

CRWP Fall 2014 Newsletter

Indoor Home Water Audit Kit

Winter is a good time to take a look at your indoor water use. The Clackamas River Water Providers has a new Indoor Home Water Audit Kit to help you figure out how much water you are using and where you can save the most water.

Conducting an audit is simple and may take an hour to complete. It will help you locate leaks so you can prioritize fixing them, and identify which fixtures may need to be upgraded to new low flow fixtures so you can start saving water and money.

Indoor Home Water Audit Kits Includes:

Audit Kit Instructions – This brochure will guide you through the steps of how to conduct an indoor home water audit.

CRWP Pop Quiz

- 1. When did the CRWP water conservation efforts begin?
- **2.** The CRWP currently provides how many different water conservation rebates?
- **3.** Where does the Clackamas River begin?
- **4.** Delivered to you at under a penny per gallon, what is one of today's best values?
- **5.** How big is the Clackamas River

Flow Meter Bag —Use this bag to measure how much water your household fixtures (kitchen faucet, showerhead, bathroom faucet)

Drip Gauge — Use this to measure drips around your house. Even a seemingly small drip can waste a lot of water. This gauge will give you an idea just how much that might be.

Leak Detection Tablets – Use these tablets to see if your toilet has a leak.

To request free Indoor Water Audit Kit, low water using devices for your home, or how to participate in the CRWP Water Conservation Rebate Program, please visit us at www.clackamasproviders.org or call 503 723 3511.

watershed?

6. In addition to using water to brush teeth, flush toilets, take showers, washing and cooking food, public drinking water also provides us with what following benefits:

Macro invertebrate sampling on the Clackamas River.



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WATERSHED TOUR

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The Faces of Drinking Water

The Clackamas River Water Provider members work very hard every day to bring their customers clean safe and reliable drinking water. There are a many different people holding various positions, coming from all walks of life working together in order to make this happen.

Recently we interviewed Dave Davis. He is the Plant Supervisor at the North Clackamas County Water Commission.

Name: Dave Davis

Where do you work/who do you work for?

Dave: I work for the North Clackamas County Water Commission (The Commission). Our drinking water treatment plant serves water to the Cities of Damascus, Happy Valley, Gladstone, and the areas of Oak Grove and Jennings Lodge.

How long have you been working for "The Commission"?

Dave: I have been here a little over 15 years.

What is your position?

Dave: I am the Treatment Plant Supervisor, I over see two additional plant operators and the day to day maintenance and operations of the treatment plant.

How did you acquire your position?

Dave: I was approached about the position when I was working for what is now called Sunrise Water Authority, but was then called Mt. Scott Water District.

What is your background prior to water?

Dave: I was a heavy equipment operator for construction and water distribution systems.

What is your favorite/ least favorite part of your job?

Dave: Favorite: The people I work with. Least Favorite: Disciplining someone.

Do you plan on retiring from the North Clackamas County Water Commission?

Dave: Yes! If they will keep me.

What accomplishments are you most proud of in your career?

Dave: Going from the new kid on the block, not knowing anything about water, to a 20 Million Gallon Per Day drinking water treatment plant, to becoming its Plant Supervisor.

What advice would you give to someone starting out in this field (What do you wish you knew your first week on the job)?

Dave: Pay attention to long-term employees

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because they are a wealth of info and knowledge.

How has the industry changed since you started?

Dave: Drinking water technology has changed quite a lot in the past 15 years. When I started membrane filtration was a relatively new drinking water treatment technology, now it is used all over the world. Today, process instrumentation, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), changing pumps and reservoir levels is all done wirelessly; this is definitely a change for the better.

What do you think is most important about your job?

Dave: Meeting the public drinking water quality standards, and making sure our customers have high quality drinking water 24/7~365 day a year.

What would you like the public to know about their drinking water and what your role does to deliver that?

Dave: Not to take their drinking water for granted.

What can the public do to help make your job easier?

Dave: Don't pollute rivers, streams or the land. The cleaner we can keep our source water the easier my job is.

What do you think are the biggest challenges and opportunities for the North Clackamas County Water Commission?

Dave: Keeping up with advancing technology and EPA water quality standards.

What are the top priorities for the North Clackamas County Water Commission in the next few years?

Dave: Our top priority is to make our membrane system more robust & durable.

What would you say H20 is to you?

Dave: A great job and a great career.

What do you do for fun when you're not working?

Dave: I enjoy wood working & crabbing.

Your Water Meter and How to Take Care Of It

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Your water meter is a water provider/city owned device that measures the quantity of water used by a customer or business and determines how much you will be charged on your water bill.

Maintaining the Area Around Your Meter

Water meters are set in the ground usually near the street on either side of the driveway. Landscaping and fences should be maintained at an adequate distance from the meter's protective box. Reasonable meter access can be a condition of obtaining water service. So, please trim any vegetation or move other obstructions (i.e., hedges, bushes, tarps, boats, RV's, etc.) away from your water meter.

