

KNOW YOUR BEAR CREEK

Bear Creek begins at Emigrant and Neil Creeks then flows 28 miles through Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, and Central Point before joining the Rogue River just upstream from Gold Hill. Like many urban rivers, Bear Creek has a long history of poor water quality. Polluted runoff and irrigation return flows add bacteria, sediment, and high levels of nutrients to the water decreasing water quality.

Key elements to improving the water quality and quantity of Bear Creek include irrigation practices, green infrastructure projects, and upgrading the Ashland Wastewater Treatment Plant. At Rogue Riverkeeper, we work to strengthen permits and update policies that reduce polluted runoff and increase green infrastructure.

Rogue Riverkeeper is an involved participant in the Bear Creek Restoration Initiative along with many other local organizations. We're joining forces to focus on water quality, riparian restoration, houseless and at-risk populations, fire reduction, recreation, and economic development to take a comprehensive approach to addressing issues in the Bear Creek watershed.

FAST FACTS

Watershed: 395 square miles
 Land Uses: Forest (46%), Ag (35%), Urban (18%)
 First Peoples: Takelma, Latgawa, Shasta
 Issues: Irrigation, urban runoff, wastewater, trash

SAMPLE SITES

1 Emigrant Lake	Ashland	100%	A-
2 BC @ N. Mountain Park	Ashland	100%	A-
3 Wagner Cr @ Creekside	Talent	60%	F

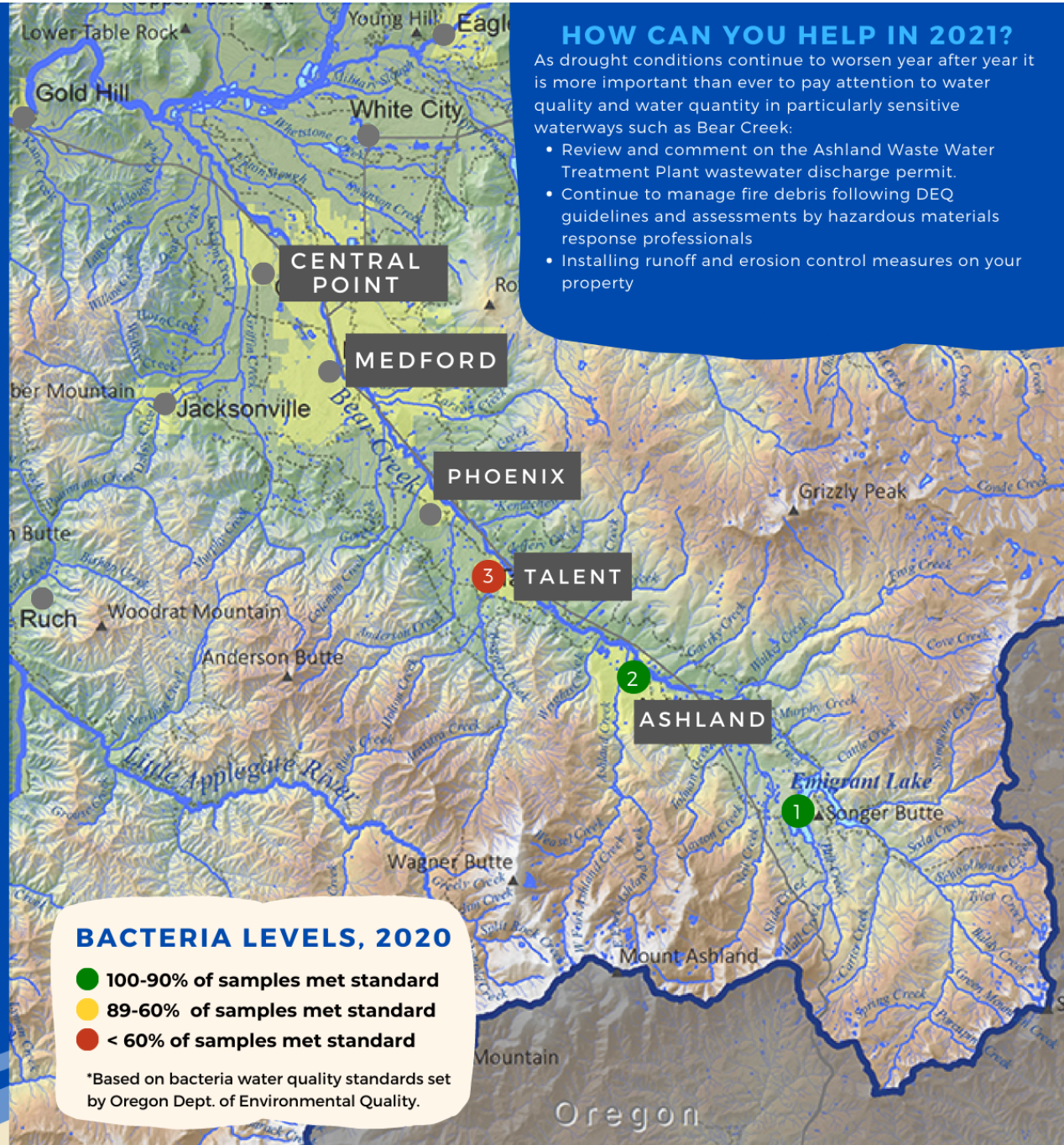
A = 100 - 90% B = 89 - 80% C = 79 - 70% D = 69 - 65% F = < 65%

The % column above represents the percent of total samples that met the Oregon DEQ bacteria water quality standard this year.

HOW CAN YOU HELP IN 2021?

As drought conditions continue to worsen year after year it is more important than ever to pay attention to water quality and water quantity in particularly sensitive waterways such as Bear Creek:

- Review and comment on the Ashland Waste Water Treatment Plant wastewater discharge permit.
- Continue to manage fire debris following DEQ guidelines and assessments by hazardous materials response professionals
- Installing runoff and erosion control measures on your property



BACTERIA LEVELS, 2020

- 100-90% of samples met standard
- 89-60% of samples met standard
- < 60% of samples met standard

*Based on bacteria water quality standards set by Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality.