

Building Better State Monitoring Programs – Role of NWQMC



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NEW ORLEANS LOUISIANA MEETING

Why do we need strong state water quality monitoring programs?



Short Answer: In order to improve and protect water quality to support beneficial uses

- In most states the CWA is implemented by states who have received delegated authority
- Water quality improvements are currently primarily driven by the TMDL program
- State monitoring data is primary source states use to identify water bodies that need TMDLs
- Many other beneficial uses of data; Source identification, effectiveness monitoring, understanding relative risk, informing the public and policy makers

Status of issues identified by states at Pensacola NWQMC meeting



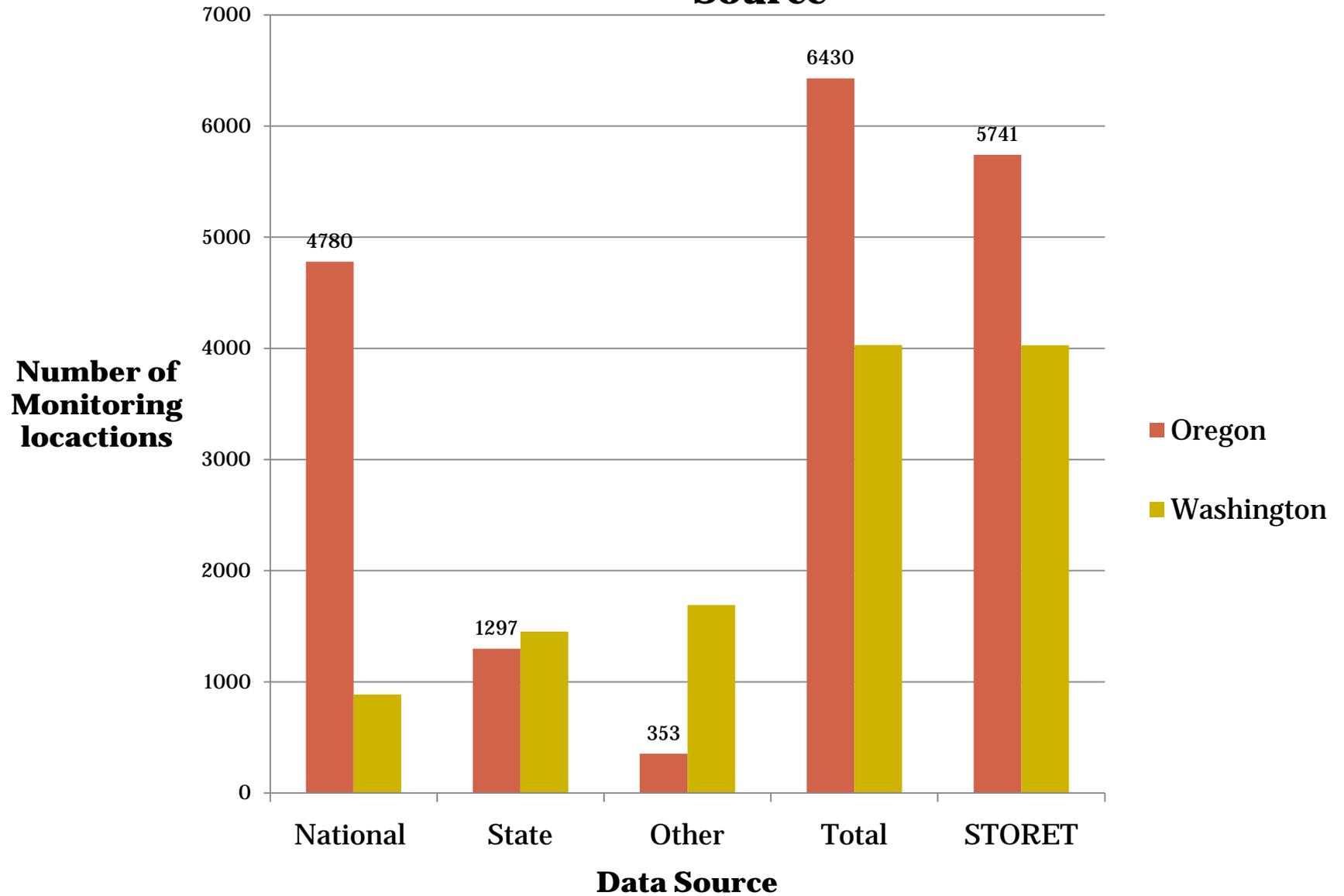
- **Work with EPA to find ways to build stronger state monitoring programs; review state monitoring programs, build support for monitoring across program boundaries within EPA**
 - **Status:** Need further discussion on first item a number of concerns have surfaced, need to identify specific action for achieving second item.
- **Improve usefulness of monitoring activities for implementing CWA programs; 303d, 305b, TMDLs, permits, 319 NPS**
 - **Status:** topics for further development
- **Make better use of all existing water quality data**
 - **Status:** The council has in recent years given recognition and visibility to projects that have been able to combine data from multiple sources - Good opportunities for this goal exist with the integrated report
- **Compile summaries of amount and types of data collected by states to illustrate magnitude of state monitoring efforts**
 - **Status:** Region X Pilot Project

