

Conservation Tips

Here are some great ways to save water:

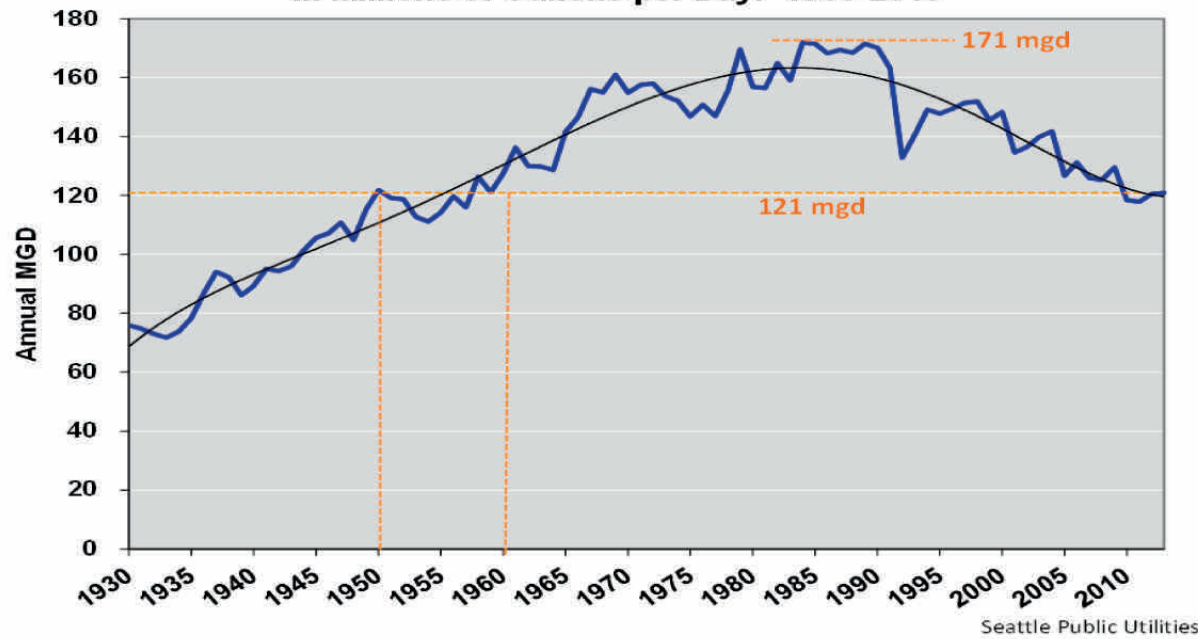
- Check for leaks and fix them as soon as you can – follow our step-by-step videos at www.savingwater.org or call 206-684-SAVE (7283) to learn more.
- Use less water in your garden by putting a thick layer of mulch around your plants.
- Follow us on Facebook for the latest news on ways to have a beautiful landscape without overwatering or overworking <http://www.facebook.com/savvygardenernews>

Visit www.savingwater.org for information on rebates, conservation tips, videos on fixing leaks and efficient landscaping practices, and more.

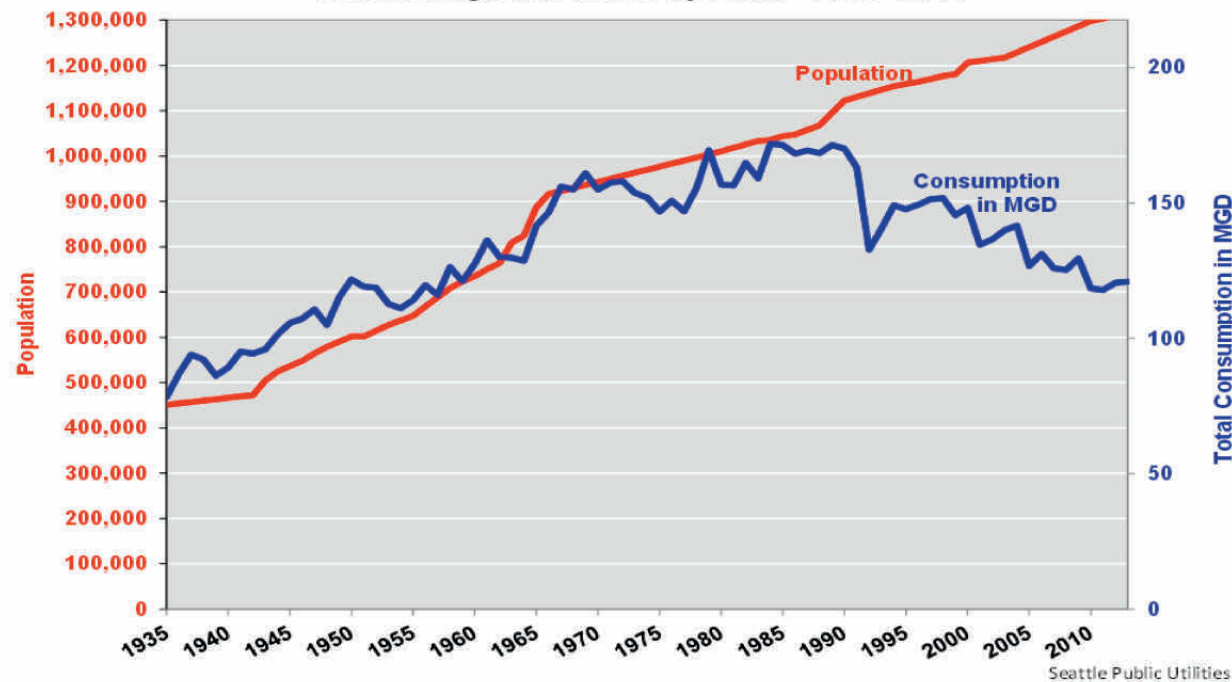
What Do Conservation and Fish Have to Do with Each Other?

