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CRWP YouTube Channel



SUMMER 2024 News

Weather Whiplash!

This spring was the coolest and wettest we have had in a long time and was a welcomed change from the dryer and hotter springs we have had over the last few years. The cooler weather and rain also kept things greener longer and which hopefully meant most people didn't need to turn on their irrigation systems until more recently.

And then just like that we have 100-degree days and we have seen water use shoot up. This huge increase in summer water use also means our drinking water treatment plants are running much more frequently and longer using more resources such as electricity, treatment supplies, and causing wear and tear on the facilities. It also means your water bill will go up and be much more expensive.



What's Inside:

Weather Whiplash!	P1
Weekly Watering No.	P2
Summer Quiz	P2
Clackamas River Trail	P3
Conservation Tips	P4
Water Systems	P5
Efficient Plants	P6
Watershed Tour	P6
Faces Interview	P7
Activity Book	P8
CRWP Careers	P9
Public Alerts	P10



There are many things you can do to help cut down on your summer water use, still be able to do the things you like to do and have a beautiful yard. Take a look at our conservation tips on page 4 of this E-newsletter and visit the [Conservation page on our website](#) for more information, tools and water saving incentives.

According to the National Integrated Drought Information system Clackamas, Oregon is currently not in drought, and drought is not expected to develop this summer but using water wisely is always something we need to be thinking about to ensure we are good stewards of the Clackamas River.

If you would like to receive drought status updates, webinars, and other drought news for our region or receive the bi-weekly newsletter, Dry Times, [SIGN UP](#) for drought emails from the **National Integrated Drought Information System**.

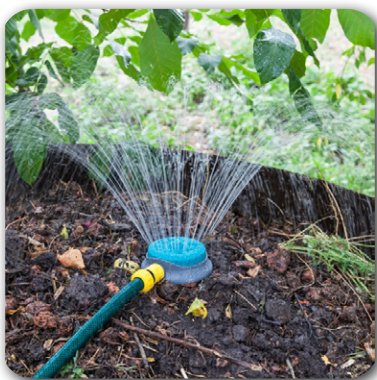
The Weekly Watering Number

A Tool for Saving More Water

Everyone wants a beautiful Lawn and Garden – however, we also need to think about conserving water. The good news is that landscapes can be maintained with far less water than you think. Want to know exactly how much you should be watering each week? By using the weekly watering number, you can do just that.

This number is available each year April to mid-October.

The [Regional Water Providers Consortium](#) have contracted with a weather forecasting service to provide a free weather forecast and zip code specific Weekly Watering Number each Thursday (April – September). This number is based on historical data (evapotranspiration, rainfall, and other data points) from the previous week, but it is used to determine how much to water lawns and gardens during the current week. As the weather changes throughout the watering season, so does the Weekly



Watering Number, this allows you to give your lawn and other plants exactly what they need and not wastewater.

To use the Weekly Watering Number, you will need to take a few minutes to determine how long it takes your automatic sprinkler system or non-automated

system to water

1 inch of water. Once you know how long that takes you can use the Weekly Watering Number to adjust your watering duration/frequency throughout the watering season.

GO HERE to sign up for the Weekly Watering Number and start receiving your zip code specific watering number every Thursday of every week and start watering smart today!

Follow these general guidelines to use the Weekly Watering Number for watering other types of plants in your yard:

- **Shrubs:** 50% of the Weekly Watering Number
- **Perennials:** 50% of the Weekly Watering Number
- **Vegetables:** 75% of the Weekly Watering Number (new starts may require more water)
- **Trees:** Newly planted trees need regular watering for up to the first couple of years, while established trees may need a deep soak or two in summer.

