1. Provide a brief description of the community surveyed, including the population, and transient population, geographic location, climate, and annual rainfall.

Coos County

Established in 1853 and in the southwest part of Oregon, Coos County was carved from Josephine and Jackson Counties. Douglas County lies to the north and the east. Curry County rests on the south and the Pacific Ocean churns on the west of it. The name Coos County means lake or place of the pines and the county has seven incorporated cities: Bandon, Coos Bay, Coquille, Lakeside Myrtle Point, North Bend, and Powers. The land area covers 1,629 square miles, with a density of 39.2 persons per square mile.

In 2006, the population was estimated at 64,820. Summer population increases with tourism. The city of Bandon also has a noted increase in its summer population as people have seasonal homes in the area, plus the increase from tourism and the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, with its four golf courses.

Annual precipitation in the county averages 56.8 inches. Rainfalls in specific locations are as follows: Bandon - 59.45 inches; Coquille - 55.59 inches; North Bend - 64.43 inches; and Powers - 59.39 inches. The winters are wet, with most rain falling in the months of November, December, and January. The summers, when there is an increase in population due to tourism, tend to be dry and the temperatures are mild all year round, with basically a 15 degree difference between winter and summer. Snowfall is minimal, with at most 1 to 3" per year, usually at higher elevations or inland from the ocean. The area along the Pacific is noted for its strong winds.

The economy consists of forest products, fishing, agricultural (including cranberries), shipping, recreation and tourism.

References:

Coos County Web Site. Accessed on October 27, 2008 from http://www.co.coos.or.us/

Oregon Blue Book. Accessed on October 27, 2008 from http://bluebook.state.or.us/local/counties/counties06.htm

Taylor, George. Climate of Coos County. Accessed on October 27, 2008 from. http://www.ocs.orst.edu/county_climate/Coos_files/Coos.html.

2. Identify the major watersheds and subwatersheds in which you live. Describe the uses of the water resources in that community, i.e., recreational, agricultural, industrial, residential, and ecological. Have major pollutant concerns been identified (sediments/turbidity, mercury, temperature, bacteria, etc.)?

Coos County is served by three major watersheds: the Coquille, Coos, and Tenmile. Each of these watersheds is attempting to manage the same set of pollutant concerns: storm water drainage, contaminated residential wells from agricultural runoff, leaking residential septic systems, toxic waste, noxious weeds, temperature changes, invasive species, and similar. Two small watersheds, Two Mile (15 square miles) and Four Mile (19 square miles), located at the extreme southwestern county border, are not covered in this answer.

Coos Watershed:

The cities of Coos Bay and North Bend are located in the largest estuary on the Oregon coast, Coos Bay. This estuary has an area of approximately 55 square miles at high tide and the watershed covers approximately 586 square miles. Three major forks (South Fork Coos River, East Fork Millicoma River, and West Fork Millicoma River) are tributaries to the Coos River, which along with about 30 additional tributaries drain directly into Coos Bay. The river and its tributaries are affected by tidal influences for more than thirty miles upstream from Coos Bay. The cities of Coos Bay and North Bend and other rural residences represent only 17% of the watershed's land use – a population of about 36,000. The largest land uses are forest (67%), coastal/estuarine (8%), and agricultural (6%). The watershed area serves these purposes: forestry, fishing, agricultural (including Oregon's largest commercial oyster growing enterprises), urban, and recreational use (marinas, dunes access, wilderness, other). The cities of Coos Bay and North Bend draw their water from Pony Creek Dam on Pony Creek a sub-watershed. Coos Bay also has the largest commercial port facilities on the Oregon Coast, including docks, maritime construction and repair, airport, and rail. The estuary is ecologically sensitive, and endangered species are protected.

Coquille Watershed:

This watershed serves approximately 17,000 residents in the cities of Powers, Myrtle Point, Coquille, Bandon, and many small unincorporated rural residential areas. The 99 mile long Coquille River is the third largest river system in Oregon, and the watershed covers 1,059 square miles. It contains four distinct sub-basins: North, South, Middle, and East, and finally drains into the Pacific Ocean at Bandon. The greatest land uses in the watershed are forestry and agriculture, with urban development and recreation a far distant percentage. Powers, Myrtle Point, and Coquille draw water from the Coquille River. Bandon, located at the mouth of the Coquille River, draws it water from Ferry and Geiger Creeks of the Coquille watershed. Cranberry Bogs in that watershed are treated

with herbicides in the Spring with some residual found in the creeks for some months in the Springtime.

Tenmile Watershed:

This 98 square mile watershed is dominated by lakes – ten of them, including Tenmile, Eel, and Saunders, which also constitute subbasins of the same names. The City of Lakeside is the only urban area within the watershed, and its population is approximately 1,800 residents. However, the non-incorporated area hosts about another 1,000 homes, which are often used part-time or seasonally. City water is drawn from Eel reservoir in the Eel Creek watershed and most homes around Tenmile Lake outside of the town, Tenmile watershed, draw their water from the lake. The largest land use is forest, but water-based and Oregon Dunes National Recreation-based recreation is a big part of the summer season. There is no substantial industrial or agricultural use of this area.

References:
Pacific Coast Watershed Partnership site accessed 11/07/2008 http://www.pacificwatersheds.net/ontheground/coquille.htm

Coos Watershed Association site accessed 11/07/2008
www.cooswatershed.org/Publications/OutreachPlan.pdf

Tenmile Lakes Watershed Association site accessed 11/07/2008
http://tlbp.presys.com/

Coos and Coquille Area Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan site accessed 11/07/2008
www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/docs/pdf/plans/coos_coq_06.pdf

3. Which organization or organizations provide the drinking water and what are the sources of that drinking water? What percentage of the population draws water from private wells?

This answer will be forwarded separately to Jane Gigler.

4. Describe briefly the characteristics of the water, stormwater and wastewater treatment utilities (number of users being served, projected growth, facilities maintained, cost to users, etc.)

Coos Bay/North Bend/Lakeside

The public water system for the Bay Area was established in 1897 under the name of Marshfield Water Company and later became Coos Bay Water Corporation. Both were private companies. In 1947, the Cities of Coos Bay and North Bend jointly purchased the water system from Coos Bay Water Corporation and, through City Charter provisions, established Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board to operate as a non-profit municipal water provider with an appointed four-member board of directors, two from each city, with 4-year terms each. (History of the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board accessed from the Coos Bay North Bend Water Board site, www.cbnbh2o.com on October 31, 2008)

The Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board served a total of 12,669 customers by the end of June, 2006. The customer base is divided by inside city limits which include Coos Bay-North Bend who had 9,798 customers and outside city limits which had 2,871 customers. The average residential customer uses 5,086 gallons of water a month. The average monthly residential bill for Coos Bay-North Bend is $20.81 and outside the city limits the average bill is $27.96

Each city is responsible for storm water and waste water treatment facilities and policies. Both cities are preparing to upgrade/update their existing systems to meet the growing populations and needs of their communities. Each city bases its user rates on an "Equivalent Dwelling Unit" (EDU) which represents an average single family dwelling, thus an example of a commercial user that discharges twice the amount of waste water as a single family dwelling is represented as two EDU's.

References:

Coos Bay North Bend Water Board site. Accessed on October 31, 2008 from www.cbnbh2o.com

City of Coos Bay site. Accessed on October 29, 2008 from http://www.coosbay.org/cb/departments/CommunityService.htm

City of North Bend site. Accessed on October 29, 2008 from http://www.northbendcity.org/pdf/municipalcodes/Northbend13.pdf