

Lake Chelan Reclamation District News



Environmental Excellence Award

The Department of Ecology awarded the Lake Chelan Reclamation District with an environmental excellence award for removing and recycling nine electrical transformers on the irrigation system that contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs are one of the pollutants of concern in the Lake Chelan Basin for which the Department of Ecology is developing a cleanup plan. PCBs have been found at high levels in fish.

Ecology Director Jay Manning stated "The Department of Ecology is honored to present you with our Environmental Excellence Award, which recognizes individuals, businesses and organizations that have shown leadership, innovation or extraordinary service in protecting, improving or cleaning up the environment." The project to remove, replace and recycle the irrigation transformers was completed in the spring of 2006 at a cost of around \$450,000. No PCBs had ever spilled or leaked from any of the District's nine transformers during their lifespan beginning in 1971, but it was decided that the preventative measures were merited given the vulnerability of the lake.



Domestic Comprehensive Plan

The Lake Chelan Reclamation District completed a six-year planning document for the domestic water system that was approved by the Department of Health in April of 2006. The domestic comprehensive plan looks at all aspects of the drinking water system and identifies goals and objectives needed to direct the system in both the short (six-year) and long term (20-year) planning horizons. The domestic system is well situated to accommodate growth for the short term. Long term needs will depend partially upon changing regulations and partially upon the magnitude of real growth that is to be experienced. The water rights for the District exceed both the short and long-term needs that have been identified.

Growing pains are expected despite our best planning efforts. It is difficult to ensure all of the existing facilities are up to standards to meet the demands of new growth in the area. Maintaining and upgrading fire flow capabilities throughout the system remains a constant challenge. Additions and changes to the system also mean periodic interruptions in water service and short-term impacts to water quality. We thank you in advance for your understanding of these problems as they occur.

Special points of interest: in this issue.....

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- Seven Components of Xeriscape
- Backflow Prevention & Irrigation Water
 - Irrigation Water Orders

Xeriscape

Article Courtesy of Chelan County PUD



RIVERFRONT PARK

Demonstration Garden

Did you know:
During the summer, water use can more than double due to lawn and garden watering.

Xeriscape is a relatively new term to describe low water use landscaping. It involves a series of steps that can result in an estimated 20 percent to 80 percent savings in landscape water usage. Xeriscape can mean moving a few plants around, watering according to need, or designing a whole new landscape.

The seven components of Xeriscape are:

1. Planning and Designing

Make a scale drawing of your lot. Identify sunny, shady, and sloped areas. Determine how much room you need for family activities. Design zones to include plants with similar watering needs.

2. Soil Improvement

Appropriate soil will do more than anything else to help a plant consume all the moisture available to it. Soil improvement may mean changing the physical structure with decomposed organic matter. It is easier to select plants that can grow in your soil's existing pH than try to change the acidity or alkalinity. If the situation seems hopeless, consider raised beds with imported topsoil.

3. Turf

Lawns are the highest users of water and require the greatest maintenance. Fescue and buffalograss are two of the most popular Xeriscape grasses. They are relatively drought-resistant and tolerant of varying soil conditions. They will thrive on low maintenance. A new variety of lawn, Ecoturf, is becoming popular. It combines grass and low growing perennials. Consider decks and patios wherever possible.

4. Plant Selection

Research the library, nurseries, and Internet for plants to fit each zone. Base your decisions on climate, drought tolerance, your budget, and aesthetics. The hardiest plants will be native. Intersperse herbs, vegetables and berries in the appropriate zones.

5. Efficient Irrigation

Select a system that will water each zone most efficiently. Low-volume, low-angle sprinklers work best on grass. Drip, spray or bubbler emitters are most efficient on flowers, shrubs and groundcover. Timers are used to provide the right amount of water to each zone. Dragging the hose around is an option that still requires the right sprinkler and watering time.

6. Mulch

Mulches in the form of bark, gravel or crushed rock should be 2 to 4 inches deep. They conserve moisture, control weeds and add visual interest. Apply the mulch directly over landscape fabric.

7. Maintenance

Maintenance includes weeding, feeding, pruning, pest control, and watering. How much time you spend on these activities is directly related to your initial planning and design.

