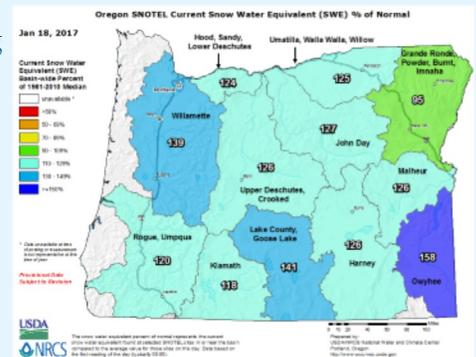




Happy New Year 2017!

Welcome to 2017! It's a new year and a fresh start!

And, boy do we have a good start on precipitation! 2017 came in strong with what I heard residents refer to as Snow-pocalypse. While we were 2.7 inches of snow shy of the December 11, 1919 record for the most snowfall in a 24-hour period, January 3, 2017 now holds second place. And, we are continuing to get snow and rain. As of January 18th the Rogue Basin is at 120% of normal snow water equivalent! That's great news. But we still won't know what our summer water supply will be until a few more months from now. Let's hope for more snow up on the mountains and cool temperatures to keep it there until we need it this summer!



Winter Water News!

It's time for Snow & Tell! SNOTEL.



Okay, so it actually stands for Snow Telemetry, but it's basically snow and tell. These sites are designed to measure snow depth, snow water equivalent, temperature, wind, solar radiation and a number of other climate related factors.

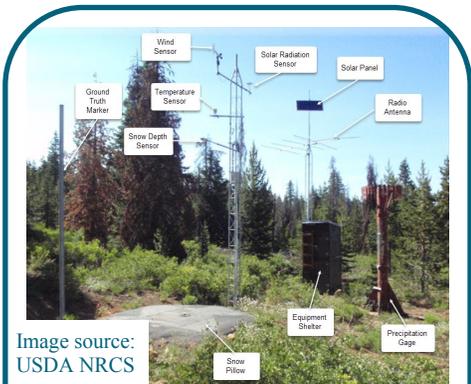


Image source: USDA NRCS

Have you ever been out hiking and noticed an odd looking cluster of equipment replete with an antenna and a solar panel?

You were likely looking at a SNOTEL site. SNOTEL sites give water managers (and snow sport enthusiasts) information about the current snow pack and weather conditions at that location.

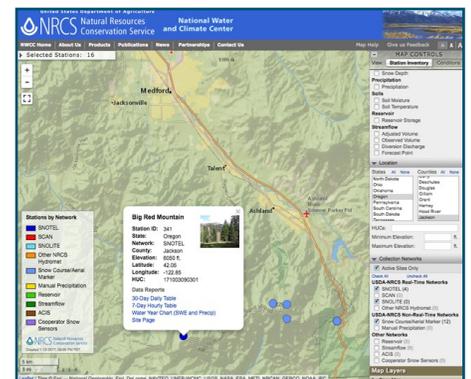
To explore more about Big Red Mountain SNOTEL or learn more about SNOTEL's in general visit the NRCS SNOTEL website.

There are more than 800 SNOTEL sites located in the Western United States, with 81 in Oregon and 4 in Jackson County. The SNOTEL site we consult is Big Red Mountain. Situated at 6050 feet near Mt. Ashland, Big Red gives us a pretty good idea of what the snow is like on Mt. Ashland. With this information we can begin to conceptualize what our water supply might look like for the upcoming year.

So, Big Red, How are we doing?

On January 15, 2017 Big Red reported that the snow depth was 67 inches with a snow water equivalent of 18.9 inches. ((Who remembers that word from last month?!? As a reminder, the snow water equivalent is the amount of water that would result if you melted all the snow instantaneously. In this case, 67 inches of snow melted, would equal 18.9 inches of water. Of course that is then multiplied by the entire area of the snowpack, which results in A LOT of water!))

How are we doing compared to past years? Well, as of January 15th we are at 131% of the median for the years 1981-2010. That's pretty good! Now the trick will be to keep that snow frozen up there as long as possible, so it can continue to act as a storage tank until we need it this summer!



What is the term for when snow or ice (solid) turns directly into water vapor (gas), without melting (liquid) first?
See the next page to find out.

