DEQ TOOLS AND RESOURCES

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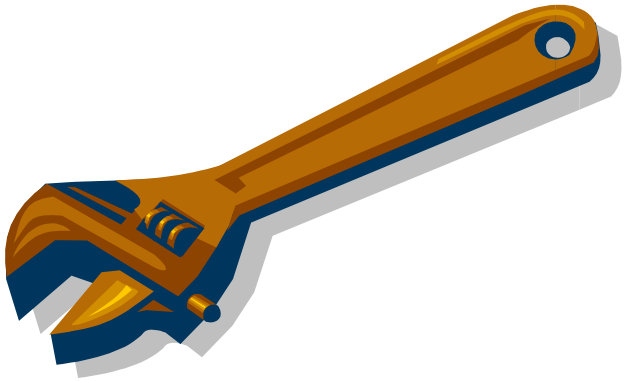
DEQ Tools and Resources

- Source Water Assessments
- Source Water Protection Activity Guide
- Source Water Protection Plan Template
- Idaho Source Water Protection Collaborative



SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS

TOOLS TO EVALUATE PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SOURCES

What is a Source Water Assessment (SWA)?

Provides information on:

- where the water comes from
- *potential* threats to the water supply
- how likely the water supply will be contaminated

Starting point for source water protection efforts

IDAHO Department Of Environmental Quality
Source Water Assessment Program

Source Water Assessment Summary Report:
ANCHOR BAPTIST CHURCH (PWS# ID4010248) WELL #1 000000012245

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to assess every *public water system* in Idaho for its *relative susceptibility* to contaminants that are regulated by the federal *Safe Drinking Water Act*. DEQ conducts *source water* assessments based on a land use inventory of the *delineated source water assessment area*, sensitivity factors associated with the drinking water source, and local *aquifer* characteristics. The ultimate goal of each source water assessment is to provide data that communities can use to develop protection strategies for their drinking water sources.

The resources and time available to accomplish source water assessments are limited. Therefore, an in-depth, site-specific investigation to identify each significant potential source of contamination for every public water system is not possible. The results of source water assessments should not be used as an absolute measure of risk, nor should they be used to undermine public confidence in the public water system. A particular *susceptibility score* does not imply that any regulatory or legal actions will occur. This report is intended to summarize information about public water systems in Idaho. Using or distributing the data contained in this report in a form other than that in which it is presented may inaccurately portray the data.

DEQ strongly encourages each public water system and community to use its source water assessment, combined with local knowledge and concerns, to develop strategies to protect drinking water sources. Multiple resources are available to help communities implement drinking water source protection programs, including EPA's Drinking Water Academy. Drinking water source protection activities for agriculture should be coordinated with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the local Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For assistance in developing protection strategies, contact DEQ's BOISE REGIONAL OFFICE or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

This report was completed June 01, 2011. *Potential contaminant* information was updated on September 29, 2011.

What Was Assessed

This report evaluates ANCHOR BAPTIST CHURCH (PWS# ID4010248) WELL #1 000000012245 located in ADA county. The system serves approximately 50 people through 2 connections.

Defining the Source Water Assessment Area

The first step of a source water assessment is to delineate the source water assessment area. The delineation process establishes the physical area

What does an Assessment Include?