Water Shut Off Valves

The water meter, and shut-off valve in the meter box is property of the water provider/city. If you have an emergency, it is recommended you call to have this valve turned on/off. The cost of replacing this valve can be expensive and if broken by the property owner or their representative, the property owner may be charged.

It is recommended that you have an additional wa-

Clackamas River Water Providers Annual Report 2013-14

Check out what we accomplished last fiscal year by reading through the <u>CRWP Annual</u> Report for FY 2013-14



ter shut-off valve installed after the water meter box. This will allow you turn the water on/off yourself for routine maintenance or during an emergency. Contact a private plumber if you would like to have





For more information call your local Water provider. If you are unsure who your water provider is check your water bill or visit our website at www.clackamasproviders.org, email us at christine@clackamasproviders.org or give us a call, at 503 723 3511.

Pop Quiz Answers (from page 1)

- 1. Early 1990's.
- **2.** The CRWP offers 5 different water conservation rebates. Two indoor rebates, EPA Watersense Toilets and Energy Star Clothes Washers. And 3 outdoor rebates, hose bib timer, rain sensor switch and irrigation nozzles.
- 3. On the slopes of Olallie Butte, a High Cascade volcano. The river flows 82.7 miles from its headwaters (elevation 6,000 ft) to its confluence with the Willamette River near Gladstone and Oregon City (elevation 12 ft) and is made up of 16 sub watersheds.
- **4.** Tap water is one of the best values in today's market.
- **5**. The watershed drains more than 940 square miles, or 600,700 acres.
- **6.** Drinking water protects public health, supports our economy, enhances our quality of life and provides fire protection.



2014 CRWP Watershed Tour

On Saturday October 4, 2014 the Clackamas River Water Providers held its annual tour of the Clackamas Watershed for elected officials from CRWP member agencies, interested citizens, and citizens in CPO's and Neighborhood Associations in the CRWP service area.

The purpose of this year's watershed tour was to provide our participants a different perspective of the Clackamas River by floating down the River from Carver Park to Clackamette Park.

By doing this we hoped to highlight CRWP watershed protection efforts and potential pollution sources (recreation impacts on the river, tributaries, stormwater outfalls, hazardous chemical spills) as well as what our basin partner Water Environment Services is doing to improve water quality through their stormwater management program and their restoration projects.

Along the way we saw stormwater outfalls, two of Water Environment Service's restoration projects at Rock Creek and Carli Creek, lower river tributaries that flow into the Clackamas, the I-205 bridge and the Union Pacific railroad crossing, and all four of our lower river drinking water intake structures. A total of 32 people participated in the Tour/Float.

Next year the tour will focus on the upper part of the Clackamas watershed and will highlight PGE and the USFS and their watershed and water quality efforts.

To find out more about how the

CRWP is working to protect its source water and working with stakeholders please see the CRWP Annual Report for FY 2013 -14 and the CRWP Drinking Water Protection Plan which outline long term source water protection strategies.

<u>Contact us</u> if you would like to be added to the Watershed Tour invitation list.

Contact the Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) at 503 723 3511, email us at Christine@clackamasproviders.org or visit our web site at www.clackamasproviders.org.

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Watershed Happenings — The Estacada 36 Pit Fire

The 5,521 acre Estacada 36 Pit Fire started on Saturday September 13th, 2014 and was human caused. The fire is located 8 miles SE of Estacada along HWY 224 and Clackamas River. To date it is 80% contained due to unsecure fire perimeter in the upper South Fork watershed because of terrain that is too steep for suppression resources.

The Forest Service is continuing suppression related repairs and monitoring of the unchecked fire line in the South Fork of the Clackamas River. 70% of the fire burned Forest Service Lands, 24% was Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, and 6% was private timber lands (Weyerhaeuser and Blakely).

Due to the steepness of the canyon along HWY 224 where the fire burned and its inherent instability, the Forest Service anticipates there will be rock fall, debris flows, and erosion as we move into the winter

months.

Therefore, it is the Forest Service's first priority is to work with ODOT regarding opening and closing of HWY 224 Most of the Forest Service activities in this area will be focused on getting hazard trees down at specific sites and temporarily closing roads to public use.



In addition, the Forest Service is in the process of repairing the effects of fire suppression activities, where roads and equipment were used to construct firelines, safety zones, drop points, and helispots. This entails repairing and re-covering the ground disturbance, reseeding, and installing drainage structures. The forest service has also requested funding to conduct aerial reseeding. Other mitigation treatments in the long-term include planting trees, road repairs, and felling hazard trees

Although the fire burned less than 1% of the total Clackamas River watershed, the Clackamas River Water Providers are working closely with the Forest Service to determine what impact the fire may have on the water quality of the river. For more information about the fire go to http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4106/.

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