

Water shortage declared as Prineville wells malfunction

by Cheryl McDermott

Prineville city officials today announced that effective immediately, residents should stop irrigating with municipal water and curb any unnecessary water consumption, limiting usage only to necessary domestic purposes.

According to City Manager Robb Corbett, the city determined today that three of the city's nine wells were not operating properly after suffering a series of pump failures. Officials are concerned there may not be enough water to meet demands, prompting the requests for preservation. "As a result of these faults, coupled with the traditional seasonal high demand of water, the City's water supply could near a critical level, if consumption is not reduced."

"Water in some areas may appear cloudy," Corbett said, "but has been tested and determined to be safe to drink." If concerns remain, Corbett said boiling water is an effective way to ensure it is potable.

Corbett said that crews will be working 24 hours a day until the situation is resolved. As more information becomes available, it will be posted at the city's web site at www.cityofprineville.com.

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