Summer Quiz:

Answers - Can be found on page 5

1. Hydrant flushing programs maintain water quality and minimize discoloration.

- A. True
- B. False

2. The *Water Efficient Plant Guide* helps you find which native and adaptive plants in our area?

- A. Trees
- B. Ground Covers
- C. Perennials
- D. All of the Above

3. Each year, the CRWP hosts a tour of the Clackamas Watershed in what month?

- A. May
- B. December
- C. October
- D. Varies every year

4. Increase in summer water use means treatment plants run longer and:

- A. Use more electricity
- B. Use more supplies
- C. Cause wear and tear
- D. All of the above

Supporting Low Impact Recreation on the Clackamas River

Supporting Low-Impact Recreation




www.clackamaswatertrail.org

Clackamas Water Trail Website



REAL TIME:

- Weather
- River/Air Temp
- Stream Flow
- Wind Speed

KEY INFO:

- Boat Launches
- Parks
- Restrooms
- Float Distances








The lower Clackamas River is a popular spot for cooling off or for spending a hot summer day floating down the river. On a busy summer day, the five-mile float from Barton to Carver Park on the Clackamas River can see as many as 5,000 visitors. Other areas of the river such as High Rocks and Promontory Park also receive high recreation use. Although the Lower Clackamas River is a wonderful resource for boaters, floaters, and fishing folk that live in the Portland Metro area, we also want to remind people that the river is a drinking water source for over 300,000 in Clackamas and Washington Counties. See how you can enjoy the Clackamas River while being a good steward by going to <https://clackamaswatertrail.org/>

Heading to the Clackamas River?

Visit the Clackamas Water Trail website to help you plan your trip. (www.clackamaswatertrail.org)

- **River Map** – Explore the Interactive River Map to uncover key amenities and natural features.
- **Plan Your Trip** – Find gear checklists, guides and outfitters, information on float safety and etiquette, and how to be a good steward to the river.
- **Itinerary Inspirations** – Choose a perfect section of river to paddle, play and explore.
- **Discover** – Learn more about the Clackamas River, natural history, wildlife, drinking water information, and ongoing partners working to steward the river.
- **News & Updates** – Keep informed with ongoing news and seasonal updates about conversation, safety, and other stories on the Clackamas Water Trail.

When you visit and enjoy the Clackamas River, please remember that it is home to threatened wildlife and endangered fish, borders urban and private lands, and provides drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people.

www.clackamaswatertrail.org



Summer Water Conservation Tips

Did you know improperly maintained automatic landscape irrigation systems can waste up to 25,000 gallons of water annually? So, what can you do to make sure you are using your water efficiently and still maintain a beautiful landscape.

1. Adjust your sprinklers so that they're watering your lawn and garden, and not the street or sidewalk.

2. Water early in the morning (before 10:00) or later in the evening (after 6:00) when temperatures are cooler and evaporation is minimized.

3. Set it, but don't forget it! Whether you have a manual or automatic system, be sure to adjust your watering schedules throughout the irrigation season or install an [EPA WaterSense Certified Smart Controller](#) and receive up to a [\\$100 rebate from the CRWP](#).

4. Water established lawns about 1 inch per week (a bit more during hot, dry weather). Find out how much to water this week with the [Weekly Watering Number](#).

5. Inspect your irrigation system for leaks, broken lines, or blockage in the lines. A well-maintained system will save you money, water, and time.

6. Consider replacing some turf area with hard scapes or low water use plants and ornamental grasses. They are easier to maintain than turf, look beautiful, and require far less water.



7. Group plants with like watering needs. Creating "watering zones" in your garden will allow you to give each plant the water it requires — not too much or too little.

8. Add a shut-off nozzle to your garden hose and save about 5-7 gallons each minute your hose is on. [Ask the CRWP](#) for your free low water use hose nozzle.

9. Adjust your mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn provides shade to the roots and helps retain soil moisture, so your lawn requires less water.

10. Apply the amount of water your soil can absorb. Water thoroughly, but infrequently. If run off or puddling occurs, break longer watering sessions into several short sessions allowing water to soak into the soil between each session.

Go to our [website](#) for more information on how to conserve your water and find valuable rebates.



How Water Systems Work

Fire Hydrants



Fire Hydrants are a critical part of fighting fires in our communities. Fire hydrants are connected to our water distribution systems, a network of underground pipes. Therefore, the water that comes out of a fire hydrant is the same drinking water used in our homes, businesses, and schools. Fire hydrants in colder climates, such as our area, use "dry barrel hydrants" which

means no water stays in the upper section of the hydrant when the hydrant valve is turned off. "Wet barrel" fire hydrants are popular in climates where freezing is not an issue. Although materials have improved and some of the elements of fire hydrant design have been refined, the basic form, of both the dry and wet barrel fire hydrants have remained relatively unchanged since the mid-1800s.