Delineation

Potential Contaminant Inventory

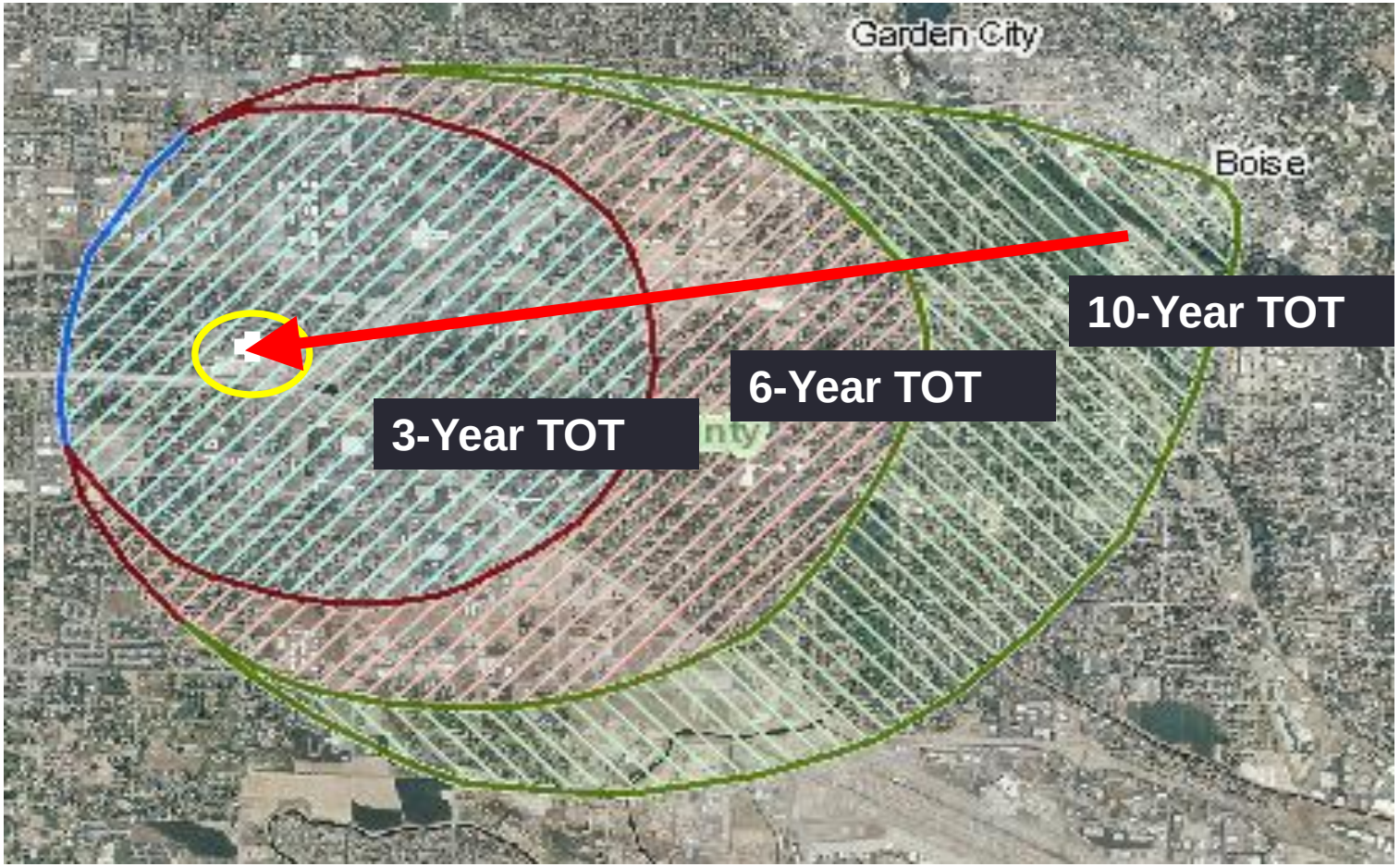
Susceptibility Analysis

Distribute to the Public

Source Water Delineation

- Ground Water Sources
  - Ground water flow model to determine flow direction and time of travel zones
  - Fixed radius
- Surface Water Sources
  - watershed boundaries
  - 25 miles upstream using a 4 hour stream flow and a 500 foot buffer on each side of the river/stream.
  - 500 foot buffer around lake