Now that summer is here, it's time to remember to use water wisely to leave plenty in the rivers for salmon and wildlife. The foundation for healthy salmon populations is healthy habitat – including the quantity and quality of water in the streams that support them. Your actions to conserve water help protect this precious freshwater habitat for salmon and other species that live in and around our streams. Thank you for all you're doing to conserve water. It makes a difference!

Total Seattle Regional Water System Annual Demand in Millions of Gallons per Day: 1930-2013



Growth in Population and Water Consumption Seattle Regional Water System: 1935- 2013



Soos Creek Water and Sewer District

2013 Annual Water Quality Report

This publication is federally mandated in order to inform customers of the quality of their drinking water. This report contains information and data for the year 2013.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

Soos Creek Water and Sewer District (SCWSD) is proud to provide you with water that meets or exceeds all federal drinking water quality standards.

The Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Cedar River Watershed supplies 100% of this high quality water. This surface water source is located in a remote and uninhabited area of the Cascade Mountains. Rain and snow runoff from the Cascades is held in lakes in the watershed. The Cedar River Watershed is publicly owned and SPU has an aggressive watershed plan to protect it. Agricultural and industrial activities are not allowed. Access to the watershed is restricted to appropriate staff and educational programs conducted by SPU staff.

This pristine water is screened, disinfected with chlorine, and fluoridated. A small amount of lime is also added to control corrosion to pipes. Ozonation (a form of oxygen used for disinfection) improves taste, and ultraviolet light (UV) kills disease causing Giardia and Cryptosporidium in the water. The water is then piped or pumped into SCWSD reservoirs and distribution mains which brings the water to area homes and businesses.

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Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Dept. of Health (DOH) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the WA Dept. of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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. EPA/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 (1-800-426-4791).

Public Meeting Information:

The Board of Commissioners meets every 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. If you would like to be on the agenda for these meetings or have questions regarding this report, please call 253-630-9900.

Visit our web site at www.sooscreek.com

For more information:

* www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/Water_Quality/index.htm * www.epa.gov/safewater/ * www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/ * www.savingwater.org

Monitoring

Seattle Public Utilities staff monitors the source water, treatment processes, and distribution system water quality 365 days a year. Different parameters are monitored and analyzed at varying frequencies - generally daily, monthly, quarterly, or annually, in accordance with Federal and State regulations. Some elements of the treatment process are monitored continuously. The data, contained in the tables below, reflect the 2013 compliance data for Seattle Public Utilities and Soos Creek Water and Sewer District. If sampling was not required in 2013, levels indicated are for the most recent monitoring conducted. Our 2013 routine water quality monitoring did not identify the presence of any contaminants at established levels of concern for the general consumers.

2013 Water Quality Data

Detected Compounds	Units of Measure	EPA's Limits		Level's in Your Water		Typical Sources
		MCLG	MCL	Average	Range	
Raw Water						
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	NA	TT	0.8	0.4 to 1.1	Naturally present in the environment.
Cryptosporidium*	#/100L	NA	NA	ND	ND	Naturally present in the environment.
Finished Water						
Turbidity	NTU	NA	TT	0.4	0.2 - 2.7	Soil runoff.
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.8	0.7 - 0.8	Water additive, which promotes strong teeth.
Barium	ppb	2000	2000	1.8	(one sample)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	0.94	0.30 - 1.67	Water additive used to control microbes.
Trihalomethanes (TTHM) [^]	ppb	NA	80	30 [^]	14.5 - 42.4 [^]	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids(HAA5) [^]	ppb	NA	60	32 [^]	18.3 - 54.2 [^]	By-products of drinking water chlorination.