FLUSHING PROGRAMS

Fire hydrants are also used for water main (pipe) flushing. Flushing programs maintain water quality and minimize discoloration by comprehensively flushing water mains with a technique known as unidirectional flushing. The procedure involves the systematic opening and closing of fire hydrants and



valves, one section of main at a time, to force the water through the pipes at high velocity, removing accumulated mineral sediment until the water is clear.

When flushing crews are working close to your residence or business you may experience discolored water which can be drawn into homes and business if the water is being used during or immediately following the flushing process. If discoloration occurs, open the cold water faucet nearest the water meter - usually an outside faucet or utility sink - let the water run at full flow until the water runs clear, about 5 to 15 minutes. For further assistance or more information, contact your water provider.

Summer Quiz:

Answers

Question 1 - Answer is A
Question 2 - Answer is D

Question 3 - Answer is C
Question 4 - Answer is D

Water Efficient Plants for the Willamette Valley

During the summer months water usage in our area increases 2–3 times from the amount of water we use in the winter. This is primarily due to landscape and landscape watering practices. The need to conserve water, however, does not mean that we have to abandon our beautiful landscapes. The notion that water efficient landscapes have to be barren has changed as people realize that they can have the best of both worlds when it comes to water conservation and landscaping. With proper irrigation design and management, and with proper plant selection and placement, responsible water users can enjoy a full range of landscape styles.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the Guide

The Water Efficient Plants for the Willamette Valley guide was created by horticulture and conservation experts as a tool to assist the general gardener in making decisions about how to use water more efficiently in their landscapes. In this guide you will discover trees, shrubs, bulbs, perennials, ground covers and ornamental grasses that are suited to the Mediterranean-type climate of Western Oregon. In addition to the water savings you will see there are a number of other benefits that come with water efficient landscaping. They include reduced fertilizer and chemical use, less weed growth, less energy use, less water runoff, and reduced maintenance.

This on-line Plant Guide has been made available through the partnership between the Clackamas Community College Horticulture

Department, South Fork Water Board, the Regional Water Providers Consortium, OSU Extension, the City of Corvallis, and Eugene Water and Electric Board with the goal of moving towards a more water efficient community through water efficient landscaping.

For a hard copy of the guide please email christine@clackamasproviders.org or call (503) 723-3511. Copies of the guide are also distributed at the various public events that the Clackamas River Water Providers attend.



Annual Watershed Tour



Each year at the beginning of October the Clackamas River Water Providers host a tour of the Clackamas Watershed for elected officials from CRWP member agencies, interested citizens, and the citizens in CPO's and Neighborhood Associations in the CRWP service area. The purpose of these tours is to connect our citizens and policy makers with a direct experience in the Clackamas watershed (our source of drinking water), and to introduce them to some of the CRWP partners and stakeholders.

This year our tour will include stops at all four CRWP member drinking water treatment plants in the lower river. Combined these plants provide water to over 300,000 people in Clackamas and Washington Counties. See first hand how we take water from the Clackamas River, clean it, and treat it, so it is ready to be used in our communities. You will learn how each plant works, how they are different, how our systems are interconnected, as well as some of the future challenges we face as water providers.

If you would like to receive an invitation for this year's tour please contact Kim Swan at kims@clackamasproviders.org.

Faces of Drinking Water

by Christine Hollenbeck

In this E-Newsletter we interviewed Jennifer Hummel, Billing Specialist at [Oak Lodge Water Service](#). Oak Lodge Water Services provides drinking water, wastewater, and watershed protection services to approximately 28,400 people in Oak Grove, Jennings Lodge, and portions of Milwaukie and Gladstone.

CRWP: How long have you been working for Oak Lodge Water Services?

JENNIFER: I've been working for OLWS for 2 years.

CRWP: What are the duties of a Billing Specialist at OLWS?

JENNIFER: As a Billing Specialist, we are the 1st point of contact customers have with the agency. We answer the phones, manage customer accounts by sending out bills, process customer payments and review accounts with higher water consumption for possible leaks. We work closely with the Finance department by processing daily payment batches, handle returned payments and assist customers in getting on payment plans when needed.

CRWP: How did you acquire your position at OLWS?

