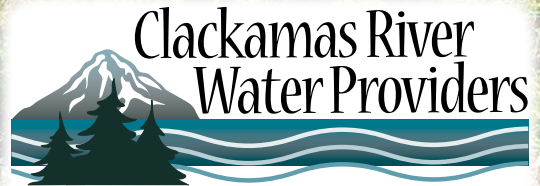




Facebook@CRWP



CRWP YouTube Channel



Working together to protect and conserve our drinking water.

Summer 2026 News

We have “Summer Droughts” Every Year

This summer feels different.

With climate change, reduced snowpack, and the likelihood of a longer, hotter dry season, more people are asking us: What are we going to do?

In the Pacific Northwest, summer drought isn’t unusual—it happens every year. We typically receive little to no rainfall during the same months when water use is at its highest. Our primary source, the Clackamas River, depends almost entirely on winter snowpack and rainfall. When that natural storage is lower or melts earlier, river flows drop—especially in late summer.

Unlike other drinking water sources in the Portland metro area, we don’t have large upstream reservoirs to draw from. The hydroelectric system operated by Portland General Electric on the Clackamas is “run-of-river,” meaning water flows through the system rather than being stored for later use. Locally, our only stored supply is limited to in-town water reservoirs and tanks.

So, what are we doing?

As water providers, we’re actively maintaining our system—checking for leaks, improving efficiency, and planning for peak demand. But managing supply is only part of the solution.

Our water systems operate 24/7, year-round, and are constantly balancing supply and demand. When water use is low, we’re not producing more than needed. That means during the summer months—when demand is highest—how you use water at home plays a critical role in making sure there’s enough for everyone.

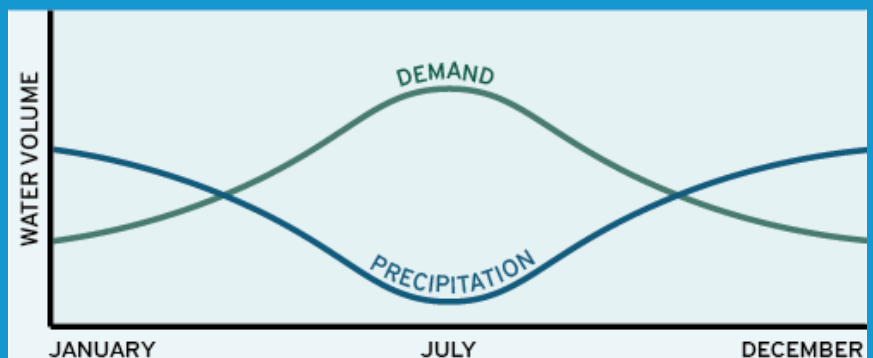
As summers become hotter and drier, using water efficiently isn’t just about supply—it’s about balance. We can still enjoy our landscapes and gardens while making thoughtful choices that reduce waste and protect the Clackamas River, that we all depend on.

The CRWP offers a variety of tools, resources, and water conservation rebates to help you use water more efficiently. If you’re ready to get started, visit our [website](#), [email](#) us, or give us a call at **503-723-3511**.

What’s Inside:

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Annual Water Supply & Demand



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What A Drought Declaration in Oregon Means

A drought declaration in Oregon serves as a formal recognition of significant water shortages, authorizing quick action to manage scarce water supplies for critical needs. It's typically issued county by county, not statewide, because conditions can vary widely.

Drought declarations typically go through a four-part process before securing a state drought declaration.

1. County request – Local officials (usually the county commission) formally ask the state for a declaration based on observed impacts (low streamflow, dry wells, crop stress).
2. Scientific review – The Water Supply Availability Committee analyzes data like snowpack, precipitation, soil moisture, and forecasts.
3. State coordination – The Drought Readiness Council reviews the situation and recommends action.
4. Governor's order – The Governor issues an Executive Order declaring drought for specific counties.

What a declaration does and doesn't do.

Once a declaration is declared by the Governor for a County it unlocks state resources from the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) including:

- Faster approval of emergency water use permits
- Temporary water transfers between users
- Assistance for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities



Photo by Nickie Bournias

- Coordination across agencies like the Oregon Water Resources Department
- Support for drinking water systems at risk

At the local level, counties and cities may increase public messaging about water use, implement voluntary water conservation measures or activate their water curtailment plans requiring mandatory water reductions.

What it does not do is automatically impose statewide water restrictions, guarantee financial relief by itself (though it can help enable it), or override all existing water rights—but it allows more flexibility in managing them.

In March 2026, Governor Kotek issued the first drought declarations of the year for Baker, Deschutes, and Umatilla counties. Now twenty-one of Oregon's 36 counties are under active state drought emergency declarations due to historically low snowpack and one of the warmest winters on record.

Summer Quiz:

Answers - Can be found on page 3

1. Which of these monitoring stations are part of the new Water Quality Dashboard:

- A. Carter Bridge
- B. Estacada, below Dam
- C. Oregon City
- D. All of the Above

2. CRWP and PGE work together on:

- A. Installing electrical line throughout the watershed
- B. Running the Blue Green Algae Team
- C. Participating in Fire watch and Fire Control
- D. None of the Above

3. On a busy day, the 5 mile float on the Clackamas River from Barton to Carver Park can see about how many visitors?

- A. Usually less than 100
- B. More than 10,000
- C. Around 5,000
- D. No floating is allowed