Region X State Data Summary Pilot Project

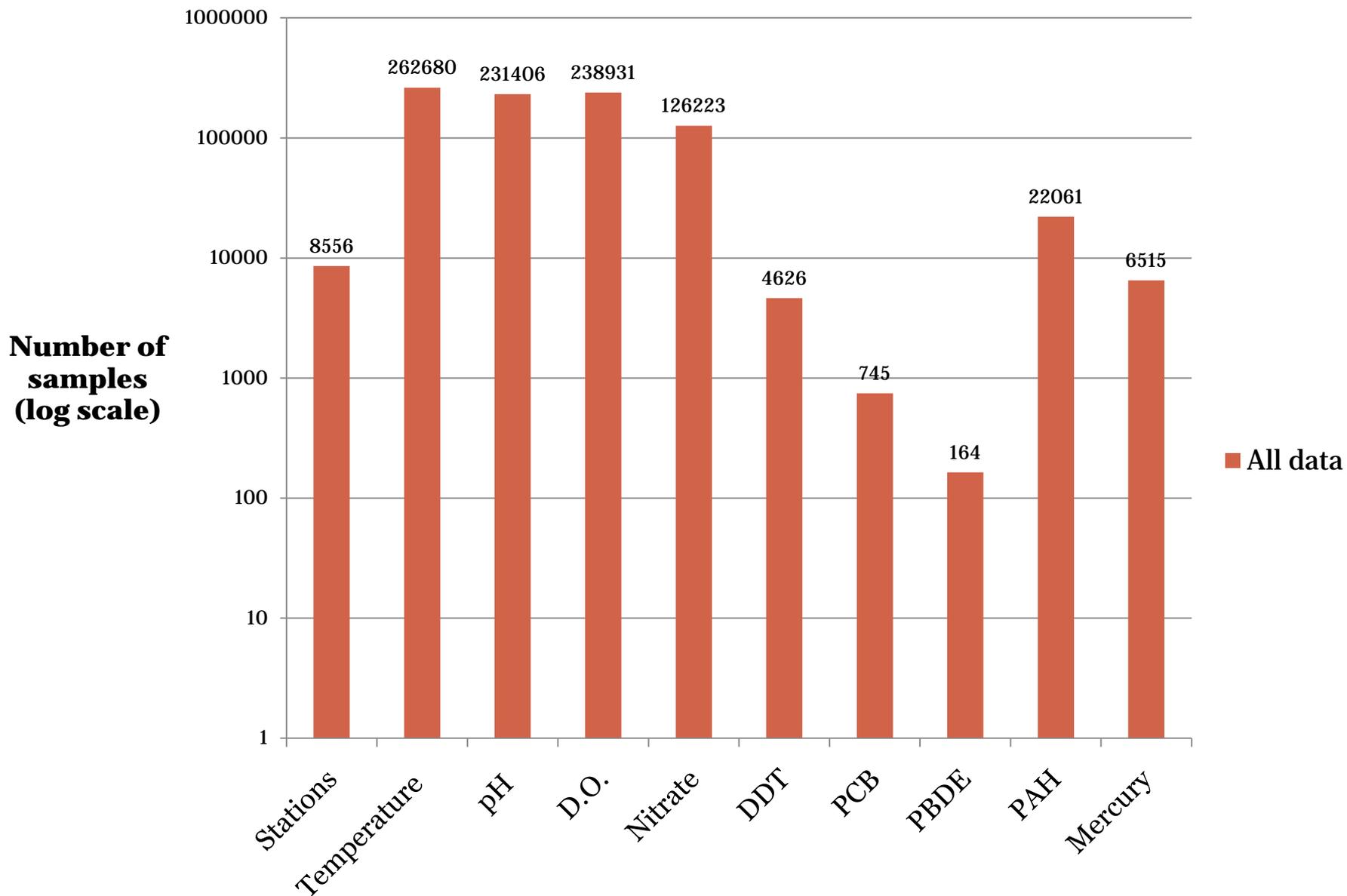


- **Conducted by Oregon DEQ**
- **Alaska – State monitoring data not consistently entered into easily searchable data base – not accessible**
- **Idaho – Same as Alaska**
- **Washington - Data available on line but capabilities for queries somewhat limited**
- **Oregon – Same as Washington**

