

# Chuckanut Trails Water

## 2015 Consumer Confidence Report

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is for the 2015 calendar year. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

### **Where does my water come from?**

The drinking water supplied to your home originates from two wells within our service area. The water is of high quality, and Chuckanut Trails Water System is pleased to report the drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements **for safe drinking water**.

### **Source water assessment and availability**

Our wells are protected from surface water intrusion, the aquifer has an abundance of water.

### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791**. 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 include: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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.

### **Your Water Quality Data**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table on the following page lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year unless otherwise noted. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In the following water quality data table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions on the last page.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

# Year 2015 Water Quality Data

System ID # 01383

## Primary Contaminants Regulated at the Water Source

Detected Substance	Test Date	Detected Level	Action Level	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Unit Measurement	Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate-N	2015	.2	5.0	10.0	mg/L	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	2015	0.0099	-	.01	mg/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Cyanide	2011	.05	-	.2	mg/l	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Conductivity	2011	460-490	-	700	Umhos/cm	No	A measure of the ability of water to carry an electric current
Sulfate	2011	37-60	-	250	mg/L	No	Naturally occurring; mines and industrial effluents are also a source
Mercury	2011	0.0005	-	0.0020	mg/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries & factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
Beryllium	2011	0.002	-	0.004	mg/L	No	Discharge from metal refineries & coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical aerospace and defense industries
Lead	2011	0.001-0.014	0.015	-	mg/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2011	0.2-0.8	-	4.0000	mg/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Chloride	2011	12-57	-	250	mg/L	No	Sea water intrusion; sewage effluent; animal manure; industrial waste
Radium 228	2015	.4280 – 1.000	-	5.0000	pCi/L	No	Erosions of natural deposits

## Primary Contaminants Regulated at Customer Tap

Detected Substance	Test Date	Detected Level	Action Level	Percentile	Unit Measurement	Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (5 sites tested)	2013	.0200-.0390 Range	1.3	N/A	mg/L	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (5 sites tested)	2013	.0010-.0010 Range	0.015	N/A	mg/L	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## Secondary Contaminants Regulated at the Water Source

Detected Substance	Test Date	Detected Level	Action Level	Highest Level Allowed (SMCL)	Unit Measurement	Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium	2011	86-100	-	-	mg/L	No	Naturally present in environment
Iron	2011	0.15-0.22	-	0.3	mg/L	No	Leaching of natural deposits; industrial wastes; acidic mine discharge

**Water Definitions and Unit Descriptions:**

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.  
SMCL: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level: These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.  
AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.  
ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  
mg/L: milligrams per liter (mg/L)  
ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)  
pCi/L: picocuries per liter  
Umhos/cm: micro ohms per centimeter  
TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.  
NTU: nephelometric turbidity units  
NA: Not Applicable

**Arsenic**

Your drinking water currently meets EPA’s standard for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory disease are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water.

**Water Use Efficiency**

Water Associations are required to prepare a Water Use Efficiency Program which includes setting goals for Wise Use of water. More important, tracking this information will help us monitor for possible leaks that can reduce water pressure and present the opportunity for contamination. We ask all of our water users to keep an eye out for unexpected running water or indications of a leak such as soggy ground or green areas that are normally dry, especially in the summer months.

Total Water Produced	Total Water Consumed	Distribution System Leakage	Goal (Leakage Standards)
6.18 MG	5.49 MG	11 %	< 10 %

**Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference—try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers—a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They’re inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month’s water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

**How can I get involved?**

To learn more, please contact the board of directors.

**Certified Operator:** John Mercer  
Water System Services, Inc.  
6951 Hannegan Road, Suite 2  
Lynden, WA 98264  
Phone # 360-354-7909



**EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline**  
**800-426-4791**