*Cryptosporidium is a parasite commonly found in lakes and rivers that can cause gastro-intestinal disease. In 2013 Cryptosporidium was not detected in any samples collected in the Cedar River supply.
[^] Results from SCWSD Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Routine Monitoring in 2013

Lead and Copper Monitoring Results (Cedar WSA)

Parameter and Units	MCLG	Action level ⁺	2012 results [^]	Exceeding Action level	SCWSD 2012	SCWSD Homes exceeding Action	Source
Lead, ppm	0	15	3.6	0 of 52	.0043	0 of 17	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.096	0 of 52	.063	0 of 17	

[^]90th Percentile: i.e. 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.
⁺ The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCMR 3)*

Detected Compounds	Units of Measure	MCL	Reported Level	Range
Chromium 6+	ppb	NA	0.17	0.085 - 0.17
Strontium	ppb	NA	32	26 - 32
Vanadium	ppb	NA	0.63	0.35 - 0.63
Chromium	ppb	NA	0.27	0.26 - 0.27

* Unregulated contaminants monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

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.
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.
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.
TT: Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Cedar supply in 2013 is 5 NTU.
NA: Not Applicable
ND: Not Detected
ppm: 1 part per million = 1mg/L = 1 milligram per liter
ppb: 1 part per billion = 1ug/L = 1 microgram per liter
1ppm = 1000ppb

The Dept. of Health (DOH) conducted a source water assessment to determine potential contaminant sources. According to DOH, all surface waters in Washington are given a susceptibility rating of "high," regardless of whether contaminants have been detected or whether there are any sources of contaminants in the watershed. Information on the source water assessments is available from the DOH website, at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw.default.htm>. Some potential natural sources of contamination include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa from wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which are naturally occurring.
- Organic contaminants, which result from chlorine combining with the naturally occurring organic matter.

If present, elevated levels of 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. SCWSD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Working Together to Conserve Water

Water conservation prepares the region for potential water supply challenges, helps customers use water wisely, helps ensure a reliable future supply, and protects fish and wildlife. The Saving Water Partnership (SWP) which is made up of Soos Creek Water & Sewer District (SCWSD) and its 18 water utility partners has set a six-year conservation goal: reduce per capita use from current levels so that the SWP's total average annual retail water use is less than 105 mgd from 2013 through 2018 despite forecasted population growth. In order to meet the goal, the amount of water used per person will need to decrease to offset growth. For 2013, the Saving Water Partnership met the goal, using 93.1 mgd.

SCWSD purchased 1.4 billion gallons of water in 2013. Of this, approximately 48.1 million gallons was lost to unaccounted water loss. Expressed as percentage of water supplied to SCWSD's service area, the unaccounted water loss rate was 3.3%.

Highlights of the regional conservation program in 2013 include:

- The SWP focused on youth education in 2013, developing new curriculum and conducting 50 in-classroom presentations for nearly 1,300 K-12 grade students. Topics included water conservation, the water cycle, the salmon life cycle, waterwise gardening and the water supply system. Additionally, 5,200 students from 12 schools participated in this year's Fix A Leak Week challenge, searching for leaks at home.
- The SWP introduced rebates for Premium WaterSense toilets for residential and commercial customers in June. These fixtures use 1.06 gallons of water per flush, at least 20% less water than a regular WaterSense fixture.
- The Single Family Toilet Rebate Program processed nearly 60 Premium WaterSense and nearly 1,000 Regular WaterSense rebates.
- The Multifamily Toilet Replacement Program upgraded nearly 1,600 toilets to Premium WaterSense models, and nearly 1,300 toilets to Regular WaterSense models.
- The SWP completed water conservation financial incentive projects with 81 businesses in 2013. Two projects replaced a total of 382 toilets with Premium WaterSense models.
- The commercial program introduced "Cool Tunes," a pilot incentive program to upgrade equipment and monitor efficiency for cooling towers.
- The SWP offered 17 Savvy Gardener classes across the SWP service area in Spring and Fall 2013 with 300 attendees. These classes were designed to inspire, create, and maintain healthy, water-efficient landscapes.
- The SWP sponsored a new local gardening TV show, *Seattle Dig In*, and produced four videos with Marianne Binetti, celebrity garden writer and radio show host. The 3-5 minute videos - **Plant in Fall for a Stronger Garden; Mulch Your Soil; Go Natural with Your Lawn; How to Use a Soaker Hose** - are available at <http://www.savingwater.org/LawnGarden/index.htm>