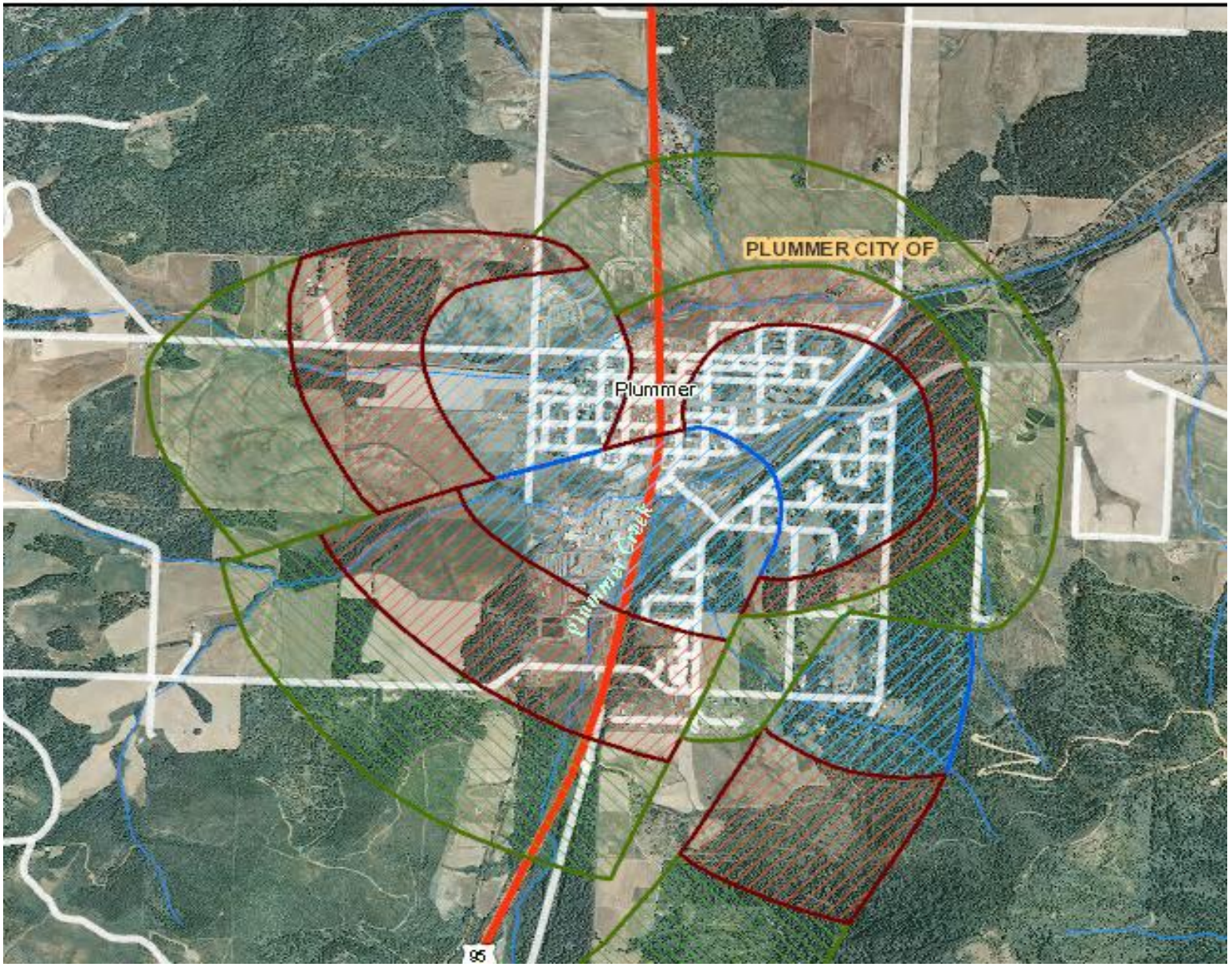
Source Water Delineation



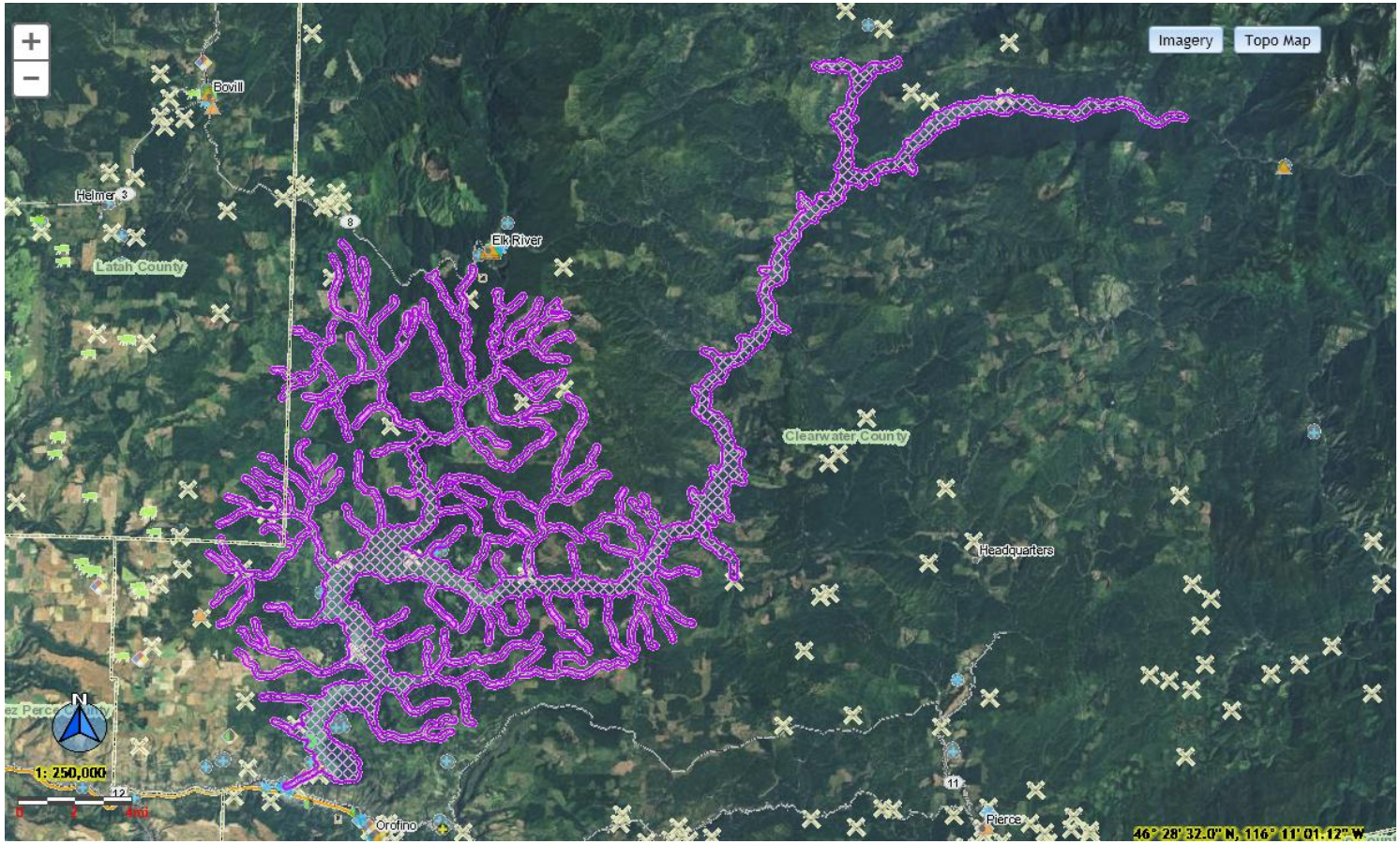
Refined Analytical Method

Source Water Delineation

Fixed Radius Method

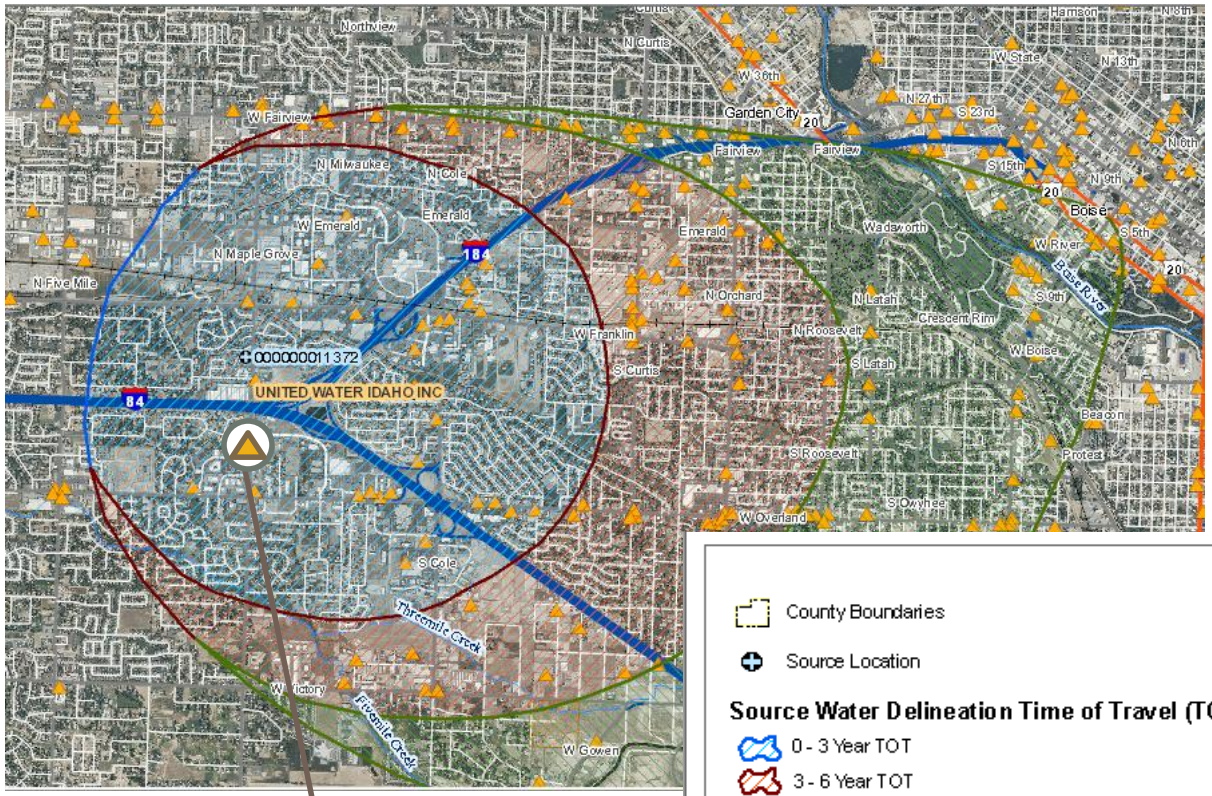

PLUMMER CITY OF
Plummer
95

Source Water Delineation



Surface Water

Potential Contaminant Inventory (PCI)



UST Site

Map Legend

- County Boundaries
- Source Location

Source Water Delineation Time of Travel (TOT)

- 0 - 3 Year TOT
- 3 - 6 Year TOT
- 6 - 10 Year TOT

Potential Contaminants Inventory Locations

- CERCLA Site
- Toxics Release Inventory Site
- Remediation Site
- UST Site
- Dairy
- Feedlot
- Shallow Injection Well
- Deep Injection Well
- NPDES Location
- RCRA Site
- Drain Location
- Road Salt Location
- Mine Site
- CAMEO Chemical Facility
- Tunnels And Drains
- Railroad
- Phosphate Mine
- Water Reuse Area
- Wastewater Lagoon
- Pesticide Management Area
- Landfill

Streets (100k)

Roads

- Highway
- Limited Access
- Local Road
- Major Road
- Other Road
- Ramp
- Trail
- 4WD

IDEQ GIS Dec 2010

PCI Datasets

- Public Water Systems
- CERCLA Sites
- Toxics Release Inventory
- UST Sites
- Dairies
- NPDES
- RCRA
- Mines
- Injection Wells
- Surface Water
- Landfills