4. Snow or lack of snow plays a critical role in determining how much water is available during the dry summer.

- A. True
- B. False

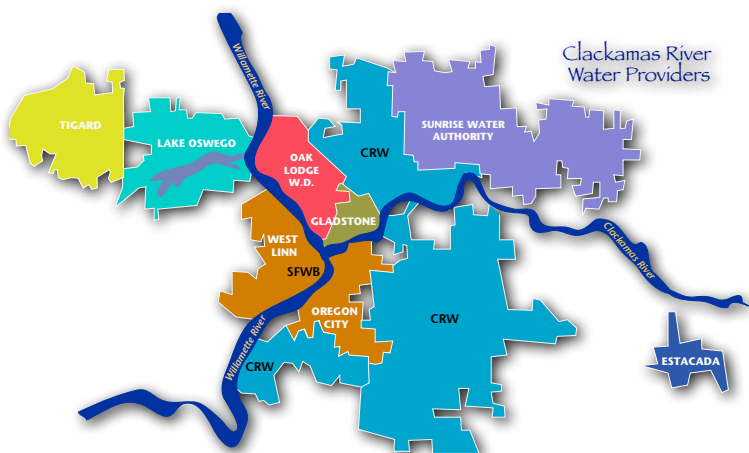
Balancing Water Supply and Demand

YOU ARE KEY! The balance between water supply and demand is crucial for ensuring the sustainable management of water resources. Due to this winter's snow drought impacts and warmer than normal temperatures this spring, we are concerned about low river levels later this summer. Therefore, how you use water outdoors this summer is important.

As water providers, we are required to ensure you have water from your tap 24/7/365 days a year, but we see our communities' water use (demand) double and triple during the summer months due to outdoor watering and other water uses.

There are a number of ways you can use less water on your yards and lawns. Sign up for the weekly watering number, think about letting your lawn go dormant (Brown is the new Green), or hand-watering areas of your yard.

We provide information and technical assistance on how to save water at home. We offer a variety of conservation rebates, free landscape water audits, and other water-saving tools that will help you save water both inside and outside the home, but you are the KEY. If you and your neighbors take advantage of these opportunities and make these changes, it will have an impact on our river.



Whether you use a hose or have an underground irrigation system, cool off with a swimming pool or sprinkler, and you care about protecting our river water for people and wildlife, visit our [website](#) today and see what you can do to decrease the amount of water you are using right now and through the summer.

When you shut off your faucets, we stop taking water from the river.



Summer-Quiz:

Answers

Question 1 - Answer is D
Question 2 - Answer is B

Question 3 - Answer is C
Question 4 - Answer is A

Faces of Drinking Water

By Christine Brown

In May, while exhibiting at the annual Spring Garden Fair in Camby, I had the pleasure of meeting Roger, one of our customers from the City of West Linn who took advantage of our rebate program. He came by our information booth to thank us and express how much he appreciated our rebate program and the help he received throughout the process.

It was such a pleasure meeting Roger. We had a wonderful conversation, and I asked him if he would be interested in being interviewed about his experience with our rebate program. Roger agreed, and the following is his interview.

Roger has lived in Oregon for 14 years, moving from Connecticut, where he grew up. He says Oregon is home now, and is where he met his wife, a native Oregonian. They have lived in the city of West Linn for one year and previously lived in the Clackamas area, where they were a customer of Sunrise Water Authority for five years. He was not familiar with the CRWP at that time.

On a cool and cloudy June morning, I sat down in Roger's dining room, poised and ready to learn more.

CRWP: How did you hear about our rebate program?

ROGER: I've always been interested in where our drinking water comes from and do my best to conserve water. When my wife and I moved to West Linn, I was looking for smart home devices to improve water conservation and energy use and found the CRWP website. From there, I realized that the CRWP offers many conservation programs and tools, including rebates for smart irrigation controllers, leak detection devices, and free landscape water audits. Taking advantage of these programs helped me conserve water and save money. I also signed up for the e-newsletter to stay informed.

CRWP: Did you find the rebate page on our website easily?

ROGER: Yes, the website was intuitive and easy to navigate.

CRWP: Can you describe your experience applying for the rebate?

ROGER: The online application was straightforward and detailed the eligible devices. I just entered the device details, my West Linn water account number, and attached my receipt. I appreciated how quickly I received confirmation and the rebate check in the mail. I used the rebate program multiple times, first applying for the smart irrigation controller and Flume home leak detection device, then for the MP Rotator irrigation nozzles. It was nice to be able to select multiple rebates for what I was doing at the time.

CRWP: How did you come to learn about the Flume device?

ROGER: After moving in, I was looking to collect as much data as possible to understand water usage inside the home and outside in the yard. I found the Flume device online, and it just so happened that it was also listed on the CRWP website, like the Moen shut-off valve. I was going to purchase those devices anyway, and the rebate was the cherry on top.

Customer Interview

Water Rebate Customer,
Roger Ignazio
Resident of the City of West Linn



CRWP: How did you come to learn about smart irrigation controllers?

ROGER: Honestly, the controller at the old house was installed when the house was built. My frustration with the "dumb" controller was that I kept having to go to the manual to figure out how to set schedules and turn it on. Finally, I thought there had to be a better way.

Then I found out that these smart controllers integrate with weather stations and account for different soil and vegetation conditions, so the schedules can be tailored to your property. That was really cool and very eye-opening for me.

One of the nice things about the smart controllers is that they have a setting for cooler and warmer days that can be set to decrease or increase the watering by a set percentage. Most of them come with a default setting of, say, 20%. But you can increase or decrease that as you see fit. The smart controllers are also connected to local weather stations and have built-in rain, wind, and temperature skips, so that the irrigation system skips watering the next day if it rains or, if it is too windy, skips watering that day to prevent excessive run-off. If the temperature drops below a certain temperature, it will also skip watering to protect your plants.

I had used the smart controller at our old house in Clackamas but left it for the new owners along with instructions on how to use it. I wanted to share my experience with these devices to help first-time homeowners understand their benefits and encourage them to participate in conservation programs, which can make a real difference in water savings.

