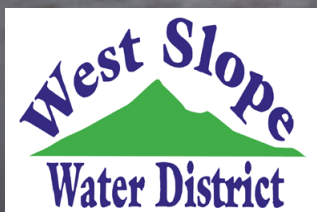


# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



*Presented By*  
**West Slope Water District**

PWS ID#: OR4100660

## Introduction

We strive to make the district's water quality report both informative and comfortable to read. We believe you should know important information about your drinking water as well as the water district that delivers it to your home. We hope you will spend a few minutes looking at this report. The report is for you, our customers, so we welcome suggestions on how to improve it for next year. Information we would like you learn about includes:

- The water quality tests conducted in 2025;
- The sources of your drinking water;
- A brief description of what is happening in the water district; and
- How you can reach district staff if you have more questions.

Between West Slope Water District and the Portland Water Bureau, over 200 regulated and unregulated contaminants were tested for in your drinking water in 2025. This report lists all the contaminants that were detected and confirmed through laboratory results. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) requires all water systems in the U.S., including this district, to compile this report and make it available to the public for review. We at West Slope Water District think it's a good idea to inform our customers about their water whether it's required or not.

## Message from the General Manager

2025 was another busy year for West Slope Water District. The biggest change was my transition into the role of General Manager following the retirement of Michael Grimm after more than a decade of dedicated service. I would like to thank Mike for his many years of commitment to the District and for leaving it in such a strong position.

Overall, the District is in excellent condition, supported by a solid, hardworking staff that operates both effectively and efficiently. We have a responsible plan in place to replace aging infrastructure while managing the rising costs associated with delivering safe, reliable drinking water.

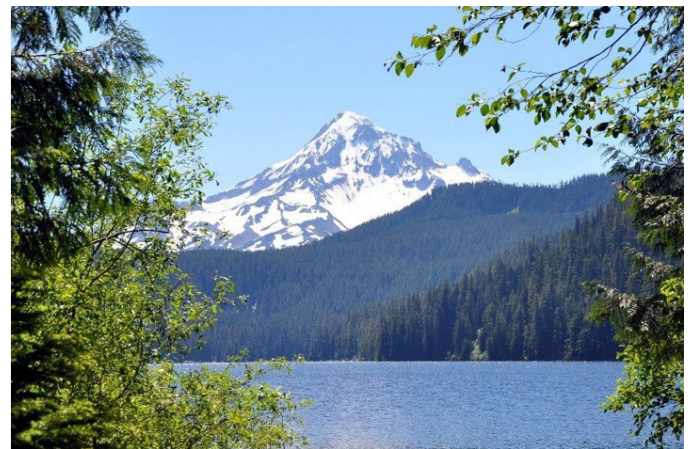
Like Mike, I am a true "water nerd" with a passion for public service, especially in the drinking water industry. I firmly believe that the Bull Run water we get from Portland Water Bureau and provide to our community is the best in the world, which certainly makes my job easier. In the coming years, our challenge will be maintaining affordability while continuing to invest in the improvements needed to prepare for the future challenges.

The Portland Water Bureau has extended construction of the new filtration plant by an additional two years. While this delays some immediate rate increases, it will also increase long-term project costs. At the same time, West Slope continues improving our own system, including the design of a third reservoir at the Sylvan Hill site, which will serve as our second seismically resilient reservoir.

In the short time I have been here, I have had the opportunity to get to know our staff and have been continually impressed by their knowledge, professionalism, and dedication to serving our customers. They work exceptionally well together and consistently go above and beyond to ensure our service remains top-notch.

I have already had the pleasure of meeting some of you as you have stopped by the office. If we have not yet met and you would like to talk, please feel free to stop by the office or give me a call.

Ken Ackerman, P.E.  
General Manager  
West Slope Water District



## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater).



## QUESTIONS?

If you have any specific issues or questions, please call Ken Ackerman at (503) 292-2777. You can also use this number to alert us to an emergency.

## West Slope Water District - Established 1922

The West Slope Water District maintains just under 3,300 metered customer accounts serving nearly 10,500 people. The district boundaries are roughly U.S. Highway 26 on the north, Oregon Highway 217 on the west, Southwest Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway on the south, and Southwest Scholls Ferry Road on the east. The district has no water source of its own but instead relies on a wholesale water purchase contract with the Portland Water Bureau for its water supply. Portland's water enters the West Slope Water District through the district's two concrete Sylvan Hill reservoirs. The district maintains 48 miles of water mains over a four-square mile area with three main pressure zones. The water mains range in diameter from 2 to 18 inches.

## West Slope Water District's Drinking Water Sources

The City of Portland's Bull Run Watershed is a unique, protected (closed to public access) surface water supply located within the Mount Hood National Forest roughly 26 miles from Portland. The Portland Water Bureau and the U.S. Forest Service carefully manage the watershed to sustain and supply clean drinking water to a quarter of Oregon's population, including West Slope. The Bull Run Watershed is a subbasin watershed in the Sandy River basin that is separate from Mount Hood and the Hoodland communities along U.S. Highway 26. No recreational, residential, or commercial uses occur within the watershed. The Portland Water Bureau carefully monitors water quality and quantity in the watershed. The Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Program regularly inspects the watershed and the related treatment and distribution facilities.