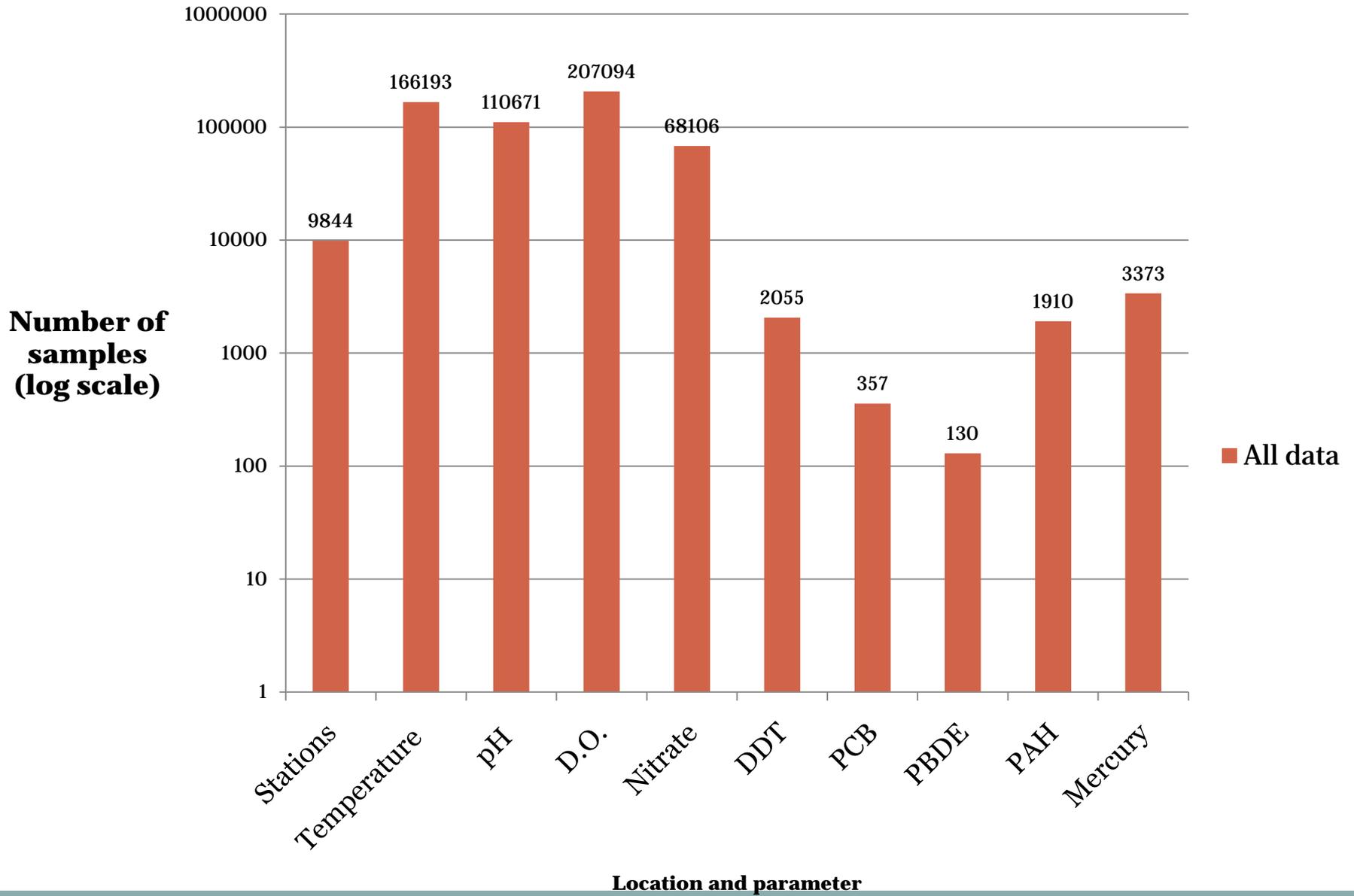
Number of Oregon Monitoring Locations Depicted by Source