CRWP: Have you looked into any of our other conservation tools and/or programs?

ROGER: After finding the rebates, I learned about the broader water conservation programs, including [free landscape water audits](#). This made me feel supported and confident that local resources are available to help me improve my water use.

The auditors came out, tested the soil, looked at the different flow rates of each irrigation head, made sure the heads were all adjusted properly, confirmed there was no unnecessary runoff, and checked the system for leaks. When the audit was complete, I received a report with recommendations on how we could make our water use more efficient. Because our home is so new, only a few things needed to be fixed, such as small adjustments to the irrigation heads. Otherwise, the builder did a pretty good job in our case.

continued on page 5

Interview continued

I enjoyed the auditors, Larry and Kyle. Very nice folks. We got to geek out together about irrigation systems and water conservation. I really appreciate the education and information. It goes a long way for folks to make sure they are using their water responsibly. The auditors will tell you where your water shut-offs are, where the backflow preventor is, things like that. In addition to your water consumption and your overall setup. Larry and Kyle even left a goody bag for us, which included the Water Efficient Plants guide for the Willamette Valley, a free low-water-use hose spray nozzle, and other helpful information.

CRWP: Would you recommend any of our programs?

ROGER: Absolutely. For example, my neighbor hadn't realized these smart irrigation controllers existed or that there was a rebate for up to \$100 for them. He went out and bought one.

I think that, for anyone comfortable with DIY home projects, the first thing they should do is install a home leak detection device. Get the app on your phone and check for any leaks, running toilets, or dripping faucets, as it will alert you to them. And that's probably the easiest thing you can do. The Flume device takes about 10 minutes to install and doesn't require any tools.

I think a smart irrigation controller for outdoor watering is going to go a long way toward making sure the system isn't watering if it's going to rain, things like that. Make sure the schedules are set for the different vegetation, slope, and soil type. The free Landscape Water Audit is a fantastic program because it provides a comprehensive report on what's happening outside your home. You can turn around and hand that report to your landscaper to improve your water usage, making sure you are not under- or overwatering.

Regarding the irrigation nozzle rebate, I think the \$60 rebate is fair for most yards. We're on a corner lot and went the extra mile to ensure all nozzles were replaced. I looked at the flow rate (in inches per hour) for each nozzle and made sure I was setting the zone schedules appropriately. Knowing which nozzles are in different parts of the yard can help determine their flow rates. It's also important to pay attention not only to the spray pattern and radius but also to consistency.

Beyond conservation, I think a lot of folks are also looking at where they can cut costs right now. If they are overwatering, their water bill will be higher, especially in the summer with irrigation systems. Cutting back on your water use can help. It benefits not only the homeowner but also the watershed.

CRWP: What should folks look for and what should they ask of a landscape company to find out if they are hiring an educated and conservation-minded company?

ROGER: I think that in addition to checking to make sure the landscape company has a current CCB license and is in good



standing with the Secretary of State, check out their website, give them a call, ask them what they do as far as irrigation, how they handle watering, what resources are available, and shop around. Do some interviews; do due diligence on these companies. I am a big fan of supporting local companies. Some larger commercial companies will make everything green to satisfy customers, knowing many people don't have the information to know if they are overwatering or underwatering. But everything is green.

I recommend people look to a landscape company that specializes in irrigation systems and can provide the homeowner with information and recommendations tailored to their yard, as well as a service contract. Look up local companies familiar with the Pacific Northwest, our native plants, and different soil types. Make sure the landscape and irrigation are tailored to our PNW area. In this area, we have many different microclimates. Everyone's watering needs are different, and the microclimates around our landscapes vary from home to home.

I have a service contract with a landscape company that comes out and handles maintenance. They are familiar with different irrigation systems and native plants. They have good knowledge of water conservation and plant selections. Homeowners should do their homework and hire a reputable company that knows how to care for their landscape and yard. Good maintenance goes a long way; it is cheaper to maintain than it is to replace. You don't want your irrigation system to freeze in the winter and your plants to die in the summer. Also, even something as simple as putting down bark dust or mulch to reduce water evaporation from the soil can go a long way in conserving outside water use.

CRWP: Do you have any final comments?

ROGER: Just like PGE makes its customers aware of things like thermostat rebates and the Energy Trust of Oregon, I would love to see the different municipalities and water utilities do a better job of informing their customers about the Clackamas River Water Providers and the conservation programs available. I think that education and information go a long way for homeowners and property managers.

Even word-of-mouth can go a long way. I spoke with someone in

continued on page 6

Interview continued

Washington County and explained that I don't know what they have for conservation programs, but this is what CRWP provides in my area. I suggested she look up rebates and conservation programs for Washington County to see what's available. [CRWP Side Note: I told Roger our CRWP rebate program is not provided by the county and is only for our specific [CRWP members](#). These public water providers use the Clackamas River as their source of drinking water. I told Roger that folks should contact their own water provider to find out what conservation tools, programs, and incentives they offer.]

Water providers could also do a better job of mentioning water conservation in the summer months. For example, I haven't seen anything specific about the CRWP or conservation efforts in the West Linn weekly newsletter.

I think education is extremely important for users of the Clackamas River and for the natural resources we have here in Oregon. I tell my neighbors and my friends, whether they live in the CRWP area or not, to look up water rebates and free water audits.