On average, the Bull Run Watershed receives over 135 inches of precipitation (rain and snow) annually, which flows into the Bull Run River and then into two reservoirs that store nearly 10 billion gallons of drinking water. Please go to [Portland.gov/water/BullRun](http://Portland.gov/water/BullRun) to read more about the Bull Run water supply.



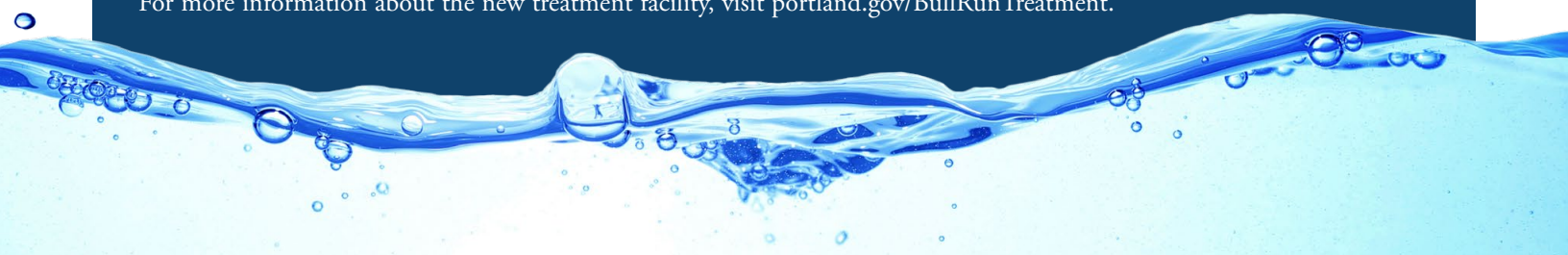
The Columbia South Shore Well Field, Portland's groundwater supply, provides drinking water from 25 active wells located in three different aquifers. The well field is between Portland International Airport and Blue Lake Park. Portland uses the well field for two purposes: to supplement the Bull Run supply in the summer and to temporarily replace the Bull Run supply during high turbidity events, maintenance activities, and emergencies. To learn more about groundwater protection, find upcoming groundwater education events, and just understand the groundwater resource better, please visit [portland.gov/water/groundwater](http://portland.gov/water/groundwater).

## Portland's Water Filtration Treatment Plant Project

Since 2017, the Portland Water Bureau's engineering staff and consulting design engineers have been working to design and build a new Bull Run water treatment facility to treat for microbial contaminants like *Cryptosporidium*. In 2020 the project team submitted two years of testing data confirming the best filtration method to build. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) approved the city's water filtration plant design. The final water treatment facility design was completed in 2022, land use approvals were granted in 2023, and construction began in 2024. The desired outcomes of the new Bull Run water treatment facility are as follows:

- Filtration will remove *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial pathogens from the water;
- Disinfection will continue to control the spread of microorganisms in the water;
- A corrosion control treatment process installed at the treatment facility will continue to lower lead levels at customers' taps; and
- Even with the treatment facility, the Bull Run Watershed will remain highly protected.

For more information about the new treatment facility, visit [portland.gov/BullRunTreatment](http://portland.gov/BullRunTreatment).



## Substances That Could Be in Water

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



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

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas

production, mining, or farming;

**Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater).



District's field staff, from left to right: Matt, Daniel, Quinton, and Brandon.

## How Is My Water Treated?

The Bull Run Watershed is an unfiltered drinking water source. However, the Portland Water Bureau is currently constructing a Bull Run water treatment facility, to be operational by September 2029. For more information about filtration and Cryptosporidium, see "Portland's Water Filtration Treatment Plant Project" below. Currently, the Portland Water Bureau is employing a three-step disinfection and corrosion control treatment process.

- 1) **Chlorine:** Chlorine disinfects against organisms, such as bacteria and viruses, that could otherwise make people sick.
- 2) **Ammonia:** Ammonia stabilizes chlorine to form longer-lasting disinfectant residuals called chloramines.
- 3) **Corrosion control treatment:** Sodium carbonate and carbon dioxide are added to Bull Run water, and sodium hydroxide is added to groundwater to reduce the corrosion of metals such as lead.

## Testing for Cryptosporidium

Monitoring by the Portland Water Bureau indicates the presence of Cryptosporidium at levels of 0.08 cyst per liter (cyst/L). Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.



## Source Water Assessment

Source water assessments are completed to identify contaminants of concern for drinking water. For the Bull Run Watershed, the contaminants of concern are naturally occurring microbes such as *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, fecal coliform bacteria, and total coliform bacteria. These organisms are found in virtually all freshwater ecosystems and may be present in the Bull Run Watershed at very low levels. The Portland Water Bureau currently treats the water for these organisms, except for *Cryptosporidium*. Portland's most recent source water assessment (2019) is available at [Portland.gov/water/SWA](http://Portland.gov/water/SWA) or by calling (503) 823-7525.

