

**Scatchet Head Water District** presents herein our annual Water Quality Report (known as a “Consumer Confidence Report”), as required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Scatchet Head Water District is committed to providing you with water that meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. This report sets out where your water comes from, what the current year’s tests show about it, and other information that you may wish to know about your drinking water.

**Scatchet Head Water District** utilizes NW Natural Water Services as its state-certified Satellite Management Agency (SMA). NW Natural Water Services performs water system management and operations and is responsible for all water testing, ensuring compliance with all federal, state, and county standards. The management and compliance teams are working in close contact with the Washington Department of Health, the Department of Ecology, and your board of directors/commissioners to improve the standard of service to your water utility to continue providing safe, quality drinking water. For more information about this report, or for any questions you have about your drinking water, please contact the NW Natural Water Services – Washington (360) 678-5336.

## WATER SOURCE

Our system pumps groundwater from an Island County aquifer and transmits the water to the reservoir. Our water is chlorinated at the treatment plant, to minimize the risk of any coliform bacteria growing in your system. It is also filtered to remove the majority of any iron and manganese in the water. If you experience any extended deterioration in water quality, please call NW Natural Water Services – Washington (360) 678-5336.

## WATER QUALITY TABLE

The information set out in the table is based on tests conducted during the year. Terms used in the Water Quality Table and in other parts of this report are defined below.

Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Result	Source	Violation
Bacteria	Monthly	N/A	N/A	N/A	All passed	Naturally present	No
Tri halo Methane (TTHM) – location one	Yearly	Ug/l	80	80	61	Chlorine interaction with natural organic matter.	No
Halo Acetic acids (HAA5) – location one	Yearly	Ug/l	60	60	31	Chlorine interaction with natural organic matter.	No

## TERMINOLOGY

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Action Level (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (Mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in 2 years or one penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (Ug/l) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000.

### **SUBSTANCES EXPECTED TO BE IN DRINKING WATER**

To ensure that tap water meets acceptable drinking standards, the US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) prescribes regulations limiting the number of certain contaminants that may be in drinking water. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least lesser amounts of some of these contaminants. However, their presence does not necessarily mean that the water poses a health risk. Such substances may include:

Microbial contaminants, such as bacteria and viruses, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock, or wildlife. These are tested monthly.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can naturally occur or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, mining, or farming. These are tested based on a schedule prescribed by the state Department of Health (DOH); they include nitrates, which are tested annually.

Pesticides and Herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses. These are tested based on a schedule prescribed by the DOH.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes, gas stations, storm water runoff, and septic systems. These are tested based on a schedule prescribed by the DOH.

Radioactive contaminants are usually naturally occurring. These are tested based on a schedule prescribed by the DOH.

### **VIOLATIONS**

**There were no violations incurred by your water system in 2025.**

### **NITRATE**

Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm are considered to be a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity.

### **ARSENIC**

Your drinking water currently meets EPA's revised drinking water standards for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic, compared to the state MCL of 10 ppb. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory disease are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. The EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water.

### **IRON AND MANGANESE**

Typical of much of the Island's water, your water contains elevated levels of Iron and Manganese, which are abundant in the rocks and soils in the area. These are secondary contaminants, and the US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has not mandated treatment to reduce the levels of contamination. Scientific findings suggest that the levels found pose no threat to human health. Manganese and iron are considered to be aesthetic problems. At sufficient concentrations, iron can adversely affect the taste of water and can leave rust-colored stains on laundry, plumbing fixtures, and porcelain. Manganese can cause similar problems, has a bitter metallic taste, and may leave black "specks" in ice cubes. Manganese can also produce staining and cause water to have brown or black discoloration.

The Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (ODW) is modifying their recommendations for public water systems that have manganese in their water supply. For many years, manganese in drinking water was considered as only an aesthetic concern, causing discoloration and staining. However, recent studies show negative health effects from exposure to elevated levels of manganese in drinking water. They have used this latest information to revise their guidelines, which are expected to be implemented in the coming years.

In anticipation of the implementation of manganese standards, SHWD initiated a System Upgrade project to enhance treatment performance. As part of this project, ATEC filtration systems, recognized for their high efficiency in manganese removal, were installed. Installation of the ATEC filters was completed in February 2026, further strengthening SHWD’s ability to consistently meet current and future water quality requirements.

