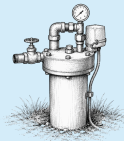


Where to Get Help

Rural households and well owners

If your well is going dry or has failed, report it. Reporting dry wells helps the state understand drought impacts and connect people with available resources.



- Dry well reporting
- Well Owner's Handbook
- Water conservation tips
- Well repair, replacement, or abandonment assistance, if eligible

Farmers, ranchers, and water right holders

Start by contacting your local watermaster. They can help explain water rights, regulation, drought conditions, and whether emergency drought tools may apply.



- Emergency drought tools
- Temporary emergency water use permits
- Temporary transfers or substitutions
- Instream leases
- Farm and ranch water conservation resources

Cities and water systems

Cities and water providers may use conservation plans, curtailment measures, public messaging, emergency planning, and funding programs to prepare for drought and protect drinking water supplies.

Everyone can help

Drought can affect every part of Jackson County — from household water use and gardens to rural wells, livestock, farms, streams, and fire season.

Scan Me to check out the WaterWise Guides to find tips and resources that fit your home, land, livestock, or business needs.



jswcd.org/waterwise-drought-guides



Stay Informed.

Get seasonally relevant, local updates about upcoming events, funding opportunities, programs, and resources.



Drought Resilience



WATERWise
Serving Jackson County, Oregon
WHERE EVERY DROP MATTERS.

for New Landowners

New to Jackson County?



Southern Oregon's dry summers, variable rainfall, and recurring drought conditions can create challenges for new property owners. Whether you own a few acres, a hobby farm, or a larger rural property, taking time to understand your water resources now can help you avoid problems later.

The best time to prepare for drought is before drought arrives.

Know Your Water Source

Start by identifying where your water comes from.

Municipal Services

- Know your well depth and pump information

Domestic Well and Groundwater

- Locate your well records and know your well depth and pump information
- Monitor changes in water pressure and keep wellhead areas clear and protected

Irrigation District Water

- Know your irrigation provider and understand your delivery schedule
- Sign up for district updates

Surface Water and Watersheds

- Determine whether your property includes a water right
- Know where your diversion is located and understand seasonal limitations

Many properties have access to a creek, ditch, or canal, but not all properties have legal rights to use that water.



Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?

Check out Rogue River Watershed Council's interactive water source map. Reach out to JSWCD if you have more questions.
rogueriverwc.org/what-we-do/your-water

Learn about Your Water

Understand Your Water Rights



Water rights can affect how and when water may be used.

Before investing in irrigation systems, ponds, orchards, livestock operations, or landscaping:

- Verify existing water rights
- Confirm permitted uses
- Understand seasonal limitations
- Contact your local Watermaster if you have questions

Water rights and property ownership are not always the same thing.

Learn More about Water Rights:

jswcd.org/water-rights-well-info

Learn More about Irrigation Districts:

jswcd.org/irrigation-districts

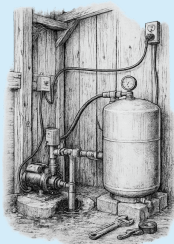
Monitor Your Water System

If you have a well, learn what is normal before problems develop.

Watch for:

- Reduced water pressure
- Air sputtering from faucets
- Cloudy, sandy, muddy, or discolored water
- Pumps running more often than usual
- Longer recovery times after heavy water use

Consider scheduling a yearly well-system checkup with a licensed well or pump professional.



Learn Your Watershed

Every property is part of a larger watershed.

A watershed is the area of land where rainfall and snowmelt drain toward the same creek, stream, or river.

Understanding your watershed can help you:

- Learn where your water comes from
- Understand local issues
- Identify nearby streams and drainageways
- Connect with local restoration efforts

Learn about Big Butte Springs, Rogue River, and The Ashland Reservoir:



medfordwater.org/your-water/water-resources/



ashlandoregon.gov/530/Water



Learn about Your Land



Understand Your Landscape

Different parts of your property may behave very differently.

If possible, observe your new land for a year prior to making any big changes.

Pay attention to:

- South-facing slopes that dry out quickly
- North-facing slopes that retain moisture longer
- Wet areas, seasonal streams, and drainageways
- Areas prone to erosion
- Existing irrigation infrastructure

Walk your property during different seasons and weather conditions whenever possible.

Learn About Your Soil

Soil influences drainage, water storage, plant health, and drought resilience.

Consider:

- Identifying your soil type using the NRCS Web Soil Survey
- Conducting a soil test before establishing gardens, orchards, or pastures
- Learning how quickly water infiltrates and drains on your property
- Watching for erosion, compaction, or drainage issues

Healthy soils can store more water and help plants remain productive during dry periods.

*Recommended by
the District*

Land Steward Program

The Land Steward Program dedicates time to helping owners achieve a viable and sustainable vision for their land. Join us to learn more about your land, figure out what you want to do with it and make a plan to get you there.

extension.oregonstate.edu/land-steward



**Oregon State
University**

Extension Service

