Media Release

Portland Water Bureau

For Immediate Release

Aug. 26, 2021

For more information, contact Public Information at 503-823-8064.

**Portland Water Bureau Returns to 100 Percent Bull Run**

On Aug. 27, 2021 the Portland Water Bureau will be turning off its groundwater supply and returning to a supply of 100 percent water from the Bull Run watershed. It can take up to two weeks depending on the location in the system for customers to receive 100 percent Bull Run water.

Since Aug. 3, the Water Bureau has been supplementing the Bull Run supply with water from the Columbia South Shore Well Field. During that time groundwater has comprised approximately 50 percent of Portland’s supply depending on daily demand.

“Groundwater is one of our most powerful tools in planning for climate change,” said Portland Water Bureau Resource Protection and Planning Director Edward Campbell. “We can expect longer periods of reservoir drawdown in the summer. Groundwater allows us to carefully control reservoir drawdown to meet water supply needs for people and fish even when dry periods start earlier and last longer.”

Current forecasts along with existing Bull Run supply are allowing Portland to return to 100 percent Bull Run water. This year saw an early start to reservoir drawdown, periods of extreme heat, and extended dry weather. Groundwater has been a necessary and high-quality secondary source to allow us to meet system needs.

Customers with water quality questions are encouraged to call the Water Line at 503-823-7525 with questions.

For information on Water Bureau operations and summer supply updates visit [www.portland.gov/water](http://www.portland.gov/water). Additional water quality data can be found on our website:

[www.portland.gov/water/water-quality/test-results](https://www.portland.gov/water/water-quality/test-results).

**About the Portland Water Bureau**

The Portland Water Bureau serves water to almost a million people in the Portland area. Portland’s water system includes two great water sources, 53 tanks and reservoirs, and 2,200 miles of pipes. With 600 employees working on everything from water treatment to customer service, the Water Bureau is committed to serving excellent water every minute of every day.