"Like" facebook.com/AshlandWaterConservation



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Winter Water Words!

Sublimation!

When it comes to water, **sublimation** is the word used to describe when snow or ice (solids) change into water vapor (gas), without first melting into liquid water.

This only happens when temperatures are at or below freezing. So, how is this possible? Well heat energy from the sun, combined with winds and low humidity

Here are a few links to videos to help you understand sublimation

[The Weather Channel](#)

[University of Wyoming, Extension](#)

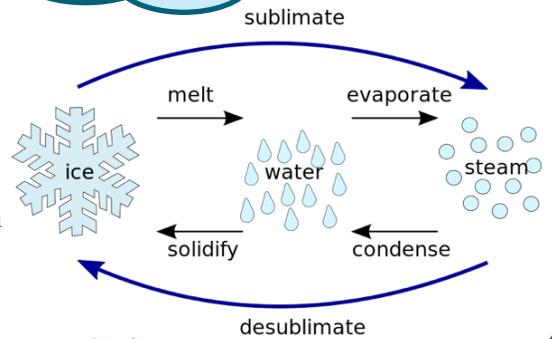


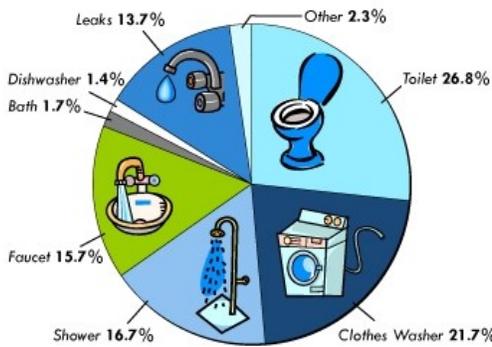
Image source: Study.com



City of Ashland Water Conservation programs

We'd like to take this opportunity to go a little more in depth about our indoor water program:

Indoor Household Water Use



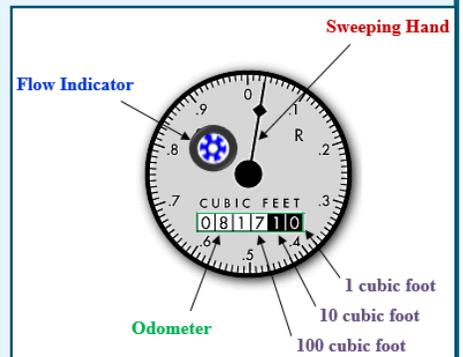
Source: Awwa Research Foundation (1999)

Indoor Water Use Evaluation

During the winter, nearly all of our water use is indoors. That makes it a perfect time to do a check-up on how all your faucets, showerheads, toilets and water related appliances are functioning. This is also the best time of year to find those silent leaks...the ones you didn't even know you had.

An easy way to start is to examine your winter water use. If it exceeds 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons) per month for a family of four, you

might have leaks. You can check your home for leaks by looking at your water meter, which is typically located on the sidewalk in front of your house. Make sure water is not running in the house, and then check your meter. If you see the flow indicator (see diagram) moving on your meter than you likely have a leak. If the sweeping hand is moving, either you have a leak, or not all the water in the house has been turned off. To learn more about how to read your meter, click on the picture for a worksheet. If you aren't sure where your meter is located or would like help reading it, give us a call!



The City of Ashland offers FREE indoor water use evaluations, designed to help you identify ways to save water inside the home. We can help you find, and perhaps even fix, simple leaks, install low flow faucet aerators, and showerheads. And, if you are ready to invest in new fixtures or appliances, we can help you determine where you'll get the biggest water savings for your investment.

Request your FREE indoor water evaluation by clicking on "[Request Conservation Evaluation](#)"
The water conservation team is happy to help!

Thank you!!!!

After last month's newsletter we received some great questions and feedback from many of you.

Tell us more about your needs!

Please continue to **send us your ideas** and questions. And, please send us photos of you enjoying our most precious resource: Water!

And it's never too early to start planning for changes to your landscape. For ideas and inspiration visit: AshlandSavesWater.org

Happy New Year!

Your Water Conservation Team,
Julie Smitherman & Stephanie Danyi