

Whitworth Water District No. 2



Newsletter 2015

DID YOU KNOW:

- The Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer covers 322 square miles and stretches across both Washington and Idaho.
- The average person in Spokane and Kootenai County uses 214 gallons of water each day. In Whitworth Water District, the average person uses 342 gallons each day.
- The Spokane Aquifer provides water to about a half a million people (500,000) each day in our region.
- We use about the same amount of water that rains over the aquifer area annually.
- Our aquifer has one of the fastest flow rates in the US flowing as much as 60 feet per day in some areas. A typical aquifer has a flow rate between $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and 5 feet per day.
- The volume of water of the entire aquifer, 10 trillion gallons, makes it one of the most productive aquifers in the world.
- Each year about 237 billion gallons recharge and fills up our aquifer.
- Irrigation accounts for 60% of the fresh water withdrawals in Washington State and public supply accounts for about 20%. Other uses for mining, livestock, thermostatic, industrial and self-supply domestic account for the remaining 20%.
- Between 2005 and 2010 the population in Washington State grew 7%. At the same time, total water withdrawals for all uses has declined almost 15% from 5.81 billion gallons daily to 4.95 billion gallons daily.
- In the United States overall, the USGS reported water use reached its lowest level in about 45 years. In 2010 355 billion gallons daily of water was withdrawn for use in the United States, a 13% reduction of water use from 2005 when about 410 billion gallons daily were withdrawn. This 2010 billion gallons daily was the lowest use since before 1970.

WHAT'S ON TAP?

Issue 27 May 2015

Hours: 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Monday - Friday

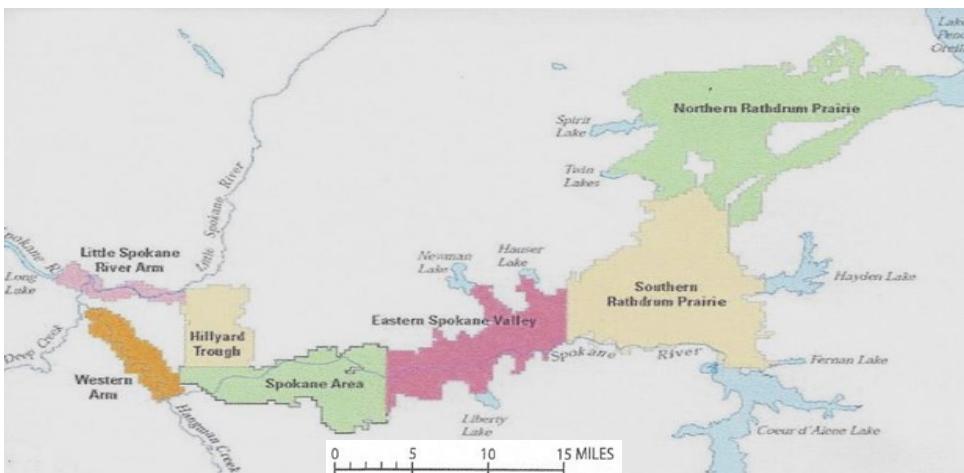
Office 466-0550

Emergency 466-7511

webmaster@whitworthwater.com

Board Meeting: 4:30 PM

1st and 3rd Thursday of each month



- More information on the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer is available in the Aquifer Atlas, available at Whitworth Water District's office.



WATER QUALITY REPORT – 2014

SOURCE TYPE:	Wells, Spokane-Rathdrum Aquifer				
WATER HARDNESS:	176 ppm				
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.				
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.				
TT	Treatment Technique – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.				
IOC	= Inorganic Chemicals	mg/L	= Milligrams per liter	= 1 ppm	pCi/L = Picocuries per liter
VOC	= Volatile Organic Chemicals	ug/L	= Micrograms per liter	= 1 ppb	ND = Not detected above quantifiable limits
<	= Less than	AL	= Action Level		

Source Water Testing

Contaminant	Most Stringent Standard (MCL)	MCLG	Highest Amount Detected	Complies With Standard	Possible Source
Nitrate - IOC	10.0 mg/L	10	3.19	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; septic tank leaching sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic -IOC	10 ug/L	0	3.68	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, glass and electronic production wastes.
Radium 228	5 pCi/L	0	.53	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	15 pCi/L	0	3.03	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
VOC	5 ug/L	0	.52	Yes	Dry cleaning solvent and metal degreaser

Distribution System Testing

Contaminant	Units	MCLG	MCL	90 th Percentile	High	# of Sites Exceeding AL	Possible Source
Lead (Tested 30 at risk homes in 2012)	ug/L	0	AL=15	1	1.24	0	Lead based products used in service lines and home plumbing during World War II and 1988.