- WLAP fields
- Agricultural Land uses
- Nitrate Priority Areas
- Soil Drainage Class
- Floodplains
- Agricultural Chemical Use
- Feedlots
- Tunnels/Drains
- Lagoons
- Phosphate Mines
- Railroad
- Remediation Sites
- ITD road salt locations
- Pesticide Mgt. Areas
- CAMEO

Susceptibility Analysis

Evaluates the conditions in the delineated area to determine the potential for contaminants to impact water quality at the source.

- Hydrologic Sensitivity
- Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use
- System Construction

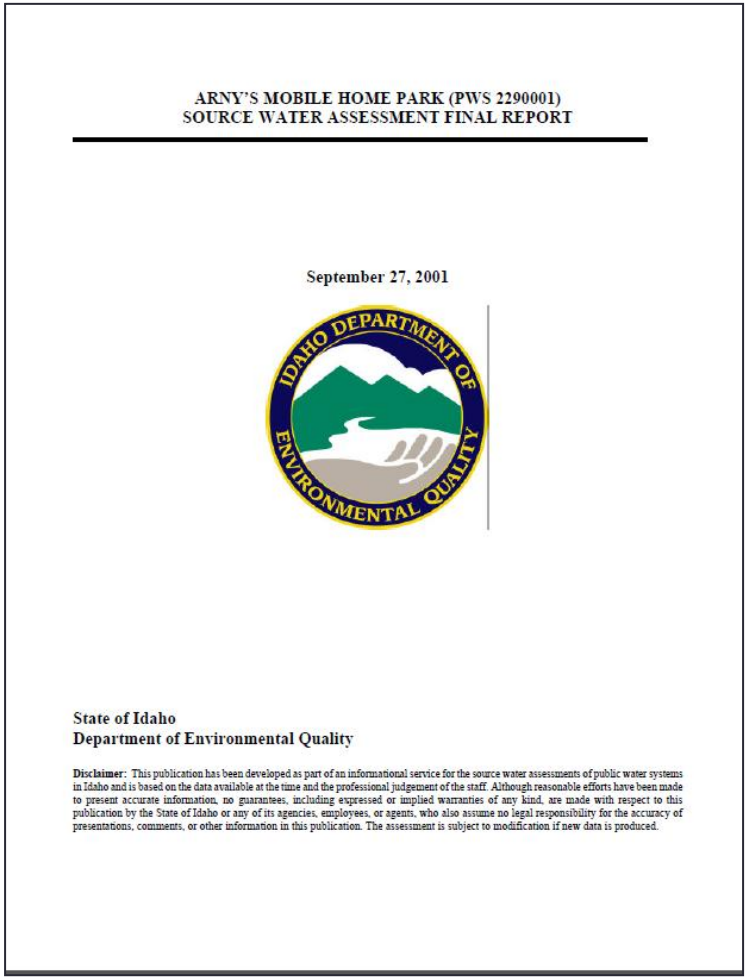
Susceptibility Score

- Ranking of high, medium, or low.

Susceptibility Scores for BLIMPIES (PWS# ID4010012) WELL #1 E0009036									
System Construction	Potential Contaminant Inventory / Land Use				Hydrologic Sensitivity	Final Susceptibility Scores			
	IOC	*VOC*	*SOC*	*Microbials*		*IOC*	*VOC*	*SOC*	*Microbials*
M	M	M	M	M	H	H	H	H	M
H = high susceptibility, M = moderate susceptibility, L = low susceptibility.									
Auto High - see below.*									
View Report Summary	View Interactive Map			View Static Map		View PCI Table		View Score Details	

Distribute to the Public

DEQ has provided Source Water Assessment information on our website.