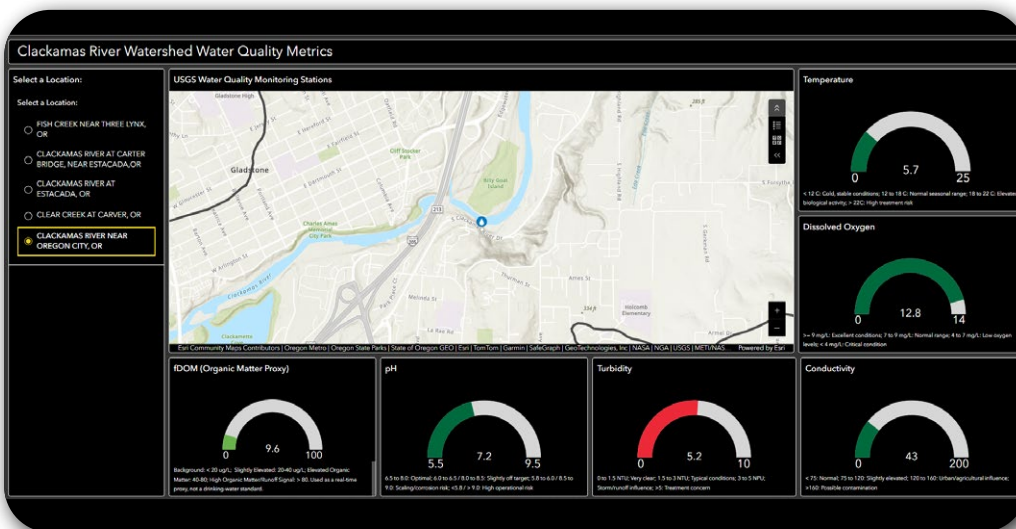
Towards the end of the interview, Roger shared more of a personal connection with me. When he was growing up, his father was a Chief

Operator and later a Superintendent at a wastewater treatment facility in Connecticut. One of the things they would talk about was reusing effluent from the wastewater facility for irrigation, so we are not using drinking water for outdoor irrigation. Roger told me that his first summer job was working for his father at the wastewater treatment plant.

One of Roger's favorite books on water use and problems around the world, whether it's drinking water, water wars, or the impact of dams on natural water sources and neighboring countries or states, is *When the Rivers Run Dry* by Fred Pearce.

Roger also recommends using one of the many free plant apps designed to tell you the species, their regions where they are best suited, and how to care for them. Most are designed for both indoor and outdoor plants. He used this app to help him identify the plants in his yard. The app could also be used while selecting plants for your home and garden.

Thank you, Roger, for allowing us to interview you about your experience working with the CRWP, taking advantage of our conservation rebates and other tools and resources. We have always wanted to interview one of our customers about our programs, and this worked out perfectly.



New Water Quality Dashboard

Strategically positioned throughout the watershed, these stations provide a comprehensive picture of water quality as water flows downstream. While each station generates valuable data on its own, analyzing the stations together offers even greater insight. The monitoring network can help identify where turbidity originates

Tracking and monitoring water quality in the Clackamas River Watershed helps us understand how conditions change over time and whether watershed health is improving or declining. To support this effort, the Clackamas River Water Providers maintain a Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for the operation and maintenance of three water quality monitoring stations along the Clackamas River. *These monitoring stations are located at:*

- Carter Bridge
- Estacada, below River Mill Dam
- Oregon City

within the watershed (upper, middle, or lower basin), detect water quality changes associated with land use in different areas, and provide critical information when investigating potential spills or contamination events.

To make this information more accessible and user-friendly, CRWP has developed a new Water Quality Dashboard that provides a real-time visual display of key water quality parameters collected from these monitoring stations.

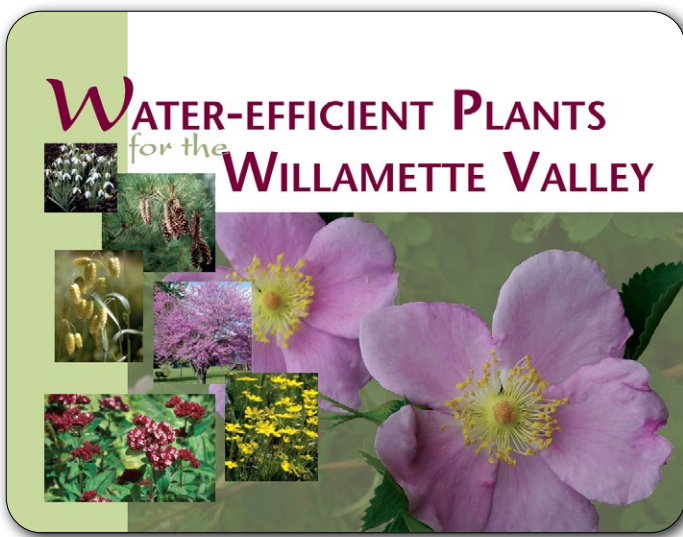
To explore the new CRWP Water Quality Dashboard: [CLICK HERE](#)

Ways to Save Water Outdoors

- 1. Water your lawn only when it needs it.** A good way to see if your lawn needs water is to step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, fetch the sprinkler.
- 2. Deep soak your lawn. When you do water,** do it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots, where it will do the most good. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and tend to encourage shallow root systems.
- 3. Water deeply twice a week instead of daily:** This helps root growth and gives plants the water they need to thrive without overwatering.
- 4. Water during the cool part of the day** to avoid evaporation. Early morning is generally better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus.
- 5. Measure your sprinkler use:** Many people overwater. [Learn how you can easily see how much water your sprinkler uses.](#)
- 6. Watch for outdoor leaks:** Make sure your watering system is ready for its summer workout by [maintaining your sprinkler system](#) and tightening hose connections so they're drip-free.
- 7. Adjust how much you water throughout the season:** The amount of water plants need changes with weather conditions.
- 8. Don't water the pavement.** Position your sprinkler so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas.



