

# **Rogue Basin Drinking Water Partnership**

## **Project Background**

The Rogue Basin Drinking Water Partnership (RDWP) is an informal coalition of municipal and private drinking water providers and other partners seeking to protect and enhance source water quality. The Rogue River provides drinking water for over 200,000 people, recreation for thousands, and habitat for fish and wildlife. The Cities of Grants Pass, Rogue River, Gold Hill, the Medford Water Commission (MWC), Country View Estates, and Anglers Cove/Shady Cove-Highland Water Company all pull raw water directly from mainstem Rogue River. Other communities in the basin, including Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Talent, Phoenix and two small water districts purchase water from the MWC or obtain source water from tributaries to the Rogue River.

## **Our Mission**

The mission of the RDWP is to preserve and protect the quality and availability of water from the Rogue River Basin. The watershed covers approximately 5,156 sq. miles, most of which is predominantly federal forest (60%) or private land (36%) and supports a variety of uses including timber, agriculture and recreation. The water within the river basin is shared by people and the environment. RDWP's work looks to leverage the interests of the many stakeholders to maximize the effectiveness of drinking water protection and to support clean water throughout the Rogue Basin.

## **What We Do**

We engage with partners to understand the many factors that can affect water quality and to establish best management practices to minimize long-term impacts on our drinking water sources. We also work with stakeholders to develop and implement policies and procedures that promote conservation of the watershed. Within our communities we work with many partners to educate customers on the effective use of water and preservation of this natural resource.

## **Wildfire and Source Water**

The RDWP recognizes the critical importance of source water protection in response to the serious threats presented from wildfire. In light of this, the RDWP, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Health Authority, is offering this workshop for drinking water providers and others to gain a broader understanding of the vulnerability of drinking water sources and systems to large wildfires, and to consider what can be done to better prepare for wildfire.