ARNY'S MOBILE HOME PARK (PWS 2290001)
SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT

September 27, 2001

State of Idaho
Department of Environmental Quality

Disclaimer: This publication has been developed as part of an informational service for the source water assessments of public water systems in Idaho and is based on the data available at the time and the professional judgement of the staff. Although reasonable efforts have been made to present accurate information, no guarantees, including expressed or implied warranties of any kind, are made with respect to this publication by the State of Idaho or any of its agencies, employees, or agents, who also assume no legal responsibility for the accuracy of presentations, comments, or other information in this publication. The assessment is subject to modification if new data is produced.

SWA Website Demonstration

- Log in
- Search
- Susceptibility Score
- PCI
- Delineations
- Interactive Map
- Summary Report

Online SWA Summary

The online application provides:

- information on drinking water sources and potential threats to the source
- data for informed land use decisions
- tools to develop protection plans

www.deq.idaho.gov/water/swaOnline/

Questions?

DEQ SOURCE WATER PROTECTION GUIDE

TOOLS TO IDENTIFY
PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

Introduction

The *Source Water Protection Guide* (Guide) is a tool for identifying potential sources and types of contamination that could threaten drinking water sources and **provides possible protection activities** that public water systems, local governments, businesses, and individuals can implement to better protect source water from contamination.

Components of the Activity Guide

- Contaminant Types (IOC, SOC, VOC, Microbes, Sediment, Radionuclides)
- Potential Contaminant Sources (e.g., gas station, UST, etc.)
- Protection Activities (e.g., BMPs, education, regulations, etc.)

About DEQ
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Air Quality
Water Quality
Drinking Water »
Ground Water »
Source Water »
Surface Water »
Wastewater »
Grants & Loans »
Waste Mgmt & Remediation
INL Oversight
Permitting
Pollution Prevention
Assistance & Resources
Laws, Rules, Etc.

Activity Guide

The Source Water Protection Guide (Guide) identifies potential sources and types of contamination that could threaten drinking water sources (source water) and presents possible protection activities that public water systems, local governments, businesses, and individuals can implement to better protect their source water from contamination.

Potential contaminant sources identified in the Guide are grouped into four categories, agricultural/rural, commercial/industrial, residential/municipal, miscellaneous, and include various facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that can contaminate ground water and surface water. The Guide provides a summary of each contaminant source and its associated contaminant types, protection activities, and additional resources.

Source water protection activities can include nonregulatory and regulatory approaches. Nonregulatory or voluntary management practices and education and outreach can be effective long term by changing the behaviors and practices of those in the source water protection area. Nonregulatory protection strategies are usually most effective when combined with regulatory approaches, such as land-use regulations, permitting, or other public policy strategies. The Guide includes both regulatory and nonregulatory protection activities that can help to protect source water. The activities listed are not comprehensive but provide a starting point for planning efforts.

To get started, use the Quick Select menus below to navigate through the Guide, learn about potential contaminant sources, and identify possible protection activities to minimize potential threats to source water. To learn more about your specific drinking water source and its susceptibility to contamination, you are encouraged to read your system's source water assessment report.

Quick Select

Use any of the following drop-down menus to navigate through the guide. Choosing a potential contaminant source category from the drop-down menu will narrow your potential contaminant source choices. Choosing a protection activity category from the drop-down menu will narrow your protection activity choices.

Contaminant Type

Staff Contact

Source Water Program Coordinator
Amy Williams
DEQ State Office
Water Quality Division
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0115
amy.williams@deq.idaho.gov

Related Pages

Source Water in Idaho

Source Water Protection in Idaho

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Related Pages

Source Water in Idaho

Source Water Protection in Idaho

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Contaminant Type

Potential Contaminant Source Category
All

Potential Contaminant Source

Protection Activity Category
All

Protection Activity

Contaminant Types

- The Activity Guide provides a definition of five contaminant types and includes a list of related contaminant sources that have the potential to release contaminants to the environment.
  - Inorganic Compounds (nitrate, chloride)
  - Volatile Organic Compounds (benzene, chlorinated solvents)
    - Includes Petroleum Contaminants
  - Synthetic Organic Compounds (atrazine)
  - Microbial Organisms (hepatitis, Giardia, coliform)
  - Sediment
  - Radionuclides (gross alpha/beta particles, uranium)

Quick Select

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Contaminant Type

Inorganic Compound

- Inorganic Compound
- Microorganisms
- Radionuclides
- Sediment
- Synthetic Organic Compound
- Volatile Organic Compound

Potential Contaminant Source

Protection Activity

Inorganic Compound (IOC)

Contaminant

A chemical substance of mineral origin, without carbon in its atomic structure. All ground water contains natural salts, minerals, and other inorganic compounds. Concentrations of naturally occurring inorganic compounds such as potassium, magnesium, and calcium typically found in unpolluted ground water are harmless to human health. However, other inorganic compounds such as nitrate, arsenic, or fluoride can occur naturally in ground water at concentrations considered harmful to human health. Human activities and infrastructure—such as septic sewer systems, waste from animal feedlots, nitrogen-based fertilizers, pesticide application, mining, and smelting—can discharge nitrate and arsenic (among other things) to the environment and increase the naturally occurring concentrations of these compounds in ground water.

Sensitive populations such as infants, people with poor or compromised health, and the elderly are especially susceptible to nitrate exposure, which may result in serious illness or death. Illness from high nitrate exposure occurs when nitrate is converted to nitrite in the body. Nitrite reduces oxygen in the blood, causing shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. The technical term for this condition is methemoglobinemia, also called “blue baby syndrome” since infants younger than six months are at the greatest risk. Livestock can also be poisoned by high levels of nitrate in their water.