- 9. Don't water on windy days,** there is too much evaporation.
- 10. Cut down watering, on cool, overcast or rainy days.** Adjust or deactivate automatic sprinklers.
- 11. [Plant water-efficient and drought-resistant trees and plants.](#)** Many beautiful trees and plants thrive with far less watering than other plants.
- 12. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.** Mulch will slow evaporation or moisture and discourage weed growth, too.
- 13. Use a broom, not a hose,** to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- 14. Don't run the hose while washing your car.** Clean the car with a bucket of soapy water. Use the hose just to rinse it off.
- 15. Use a commercial car wash** that recycles water.
- 16. Set mower blades one notch higher** since longer grass means less evaporation.
- 17. If you have a pool, use a cover** to slow evaporation. It will keep your pool cleaner and reduce the need to add chemicals.



How Water Systems Work

CRWP Members

The Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) is made up of eight municipal water providers that get their drinking water from the Clackamas River. Participation in the organization is voluntary and is funded through membership dues. Though the CRWP projects and staff are jointly funded, each individual organization retains their own individual autonomy.



CITY OF ESTACADA.

The City of Estacada is located at the base of the Clackamas River

watershed and the Mt. Hood National Forest and serves a population of 5,347 people from the Clackamas River.

Their water treatment facility treats, pumps, and stores water for domestic, commercial, and firefighting purpose. The primary goal of the drinking water treatment plant is to meet or exceed water quality standards to remain in full compliance with state and federal regulations while providing adequate quantity and pressure to serve the community.

The design capacity of the treatment plant is 2 million gallons of drinking water per day (MGD). The average production during the winter season was 0.7 MGD in 2022-23, while peak demand during the summer of 2023 was 1.7 MGD. The storage capacity of the City's reservoirs is 1.75 million gallons. Preventive and corrective maintenance is routinely performed at all of these facilities for safe and cost-effective operations. Funding is provided through water user fees. For more information visit the City of Estacada, [HERE](#).



CITY OF GLADSTONE.

The City of Gladstone maintains three reservoirs and approximately 40 miles of water

pipe within its distribution system. The city serves a population of over 12,000 people, in 4 sq miles at the confluence of the Clackamas River and the Willamette River, and consumes an average of 1.2 million gallons a day. The city also has ownership in the North Clackamas County Water Commission treatment plant which treats water from the Clackamas River. For more information visit [City of Gladstone](#).



CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO. Located in Clackamas County, serves over 39,000 people with approximately 12,753 service connections, in an 11.2 square mile area. The water source originates from the Clackamas

River Basin. Once withdrawn from the Clackamas River, the water is pumped through a pipeline buried beneath the Willamette River to the City's Water Treatment Plant located in West Linn. During the hot summer months, Lake Oswego has one groundwater well to augment water supply. For more information click to visit the City of Lake Oswego's website [HERE](#).



CITY OF TIGARD. The City of Tigard, located in Washington County, provides water to 60,000 residents in Durham, King City, two-thirds of Tigard, and the Tigard Water District. Through the Lake Oswego/Tigard Water Partnership the City of

Tigard's main source of drinking water comes from the Clackamas River, one of the highest quality sources in the state.

Water is withdrawn from the Clackamas River, pumped through a pipeline buried beneath the Willamette River, and treated at the Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Treatment Plant in West Linn. The water goes through a robust treatment process that includes filtration to remove dirt and organisms, ozone to remove substances that affect how the water tastes and smells, and disinfection to kill organisms and protect the water as it goes through the distribution system. For more information about Tigard's drinking water visit [City of Tigard](#) or [LO-Tigard Water](#).



CLACKAMAS RIVER WATER.

Clackamas River Water (CRW) is a regional water service provider organized under Chapter 264 of

the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) as a special district. Special Districts are autonomous government entities that are accountable to the voters in the areas they serve. CRW provides clean, safe drinking water to a population of about 50,000 directly, and up to 80,000 people are served when the populations of wholesale customers are included.

CRW has maintained more than 45 years of exceptional water treatment plant operation, providing water to nearly 13,000 service connections, and maintaining a distribution system consisting of approximately 265 miles of pipeline, 7 reservoirs, and 13 pump stations.

CRW was created in July 1995 by the consolidation of the Clackamas Water District and the Clairmont Water District. Clackamas Water District was originally formed in 1926. It absorbed the former Stanley Water District in 1979 and

continued on page 9

merged with Barwell Park Water District in 1991. Clairmont was originally formed in 1959 and was merged with the Redland and Holcomb-Outlook Water Districts in 1983. Visit CRW's website by clicking [HERE](#).



OAK LODGE WATER

SERVICES. Oak Lodge Water Services was officially formed as of January 1st, 2017. Prior

to January 2017, two districts serviced the Oak Grove area. Oak Lodge Water provided drinking water and Oak Lodge Sanitary provided sanitary sewer and surface water services. In May 2016, voters in the district passed a measure to consolidate the two districts into a single district.

The district serves approximately 33,000 people in the Oak Grove/Jennings Lodge communities, within 9 square miles. The distribution system includes four reservoirs with a combined capacity of 15.6 million gallons. The district operates three pump stations and is divided into three pressure zones. Customers are served by approximately 90 miles of water mains and pipes, nearly 700 fire hydrants, and 8,900 service connections. Oak Lodge is one of the owners of the North Clackamas County Water Commission drinking water treatment plant which treats water from the Clackamas River. For more information regarding Oak Lodge Water Services visit [HERE](#).



SOUTH FORK

WATER. South Fork Water is a water treatment plant that treats water from the

Clackamas River and is jointly owned by the Cities of Oregon City and West Linn. In addition to selling water to Oregon City and West Linn, South Fork water provides water to other unincorporated parts of Clackamas County, providing water to approximately 64,000 people in the area.