JENNIFER: I had been working at a state agency for just over 10 years and was looking for something closer to home. I came across the job listing on the [governmentjobs.com](#) website and decided to apply.

CRWP: What is your back ground prior to working for OLWS as a Billing Specialist?

JENNIFER: I have a background in administrative/office work. After high school, I wanted to go into the Marine Corp but decided not to when I found out I was pregnant with my first child. I was a young single mom trying to find my way. I started working as a receptionist at a Mortgage company then found a position with the Better Business Bureau and worked there for 5 years as the Receptionist & Business Development Assistant. After having my 2nd child, I decided to look for a state job with better benefits and landed a job with the Oregon Board of Pharmacy. I started out as the Receptionist and worked my way up to become the lead Licensing Representative.

CRWP: What is your favorite/least favorite part of your position?

OAK LODGE
WATER SERVICES

Jenifer Hummel
Billing Specialist
Oak Lodge Water Services



JENNIFER: The favorite part of my job is helping the customers in our service area and building those relationships. It is fun getting to know our customers and it always feels great to help someone. My least favorite part is relaying unpleasant news, for example letting someone know that they may have a water leak at their property.

CRWP: Do you plan on retiring from Oak Lodge Water Services?

JENNIFER: I do plan to retire from OLWS - the people I work with are wonderful and the benefits are great!

CRWP: What advice would you give to someone starting out (What do you wish you knew your first week working at OLWS)?

JENNIFER: For others starting out in the field of Billing, the advice I would give is being patient with yourself and being open to learning new things. When I was new at this position, I didn't realize how much of a learning curve it would be to fully understand how the billing works. I can be a bit of a perfectionist and like to be confident in what I am doing, so being aware that it takes a good year or two to get down all of the pieces of the puzzle is important.

CRWP: What do you think is most important about your position?

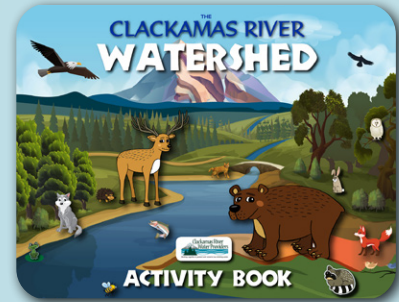
JENNIFER: I learned early on that having great customer service skills will take you far in any position. Customer service, eagerness to learn the job and a positive attitude are essential in the position I have.

CRWP: What would you like the public to know about their drinking water?

JENNIFER: I've learned that it is important for the public to know what goes into delivering clean, safe drinking water. As an everyday consumer, a lot of us don't realize how much work and upkeep goes into ensuring the infrastructure is stable, river water is cleaned before being delivered to our customers and the dirty water is cleaned before going back into the rivers, how illegal dumping can impact the entire system, etc. Clean, safe drinking water and sewer collection services should not be taken for granted.

continued on page 10

The CRWP offers an [Activity Book](#) that teachers can use to help inform students about the importance and value of clean water, and how to protect this precious resource. It includes many cool games, puzzles, and activities to become more familiar with the Clackamas River Watershed where we get our high quality drinking water.



What Do You Know?

Find the correct answers from this box:

Chinook Salmon	Sand Castles	Plants	Starfish
Fishing	Easter Bunny	A Football Field	Aquatic Species
Surfing	Makes Electricity	Steelhead Trout	Coho Salmon
Has Working Farms and Nurseries	Pot of Gold at End of Rainbow	Grows Trees to Build Houses	Provides Drinking Water
Sharks	2 Square Blocks	Elves and Fairies	Camping
Wildlife	Rafting	Hiking	940 Square Miles

The Clackamas River begins on the slopes of Olallie Butte. The watershed can be roughly divided in half, with the upper watershed consisting of forests, mountains, and rugged terrain. While the lower watershed, is mainly farms and cities.

In addition to supplying high-quality drinking water to over 300,000 people, the Clackamas River Watershed:

- Drains more than 940 square miles, and has 16 sub watersheds
- Is used for agriculture, recreation, and farming
- Includes federal, state, and private land



Place your answers here:

1. The Clackamas River provides important habitat for:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2. Name 4 ways people play in the watershed.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

3. Name at least 3 fish that live in the River.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. Name 4 things that the watershed does for us:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

CRWP Careers in Water - Highlights

Like most industries, the water industry is in need of employees and our CRWP members are no exception. It takes many different professionals in many different positions to deliver clean, safe drinking water to our CRWP communities 24/7, 365 days a year.

