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# RIVERWOOD WATER ASSOCIATION

Public Water System #73032 7 – Kettle Falls, Washington

2025 Consumer Confidence Report

This annual report is designed for consumers of drinking water within the Riverwood Water Association (RWA), and provides information about the quality, source, and potential health effects of contaminants in our local and source water systems. This report conforms to the Federal regulation, contained within the Safe Drinking Water Act, which requires that this information be provided annually. This report contains a summary of the water quality test results from the RWA source water and distribution system. The data contained in this report was collected during or prior to 2024.

## DEFINITIONS

The following definitions may be used in this report:

**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.)

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

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

**mg/L** – *milligrams per liter* (This unit is equivalent to measurements in parts per million.)

**ug/L** – *micrograms per liter* (This unit is equivalent to measurements in parts per billion.)

**pCi/L** – *picoCuries per liter* (A measurement of radioactivity.)

## SOURCE WATER

The source water for RWA is supplied by two wells drilled 40 and 45 feet into an underground source of water, or aquifer. The two wells together are referred to as the well field (S03). S03 is located on the right side of Columbia Drive, just beyond the pavement end, and are situated at the collection area that feeds a small stream. RWA restricts any activity that could potentially contaminate this source. The water pumped from S03 is blended together before being delivered to your homes.

The water from the well field is slightly acidic, requiring the use of a limestone contactor system to reduce the pH of the source water. The blended waters from the two wells pass through this system before entering the distribution system. By percolating the water through a crushed limestone media, the pH of the water is raised to a neutral or slightly basic level. This prevents the leaching of lead and copper from household plumbing into the water, which has occurred historically in this system as a result of the acidic water.

Some users have noticed that the water leaves a white film on surfaces, such as

windows, dishes, and glassware. Since limestone is primarily composed of calcium carbonate, and the water gains calcium from the treatment media. When the water dries on a surface, the calcium is left behind, creating a film.

To prevent this, consider using a rinsing agent in the dishwasher, or towel-drying dishes immediately instead of letting them air dry. Use a cloth or a squeegee to dry windows or other surfaces. Users may also wish to install a water softener, which can remove the calcium, but should realize that the pH of the water could revert to its acidic state, and create a potential for damage to copper pipes.

Source water tests are mandated by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to monitor the quality of the RWA source water. This provides information on the quality of the water that is being pumped from the aquifer. Further information about the RWA source water can be found in the source water assessment, on file with the Department of Health and Alpine Environmental. The assessment

evaluates the potential risk of contamination that may be posed by activities or conditions in the area. For a copy of this information, contact Alpine Environmental at the numbers listed at the end of this report.

### DELIVERED WATER

RWA is required to test for contaminants throughout the distribution system. Samples are collected from at least three residences throughout the system to satisfy the DOH sampling recommendations and to best represent the conditions existing in the system. At least one water sample per month is analyzed for the presence of coliform bacteria. In 2024, coliform bacteria were **not detected** in any of the samples collected from the system.

Lead and copper testing is required every three years, with samples collected from homes throughout the system after the water has stood in the pipes for at least six hours. The table below summarizes the most recent lead and copper sampling results.

Substance Analyzed	Dates Collected	Contaminant Level	AL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Passed
Lead (8 Arrow Ct)	9/27/22	<b>2.00</b>	15	0	ug/L	Yes
Lead (21 Columbia Dr)	9/28/22	<b>1.00</b>	15	0	ug/L	Yes
Lead (26 Columbia Dr)	9/27/22	<b>2.00</b>	15	0	ug/L	Yes
Lead (43 Columbia Dr)	9/27/22	No Detect	15	0	ug/L	Yes
Lead (54 Columbia Dr)	9/27/22	<b>1.00</b>	15	0	ug/L	Yes
Copper (8 Arrow Ct)	9/27/22	<b>0.24</b>	1.3	1.3	mg/L	Yes
Copper (21 Columbia Dr)	9/28/22	<b>0.60</b>	1.3	1.3	mg/L	Yes
Copper (26 Columbia Dr)	9/27/22	<b>0.56</b>	1.3	1.3	mg/L	Yes
Copper (43 Columbia Dr)	9/27/22	<b>0.22</b>	1.3	1.3	mg/L	Yes
Copper (54 Columbia Dr)	9/27/22	<b>1.07</b>	1.3	1.3	mg/L	Yes

## SOURCE WATER TESTING SUMMARY

The following tests were performed on the RWA source water in or prior to 2024. These samples were collected from a sampling tap at the pump house, and represent the water served from the source.

Substance Analyzed	Date Collected	Detected Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Passed
<b>Inorganic Chemicals (IOC) – primary contaminants with health effects</b>						
Nitrate	5/7/24	<b>0.12</b>	10	10	mg/L	Yes
Nitrite	6/24/19	No Detect	1	1	mg/L	Yes
Arsenic	6/24/19	No Detect	10	0	ug/L	Yes
Barium	6/24/19	<b>0.01</b>	2	2	mg/L	Yes
Cadmium	6/24/19	No Detect	5	5	ug/L	Yes
Chromium	6/24/19	No Detect	100	100	ug/L	Yes
Mercury	6/24/19	No Detect	2	2	ug/L	Yes
Selenium	6/24/19	No Detect	50	50	ug/L	Yes
Beryllium	6/24/19	No Detect	4	4	ug/L	Yes
Nickel	6/24/19	No Detect	100	100	ug/L	Yes
Antimony	6/24/19	No Detect	6	6	ug/L	Yes
Thallium	6/24/19	No Detect	2	0.5	ug/L	Yes
Cyanide	6/24/19	No Detect	200	200	ug/L	Yes
Fluoride	6/24/19	<b>0.12</b>	4	4	mg/L	Yes
<b>Inorganic Chemicals (IOC) – secondary contaminants with taste, odor, color effects</b>						
Iron	10/11/22	<b>135</b>	300	N/A	ug/L	Yes
Manganese	6/24/19	No Detect	50	N/A	ug/L	Yes
Silver	6/24/19	No Detect	100	N/A	ug/L	Yes
Chloride	6/24/19	<b>0.78</b>	250	N/A	mg/L	Yes
Sulfate	6/24/19	<b>7.44</b>	250	N/A	mg/L	Yes
Zinc	6/24/19	<b>0.01</b>	5	N/A	mg/L	Yes
Hardness	6/24/19	<b>71.0</b>	N/A	N/A	mg/L	Yes
<b>Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC) – includes petroleum products and other chemicals</b>						
VOCs (54 tested)	5/17/22	No Detect	Varies	Varies	--	Yes
<b>Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC) – includes pesticides and herbicides</b>						
Herbicides (14 tested)	6/15/21	No Detect	Varies	Varies	--	Yes
Per/polyfluoroalkyl substances (25 tested)	11/9/21	No Detect	Varies	Varies	--	Yes