South Fork's current system includes the water intake just off Clackamas River Drive a pipeline up the hill from the river to the site of the drinking water treatment plant, a transmission pipeline from the treatment plant to Oregon City and West Linn distribution connections, and a pump station to boost treated water to higher elevations. The treatment plant capacity is approximately 23 MGD, and the peak day to date is approximately 20 MGD during the summer of 2023. For more information about South Fork Water visit [HERE](#).



SUNRISE WATER AUTHORITY.

The Sunrise Water Authority was formed in 2000 as part of a merger between the former Mt. Scott and Damascus Water Districts. Sunrise Water Authority is governed by a seven-member elected Board and currently serves a population of approximately 53,000 through 17,500 service connections located throughout the City of Happy and surrounding areas of unincorporated Clackamas County. Sunrise's system is composed of 260 miles of pipe and 13 reservoirs with a total combined capacity of 23.6 million gallons. Water supplied to their customers is derived principally from the Clackamas River via its ownership in the North Clackamas County Water Commission and through wholesale purchases from the Clackamas River Water District, with supplemental peak demand supplies from several area wells. For more information about Sunrise visit [HERE](#).

* The City of Lake Oswego and the City of Tigard do not take part in the CRWP Water Conservation program. Each city has their own Conservation Programs.

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 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](#).

#ClackCo 
PublicAlerts

Basin Partners

Portland General Electric and the Clackamas River

For nearly 130 years, PGE has been powering Oregonians at work and at home. PGE's history is entwined with the region's history and nowhere is that truer than along the Clackamas River. Dating back to the early 1900s, PGE has maintained four hydroelectric developments on the Clackamas River, that together form the Clackamas River Hydroelectric Project. The four developments are in sequence, from upstream to downstream: Oak Grove, North Fork, Faraday, and River Mill.

The Clackamas River Hydroelectric Project provides enough energy to power over 80,000 homes in the Portland Metro area. In addition to providing sustainable energy, PGE's Clackamas hydroelectric facilities create reservoirs which provide recreational opportunities for the public.

All developments use water from the Oak Grove Fork of the Clackamas River, while the North Fork Faraday and River Mill developments also use flow from the mainstem Clackamas River.

Timothy Lake Dam impounds the reservoir known as "Timothy Lake" at the most upstream extent of the Project. In the summer months, the lake is maintained at full pool to provide recreation opportunities. During the rest of the year, the lake is managed to capture rain and snow melt for hydropower generation at PGE's Oak Grove Powerhouse.

Timothy Lake has kokanee, eastern brook, rainbow and cutthroat trout. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks the lake with rainbows throughout the summer. The lake is also host to a number of PGE—managed campgrounds and day use areas.

Water released from Timothy Lake flows into the Oak Grove Fork stream channel to Lake Harriet. With the exception of required minimum instream flows that are released at the dam, water is diverted at Lake Harriet Dam into the Oak Grove flowline where it flows to Frog Lake and eventually to the Oak Grove Powerhouse.

The Oak Grove Powerhouse, has been in operation since 1924, and is PGE's most efficient hydro facility. A sharp drop in elevation means water flows into the powerhouse at very fast speed, generating enough electricity to power more than 24,000 homes.

The Oak Grove Powerhouse discharges into the mainstem Clackamas River where the combined flow continues downstream to North Fork Reservoir. From there, flow goes through the North Fork Powerhouse, then Faraday Powerhouse, and lastly River Mill Powerhouse.

The North Fork Powerhouse has been in operation since 1958 and generates enough electricity to power nearly 20,000 homes.



The Faraday Powerhouse was the oldest plant on the river and recently underwent upgrades. The old design with five generators inside and one outside wasn't very efficient compared to newer options. This meant it cost more money to run and maintain. After looking at all the options, PGE decided to take down the original brick building and replace the five old generators inside with two new Kaplan turbines. These new turbines can make 18 megawatts of power each - more than all five old units combined!

The River Mill Powerhouse has been generating power since 1911 and is an Ambursen dam, an innovative concrete slab and buttress dam, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. It generates enough power for more than 10,000 homes.

How PGE is working with the Clackamas River Water Providers

The Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) were party to the most recent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process for PGE's Clackamas River Project as early as 2006. PGE received its New License (FERC Project No. 2195) for the Clackamas River Project in 2010. The CRWP continues to be involved in FERC license implementation through participation on PGE's Blue Green Algae Team and the Mitigation and Enhancement Fund Committee. The water providers also have a Stored Water Agreement with PGE that allows them to request the release of stored water, as available, from Timothy Lake, at certain times of the year.

The Blue Green Algae Team

The purpose of this program is to identify the formation of cyanobacteria harmful algal blooms (CyanoHABs) and

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Basin Partners continued

determine if and when these blooms release cyanotoxins exceeding Oregon Health Authority safety limits. The results of the monitoring are used to inform advisories and precautions to help protect human health.

Since 2010 the CRWP has been working with PGE to monitor for CyanoHABs in the Clackamas River. Through these efforts PGE conducts weekly monitoring for blooms at Timothy Lake and North Fork Reservoir from May to October each year. If a CyanoHAB is identified by PGE, samples are taken and tested for toxins and results are communicated with the water providers. CRWP serves on the Blue Green Team which meets annually to discuss the previous year's CyanoHAB monitoring, review results presented in the annual report produced by PGE, and plan for the upcoming year's monitoring.

Mitigation and Enhancement Fund Committee

As a requirement of its FERC license, PGE established the Clackamas River Hydroelectric Project Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (Clackamas Fund). The Clackamas Fund

has several funding cycles over the duration of the license. The purpose of the Clackamas Fund is to provide funding for habitat mitigation and enhancement projects intended to mitigate for Project-related impacts on native anadromous and non-anadromous fish populations not otherwise addressed by specific resource protection measures identified in the license. CRWP is part of the Fund Committee which reviews submitted projects and helps to determine the amount of funding for those projects that are selected. The Mitigation Fund Committee meets annually to review the status and completion of funded projects.