A demonstration garden for Xeriscape landscaping shows the beauty and variety of local and native plants. The garden overlooks the Columbia River in Wenatchee's Riverfront Park. The garden is located along the Apple Capital Loop Trail near the Nile Saunders Steam Train. The garden can be reached by parking at the train depot then walking north on the trail, or at the foot of Fifth Street near the city ice rink and walking south on the trail. The garden boasts over 40 varieties of low-water-use plants and grasses.



Lake Chelan Reclamation District 2006 Consumer Confidence Report

The Lake Chelan Reclamation District has been in the domestic drinking water business since 1922. The service area originally included only the downtown area of Manson and the Hyacinth Road with service to a couple hundred people. Now the District serves as many as 6,000 people in an area from Loop Avenue to Rocky Point. The LCRD is governed by a five-person Board of Directors that meets the second Tuesday of every month at 8:00 a.m. at the District offices at 80 Wapato Way in Manson.

The LCRD diverts water directly out of Lake Chelan at two locations. The Manson Intake pumps water out of Manson Bay. The Lakeshore Intake is located approximately 2 miles up-lake from Manson and was started originally as an irrigation intake which was later converted to a domestic intake in 1974. With the construction of the Water Treatment Plant in 1998, the system was changed and both intakes were piped to send lake water to the Water Treatment Plant prior to distribution in the system.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all EPA and state drinking water health standards. The LCRD vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are pleased to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. This bulletin is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details of where your water comes from, what compounds were detected in the water, and how those detected compounds compare to EPA and state standards. If you have any questions about this report please contact Paul Cross at (509) 687-3548.

The source of drinking water for our system is Lake Chelan. Contaminants that may be present in the source water include:

- ◆ Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from human wastes, septic systems, livestock and wildlife.
- ◆ Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic waste, mining or forestry.
- ◆ Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as lawn applications, orchards and stormwater runoff.
- ◆ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industry and petroleum, and come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, septic systems, boats and personal watercraft.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

LAKE CHELAN RECLAMATION DISTRICT 2006 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

SUBSTANCE	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG)	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)	LEVEL FOUND	RANGE OF DETECTION	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS						
Turbidity-2005	n/a	TT=5 NTU	0.022	0.003-0.112	no	Soil Runoff
		TT=percentage of samples <0.5 NTU	100%	n/a		
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Total Xylenes (ppb)	10,000	10,000	2.2	n/a	no	Discharge from petroleum or chemical factories.
ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
TTHMs [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)-2005	0	80	16.7	n/a	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
HAA5 (ppb)-2005	0	60	13.3	n/a	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TOC (ppm)-2005	0	N/A	0.52	nd - 1.0	no	Measure of organics.
RADIONUCLIDE CONTAMINANTS						
Radium 228 (pci/l)	5	5	1.3	n/a	no	Natural Radiation

NOTE: The EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those listed above are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.

DEFINITIONS

Abbreviations - **ppb**: parts per billion or micrograms per liter - **ppm**: parts per million or milligrams per liter - **n/a**: not applicable - **mfl**: million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration - **AL**: Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow - **mg/L**: micrograms per liter; parts of contaminant per billion parts of water - **nd**: not detected

Inorganic Chemicals - Chemical substances of mineral origin, such as lead and copper.

Lead and Copper - The state allows us to monitor for lead and copper at the customers tap less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. The "level found" represents the 90th percentile.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Microbiological Contaminants - Very small organisms, such as bacteria, algae, plankton, and fungi.

Organic Contaminants - Naturally occurring or synthetic substances containing mainly carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen and oxygen. This includes most pesticides and industrial chemicals.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - a measure of particles in the water.

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

Turbidity - is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system

Variations and Exemptions - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a TT under certain conditions.