The above information is provided to notify you of the results of our water quality monitoring in 2014. More than 82 compounds were tested for in 2014. In every case except those listed above, there were no levels detected. Where a level was detected, the compound was well below federal regulations established by the Environmental Protection Agency. The sources of drinking water for both tap and bottled water include wells and surface water sources (springs, lakes, ponds, rivers). As water moves through the ground or over land surfaces, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from animal or human activity. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to 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 health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water hotline (800-426-4791).

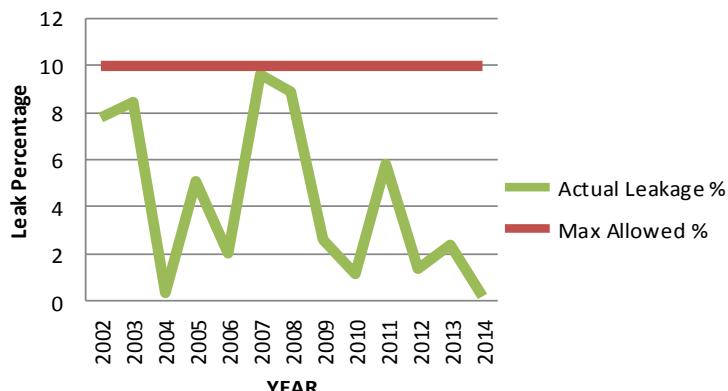
Compounds that may be present in water include the following:

Organic	Synthetic and volatile compounds that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. These can also come from gas station and urban storm runoff, and septic systems.
Inorganic	Salts and metals that are either naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining ,and farming.
Pesticides/Herbicides	From agricultural and storm water runoff and domestic uses.
Biological	Viruses and bacteria occurring from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, feedlots and backflow in a public system.
Radioactive	Naturally occurring; also result of gas and oil production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno compromised people 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. Elevated drinking water lead levels can cause serious health risks for pregnant women and young children. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines are appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)426-4791. You may also contact our Water Quality Specialist at 466-7511 for more information on Whitworth Water District's water.

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System Leakage



Whitworth Water is required to calculate its distribution system leakage annually based on a State Department of Health directive. Their water use efficiency standard establishes a 10% or less distribution system loss based on a 3-year rolling average for the previous three years. The System Leakage graph details our annual system leakage results for the past 12 years, all of which have been below the requisite 10%.

XERISCAPING

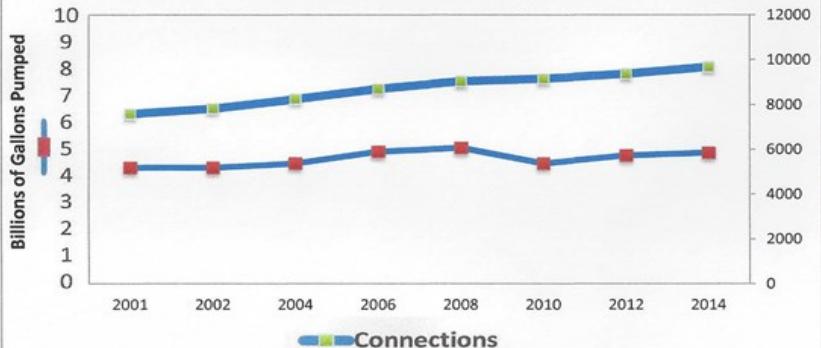
Because of increasing concerns about the sustainability of water, people are looking for ways to incorporate more water efficient practices in their landscape design. The alternative - creating attractive landscape by reducing lawn through the use of native plants that grow and exist naturally in the region and thrive in the area's harsh and changing weather conditions. The premise is if you design with an awareness of our climate and select plants from those in our natural



environment then you can not only have a pleasing, easy to maintain yard but also reduce your fertilizer, pesticides and time. Xeriscape landscape requires both an intimacy with your site and some knowledge of our region and its natural growing environment. It also involves putting the right plant in the right place, grouping plants together that have similar watering needs and using plants that can survive with very little water. Water efficient landscapes do not have to be ugly!!

The table to the right shows the total amount of water pumped annually by Whitworth Water and the actual number of connections for the same year. Even though the number of connections have increased, the water pumped has generally decreased or remained stable because of your careful watering practices. Our thanks to you!

