

# **Wilderness Rim Association**

## ***2015 Annual Water Quality Report***

*Dear Wilderness Rim owners and residents,*

*The Wilderness Rim Association (WRA) 2015 Annual Water Quality Report informs you about the quality of the water services delivered to you every day. We are pleased to report again that the water provided by the Association exceeds established water-quality standards. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually protect our water resources and that we are committed to ensuring the continued excellent quality of our water.*

*This report, which is required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), is distributed to all members of the Association. This report describes our Association, the quality of our service area's drinking water, and the programs that protect the high quality of our water sources.*

*Please feel free to contact the WRA office at 425-888-0087 if you have any questions regarding the information provided in this report, or if you need any additional information.*

*Wilderness Rim Association Board of Trustees*

### **YOUR WATER IS SAFE**

As of January 2006, a more restrictive EPA drinking water standard regarding arsenic levels was put into effect. The standard for arsenic levels was reduced from fifty parts per billion to ten parts per billion.

Our water meets the EPA's revised drinking water standard for arsenic. There were no detected levels of arsenic in our latest water sample analysis based on the current standard of ten parts per billion.

### **Water Use Efficiency Rule**

In 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1338, known as the Municipal Water Law. This law established that all water suppliers must use water more efficiently in exchange for water rights certainty and flexibility to help meet future demand. The Legislature directed the Department of Health to adopt an enforceable, regulatory program called the Water Use Efficiency Rule (WUE), which became effective on January 22, 2007.

In 2015, the entire water system of Wilderness Rim WRA used 31,409,400 gallons of water in compliance with the Water Use Efficiency Rule. The average low end daily use per customer was 125 gallons per day. During the summer months, the average daily use per customer was 170 gallons per day. WRA customers have routinely been sensible regarding their water use and are commended for doing so. Thank You.

## Wilderness Rim Association

**Wilderness Rim Association is a non-profit, consumer-owned corporation, which is administered by a Board of Trustees. Maintenance and the day-to-day operations of the Association's water system are provided on a contractual basis by a Department of Health (DOH) Certified Water System Operator.**

**WRA was incorporated in 1967. The City of Seattle's Chester Morse Reservoir was the initial source of the Association's water for approximately 16 years. In 1983 and 1985, two deep wells were drilled inside the Seattle Watershed. In 1986, Sallal Water Association and Wilderness Rim Association converted from using City of Seattle surface water to groundwater.**

**Wilderness Rim Association supplies potable water to 623 water connections serving approximately 2000 people throughout the Wilderness Rim Association service area.**

### Water Quality Monitoring Results

Sallal Water Association (SWA) routinely monitors the chemical contaminants in our drinking water according to Federal and State laws. However, due to the historical non-detection of contaminants, SWA routinely monitors on a three-year cycle for volatile organic, synthetic organic, herbicides, and gross alpha/beta radioactivity. Additionally, Coliform bacteria are monitored by Wilderness Rim Association (WRA) on a monthly basis. Lead and copper are monitored on a three-year cycle, and other monitoring is conducted as required or warranted.

The table below shows the most recent results of SWA's monitoring. **None** of the 144 volatile organic, synthetic organic, herbicide, or carbamate contaminants were detected in the groundwater sources. Primary potential contaminants that could be in any groundwater and their sources, including inorganic contaminants such as salts, minerals, and metals, can be naturally occurring in well water sources.

**Lead and copper** are generally non-detected (ND) to less than .002 parts per million in the groundwater. These metal concentrations can increase when water contacts plumbing materials containing lead, brass, and copper. Domestic plumbing is the primary source of these metals, and drinking water regulations require that the water samples used for testing must be in contact with domestic plumbing for at least 6 hours. Regular use at each faucet greatly reduces leaching from lead and copper plumbing into tap water. WRA has identified a number of representative homes and takes samples at indoor taps, in accordance with the regulations. Instead of an MCL, the U.S. EPA has set the following action level: If more than 10% of the first draw samples are greater than .015 ppm for lead or 1.30 ppm for copper, the water system is required to optimize treatment to minimize the levels of lead and copper. Monitoring conducted by the Association during 2015 showed lead ranging from (ND) to less than 0.002 ppm and copper ranging from (ND) to 0.26 ppm. These levels are well below regulated action levels.

