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News Release

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Portland Water Bureau Returns to 100 Percent Bull Run Water

The Portland Water Bureau returned to 100 percent Bull Run water today, Nov. 4. After supplementing the Bull Run water with groundwater from the Columbia South Shore Well Field since July 16, recent rains have refilled reservoirs in the Bull Run watershed to near capacity. This allows Portland to return to the Bull Run source. Both the Bull Run and Columbia South Shore Well Field are high quality water sources that meet or surpass all federal and state drinking water regulations.

Through careful planning and investment, Portland has developed two excellent water sources that ensured the City could meet all of its customers' needs through this long, warm and dry summer. Together, the Bull Run watershed and the Columbia South Shore Well Field constitute a resilient drinking water supply.

It will take one to eight days, depending on location, for 100 percent Bull Run water to move through the distribution system and reach customers. As Portland returns to 100 percent Bull Run water, customers may notice a change in the color of their water. Fall rains wash organic material into the reservoirs, which add tannins to the water, resulting in a faint tea color. These tannins are safe, only affecting the appearance of the water; not the quality. More information on fall color can be found at portlandoregon.gov/water/fallcolor.

While public notification is not required, the Water Bureau informs the media and sensitive users when it activates and discontinues use of groundwater.

To learn more about the Columbia South Shore Well Field, visit www.portlandoregon.gov/water/groundwater. Customers with water quality questions are encouraged to contact the Water Line at 503-823-7525.

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