

# **Sweetgrass Ranch Subdivision HOA**

## **Annual 2022 CCR**

### **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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

### **Where does my water come from?**

Montana Sweetgrass's water system consists of 4 pressure tanks and two wells. Well #1 - West (GWIC 243856) was drilled in February of 2008, is 400 feet deep. It is of 8 5/8" steel, screened between 340 feet and 400 feet. The last monitored static water level was 39 feet below the ground. Well #1 yields about 532 gallons per minute. Well #2 – East (GWIC 243857) was drilled in May of 2008 is 400 feet deep. It is 8 5/8" steel, is slotted between 280 feet and 300 feet and screened between 340 feet and 400 feet. The last monitored static water level was 40 feet below the ground; yields about 393 gpm. The homeowners are served by a 4" water main. There are 39 lots within Montana Sweetgrass and 18 of those lots have homes. Work has been done on one well.

A new homeowners association is being set up to help with operations and repairs.

### **Source water assessment and its availability**

We want you to be informed about your water system. If you want to learn more, please watch for announcements by letter or postings at the mailbox site. If you would like more information about your consumer confidence report or your water system you can contact Safewater Testing at 406-253-5301 - Tina Malkuch, for water sampling information.

Of the samples that have been taken, your drinking water test safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about water sample results or concerns about your water, please contact Tina Malkuch 406 253-5301. Tina is the operator with 37 years of experience and is the owner of Safewater Testing simplified (STS). She attends all state required training sessions to meet continuing education credits as needed. The most recent courses attended were done online with the Montana Rural Water Systems. Jeri Miller, also a certified operator, is a contract employee that has worked at STS for 19 years. Her roll at STS not only includes office work, but to assist in testing as a back-up operator. For more information about your water you can visit Safewater Testing Simplified, Inc. web site at [www.stsmontan.com](http://www.stsmontan.com).

### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for

### **How can I get involved?**

We want you to be informed about your water system. If you want to learn more, please attend your annual meeting, which is announced by letter in your water bill each year. Announcements are sent one month in advance of the annual meeting on the 2nd Tuesday in April with time and location.

### **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

### **Cross Connection Control Survey**

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

### **Source Water Protection Tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

### **Information for Lead**

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. MONTANA SWEETGRASS HOA 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>.

# Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Lead and Copper								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	11-24-2020	1.3	1.3	0.03	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Regulated Contaminants									
Contaminant Group: Inorganic Contaminants									
Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination	
Barium	2022	0.51	.51 - .51	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.	
Fluoride	2022	0.11	.11 - .11	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2022	0.1	.1 - .1	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	

Contaminant Group: Radioactive Contaminants								
Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	2020	1.9	1.9 -2.0	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & Uranium	2020	2.5	ND - 2.5	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	2020	1.4	1.4 - 1.4	0	30	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Secondary Contaminants						
Secondary Contaminant	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	SMCL	Units	Likely Source of Contamination and or Reason for Monitoring
SULFATE	2022	6.8	6.8 - 6.8	250	ppm	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

## **Water Quality Test Results Definitions**

**Definitions:** The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

**Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running an annual average of monthly samples.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

**Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**ND:** Not detectable at testing limit.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity more than 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – Measure of the radioactivity in water.

**ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

**ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** SMCLs are established as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.

**Treatment Technique or TT:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

The State of Montana DEQ requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one-year-old.

Montana Department of Environmental Quality conducted a source water assessment of our system. This report provides additional information on the potential vulnerability of our wells to contamination. This report is available for review online at <https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-sourcewater>. The report can be summarized in the following table:

### Significant Potential Contaminant Sources

Source	Contaminant	Hazard	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Management
<i>Inventory Region</i>						
<b>Septic Systems</b>	Pathogens, nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> )	Discharge of pathogens; failure leading to discharge of untreated septage.	Moderate	Depth to intake, confining layers	Low	Properly maintain septic tanks and pump at scheduled intervals. Participate as a stakeholder in debates over water quality and local water quality districts. Promote advanced septic systems, public education.
<i>Other Potential Contaminant Sources, not rated significant</i>						
<b>USTs (?)</b>	VOCs	Leaching of VOCs to groundwater	Low	Depth to intake, confining layers	Very Low	Maintain water quality sampling according to schedule. Participate as a stakeholder in debates over water quality and local water quality districts.

Our water system is committed to providing our customers with safe, pure water and we are pleased that our water meets or exceeds all established state and federal standards. Thank you for reviewing this report.

**For more information please contact:**

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