Arsenic exposure has been reported to cause more than 30 different adverse health effects including cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, skin changes, nervous system damage, and various cancers.

Excessive consumption of fluoride over a lifetime may lead to increased likelihood of bone fractures in adults and bone conditions causing pain and tenderness.

Potential Contaminant Sources

- Grouped into four (4) land use categories
  - Agricultural/Rural
  - Commercial/Industrial
  - Residential/Municipal
  - Miscellaneous
- Includes various facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that have the potential to contaminate ground and surface water.

- Summary of each contaminant source and its associated contaminant types, protection activities and additional resources.

Source water protection activities can include nonregulatory and regulatory approaches. Nonregulatory or voluntary management practices and education and outreach can be effective long term by changing the behaviors and practices of those in the source water protection area. Nonregulatory protection strategies are usually most effective when combined with regulatory approaches, such as land-use regulations, permitting, or other public policy strategies. The Guide includes both regulatory and nonregulatory protection activities that can help to protect source water. The activities listed are not comprehensive but provide a starting point for planning efforts.

To get started, use the Quick Select menus below to navigate through the Guide, learn about potential contaminant sources, and identify possible protection activities to minimize potential threats to source water. To learn more about your specific drinking water source and its susceptibility to contamination, you are encouraged to read your system's source water assessment report.

Source Water Protection in Idaho

Quick Select

Use any of the following drop-down menus to navigate through the guide. Choosing a potential contaminant source category from the drop-down menu will narrow your potential contaminant source choices. Choosing a protection activity category from the drop-down menu will narrow your protection activity choices.

Contaminant Type

Potential Contaminant Source Category
Commercial/Industrial

Protection Activity Category
All

Potential Contaminant Source
Gas Station

Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST)
Gas Station
Vehicle Washing/Car Washes

Contaminant Type

Potential Contaminant Source Category
Commercial/Industrial

Potential Contaminant Source
Gas Station

Protection Activity Category
All

Protection Activity

Gas Station

Potential Contaminant Source

Gas stations can affect ground water or surface water quality due to various processes, equipment, and substances used on site. The aboveground and underground storage tanks used at gas stations have the potential to leak hazardous material that can impact ground water or surface water quality. Gas stations may also generate several sources of contaminants that can be washed away with stormwater, including oil and gas spills; engine and brake residues containing antifreeze, grease, oil, copper, and asbestos; engine degreasers containing copper and brass; radiator flushing residues containing lead, oil, and grease; and residue from engine washing containing aluminum and iron. Gas stations often have car washes, and vehicle wash water can carry sediments to surface waters and contaminate ground water by infiltration or drainage to subsurface wells and/or septic systems. Gas stations may also use underground injection wells to dispose of untreated fluids collected through open drains on station fueling pads and septic systems if located in an area that does not have access to a sewer system, both of which can impact ground water.

Categories:

- Commercial/Industrial
- Agricultural/Rural
- Residential/Municipal

Possible Protection Activities:

- Aquifer Overlay District
- Secondary Containment

Potential Contaminants:

- IOC, VOC, Microbe

Contaminant Type

Potential Contaminant Source Category: All

Potential Contaminant Source

Protection Activity Category: All

Protection Activity: Aquifer Overlay District

Aquifer Overlay District

Protection Activity

To preserve and maintain ground water supplies and recharge, an aquifer overlay district controls the land cover and activities that occur in the primary recharge area. The amount of impervious area can be limited within an aquifer overlay zone, which will generate less runoff and fewer pollutants transported to ground water and receiving waters. Additionally, certain land uses could impact water quality and should be limited or prohibited in an aquifer overlay district:

- Fuel oil storage
- Gas stations
- Snow brought from outside the overlay district
- Unenclosed or uncovered outdoor storage of road salt
- Landfills, solid-waste transfer stations, and recycling or composting facilities
- Industrial uses such as chemical laboratories

Resources for this Protection Activity:

Related Sources:

» Gas Station

» Road Salt Locations

Protection Activities

- Searchable by Category
  - Best Management Practices
  - Education, Outreach and Public Programs
  - Land Conservation
  - Planning
  - Regulations and Permits
- Description/definition of activity
- Resources for the protection activity
- List of related contaminant sources for which the activity can be used

Quick Select

Use any of the following drop-down menus to navigate through the guide. Choosing a potential contaminant source category from the drop-down menu will narrow your potential contaminant source choices. Choosing a protection activity category from the drop-down menu will narrow your protection activity choices.

Contaminant Type

Potential Contaminant Source Category: All

Potential Contaminant Source

Protection Activity Category: Best Management Practices

Protection Activity: Secondary Containment

- Fencing
- Road Salt Reduction
- Sanitary Setbacks
- Secondary Containment

Secondary Containment

Protection Activity

In case of a spill, secondary containment provides a barrier between storage containers, equipment, piping, or transfer areas that hold or use hazardous materials and the land surface. Secondary containment methods can include impervious dikes, berms, or retaining walls; curbing, culverts, gutters, or other drainage systems; weirs; booms; barriers; spill diversion and retention ponds; sorbent materials; drip pans; and sumps and collection systems.

Resources for this Protection Activity:

Related Sources:

» Gas Station
» Road Salt Locations
» Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST)

Questions?

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/source-water.aspx

DEVELOPING A SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLAN

TOOLS TO DEVELOP A PROTECTION STRATEGY

Source Water Protection Plans

Source Water Protection plans are the roadmap to protect a community's drinking water supply from potential contamination

Components of a SWP Plan

- Formation of a planning team
- Formalized vision statement
- Characterization of the water source
- Identification and prioritization of potential contaminants
- Development of implementation strategies
- Plan for the future (contingency plan)
- Evaluation and revision

Step 1: Formation of a Planning Team

Formation of a representative & committed planning team is essential for source water protection!