Whitworth Water District No. 2 Connections and Annual Gallons Pumped



Whitworth Water District #2

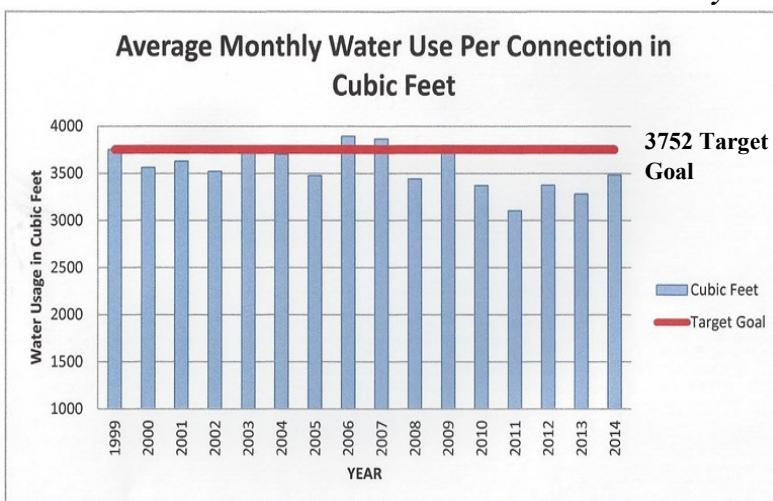


Water people were drinking before connecting to Whitworth Water.



Water they drink now after connecting to Whitworth Water.

Sometimes all the good intentions, chemical use and filtration systems just can't help!! Our thanks to everyone who worked to make this happen. *To all our new customers... Welcome to our Whitworth Water family!!*



CONGRATULATIONS

Tom Davis!!!



Tom Davis, the Maintenance Supervisor for Whitworth Water, went to the Evergreen Rural Water of Washington Fall Conference in Vancouver, Washington last September. Whitworth Water won first place in the Water Taste Test Contest! During the taste test the panel of judges commented on how pure and tasteless our water was. So congratulations to Whitworth Water District #2! Rural Water provided Tom tickets to the Rural Water National Conference in Washington DC where he met with Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Patty Murray on water issues.

GENERAL STATISTICS ~ 2014

New meters installed	84
Hydrants Repaired/Replaced	55
Meters Repaired/Replaced	832
Service Location Requests	2,090
Number of Services	9,681
Booster Stations	13
Wells	15
Reservoirs (15,035,000 gal)	13
Mains installed (Total)	277 miles
Water pumped (in gallons)	3,070,571,960
Unaccounted for Water	.22%



Water efficiency practices in your home and business save you money, help protect the environment, protects our water resource and improves water quality. Your role in fixing leaks inside and outside the home, replacing old appliances with energy efficient ones and changing your outside watering techniques and habits have all greatly contributed to the overall water use reduction by you, our Whitworth Water District customers.

Water Samples - 2014

<u>Types of Samples</u>	<u>No. Taken</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Bacteriologic	480	\$ 9,600
Volatile Organic	1	\$ 160
Nitrates	12	\$ 240
Inorganic Chemical	1	\$ 1,200
UCMR 3	14	\$ 14,000

Whitworth Water District #2

Projects Scheduled - 2015

Zone 1	Change out six 2-port hydrants with 3-port hydrants in Country Homes Blvd. area.	\$ 39,000
Zone 1	Landscape Well 1 property on Wall.	\$ 25,000
Zone 2	Install 12" main east side of Highway 2 from south of Border Patrol to Hawthorne and Nevada Intersection.	\$ 40,000
Zone 2	Bore 12" main under Highway 2 from north of Camelot entrance to just north of Pan Adobe on east side of Highway 2.	\$ 150,000
Zone 8	Install 11,600' of main and hydrants in Yale and Chattaroy Road area to provide water to contaminated community system at the request of the State Department of Health (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan project).	\$ 1,329,400
Zone 8	Decommission 3 wells transferred from water systems that Whitworth Water took over.	\$ 10,000
Zone 9	Install 24,500' of 8", 12" and 16" main in Bernhill Road, hydrants, service lines and a booster station to provide water to a community water system experiencing water quality and quantity problems (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan project).	\$ 1,609,738
Zone 9	Upgrade Ellersick Booster Station pumps and electrical.	\$ 86,000
Zone 9	Install approximately 3,000' of 8" and 10" pipe from Bernhill South to Hardesty Ridge.	\$ 140,000