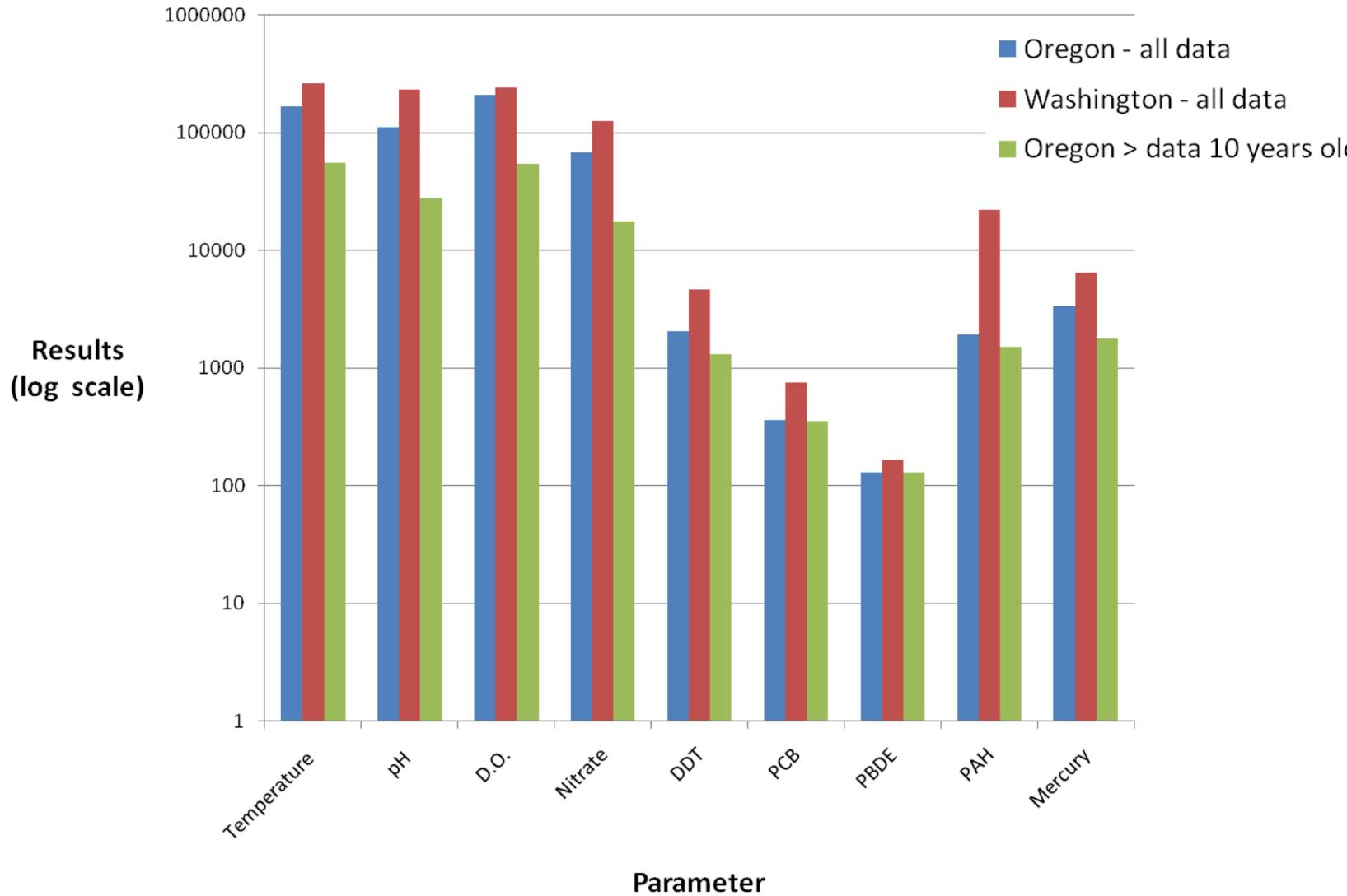
Washington Water Monitoring Stations and Samples



Oregon Water Monitoring Stations and Samples



Oregon and Washington Water Quality Data



Status of issues identified by states at Pensacola NWQMC meeting



- **Increase role of ASWIPCA on monitoring issues**
 - **Status:** NWQMC state reps included in ASWIPCA Monitoring, Assessment, and Standards Task Force Conference Calls, Issue included in discussions at ASWIPCA mid-winter meeting
- **Increase state representative role in planning NWQMC meeting agenda's**
 - **Status:** In progress
- **Increase information provided to ACWI on state monitoring programs**
- **Increase participation of EPA staff (and state staff) from permitting, standards, and TMDLs at NWQMC meetings to build better connections between those programs and monitoring**
 - **Status:** needs further work