Radioactivity						
Radium	6/15/21	No Detect	5	0	pCi/L	Yes
Gross alpha particles	6/15/21	No Detect	5	0	pCi/L	Yes

### WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS

As a measure of the limestone contactor system’s effectiveness, RWA is also required to test for pH, calcium, and alkalinity in the waters after treatment has occurred. These samples are used to confirm monthly readings that are taken at the pump house. The following table summarizes the results these tests for 2024.

Water Quality Parameters – monitors effectiveness of pH treatment						
Substance Analyzed	Date Collected	Detected Level		Upper Limit	Unit of Measure	Passed
Alkalinity (2 samples)	5/7/24	65.7	56.6	150	mg/L	Yes
Calcium (2 samples)	5/7/24	16.0	16.1	37	mg/L	Yes
pH (2 samples)	5/7/24	N/A	N/A	7.7	pH units	
Alkalinity (2 samples)	10/2/24	83.1	80.5	150	mg/L	Yes
Calcium (2 samples)	10/2/24	20.4	19.9	37	mg/L	Yes
pH (2 samples)	10/2/24	6.54	6.44	7.7	pH units	No

### WHAT DOES “NO DETECT” MEAN?

Many of the contaminants listed in the results tables show an analytical result of “No Detect.” This does not mean that the contaminant was not present in the water, but that the concentration, if any, was undetectable with the analytical methods used.

Some contaminants can have serious health implications if they are ingested in high quantities or over long periods of time. The table below provides information on those contaminants with potential health effects that were detected in your drinking water during or prior to 2024. While these contaminants were detected, they were at levels below the allowable limits set by the state, and therefore should not pose a health risk to most individuals. Your doctor can provide more information about any special concerns you may have regarding your drinking water and its effects on your health.

Contaminant	Known or likely source	Potential health effects
Barium	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; discharge of drilling wastes	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.
Copper	Erosion of natural deposits	Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water

		containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.
Fluoride	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or greater may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.
Lead	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning disabilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
Nitrate/Nitrite	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.
Radium	Erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL

A cross-connection is any connection between your potable water system and a non-potable water source, chemical, or other contamination source. In our use of drinking water, we create cross-connections every day, often without even realizing it.

Cross-connections are the single-most frequent sources of contamination for a water system, and it can be very costly to restore a system's integrity when contamination has occurred. Even more of a concern is the possibility that illness or death could result from consumption of water that has been contaminated through a cross-connection.

### WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Quick identification and repair of leaks will go a long way toward reaching this goal. Other actions that you can take include shutting off water if it isn't needed, installing low-flow fixtures, and using timers for outdoor watering.

### MONITORING WAIVERS

RWA has received waivers for reduced monitoring schedules for the following contaminants:

Every nine years

- Complete inorganics
- Herbicides

Every six years

- Volatile organics

Every three years

- Pesticides
- Soil fumigants

### SANITARY SURVEY

Periodically, public water systems receive inspections to ensure that water is being delivered in a sanitary manner and that the system is being managed according to industry standards. The RWA was inspected on September 17, 2020. There were no deficiencies identified for repair or correction during the survey.

## **VIOLATIONS**

The RWA received no violations for water quality standards or management practices in 2024.

## **LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY**

Public water systems across the country were required to inventory all of their service lines by October, 2024 and identify the materials of the piping. RWA was recently issued a violation because we did not meet the initial deadline for this requirement. We will be completing this in 2025; however,

many of the service lines will be identified as unknown materials because there is no record of what each customer may have used for their individual services.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Your involvement in the management of the RWA water system is important to its long-term function. To participate or provide input, contact Jason Franko at (509) 675-8898.

This Consumer Confidence Report has been prepared by Alpine Environmental of Tonasket, Washington, serving north central Washington water systems since 2003. As your contract water operator, Alpine Environmental is proud to be providing you with the highest quality of service and oversight available. If you have any questions or comments regarding the information presented in this report, please call Alpine Environmental at (509) 826-1653 or (509) 322-0581.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EPA

Throughout Washington State, 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. At the same time, this water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

All sources of 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Contaminants that may be present in source water, and that are routinely tested for, 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 be naturally-occurring or may 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 agricultural and residential uses.

**RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS**, which are naturally-occurring.

**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.

In order to ensure that our water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by your water system. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Washington State allows some contaminants to be monitored less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants is not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

### **Additional Information**

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. The EPA and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) provides guidelines on appropriate methods to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants, and this information is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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. Riverwood Water Association 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 thirty seconds to two minutes before using drinking 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>.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue-baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.