

ODF awards \$100,000 to Help Reduce Wildfire Risk in Medford's Watershed

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has announced that it has awarded \$100,000 in funding to Southern Oregon's Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire on 20,000 acres of the Big Butte Springs Municipal watershed.

The work—called the Snowy Butte Forest Restoration Project—will reduce wildfire risk through forest restoration in the watershed, which provides the year-round source of water for the 140,000 Rogue Valley residents we serve.

We recognize the importance of protecting this resource, as well as the nearby communities, and are excited to work with our local partners on this project!



MEDFORD WATER: A BRILLIANT PAST AND BRIGHTER FUTURE

Did you know...2022 marks our one hundredth year?

Medford Water was established through a change in the city charter on November 7, 1922. In 1925, Medford citizens voted to approve the sale of \$975,000 in bonds to finance development of our primary water source, Big Butte Springs. With a population of only around 12,000 residents at that time, this debt was a tremendous commitment.

The drinking water we now enjoy is a tribute to those former Medford residents who ensured that our community would continue to have a reliable and high-quality water supply. In the coming months, we will highlight

some of the people, events, and achievements that have helped to make our organization what it is today.

The centennial represents a great opportunity for us to look back at this brilliant past, but it's also an occasion to prepare for an even brighter future. So as we celebrate, we are also working to ensure we can serve our customers for the *next* hundred years, by improving the resiliency, water quality, and capacity of our system at the best value to our customers (read more about this on page 2).

Stay tuned for more information on our centennial activities, including tours, promotional merchandise, news features, historical projects, and more.



SPRING CLEANING AN EASY STEP TOWARD SUMMER WATER EFFICIENCY

As spring approaches, it's the perfect time to prepare your landscape for the summer watering season. By taking care of a few important maintenance items that can aid in your landscape's ability to hold water, you'll take the first step toward a water-efficient landscape.

Completing these tasks will sustain healthy soils that cycle nutrients, minimize runoff, and retain water, so that when the time finally comes to start up your sprinkler system, you can maximize the water being used on the landscape:

- **Aerate and Amend.** Soil can become compacted over time and inhibit water infiltration. Aerating your soil can increase the infiltration of water into the ground, improve water flow to the plant's root zone, and reduce water runoff. Raking in a layer of

compost after aerating feeds your plants and allows air and water to circulate more easily.

- **Dethatch Lawn.** Thatch is a layer of organic material between the green lawn and the soil. Thatch can act as a barrier that prevents vital water, air, and nutrients from reaching the roots. Spring is a good time to dethatch because conditions are optimum for rapid recovery, and you are preparing the lawn for the coming growing season.
- **Mulch Matters.** Add a layer of mulch around shrubs



(Continued on Page 2)

We're here for you:

Contact us:

(541) 774-2430
customerservice@medfordwater.org
medfordwater.org

200 South Ivy Street - Room 177
Medford, Oregon 97501

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

Socialize with us!



facebook.com/MedfordWater



twitter.com/MedfordWater

FUNDING STRATEGY IMPROVES RATE MODIFICATION PROJECTIONS

As the Rogue Valley's trusted municipal water provider for 100 years, Medford Water is working to ensure we can serve our customers for the next hundred years as well.

Accomplishing this is tied to the implementation of our 10-year Capital Plan, which serves as a roadmap for the renewal, replacement, and expansion of facilities needed to serve our customers, as well as the financial planning of these projects so that the funding is available when it is needed.

We take our mission to provide a high-quality water supply at the best value very seriously, and to accomplish this, we have obtained Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding.

This federal program aims to accelerate investment in the nation's water infrastructure by providing low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. After completing the application process in 2021, our first WIFIA loan closed in January of this year, and the second is anticipated to close sometime in March or April.



This funding strategy will allow our customers to benefit from significant cost savings. While our recent annual cost-of-service study found that changes are needed to provide sufficient revenue to fund necessary projects—and this does mean that water rates will increase beginning in March—the rate modification impacts have been smoothed. Charges both before and after the increase are low compared with water providers across the region.

We receive no support from taxes, so these funds allow us to prudently finance projects while avoiding the burden of large rate increases on our customers. It also allows us to continue a tradition of safely and effectively delivering water to the growing population of the Rogue Valley.

SPRING CLEANING, CONT'D.

(Continued from Page 1)

and garden plants. This will help to reduce evaporation, hold in moisture, inhibit weed growth, moderate soil temperature, and prevent erosion.

- **Plan for Efficiency.** If you're designing a new landscape or rethinking your current one, get helpful ideas on plants that are not only waterwise, but are also firewise, and pollinator friendly. You can find water efficient landscaping ideas at medford.watersmartgardening.com.
- **Inspect, Check, Direct.** Inspect your sprinkler system for clogged, broken, or missing sprinkler heads. Check for leaks at points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes or hoses. Direct sprinklers to apply water only to the landscape, minimizing runoff on sidewalks and streets.
- **Water Smart.** Apply for a rebate when you replace an older sprinkler controller with a WaterSense labeled smart controller. Use local weather and site-specific conditions to create a watering schedule for your unique landscape.

Medford Water offers several resources to assist you in managing an attractive and water efficient landscape. Check out medfordwater.org for more helpful tips on how to save water this year, or call 541-774-2435.



FEBRUARY WATER-WISE TIP

Take advantage of our toilet rebate! Get up to \$85 back when replacing an older toilet with a new high-efficiency model. Also, we are still giving away **FREE** showerheads and faucet aerators; just stop by our office or call to schedule a time to pick them up. Swapping out fixtures like these can make a big difference in how much water you use and help you save money as well.



Medford Water

Established in 1922 by the City of Medford and governed by the Board of Water Commissioners.

Commissioners

Bob Strosser • Mike Smith • John Dailey
Jason Anderson • Daniel Bunn

General Manager

Brad Taylor

Serving Medford and Partner Cities:

Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland*

Also serving:

White City area and the Elk City and Charlotte Ann Water Districts

*Emergency intertie only