Team members may include:

- PWS Staff
- Local Residents
- Health Professionals
- City or County Government Officials
- Scientific and Technical Experts
- Government Agency Representatives
- Business or Industry Representatives

Step 2: Formalized Vision

A written vision or policy statement formally expresses a commitment to source water protection and includes:

- Recognition of the importance of SWP for ensuring safe drinking water
- Commitment to actively protect source water
- Other considerations such as public health protection, consumer need and expectations, protecting investment of water sources, environmental stewardship and sustainability, addressing risks, reducing treatment costs, etc.

Step 3: Characterization of Water Source

Characterizing the source water is essential to providing the understanding and knowledge necessary to develop appropriate strategies to meet the source water protection vision.

The characterization should include:

- Water system information
- Delineation of the source water area
- Review of water quality data
- Hydrologic sensitivity of the source to contamination

Step 4: Potential Contaminant Inventory

A Two Step Process:

1. Primary Inventory: DEQ identifies and documents potential contaminant sources in the source water assessment area with computer databases and geographic information system (GIS) maps developed by DEQ.
2. Enhanced Inventory: review the list and add additional sources not already identified. This second step verifies sources identified in the first step.

Step 5: Develop Implementation Strategies

The implementation strategy or action plan is the road map of planned activities to reduce the threats to the drinking water source and meet the source water protection vision.

Step 6: Plan for the Future

- **Develop a Contingency Plan**
  - Water system characteristics
  - Potential emergency situations
  - Response procedures

- **Plan for Future Water Sources**
  - type of source, location, protect future sites, construction

Step 7: Evaluation and Revision

The source water protection plan is a living document and should be periodically reviewed and revised in response to ongoing changes.

Certification

- State Certification
  - Voluntary state certification process.
  - Submit Plan to DEQ for review.
  - State certification is granted if all basic elements are included in the Plan.
  - Community receives recognition from the State of Idaho.
  - Recertification every *Five Years*

- AWWA G300 Standard Certification

Online SWP Plan Template

Pulls information from existing sources including:

- **SDWIS**
  - PWS names
  - Source Type
  - Source names
  - # Connections
  - Population served
  - Location
  - Water quality data
- **SWA Online**
  - Delineations
  - PCI
  - Susceptibility scores
- **SWP Activity Guide**
  - Implementation activities

Online SWP Plan Template

Protecting Public Health and the Environment | Logged in as: awilliam | Help | Log Out |

IDAHO Source Water Protection Plan Template

Home

Potential Contaminants

Our records indicate the follwing Potential Contaminant Inventory for the selected Sources:

Show 10 entries

Search:

Source	PCI Source	Category	TOT Class	PCI Comments	Contamiannts	GIS Id
E0005039	BENEWAH MEDICAL AND WELLNESS CENTER	RCRA Site	1B		Site specific	16
E0005039	Driveway	Major and Minor Roads	3	Local Road	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbe	
E0005039	Driveway	Major and Minor Roads	1B	Local Road	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbe	
E0005039		Major and Minor Roads	1B	Local Road	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbe	
E0005039	Fairfield Rd	Major and Minor Roads	2	Local Road	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbe	
E0005039	Fairfield Rd	Major and Minor Roads	3	Local Road	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbe	
E0005039	Fairfield Rd	Major and Minor Roads	1B	Local Road	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbe	
E0005039	Long Rd	Major and Minor Roads	1B	Local Road	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbe	
E0005039	Long Rd	Major and Minor Roads	3	Local Road	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbe	
E0005039	11Th St	Major and Minor Roads	1B	Local Road	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbe	

Showing 1 to 10 of 163 entries

Previous Next

While all of thesse potential contaminants will be included in the Appendix of your plan, it is suggested to choose a few of them (10-20) as your highest priorities. Select them by clicking on a row; deselect by clicking again.

In the next step, we'll sort the selected items by priority.

Next

SWP Plan Template Online Training

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

What is Source Water?

- What is Source Water?
- Source Water Assessment
- Source Water Protection
- Source Water Protection Plan Development
- Review and Certfication
- Frequently Asked Questions

Source water is untreated ground water (aquifers and springs) and surface waters (rivers, streams, and lakes) used to provide drinking water to public drinking water systems, as well as supply private wells used for human consumption.

Pause

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IDAHO SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COLLABORATIVE

A RESOURCE FOR SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Who is the Collaborative?

- The Idaho Source Water Protection Collaborative (collaborative) consists of various federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations that play a role in protecting Idaho's drinking water sources.
  - Association of Idaho Cities (AIC)
  - Central District Health Department (CDHD)
  - City of Boise
  - Environmental Finance Center, BSU
  - Farm Service Agency, Idaho (FSA)
  - Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
  - Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW)
  - Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)
  - Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA)
  - Idaho Water Resources Research Institute/University of Idaho
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho (NRCS)
  - USDA, Rural Development

Why a Collaborative?

- The collaborative recognizes that a coordinated approach to protecting drinking water strengthens each organization and leverages resources. Members understand that protecting drinking water sources is not the responsibility of one entity but requires a combined effort of many partners.

- The collaborative's members recognize that all communities depend on clean drinking water supplies to protect and enhance the following:
  - Public health
  - Environmental quality
  - Economic development
  - Public finance
  - Quality of life

Mission of Idaho SWP Collaborative

- The collaborative's members are committed to working together to protect Idaho's drinking water sources now and in the future. To further this mission, the members will work to achieve these goals:
  - Raise awareness of the importance and value of source water protection.
  - Enhance coordination of protection efforts.
  - Provide information and sample documents in support of protection efforts.
  - Recognize successful protection efforts and provide examples for communities to use as models.

The “How” of the Collaborative

- The Collaborative members work to accomplish their mission by:
  - Sharing information with each other by participating in biannual meetings.
  - Collaborating on source water protection activities with partner organizations to promote protection and coordination, when possible.
  - Providing information to the public by contributing information to the source water collaborative website and participating in other outreach and education opportunities.
  - Functioning as effective and respected champions to accomplish our mission to protect drinking water sources in Idaho.