Store Water Agreement

As part of the Clackamas River License, PGE and the CRWP developed a Stored Water Agreement to provide for the release of water by PGE from Timothy Lake upon request of CRWP at certain times of year for municipal water use. Water releases are subject to water availability as determined by PGE and must comply with all terms and conditions of the FERC license. This agreement is in effect until 2055 when the current FERC license expires.

To learn more about PGE's Clackamas Project, [CLICK HERE](#).

Water Conservation versus Water Curtailment

Water conservation refers to continuous long-term voluntary efforts aimed at efficient daily habits to reduce water waste, such as fixing leaks or upgrading to efficient fixtures and promotes sustainable usage.

Conversely, water curtailment is temporary, emergency response and activated only when supply is threatened. This involves mandatory, short-term restrictions on water use, such as prohibiting outdoor watering. Curtailment is a requirement to reduce water use due to a water shortage. It could be triggered by water provider system failure, power outage, fire in the watershed, prolonged drought, or other event that temporarily limits our ability to provide the normal amount of water. The Chart on right shows the key differences.

This can also be thought of as voluntary actions vs. mandatory actions. While both involve reducing water usage, water conservation is a permanent, proactive strategy for efficiency, whereas curtailment is a reactive, emergency measure to address immediate shortages.

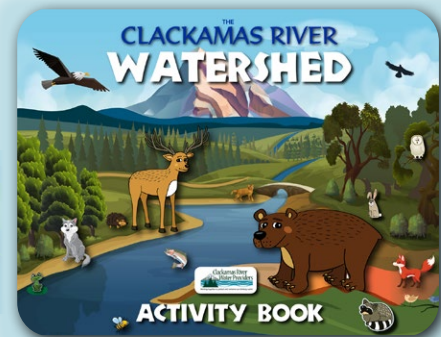
All CRWP members have Water Curtailment Plans as part of their Water Management and Conservation Plans that they are required to have for the State. All Curtailment Plans follow a tiered "Stage of Alert" system that increases in severity as water shortage increases. This typically includes four curtailment stages and each of these stages have initiating conditions, or triggers, that define when these stages are implemented.

Key Differences

Feature	Water Conservation	Water Curtailment
Primary Goal	Long term sustainability and efficiency	Immediate reduction during a crisis
Trigger	Ongoing lifestyle habits or operational standards	Drought, natural disasters, or system failures
Duration	Permanent & continuous	Temporary and Short Term
Typical Actions	Fixing leaks, low-flow fixtures, water-wise landscape	Banning outdoor watering, car wash, or pool filling
Enforcement	Often voluntary or incentive-based	Often mandatory with potential fines for violations

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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.



WORD CONSERVATION

Water conservation is something that we all should practice.

The more water we save, the more water we can leave in the Clackamas River for fish!

Name five ways you use water:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Name five ways you can save water:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

(Take a look at the words on this page, and you will see some clues. Pick the ones you think are the most important.)



CRWP Careers in Water - Job 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 communities.

A career in the field of public drinking water is rewarding, secure, well-paid, has good benefits, and is a great way to contribute to your community. Right now, our members need a number of qualified people to fill a number of positions. 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 Maintenance, Conservation, and Water Treatment.

Click on the links below to connect with our CRWP members and learn more about careers in drinking water and the positions that are currently available.

• Clackamas River Water

Associate Engineer or Project Engineer

Wage Range: \$39.97 - \$52.60

Salary Range: \$ 94,476 to \$124,342

Exempt (DOQ, represented)

Our utility is seeking an Associate or Project Engineer to join our team and support the planning, design, construction and management of critical infrastructure projects that help deliver safe, reliable drinking water to the community. Whether you are building your engineering career or bringing established project management experience, we encourage you to apply.

[To Learn More and Apply](#)

• Sunrise Water Authority

Project Engineer

Happy Valley

Full-Time - \$108,000.00 - \$125,000.00 Annually

Category: Engineering / Public Works /

Water Agency / Utilities

Department: Technical Services

Sunrise Water Authority (SWA) is looking for a licensed professional engineer to serve a key role advancing our asset management and capital construction programs. This position offers an excellent opportunity to grow your professional career and further develop your engineering and project management skills.

[To Learn More and Apply](#)



Some of our CRWP members may also have Internships, and Apprenticeship programs available, contact christine@clackamasproviders.org for more information.

Interested in training, experience, and education in the water industry? Visit Clackamas Community College: [Water and Environmental Technology Certificate.](#)

Scholarships Opportunities:

- [Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association Scholarship Program](#)
- [American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section Scholarships](#)

For more information about career opportunities in drinking water visit the following websites:

- [Clackamas River Water Providers Careers in Water](#)
- [Regional Water Providers Consortium Careers in Water](#)
- [Water Environment Federation Careers in Water](#)
- [American Water Works Association Career Center](#)
- [Pacific Northwest Section American Water Work Association Careers](#)
- [Work for Water](#) – Jobs in Oregon
- [Government Jobs](#) – Water Treatment

Supporting Low Impact Recreation on the Clackamas River

The 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 can see as many as 5,000 visitors. Although the 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.

Through a State Drinking Water Source Protection grant received by the Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) we have been working with our recreation partners on the development of the online/mobile and interactive [Clackamas Water Trail website](http://www.clackamaswatertrail.org). The purpose of this website is to highlight access points along the river, local amenities, and known river conditions and hazards. It will also differentiate private and public property, and sensitive fish and wildlife habitat areas that are not to be disturbed, as well as include information on how to be good river stewards and the importance of protecting our drinking water source.

