

A vertical graphic on the left side of the page features a blue-to-white gradient background. It depicts a dynamic splash of water, with a large, elongated droplet falling from the top left, surrounded by numerous smaller droplets and bubbles. The water appears to be splashing upwards and outwards, creating a sense of movement and freshness. The overall aesthetic is clean and refreshing, emphasizing the purity of water.

Our Drinking Water is SAFE!

**Gold Country
2020 Annual Consumer Confidence Report**

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is supplied by four wells. Two of the wells are blended and are located in the Winnemucca Segment (state of Nevada Ground Water Basin #70). The first (well #1) is drilled 305 feet deep, the second (well #2) is drilled 400 feet deep. Wells three and four were acquired in the Winnemucca Airport water system purchase.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Kirk Peterson at 775-329-7757. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Gold Country 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 1st to December 31st, 2020. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

DEFINITIONS:

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l) - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Variations & Exemptions (V&E) - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. (Only systems with a variance or exemption are REQUIRED to include this definition. In addition, it is REQUIRED to provide an explanation of the reasons for the variance or exemption, date issued, status or remediation.)

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - (mandatory language) A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - (mandatory language) The 'Maximum Allowed' (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - (mandatory language) The 'Goal' (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - (mandatory language) The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - (mandatory language) The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Contaminants							
Contaminant	Level Detected	Range of Detection	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Likely Source
Disinfection Byproducts							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Collection Date: 09/28/20	2.1	ND-2.1	ug/L	60	n/a	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Collection Dates: 09/28/20	24	3.4-24	ug/L	80	n/a	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Chemicals							
Arsenic Collection Dates: 09/10/19-5/14/20	6	3-6	ppb	10	n/a	N	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium Collection Dates: 06/08/17-04/19/18	0.16	0.043-0.16	mg/L	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium Collection Dates: 06/08/17-04/19/18	7	3-7	ppb	100	100	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Copper Collection Dates: 08/26/20	0.12	0.007-0.17	mg/L	1.3	1.3	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits and leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride Collection Dates: 09/25/19-05/14/20	0.4	ND-0.4	mg/L	2	4	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead Collection Dates: 08/26/20	3	ND-6	ppb	15	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel Collection Date: 04/19/18	0.012	0.003-0.012	mg/L	0.1		N	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate Collection Dates: 01/13/20-10/8/20	7.4	0.59-7.4	mg/L	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium Collection Date: 06/08/17-04/19/18	21	ND-21	ppb	50		N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radionuclides							
Gross Alpha Particles Collection Dates: 04/18/16-09/10/19	3.91	0.539-3.91	pCi/L	5	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particles Collection Dates: 04/18/16	3.51	1.12-3.51	pCi/L	50	0	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Radium 226 Collection Dates: 04/18/16	0.134	ND-0.134	pCi/L	5	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 Collection Dates: 04/18/16	0.266	0.206-0.266	pCi/L	5	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium Collection Dates: 09/10/19-12/23/19	5	ND-5	ug/L	30	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Contaminants							
Chloride Collection Date: 09/10/19-5/14/20	95	47-95	mg/L	400		N	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron Collection Date: 12/23/19-05/14/20	0.89	ND-0.89	mg/L	0.6		Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium Collection Date: 09/10/19-5/14/20	24	15-24	mg/L	150		N	
Manganese Collection Date: 09/10/19-5/14/20	0.029	ND-0.029	mg/L	0.1		N	Leaching from natural deposits

Odor Threshold Collection Dates: 04/22/20-08/18/20	6	ND-6	T.O.N	3	Y	Naturally occurring organic materials
pH Collection Date: 09/10/19-5/14/20	8.28	7.98-8.28	mg/L	8.5	N	
Sodium Collection Date: 09/10/19-04/22/20	30	22-30	mg/L	200 20	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate Collection Date: 09/10/19-5/14/20	61	38-61	mg/L	500	N	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
TDS Collection Date: 09/10/19-5/14/20	460	310-460	mg/L	1000	N	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc Collection Date: 09/10/19-5/14/20	0.09	ND-0.09	mg/L	5	N	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

HEALTH EFFECTS:

Ingesting iron from drinking water is not directly associated with adverse health effects; although, trace impurities and microorganisms that are absorbed by iron solids may pose health concerns. Iron is considered a secondary or aesthetic contaminant. Iron is an essential mineral for human health in small concentrations (iron deficiency can lead to anemia). It can cause a metallic taste, rust colored staining of plumbing, black particulates in the water, and a buildup of iron bacteria colonies in the plumbing.

EXPLANATIONS:

Your water meets State and federal requirements for Lead, but if present at elevated levels, this contaminant 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. Gold Country 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 drinking 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>.

While your drinking water meets the EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

While your drinking water meets EPA standards, nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. The MCLs are set such that out of every 10,000 or 1,000,000 people (depends upon how the MCL was developed) drinking 2 liters of water every day for a lifetime, only 1 of those people may experience the described health effect.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

A Source Water Assessment was conducted for this system. One of the wells has elevated levels of nitrate. That well is considered to have a high vulnerability for nitrate contamination; as a result, this well is not being used to meet demand for the water system at this time. Well 4 had detected xylene in a 2015 sample, but the sample taken in 2018 was Non Detectable. That well is considered to have a moderate vulnerability for VOC contamination. The remainder of the wells are considered to have a low vulnerability for surface contamination.

Please call our office if you have questions. We at Gold Country work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.