

# ROGUE RIVER BASIN

At 5,300 feet, the headwaters of the Rogue spring from the slopes of the Cascade Mountains. From the boundary of Crater Lake National Park to Rogue River National Forest, 40 miles of the Upper Rogue are designated as Wild & Scenic. Downstream, the William L. Jess Dam forms Lost Creek Reservoir. After Grants Pass, the river cuts a deep canyon through the remote Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains. From the mouth of the Applegate River to the Lobster Creek bridge, 203.5 miles of the lower Rogue and its tributaries are now protected as Wild & Scenic rivers. Journeying through the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, the Rogue finally flows into the Pacific Ocean at Gold Beach, Oregon, 215 miles from its source.

## WATER QUALITY 2021

Each summer from June to September, we collect weekly (or biweekly) water samples at popular recreation sites to test for the presence of E. coli bacteria. E. coli is commonly found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals. Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) established the level of E. coli allowable in waterways to protect public health; this is the bacteria water quality standard. A site violates this standard if a single sample exceeds 406 E. coli organisms per 100 mL of water.

Our Water Quality Program relies on the hard work of trained volunteers and a seasonal Rogue Riverkeeper intern for collection and analysis. Sites sampled in 2021 were chosen due to their likeliness to host recreational swimmers and to be affected by the presence of e.coli bacteria.

## SAMPLE SITES

LOCATION	REGION	%	GRD
1 - Emigrant Reservoir	Ashland	100	A+
2 - Bear Creek @ N. Mtn Park	Ashland	47	F
3 - Ashland Cr. @ Lithia Park	Ashland	93	A
4 - Ashland Cr. @ Swim Reservoir	Ashland	93	A
5 - Wagner Cr. @ Creekside Way	Talent	0	F
6 - Applegate R. @ Cantrall Buckley	Applegate	100	A+
7 - Applegate Lake @ Hart-Tish Park	Applegate	100	A+
8 - Grave Creek Mouth	Grants Pass	100	A+
9 - Little Butte Cr. @ Harnish Park	Eagle Point	22	F
10 - Rogue River @ Gold Hill Park	Gold Hill	100	A+
11 - Evans Cr. @ Palmerton Park	Rogue River	47	F
12 - Rogue River @ Agness	Lower Rogue	100	A+
13 - Rogue River @ Quosatana	Lower Rogue	100	A+
14 - Rogue River @ Lex's Landing	Lower Rogue	100	A+
15 - Illinois River @ Six Mile	Illinois Valley	100	A+
16 - Illinois River at Ring Beach	Illinois Valley	100	A+
17 - Lost Creek Lake	Shady Cove	100	A+
18 - Rogue River @ Grave Creek	Grants Pass	100	A+
19 - Rogue River @ Baker Park	Grants Pass	100	A+

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.

## FAST FACTS

- Watershed:** 3.3 million acres
- Length:** 215 miles
- Source:** Boundary Springs
- Mouth:** Gold Beach
- 1st Peoples:** Takelma, Latgawa, Tolowa Dee'ni, Tututni, and Cow Creek Umpqua
- Key Fish:** Coho, Chinook, Steelhead Green Sturgeon, Lamprey



ROGUE RIVERKEEPER.ORG  
World famous for its rafting and fishing opportuni-

Drink  
Boundary Springs, the source of the Rogue, flows off

## BACTERIA LEVELS, 2021

- 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.