Automatic Payments Ready to Go

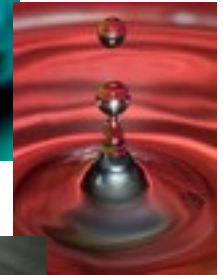
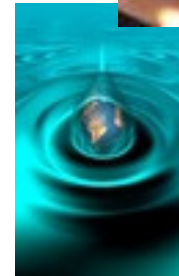
We are currently set up to do automatic electronic payment deductions from checking or savings accounts through an ACH system. If you are interested in automatic payment deductions for your water and sewer bills, you will need to request, fill out, sign and return a direct payment authorization form to our office. We will need original signatures and current bank information on file to perform this service.



Credit Card Payments



We use a service provider to process credit cards for payment. Official Payments can be reached online at [*www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) or over the telephone at 1-800-272-9829. Our jurisdiction code is 5668. Payments for domestic water and sewer, irrigation assessments and excess fees and even hookup fees can all be paid with this service. Official Payments, the service provider, charges a fee for this service.



*If paying on the internet, be sure that you select **Lake Chelan Reclamation District** and **not** Chelan County.



Irrigation Water Orders

It is that time again when water orders are critical to the successful operation of the irrigation system. We would like everyone to order their water both on and off. When you call in we would like the name, turnout, the gallons per minute or cubic feet per minute and the expected date when you will be done. The gallons per minute or cubic feet per minute is fairly easy to determine. Simply turn on the water you want to run and observe the flow meter in the turnout. The flow rate can be calculated by counting the number of revolutions the register turns in one minute. On some older, large meters, one revolution may equal 10 or 100 cubic feet. This count equals the number of cubic feet per minute. Once you have the flow rate in cubic feet per minute you can call in and order your water.

If you want to know how many gallons per minute that flow equals, simply multiply your cubic feet per minute by 7.5.

More people regularly ordered their water in 2005 than did not. When combined with rationing the net result was a very smooth year of operations. Your cooperation has helped to make the system work better. Keep it up! Rationing at ten gallons per minute per acre is in effect now. Rationing at eight gallons per minute per acre on the upper systems will likely begin about the first of July. Keep in touch for the most recent rationing levels.

Backflow Prevention and Irrigation Water

An event last year in East Wenatchee illustrates that irrigation water and drinking water don't mix. If you are a homeowner with both potable water from the District and irrigation water from the LCRD irrigation system you have both a responsibility and an obligation to avoid cross connecting and plumbing together the two systems. Water flowing from the LCRD irrigation system into the potable drinking water system can be dangerous to children, the elderly and the immune suppressed. Even healthy adults can get seriously ill from drinking non-potable water.

If you receive your irrigation water through the domestic system be sure to think about backflow issues. Permanent sprinkler systems using domestic water need to have a double check valve assembly installed and tested annually to keep your drinking water safe.





Lake Chelan Reclamation District

BULK RATE
MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MANSON, WA
PERMIT NO. 12

P.O. Box 'J' • 80 Wapato Way
Manson, Washington 98831

Phone: 509-687-3548
Fax: 509-687-9884
Email: staff@lcrd.org
www.lcrd.org

Gordon Lester New Director for 2006

Gordon Lester was chosen by the Board of Directors to replace Coy Tackitt on the Lake Chelan Reclamation District Board. Mr. Tackitt served the District from January 2001 until his passing earlier this year. Coy served as President of the Board in 2005 and was a steady and guiding influence on the Board during his tenure. Coy was known for his quick wit and compassion towards others. He will be missed by all of us at the District.

Gordon Lester was the unanimous choice of the Directors to join the Board. His long-time connections to the community, his understanding of agriculture together with his education, experience and demeanor in the Board setting will serve the community well. Mr. Lester will stand for re-election this fall for the duration of the three-year term.

Reminder: Domestic Water Hookup Fees to Increase on July 1st

Beginning on July 1, 2006 hookup fees for domestic water will increase to \$3,980 per equivalent residential unit (ERU). This increase reflects the large capital improvements that were made on behalf of prospective growth on the domestic system with the early payout of domestic revenue bonds on past projects. New pumps were added to both domestic intakes with new motor control centers at a cost of over \$540,000. Twenty year revenue bonds were also paid off six years early saving the District over \$140,000 in interest payments. The objective of hookup fees is to insulate existing users as much as possible from the cost of growth. Sewer hookups will remain at \$3,315 per ERU.