

A Very Simplified Summary of Domestic and Commercial Water Sources for Cities in Jackson County

Summary Information compiled by Water Solutions Summit team and many details are not included.

Big Butte Springs, located about 30 miles northeast of Medford near Butte Falls, discharges water of exceptional quality at the rate of 26.4 million gallons of water per day (mgd) and is the heart of the Big Butte Springs watershed. As the main water source for the Medford Water Commission, the Springs have been MWC's primary source for drinking water since 1927 and are considered one of the community's most valuable and significant resources. See [MWC's map](#).

The domestic and commercial water supply for the Cities of Talent, Phoenix, Eagle Point, Central Point, White City and Jacksonville is pumped and treated by the Medford Water Commission. While these cities have "water rights" to the water itself, they pay Medford Water Commission for pumping and treating.

During the winter months Big Butte Springs watershed is the source for all the water treated and pumped by the Medford Water Commission. Then, when summer demands exceed the capacity of the Springs (typically from May through September), surface water from the Rogue River is used as a supplemental supply. This water is pumped from the River and treated at the Robert A Duff Water Treatment Plant located on Table Rock Road near Touvelle Park. Some cities also have rights to water stored in Lost Creek Reservoir that is released down the Rogue River to augment the Medford Water Commission supply.

During the times when both sources (the Springs and the River) are being utilized, water blends within the Medford Water Commission's distribution system. Some areas may tend to receive more water from one source or the other depending on how far from the Duff plant they are located. Those areas farthest from the Duff plant typically receive more of the Springs water. Even so, the finished water from both supplies is very similar, with temperature being the most detectable difference.

The City of Talent currently receives all of its water from Medford through TAP, the Talent- Ashland- Phoenix intertie transmission main. This 24-inch water transmission main currently provides water to the cities of Talent and Phoenix, as well as supplemental water to the City of Ashland.

The City of Jacksonville receives its water from the Medford Water Commission into its water distribution system more than 2 miles east of the city limits.

Eagle Point's water rights come from Big Butte Creek. The cooperative agreement with Medford Water Commission allows Eagle Point to draw from Willow Lake during low stream flows. An 18-mile main canal with 165 miles of laterals delivers water to Eagle Point.

Ashland's water comes from the Mount Ashland Watershed and Reeder Reservoir and is treated in the Ashland Municipal Water Treatment Plant. In the high demand summer months, Ashland has been using the TAP intertie to supplement its water supply.