### Where Does Our Drinking Water Come From?

**Our water comes from groundwater which is produced from two wells maintained by Sallal Water Association (SWA). The wells are located on the northwest flank of Rattlesnake Ridge, within the City of Seattle Watershed. Both wells are equipped with 100 horsepower line shaft motors and each produces 800 gallons of water per minute. Nothing is added to the groundwater. SWA provides water to WRA as a wholesale member through two metered interties.**

Inorganic Testing		EPA Regulated (Primary)		Testing Date: April 2015	
Contaminant (Units)	SRL	MCL	Major contaminant sources in Drinking Water	Source	Source
Arsenic (ppb)	0.002	10	Erosion of natural deposits runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	Rattlesnake #1 0.002	Rattlesnake #2 0.002
Nitrate (ppm)	0.2	10	Runoff from fertilizer use: leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits	ND	ND

Inorganic Testing		Testing State/EPA Regulated and Unregulated (Secondary)		Testing Date: April 2009	
Contaminant (Units)	SRL	MCL	Major contaminant sources in Drinking Water	Source	Source
Turbidity (NTU)	0.1	1	Natural Deposits	Rattlesnake #1 0.5	Rattlesnake #2 0.5
Sodium (ppm)	5	20	Natural Deposits	5	5
Mercury (ppm)	0.0004	0.05	Natural Deposits	0.0005	0.0005
Zinc (ppm)	0.2	5	Natural Deposits	ND	ND
Lead (ppm)	0	0.015	Natural Deposits	0.002	0.002
Copper (ppm)	0.2	1.3	Natural Deposits	0.02	0.02

### Interpreting the Table

**Not Detected (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present at the established level of detection.

**Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one second every 12 days or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter** - one part per billion corresponds to one second in 32 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is noticeable to the average person.

**Maximum Contaminant Level - (MCL)** – The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water per Washington State DOH standards.

**State Reporting Level - (SRL)** – The minimum reporting level per Washington State DOH standards.

### Tips for Outdoor Water Savings

- Wash your car with a bucket of soapy water and use a nozzle to stop the flow of water from the hose between rinsing.
- Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of the hose.
- Check for leaks in outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses.
- Prevent the creation of leaks by shutting off and draining water lines to outside spigots in the winter.
- Cover your spa to reduce evaporation. An average size hot tub left uncovered can lose a significant amount of water per month.
- Also, check your spa for leaks and have them repaired promptly.

## Who Watches Your Water?

*WRA Members* are needed to keep a watch on the water. Your questions, concerns, and observations are an important part of the Association's quality assurance. Only WRA staff and local fire departments are authorized to use fire hydrants. Members that notice unauthorized use of a fire hydrant should contact the WRA Office immediately.

*Sallal Water Association* collects well source water samples. *Wilderness Rim Association* through its Washington State DOH Certified Water System Operator maintains and operates your water distribution and storage system.

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* (U.S. EPA) sets water containment standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The *Washington State Department of Health* enforces the U.S. EPA standards. State certified laboratories test the water according to these standards and procedures.

### **Required Information from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency on the Potential for Health Concerns Relating to Drinking 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 land or through the ground, it dissolves natural minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

All 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 the water poses a health risk (a contaminant is defined as any substance in water). Not all substances are harmful. Information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA adopts regulations setting the water quality standards for public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for providing the same level of public health protection regarding contaminants in bottled water. This water quality report provides information on your water sources, water quality, programs, and projects related to your drinking water. It is required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and will help you make decisions for yourself and your family about an important subject – your drinking water.

Maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one in million chance of having the described health effect.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as people undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline and on the EPA's web site.

### **Additional Resources**

**Washington Dept. of Health** <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw>

**U.S. EPA Drinking Water** Hotline 800-426-4791

**U.S. EPA web site** <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>