rate the current groundwater quality in your community?

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| 1. Poor | 4% |
| 2. Fair | 23% |
| 3. Good | 40% |
| 4. Excellent | 9% |
| 5. Don't know | 24% |

Q-11 Does your home use a septic system?

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 61% |
| 2. No | 38% |
| 3. Don't know | 1% |

Q-12 Which of the following do you consider possible threats to groundwater pollution in your community? Please circle all that apply.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Fertilizer application (lawns, gardens, agricultural crops, etc.) | 81% |
| 2. Animal waste (dog and larger animals) | 45% |
| 3. Septic systems | 57% |

Q-13 Do you ever use fertilizer for your lawn, garden or crops?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Yes (go to Q-14) | 80% |
| 2. No (go to Q-15) | 20% |

Q-14 Where do you use fertilizer? Please circle all that apply.

- 1. Lawn 65%
- 2. Garden 46%
- 3. Agriculture/crops 11%

Q-15 For the following terms, please indicate if you know what the term means, have heard of the term but don't know its meaning, or have not heard of the term at all.

	Have not heard of the term at all	Have heard of the term but don't know its meaning	Know what the term means
a. Watershed	2%	16%	83%
b. Nitrate	3%	24%	73%
c. Clean Water Act	8%	43%	50%
d. Nonpoint source pollution	46%	25%	29%
e. Aquifer	11%	20%	69%

Q-16 How interested are you in attending informational meetings or events about groundwater quality in your community?

- 1 Not interested 24%
- 2 9%
- 3 13%
- 4 7%
- 5 Moderately Interested 24%
- 6 8%
- 7 8%
- 8 3%
- 9 Very Interested 4%

Q-17 We would like to know which of the following information sources you currently use, or would use to learn more about community issues such as groundwater. Please circle the number that corresponds with the frequency of your use.

	Never	Infrequently	Frequently	Very Frequently
a. Television news programs and specials	9%	32%	42%	18%
b. Oregon Public Broadcasting	17%	38%	32%	14%
c. Radio programs	27%	37%	28%	8%
d. The <i>Register Guard</i> newspaper	47%	19%	18%	18%
e. Other local newspapers	37%	26%	22%	15%
f. Local community leaders	43%	45%	10%	2%
g. Watershed councils	66%	27%	6%	1%
h. State elected officials	52%	42%	5%	2%
i. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	44%	37%	16%	3%
j. Universities and colleges	40%	37%	18%	4%
k. Utilities	30%	42%	22%	5%
l. Environmental groups	51%	34%	13%	3%
m. Information available on the Internet	43%	29%	19%	10%

SECTION 2

This section of the survey concerns your attitudes toward the environment and politics. Please circle the number that most closely represents your view.

Q-18 Listed below are statements about the relationship between humans and the environment. For each, please indicate your level of agreement.

	Strongly Disagree	Mildly Disagree	Neutral	Mildly Agree	Strongly Agree
a. The balance of nature is very delicate and easily upset by human activities.	5%	12%	11%	35%	36%
b. Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs.	20%	29%	17%	29%	5%
c. We are approaching the limit of people the earth can support.	14%	16%	19%	27%	25%
d. The so-called "ecological crisis" facing humankind has been greatly exaggerated.	29%	20%	16%	22%	13%
e. Plants and animals have as much right as humans to exist.	12%	16%	13%	26%	34%
f. Humans were meant to rule over the rest of nature.	27%	20%	20%	17%	16%

SECTION 3

We now have a few concluding questions to check if our survey is representative of all types of people. Please remember that all answers are completely confidential to the extent permitted by law.

Q-19 What is your current age in years?

Mean	59
Median	60
Mode	60
Std. Deviation	14

Q-20 Please indicate your gender?

1. Female	30%
2. Male	70%

Q-21 What level of education have you completed?

Middle	.2%
H.S.	16%
Vocational	4%
Some college	27%
College graduate	30%
Graduate school	21%
Other	1%

Q-22 How long have you lived in Oregon?

Mean	40
Median	40
Mode	34
Std. Deviation	21

Q-23 Which of the following best describes your current work situation?

Full time	44%
Part time	6%
Not employed	3%
Unemployed	2%
Retired	41%
Other	4%

Q-24 Are you a home owner?

1. Yes	91%
2. No	9%

Q-25 Which category best describes your household income (before taxes) in 2007?

Less than \$10,000	2%
\$10,000 - \$ 14,999	4%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	7%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	10%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	15%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	21%
\$75,000 – \$99,999	16%
\$100,000 – \$149,999	16%
\$150,000 – \$199,999	4%
\$200,000 or more	6%