

# Rogue Drinking Water Partnership (RDWP)

Scope: Watershed

Location: Oregon

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## SCOPE:

- The goal of Rogue Drinking Water Partnership (RDWP) is to protect sources of drinking water and improve drinking water quality in the Rogue River Basin by sustaining a collaborative partnership of drinking water providers and other clean water organizations concerned with clean drinking water and additional beneficial uses.
- The Rogue River flows 113 miles, lies in three counties, and includes federal, state, and private land.

## COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

- The Collaborative formed through the help of a Drinking Water Source Protection Fund grant from the Oregon Health Authority. The Partners identified the need to communicate and work together to protect source water. After receiving Source Water Protection assessments from Oregon's DEQ, partners in the Rogue Basin collaborated to help identify threats to their Source Water Protection Areas (SWPAs).
- The Collaborative developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) - the Rogue Drinking Water Partnership Agreement - between organizations committed to engagement and cooperation in drinking water source protection. This agreement was created through an collaborative process in RDWP meetings and discussions between members.
- The RDWP meets quarterly to share information, determine ways to effectively collaborate on mutually beneficial projects, assess RDWP progress on projects, and act in an advisory capacity on a wide range of decisions and products, such as current and projected water quality conditions; monitoring; data analysis; water quality treatment; agency initiatives and requirements; geographic areas of interest in the Rogue source watersheds; sociological and political areas of concern for drinking water; communications and public outreach plans, messages, and means; technical assistance; training opportunities; grant funding; and identification of high priority projects.

## MEMBERS:

RDWP is comprised of drinking water providers and other key interest groups that represent a wide set of sectors and perspectives. Organizations can become members by adopting their MOA and regularly attending RDWP meetings and activities.

### Drinking Water Providers

- City of Ashland
- City of Central Point
- City of Eagle Point
- City of Gold Hill
- City of Grants Pass
- City of Jacksonville
- City of Phoenix
- City of Rogue River

- City of Talent
- Medford Water Commission
- Anglers Cove/Shady Cove Hiland Water Co.
- Country View Mobile Home Estates

#### Other Organizations

- City of Cave Junction
- City of Shady Cove
- Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Rogue River Watershed Council
- Rogue Valley Council of Governments
- Rogue Valley Sewer Services

#### WATER CONCERNS:

- Emergency Response and Planning/Communication
- Wildfire Risk and Response
- Water Quality and Quantity

#### STRATEGIES:

- Determining greatest pollution risks, and developing and implementing plans to reduce risks and remediate contamination
- Planning for an Emergency Response communication network
- Raise awareness of the need for drinking water source protection

#### RESULTS:

- When catastrophic fires occurred in southern Oregon on Sept. 8, 2020, the RDWP network that had been established through the drinking water partnership proved invaluable by helping partners to quickly establish and execute a monitoring plan immediately after the fires. It helped Partners identify threats to downstream drinking water providers and other beneficial uses, e.g., fish. Through coordinated communication and monitoring, Partners discovered and connected with regional efforts by EPA, FEMA, DEQ, ODOT and local officials to identify priority areas for initial clean up, erosion protection, and other measures to help reduce the threats from runoff. Preliminary results of the monitoring show that the water quality measures were effective at reducing contaminated runoff. Other achievements of the RDWP to date include obtaining additional funding for emergency spill response planning, agricultural nonpoint source pollution reduction and riparian restoration projects.



**Information current as of December 2020. Please check with the Collaborative contacts (or website if available) for the most up to date information. To find other source water collaboratives across the U.S. or to add yours to the list, visit the Source Water Collaborative's [How To Collaborate Toolkit](#)**