

## **Cooke City, Park County, Water District Annual Water Quality Report 2013**

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

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. 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?**

Our water source is groundwater derived from a spring.

We have a source water protection plan available that provides information such as potential sources of contamination, fire flow requirements. A Water System Analysis was prepared to address the concerns of our current system and our future demands.

### **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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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

The Cooke City, Park County, Water District Board of Directors meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm . . . usually in the Chamber of Commerce meeting room. We encourage the public to attend these meetings

### **Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving; 3-5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely.

### **Other Information**

Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

### **Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations**

Each year, we are required to report violations of DEQ standards to our users. In 2013, we received only 1 violation for being a little late in providing you with your annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

### **Lead & copper rule violations**

None received in 2013

### **Additional 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. Cooke City, Park County, Water District 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>. We are required to take 5 routine samples every 3 years for Lead. All our samples are in compliance with the Lead & Copper rule.

### **Water Quality Data Table**

The included table lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. 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 change frequently.

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# 2013 Annual Drinking Water Report

## Cooke City PWSID# MT0000187

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. This report shows our water quality and what it means.

Cooke City routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Our sampling frequency complies with EPA and State drinking water regulations.

In the table below you will find many terms and abbreviations that may not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions and information:

- *Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
- *CFU/100mL* – In microbiology, colony-forming unit (CFU) is a measure of viable bacterial numbers. Unlike direct microscopic counts where all bacteria, dead and living, are counted, CFU measures only viable bacteria.
- *Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- *Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man made. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have selected proper sampling sites and have complied with repeat monitoring.

# 2013 Annual Drinking Water Report

Cooke City  
PWSID# MT0000187

Test Results						
Contaminant	Violation (Y/N)	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCL	Possible Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	-	0	CFU/100mL	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment, sewage leaks, runoff from livestock areas
Fecal ( <i>E. coli</i> )	N	-	0	CFU/100mL		
Inorganic Contaminants						
Nitrate +Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	N	10/31/13	0.415	ppm	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year.

This report was generated by: Bridger Analytical Lab, Inc. Bozeman, MT- August 2014.