The treatment plant currently removes the majority of iron and manganese presence in your water system. NW Natural Water Services periodically tests the water for iron and manganese to ensure that the treatment system is working properly.

**CONDUCTIVITY AND CHLORIDE**

The system is tested twice a year for conductivity and chlorides; this is to ensure that our water source is not being contaminated by salt water. Whidbey Island is surrounded by salt water. The drinking water supplied by SHWD comes from groundwater wells that are drawn from an aquifer recharged by rainfall. If groundwater is pumped faster than it can naturally recharge, there is a risk that salt water from Puget Sound could be drawn into the aquifer, potentially affecting drinking water quality. To ensure the water supply remains fresh and free of saltwater influence, SHWD routinely monitors chloride levels and electrical conductivity. These indicators help confirm that our drinking water is sourced from freshwater and not impacted by saltwater intrusion. Levels are set out below:

Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Result	Source
SO2						
Chloride	August	Mg/l	250	250	11	Salt water or natural deposits
Conductivity	August	Umhos/cm	700	700	360	Salt water or natural deposits

**LEAD AND COPPER**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

In compliance with the 2024 requirement from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH), Scatchet Head Water District conducted a comprehensive lead service line inventory. As part of this effort, NW Natural Water Services performed physical verifications on 20% of service lines connected to homes built prior to 1988. These inspections included uncovering both the customer and utility sides of the meter to ensure a thorough assessment. The results of the inventory revealed no presence of lead service lines within the system.

**REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE – SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES**

Sometimes problems occur associated with snow, freezing weather, heavy rains, and flooding – all of which can cause water pipes to break and necessitate the need to get the water turned off in an emergency. Please remember that it is the responsibility of your water system (the purveyor) to deliver safe drinking water to your property. As a rule, this responsibility stops at the meter or shut-off valve – usually located at, or close to, the property line. However, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to know where their shut-off valve is located and to keep the area clear and readily accessible.

**ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. They include immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer, those undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, the elderly, and infants, who can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers before drinking any water. More information about EPA/CDC guidelines to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, other contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Water services in your water system may have been installed with or upgraded to include a check valve that helps protect the water system from a backflow event. This occurs when a drop in pressure in the mains allows water to be drawn into the mains from the service connection; as a result, the system water can be contaminated.

The installation of the check valve causes the home to become a “closed system” and makes it susceptible to damage caused by thermal expansion of the water. Thermal expansion takes place in water heaters when water is heated. As the water is heated, it expands and increases in volume. Traditionally, the increased volume of water flows back into the supply line and into the public water supply main. With the addition of backflow preventers, check valves, and pressure-reducing valves on the supply line, a closed loop is formed, and the water cannot flow back into the supply line. The volume of water then increases, and the resultant pressure increases beyond what the hot water system is designed to manage. The increase in pressure causes the emergency relief valve on the water tank to open and discharge water creating a nuisance and resulting in inefficient operation. Excessive pressure may also rupture pipe fittings and lead to water heater explosions. To eliminate this potential hazard, the owner must install pressure relief valves or accumulators in the plumbing system to relieve pressure. Please ensure that your water heater has been professionally installed with working protection devices (T&P valve and expansion tank); if in doubt, consult with your plumber.

**ANNUAL WATER USE EFFICIENCY REPORT**

The State legislature directed the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt an enforceable **Water Use Efficiency (WUE)** program, which became effective January 22, 2007. All Group A water systems, as defined in the Law, are required to comply and the first annual Water Use Efficiency report was due July 1, 2011.

A summary of our water usage is as follows:

Water Pumped (gallons)	Water Sold (gallons)	Backwash (gallons)	Net Loss (gallons)	Loss %
12,857,140	13,014,668	2,576,112	(2,733,640)	(21%)

**Water Loss Explanation**

The reported net water loss in 2025 was primarily due to water used during the System Upgrade construction project. Large volumes of water were required for directional drilling, road cleaning, pressure testing of new water mains, system disinfection, filter installation, and routine flushing. Construction and testing activities alone used an estimated five million gallons of water, with additional water used for quarterly system flushing. These upgrades were completed to improve water quality, system reliability, and reduce long-term maintenance. Throughout the project, drinking water remained in compliance with all Drinking Water Standards.

For more information about this report, or for any questions you have about your drinking water, please contact:

**NW Natural Water Services – Washington at (360) 678-5336**