A career in public works and the drinking water field is rewarding, secure, well-paid, has good benefits, and a great way to contribute to your community. Right now, [our members need a number of qualified people](#) to fill a number of positions in the public drinking water sector. Some of the career opportunities include working in Customer Service, Finance, Engineering, Human Resources & Payroll, Information Technology, and Communications, as well as positions in the field such as Water Quality, Distribution, Conservation, and Water Treatment Operators.

Below we are highlighting a Senior Finance Officer Position currently open with our CRWP member, [Sunrise Water Authority](#).



Water Job highlight -Senior Finance Officer (Business Analyst)

Are you good with numbers and have a finance background? Sunrise Water Authority might have the job just for you! All municipal drinking water systems need finance professionals that help them meet the organization's finance, accounting, treasury, payroll, and procurement functions. The role of the Finance Department is to develop and administer policies, procedures, and internal controls that govern the financial and procurement functions of the organization and ensure that the organization operates in compliance with all applicable laws.



To qualify for these kinds of positions you typically need a minimum of 5 years' experience working in finance, compliance, or similar capacity and a BA/S or equivalent in accounting or relevant field. Experience with MS Office and accounting (general ledger) software as well as demonstrated experience and understanding of generally accepted accounting principles, financial reporting, accounting systems, and financial administration is required. Knowledge of public finance and professional certifications are also a plus.

Sunrise Water Authority is currently looking for a Senior Finance Officer (Business Analyst) (SFO) who will serve as a senior member of their finance team. The position will contribute to critical phases in the life cycle of policy and process development/implementation as well as work with other finance staff in the identification, development, and application of a suite of financial management reports and other business analytics to build efficiencies and organizational transparency. The role will also guide finance team members to increase the effectiveness of the finance department within Sunrise.

Some of the core functions of this job include playing a critical role in the development and maintenance of Sunrise's business analytic tools. Developing support systems for documenting, storing, and sharing policies, standard operating procedures (SOPs), financial & other business practices, as well as working with the Finance Director on the preparation and support of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and corresponding audits.

If this sounds like it could be the job for you then visit Sunrise's website at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sunrisewater> for more information on how to apply.

Faces of Drinking Water continued

CRWP: What would you say water is to you?

JENNIFER: H2O to me is LIFE. It's a chain reaction, we are all connected. Without water – nothing can live including plants, animals and us humans. Water is essential to us all.

CRWP: What do you do for fun outside of work?

JENNIFER: For fun, coincidentally, I hit the water! One of my passions is kayaking. My family and I do a lot of camping, and kayak-camping is one of my favorite things to do. We pack our essentials and find a spot (like Meditation Point on Timothy Lake ~ Gorgeous!) to kayak to and spend a night. We fish, swim and boat around. It's a

good workout and a great way to make memories with the family.

I have just begun to get to know and interact with Jennifer. She is always happy, has a bright smile, and attitude to match. She makes the perfect billing specialist, as she genuinely cares about the OLWS customers and puts her best foot forward in helping them with any issues they might have.

Thank you, Jennifer, for taking the time to do this interview for the CRWP. We are nothing without our members and their employees like you.

Sign-up for Public Alerts

By signing up you can receive emergency notifications for your home or other address (such as business). You will only be contacted when the associated address is affected by an emergency.