Projects Completed - 2014

Zone 1	Changed out four 2-port hydrants with 3-port hydrants.	\$ 35,000
Zone 2	Relocated a number of mains and services on Country Homes Blvd in conjunction with the Spokane County Storm Drainage project.	\$ 15,000
Zone 3	Installed new pump in Well 3	\$ 43,105
Zone 8	Upgraded the MacDonald Booster station pumps and electrical	\$ 85,160
Zone 8	Installed 14,000' of 16" main to the Chattaroy Hills Water system and constructed a booster station at the request of the Department of Health (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan).	\$ 2,915,279
Zone 8	Capped water main that was in Dead Man Creek at both sides because of a leak in the pipe that was in the river.	\$ 4,000



On-Going District Wide Projects

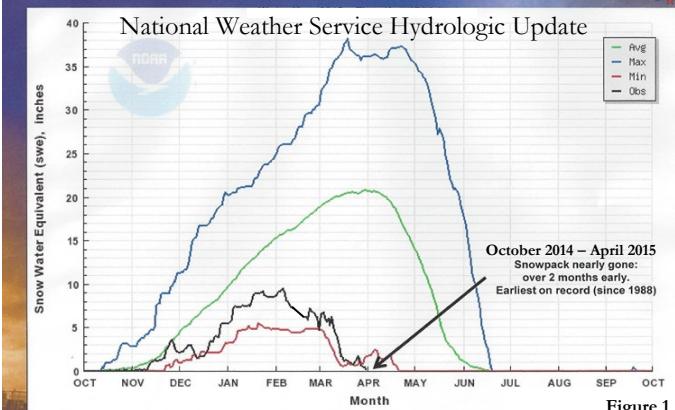
*GPS field locate all in-ground facilities in order to identify their exact location, especially in emergency or night time response situations. (5 year program)

*Replace 500, ten year meter radio batteries with a 20 year battery (on-going)

Whitworth Water District #2



Quartz Peak (Mt Spokane) SNOTEL Period of Record 1988-2015



The Spokane area is in a record setting year for low snowpack at 37% of average snowfall for the 1988-2015 period of record (see figure 1 above). In April 2015, our snowpack was nearly gone-2 months earlier than normal. It can be expected that lower than normal flows would be wide spread this spring and summer, in spite of wet weather, in areas where snowpack melts out earlier, was never present in 2015 and along stream channels that have less and earlier snowmelt runoff.

The Spokane region is currently above average for percent of runoff (132%) from October 1, 2014 to March 30, 2015 (figure 2). However, this is because the water is coming in the form of rain, not snow melt. There is no snowpack left in the mountains. Because of declining river flows, a condition that is already occurring in other areas of the State, the Department of Ecology has already issued an emergency drought declaration in March 2015 for the east slope of the Central Cascades, including the Yakima basins and Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds, the Walla Walla river watershed and the Olympic Peninsula.

If the current weather pattern does not change, we are all going to need to further increase our water use efficiency practices in order to reduce water waste in our lives and help protect our watershed.



Holidays Observed

New Year's Day.....	January 1st
Martin Luther King Day.....	3rd Mon. in January
President's Day.....	3rd Mon. in Feb.
Memorial Day	Last Mon. in May
Independence Day..	July 4th
.....	(Observed July 3rd)
Labor Day.....	1st Mon. in Sept.
Veterans Day.....	November 11th
Thanksgiving.....	4th Thurs. and Fri. in November
Christmas Eve.....	Half day - Dec.24th
Christmas Day.....	Full day - Dec.25th
New Year's Eve.....	Half day - Dec.31st

We, at Whitworth Water District, are sad to announce that we have lost one of our own. Sparky the cat passed away April 15, 2015 of old age. Sparky was roughly about 17 years old. Sparky was donated to the District by Commissioner Ed MacDonald, as a kitten and lived his entire life within the walls of Whitworth Water District Office. Sparky's favorite pastimes included dressing up in his tie, meowing at the employees in the morning, snuggling on his bed, playing in the plants, begging for treats, eating Amber's lunch and the occasional walk outside in the grass. He will truly be missed by all!



It has come to our attention that there is an on-line bill pay website (see below) that incorrectly appears to be affiliated with Whitworth Water District.

Whitworth Water District #2: Login, Bill Pay, Customer Service
www.doxo.com/info/whitworth-water-district-no-2

To be clear, at this time Whitworth Water District does not provide or sponsor any on-line bill pay system. Whitworth Water District is not affiliated with www.doxo.com, nor does Whitworth Water District endorse www.doxo.com or any other on-line bill pay system. If you use or access www.doxo.com or any other on-line bill pay system to make payment to Whitworth Water District, you do so at your own risk.