The Columbia South Shore Well Field is beneath homes and businesses with a variety of potential contaminant sources. The deep aquifers that are the primary sources of water supply have natural geological protection from pollutants present at the land surface. Portland, Gresham, and Fairview work together to protect the well field. The Groundwater Protection Programs for East County communities work with residents and businesses in the well field to ensure that pollutants from this urban area do not impact the groundwater source.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### **Has my water been tested for PFA?**

Yes, and tests are still currently underway at the time of this writing. The Portland Water Bureau has been testing for PFAs (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in their water sources, and West Slope Water District has been testing PFAs in drinking water as it is delivered to the District from Portland. Fortunately, neither Portland nor West Slope have detected any PFAs in our drinking water. West Slope Water District shares the growing public concern over PFAs and is taking steps to monitor and protect our drinking water from PFAs. Monitoring for PFAs was completed in 2024 as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Rule 5 (UCMR5). All testing under UCMR5 has been posted on the District's website in the Water Quality section under Water Quality Reports.

#### **Is my water filtered?**

No. Neither of the Portland Water Bureau's source waters are currently filtered before it is purchased by the District. In response to a series of low-level detections of *Cryptosporidium* since 2017, the City of Portland is designing and planning construction of a filtration plant to treat for *Cryptosporidium*. Bull Run water will be filtered by September 30, 2029.

#### **Does my water have any added fluoride?**

No. Fluoride naturally occurs in the Portland Water Bureau's source water at very low levels. You may want to ask your dentist or doctor about supplemental fluoride for preventing tooth decay. This information is especially important for young children.

#### **Is my water soft or hard?**

Bull Run water—Portland's main water supply—is very soft. It typically has a total hardness of 3–8 parts per million (ppm), or ¼ to ½ a grain of hardness per gallon.

Portland's groundwater supply is moderately hard: about 80 ppm, or about 5 grains per gallon.

#### **What is the pH of my water?**

The pH of West Slope's drinking water typically ranges between 8.0 and 9.0, usually measuring at 8.5.

#### **What causes temporary discolored water?**

Since the Portland Water Bureau's water is not filtered, sediment and organic material from the Bull Run Watershed is present in Portland's water supply and is periodically passed on to the West Slope Water District. This can sometimes be seen in the District when construction, hydrant use, firefighting, or water main breaks stir up the sediment that has settled at the bottom of the water mains. It can also be seen in the fall as a harmless tea-colored tint. Another source of discolored water are older pipes in buildings. These pipes can add rust to water when no one has used the water for several hours. Find out more at [portlandoregon.gov/water/discoloredwater](http://portlandoregon.gov/water/discoloredwater).



## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	West Slope Water District		Portland Water Bureau		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH		
Arsenic (ppb)	2025	10	0	NA	NA	1.03	ND–1.03	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2025	2	2	NA	NA	0.01	0.0008–0.01	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	1.73	1.05–2.18	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	NA	NA	0.096	ND–0.096	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	22.9	13.6–30.0	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	NA	NA	0.11	ND–0.11	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2025	TT	NA	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80 <sup>1</sup>	NA	27.4	18.1–31.4	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)		SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH			
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.04	0.02–0.04	0/98	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0	1.26	0.79–1.31	0/98	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**cyst/L:** cysts per liter of water

**Herbicide:** Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**Pesticide:** Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.



## SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

				Portland Water Bureau			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Manganese (ppb)	2025	50	NA	23.9	1.9–43.8	No	Leaching from natural deposits

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

				Portland Water Bureau	
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE	
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> (cyst/L)	2025	0.08	ND–0.08	Animal wastes	
Radon (pCi/L)	2025	194	ND–388	Found in natural deposits	
Sodium (ppm)	2025	11.75	11.00–12.00	Found in natural deposits	

<sup>1</sup> Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. West Slope Water District is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact the West Slope Water District at (503) 292-2777. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

In 2024 West Slope Water District completed a customer service line inventory for district customers using 120Water, a national leader in lead and copper monitoring compliance, as a consultant. After completion of the customer service line inventory, the Oregon Health Authority declared West Slope Water District contained 100 percent nonlead service lines from the district's water main to the meter (district infrastructure) as well as from the meter to each home (customer infrastructure). Please learn more about customer service lines at [wswd.org/lead-and-copper-rule-dashboard](http://wswd.org/lead-and-copper-rule-dashboard). Also on the district's website is a public-facing dashboard and map where district customers can click on their home address and see their own service line materials. Please access the dashboard at <https://pws-ptd.120wateraudit.com/westslopewdor>.



## Radon

Our system monitored for radon and found levels of 194 picocuries per liter (pci/L). Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon levels can build up in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, the amount of radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be small. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, you may want to test the air. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 pCi/L or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program or the U.S. EPA Radon Hotline at (800) SOS-RADON.