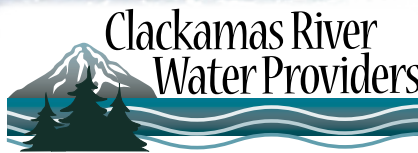
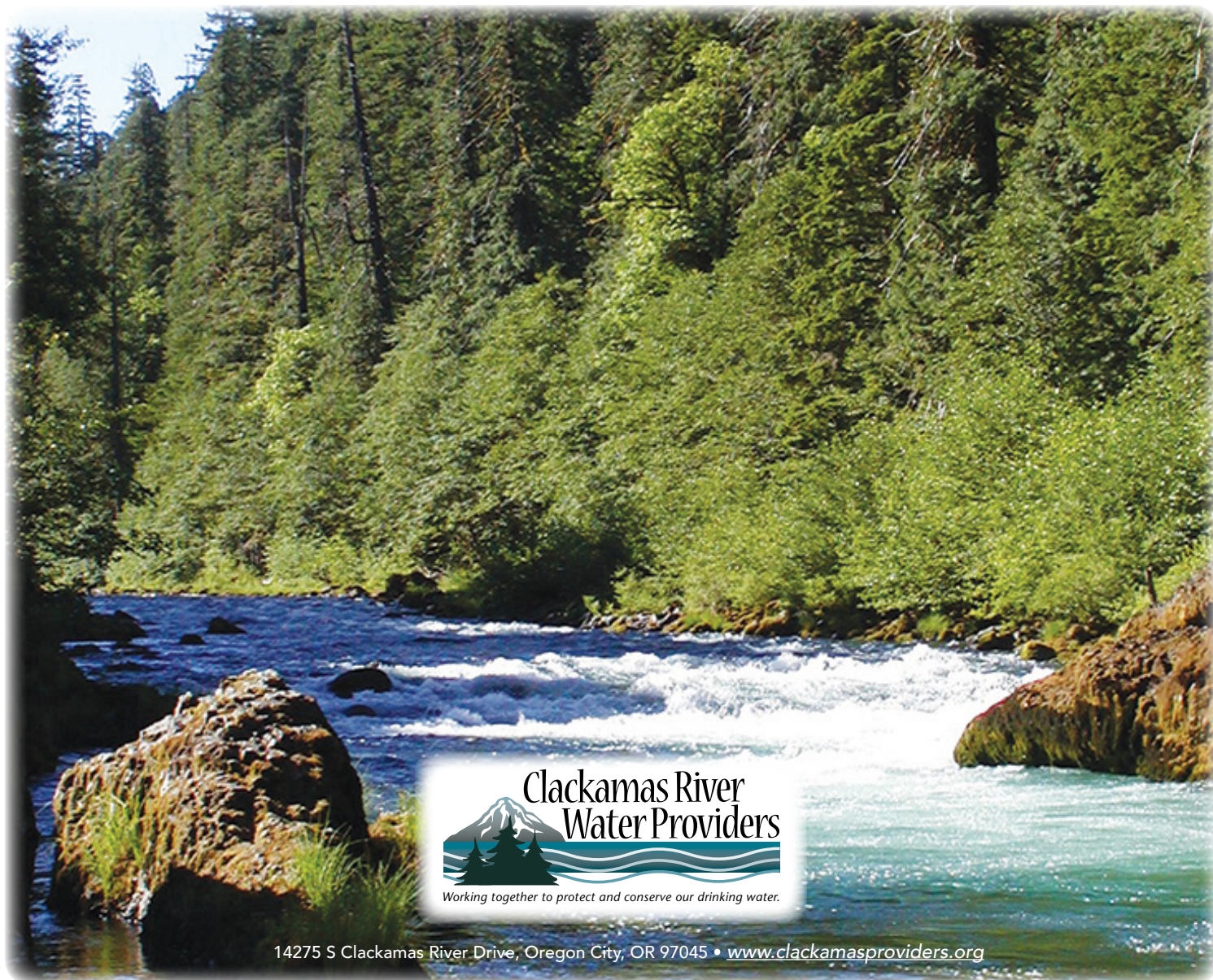
If the call is picked up by an answering machine, it will leave a message and not call back. If the number is busy or there is no answer, the system will try contacting your other contact methods. Once you have acknowledged receipt of a message on one device, the system will stop trying to contact your other devices.

By providing your contact information as a county resident you can opt-in to receive critical emergency messaging via email, phone call and text during times of disaster. Important messages



#ClackCo 
PublicAlerts

that could be relayed include notices to evacuate, shelter-in-place, shelter locations and other extremely important information. To learn more and sign-up [CLICK HERE](#).



Working together to protect and conserve our drinking water.

14275 S Clackamas River Drive, Oregon City, OR 97045 • www.clackamasproviders.org

Our Members:



www.cwater.com



www.cityofestacada.org



www.ci.gladstone.or.us



www.ci.oswego.or.us



www.oaklodgewaterservices.org



www.sfwb.org



www.sunrisewater.com



www.tigard-or.gov

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