

## RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE: WATER USAGE ON HIGH PRAIRIE

Date Compiled: June 17, 2013

Number of Households Responding: 13

*Now that you've read the High Prairian, how did we do? Did you learn anything new from the articles on water?*

(Put an X in the appropriate column)	Already familiar	Picked up a few things	It was news to me!
High Prairie geology & groundwater information	xx	xxxxxxxxx	x
Water rights in Washington state	xxx	xxxxxx	xxxx
Klickitat County Water Conservancy Board	xx	xxxxxxxx	xxx
Low water-use landscaping and gardening	xxxxxxx	xxxxxx	
Water-conserving plants for the High Prairie area	xxxxxxxxx	xxxx	x
Fire District water source and transport to fires	xxxxx	xxxxxxx	x

*Here's where you teach us some new things. Tell us about your ideas and experience:*

### 1) Have you been affected by the issue of water availability on High Prairie? [ 5 ] yes [ 8 ] no

*"It is clear that we are not in the city with apparently unlimited water, and we feel a strong responsibility to live what we know to be true: that our water is a finite and shared resource, and that, as a family, it is our responsibility to be good stewards of that resource for ourselves and for this community."*

*"Self restricted use on garden and zero on lawn as I consider my resource an unknown quantity."*

*"The county is not well informed about when water rights are exempt - We have been attempting to take rainwater off our house (1000 sf of roof area) which is exempt per State Law but have been dealing with an uninformed county on the issue. Our goal is to avoid a well altogether but ignorance is getting in the way."*

*"Using an extensive drip system on my property for conservation purposes; has taken time and effort but is rewarding."*

*"Well has dropped 20' in 9 years"*

### 2) Do you do things in your home or yard and garden to conserve water? [ 13 ] yes [ 0 ] no

*"~We keep a pitcher next to the sink to collect the water that would be wasted waiting for it to heat up in the morning. I use this for house plants and porch pots."*

*~We use the 'Yellow is mellow; brown goes down' technique in the bathroom. Most toilet paper goes in a bag, reducing the load on the septic tank as well as on the well."*

*~We keep a bowl on hand to use as a mini-sink for washing a small number of dishes or utensils, so that the water isn't running through the cleaning process. Similarly, we use a bowl of water for washing produce rather than holding it under the tap."*

*~We place a small collapsible sink inside the kitchen sink to wash just a few dishes. It takes a small amount of water to fill and discourages washing under running water. Ours is made by Progressive and is \$14 from Amazon."*

*~A great resource: [wateruseitwisely.com](http://wateruseitwisely.com)"*

*"We try to not use water if its not needed."*

*"1. we have a small family of 2 (won't work for everyone!)"*

*2. we only take showers/baths when we are dirty, so not every day"*

*3. we only do full loads of laundry & run dishwasher when it is full"*

*4. we do not have a lawn"*

*5. we use drip irrigation on a timer to water our vegetable & flower gardens"*

*6. we have a rain barrel to capture run off when it rains"*

*7. we only flush the toilet when necessary"*

*"Minimum flow rate for handwashing, rinsing dishes, etc. Also, as above, self restricted use on garden and zero on lawn."*

*"drip system, never water in the wind with a sprinkler, conserve in the house, washing machine is low use, take short showers, when watering I use timers on all outdoor faucets"*

*"We're in process of construction - will have composting toilet which will save at least 40% of typical water consumption."*

*"Would love to have green grass all summer, but it is on its own – not enough water to use on the grass."*

*"Looking at putting in a rainwater catchment system hopefully this year"*

*"Drip system. Mulching keeps weeds down and soil/roots cool, reduces evaporation, reduces transpiration by grass/weeds."*

*"Do very little watering. Plant native plants."*

*"Recycle 'grey water' into gardens."*

*"Already mentioned – drip systems"*

**3) Are there things you would try if you had more information or assistance? [ 9 ] yes [ 3 ] no**

*"use grey water' to water flower gardens"*

*"Not sure – need above mentioned information!"*

*"If money wasn't an issue I would like to put in a grey water system"*

*"No well at all - rainwater harvesting only. It is more than feasible - we hired Engineers who studied the possibility and it is easily done. But we need the County to get out of the way."*

