

What's in
Your Water?

City of Sisters

We are committed to providing you with the best quality drinking water possible by continuing our education and monitoring the water quality on a daily, weekly and annual schedule. This report details the continued effort we take to insure the water you drink is safe and free of any harmful contaminants. Some of the contaminants may be monitored less frequently. This report includes the most recent data from within the last 5 years. If you have questions after reading this report, please feel free to contact The City of Sisters Public Works Director Paul Bertagna @ 541-549-6022 or visit one of our regular scheduled public meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, 7:00pm at 520 E. Cascade Ave.

An Important Message from the Environmental Protection Agency

The sources of (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity.

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and Herbicides, comes from agricultural, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water and bottled water may contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lead in Drinking Water....Are You at Risk?

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Sisters is responsible for providing high quality drinking water to your tap, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>, or www.leadline.org, or by contacting Umpqua Research Company, drinking water testing laboratory 541-312-9454.

Important Information About Water and Your Health

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/Aids or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC has guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants. For more information call the Safe Drinking Water Hot Line 1-800-426-4791 or visit the EPA's website: www.epa.gov/ow. Additional information can be found on the CDC website: www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/faq.html.

How to access more information on our water system

On the internet type in [HTTP://170.104.63.9](http://170.104.63.9), under the blue box that has Drinking Water Program choose WS ID Look Up, and in the box beside PWS Number: OR41 type in 00826 and click View Results. You can scroll to the bottom and choose options to browse information for City of Sisters.

The results below reflect how your drinking water compared to the standards set by EPA for 2008 through 2012. Only the substances that were detected are reported.

Primary Standards (directly related to the safety of drinking water)

| Inorganic Contaminants (Units) | MCL | MCLG | Range/Result | Violation | Likely source |
|----------------------------------|------|------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 2011 - Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 0.132 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Unregulated Contaminants (Units) | MCL | MCLG | Range/Result | Violation | Likely source |
| *2011 - Sodium (ppm) | N/A | N/A | 9.68 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| *Advisory only | | | | | |
| Lead & Copper (Units) | MCLG | AL | 90th% | Violation | Likely source |
| 2012 - Copper (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.264 | No | Household plumbing |
| Disinfection By-Products (Units) | MCL | MCLG | Range/Result | Violation | Likely source |
| 2012 - Chlorine Residuals (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 0.09 - 0.32 | No | By-product of DW disinfection |
| 2012 - Total Trhalomethane(ppb) | 80 | N/A | 0.0 - 2.4 | No | By-product of DW disinfection |

The City Of Sisters chlorinates well #1 with a chlorine gas and wells 2 & 3 with an on site generated sodium hypochlorite to insure that the water you are drinking is free of any microbial contaminants from the source to your tap. The disinfection process is carefully controlled so that the disinfection effectiveness is maintained while keeping the levels of disinfection by-products below regulatory limits.

Violation

2012 - Our water system received a violation for non reporting of a source water assessment sample for the Sun Ranch well. A source water sample is collected to monitor if a well is influenced by microbial contamination. A source water sample will be collected in 2013.

Key and Definitions

- **AL - Action Level**, the concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.
- **EPA - Environmental Protection Agency**, sets water quality standards and establishes methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities.
- **MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level**, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**, the level of a contaminant in drinking water which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow a margin of safety.
- **PPB - Parts Per Billion**, the equivalent of one second in 32 years.
- **PPM - Parts Per Million**, the equivalent of one second in 12 days.
- **Result** - the column that shows you what level of contaminant was found in the water you drink.

Where our water source comes from:

Our water is pumped from groundwater aquifers. The wells range from 211 feet to 302 feet. Please help keep our water as pristine as it is now for our future generations.

It is all of our responsibilities to keep the drinking water safe from contaminants.

Saving Water

Water your landscape only when it needs it. Watering in the early morning allows deep soaking without evaporation from the sun and preventing growth of fungus. Inspect house plumbing for leaks. Even a minor leak can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Leaking toilets and faucets are the most common offenders.

City of Sisters

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act require that all states conduct Source Water Assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) identification of the Drinking Water Protection area, i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above the part of the aquifer that supplies groundwater to our well. (2) identification of **potential** sources of pollution within the drinking water protection area, and (3) determining the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water from those sources. The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with information they need to develop a strategy to protect their water resource if they choose.

The Drinking Water Programs of The Department of Human Services and Environmental Quality have completed a Source Water Assessment. A copy of the report is on file for viewing by visiting City Hall at 520 E. Cascade Ave.