The Clackamas Water Trail website includes an interactive river map, and information on Planning Your Trip (gear checklist, guides and outfitters, river safety), Itinerary Inspirations, and information about the river, natural history, drinking water and wildlife. You can also keep informed with ongoing news and seasonal updates under the New and Update section of the website.

In addition to the website this project has also included putting up Clackamas Water Trail signage up in lower river parks and river access points. Before your next Clackamas River outing, visit the Clackamas River Water Trail and see how you can enjoy the River while being a good steward.



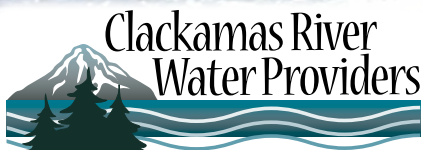
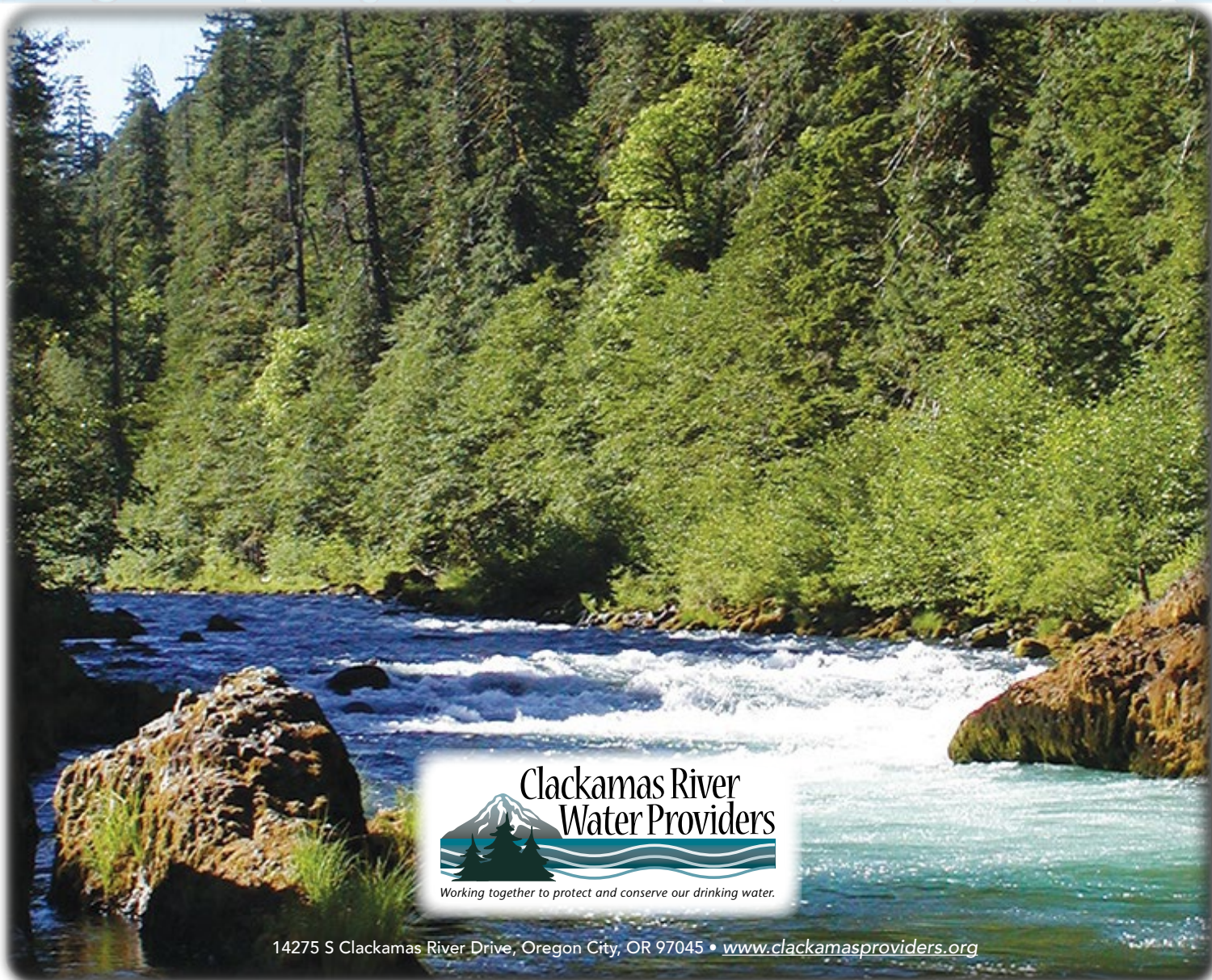
Water Conservation vs Water Curtailment continued



- **Stage 1 (Potential/Mild):** Public alerts and requests for voluntary reductions in outdoor use.
- **Stage 2-3 (Serious/Severe):** Mandatory restrictions on specific "extracurricular" water activities like power washing or lawn irrigation.
- **Stage 4 (Critical/Emergency):** Prohibiting all non-essential uses, including total bans on landscape irrigation, to preserve water for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection.

What does this mean for this summer?

Using water efficiently all year round is always important, it is even more important during the summer months when our water use doubles and triples in our communities and our water treatment plants are running at maximum capacity on the hottest days of summer. While we don't think that Curtailment Plans will need to be implemented this summer, we are strongly encouraging people to look at ways to water their lawns more efficiently or to voluntarily not water them at all. This will help ensure that there will be enough water in the river for fish, recreation and other uses when river flows are at their lowest.



Working together to protect and conserve our drinking water.

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

Our Members:



www.crwater.com



www.cityofestacada.org



www.ci.gladstone.or.us



www.ci.oswego.or.us



www.oaklodgewaterservices.org



www.oregoncity.org



www.sfwb.org



www.sunrisewater.com



www.tigard-or.gov



www.westlinnoregon.gov

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