*"See above (rainwater catchment system). Would love to have more information about larger systems, where and how to put in large cisterns, etc."*

*"Too many projects now!"*

*"Interested, but don't know what."*

*"Anything"*

*"Anything I might not know about already."*

*Interests you indicate here could lead to follow-up articles, or talks or demonstrations:*

**4) What would you like to know more about? (mark all that you're interested in)**

- ☒ [ 2 ] Drip irrigation systems
- ☒ [ 7 ] Rainwater catchment systems
- ☒ [ 8 ] Drought-resistant landscaping
- ☒ [ 2 ] Ways to conserve water in the home
- ☐ [ 0 ] Troubleshooting sprinkler or irrigation systems
- ☒ [ 6 ] Using greywater (from dishes, laundry or showers)
- ☒ [ 6 ] Low water-use gardening
- ☒ [ 3 ] Mulches and mulching
- ☒ [ 1 ] Other topics? What did we miss?

*"Maybe, routing water from ponds and/or planting in already damp or pond areas? Building swales for water catchment. Permaculture practices."*

*We'd like to see what information resources are right here in our community:  
(Please, don't sell yourself short; even a little more knowledge can help someone just getting started.)*

**5) Do you have a particular skill, technical knowledge, or personal experience in any aspect of water availability or conservation? [ 3 ] yes [ 7 ] no**

*"Landscaping with low-water plants"*

*"Drip system; automated drip; mulching."*

*"Born and raised in a desert. Can share books on Permaculture by Bill Mollison."*

6) Would you be willing to share your expertise in some way, perhaps by answering questions, writing an article, giving a small demonstration, holding a class, or loaning books or tools? [ 3 ] yes [ 4 ] no

*Rachael Carlson: rachaelcarlson1111@mac.com 509-365-4413 (Landscaping w/ low-water plants)*

*Jake Jakabosky: (Drip system; automated drip; mulching)*

*Name omitted: "As above, loan books."*

*Finally, we'd like to know how important the issue of water availability is to you:*

7) What is your level of concern about water availability and use on High Prairie now and in the future?

[ 7 ] Serious concern [ 3 ] Moderate concern [ 3 ] Minor concern [ 0 ] Not at all concerned

8) Here is a list of concerns we've heard mentioned. Do you share these concerns?

[ 6 ] Changes to the water level in your well?

- Do you have information on that? [ 0 ] increasing [ 2 ] declining [ 3 ] static [ 5 ] don't know

- Have you ever had a problem getting enough water from your well? [ 0 ] yes [ 7 ] no

[ 9 ] How your well might be affected by the way water is used on nearby properties?

[ 10 ] How your well might be affected by development on property near you?

[ 13 ] The potential for large developments in the High Prairie area?

[ 10 ] Klickitat County's policies on water/wells & development?

[ 10 ] Regulation of private wells by the Washington State Department of Ecology?

*Comment: "They [Dept. of Ecology] need a funded program!!"*

9) Do you have other water-related concerns?

*"As the climate changes/development occurs, the water in the area is only going to become tighter. This area needs to embrace all options that exist."*

*"Ways to clean up the well if it has deposits that are not healthy"*

10) Are there ways the community as a whole might address concerns about water availability and use?

*"sharing information"*

*"Continue to emphasize/publicize information regarding sensitivity of our water resource. Encourage and continue to provide information on conservation methods."*

*"If everyone tried to conserve and use smart water systems, the existing water could go much farther."*

*"Encourage friends/neighbors to conserve. Pressure county to limit development. Community develop ways to monitor water levels in more wells."*

*"Lobby the county to require a small water system for folks who break up 20's into 5's. ie, you have a 20 acre piece you want to short plat – would be nice to have 1 well serve the 4 lots. Many advantages to sharing a well."*

*Anything more you'd like to add?*

*"Thank you for doing this!"*

*"Motto: A million dollar property is worthless without a water resource. Say this in every conversation and article regarding water."*

*Thank you!*