Idaho SWP Website

PROTECT IDAHO'S DRINKING WATER
—AT THE SOURCE—

- Develop a ‘one-stop-shop’ resource for SWP
- Target Audiences:
  - Public Water Systems
  - Local Government Officials
  - General Public
    - Teachers/students
    - General citizens
    - Landowners
    - Businesses
  - Planners
  - Agencies

SWP Collaborative Website - Anticipated Content/Information

- General information
  - Source water (definition)
  - Source water protection
  - Source water assessments
- Audience specific information
  - General public
    - Lesson plans, tips for businesses, landowners
  - Local Government
    - Templates/language for ordinances and comprehensive plans
  - Public Water Systems
    - Link to SWP Plan Template, SWP Activity Guide

Status of Website

- The website has been developed
- We are in the process of filling it with content

www.protectthesource.org

PROTECT IDAHO'S DRINKING WATER AT THE SOURCE

PROTECT IDAHO'S DRINKING WATER
—AT THE SOURCE—

PROTECT IDAHO'S DRINKING WATER AT THE SOURCE

Join us on

Have a question?
Ask an Expert

Thanks for visiting the Idaho Source Water Protection website!

Source water is the water in our aquifers, rivers, and lakes that provides drinking water to the public. Source water can be vulnerable to contamination, so it is critical we take steps to protect it. Source water protection is the responsibility of many, including the general public, local governments, and public water systems.

Through the Idaho Source Water Protection Collaborative, this website provides informative and useful source water protection information that can help you learn more about sources of drinking water and engage you in thinking about what you can do to protect it.

Upcoming Events

DEQ SWP Workshops
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (10/3/2013), Lewiston, Idaho (10/4/2013), Boise, Idaho (10/7/2013), Twin Fal...
10/3/2013

Latest News

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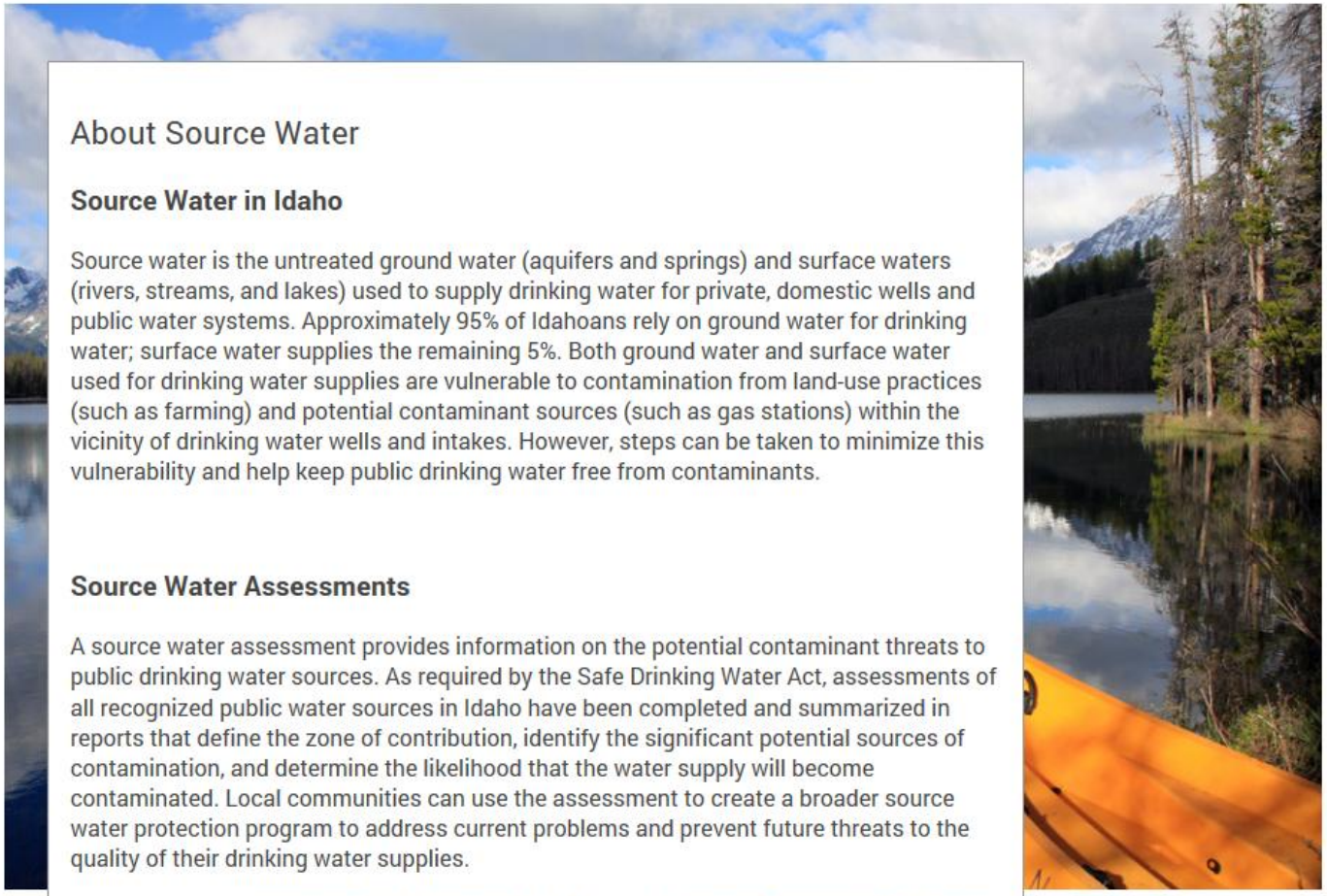

About Source Water

Source Water in Idaho

Source water is the untreated ground water (aquifers and springs) and surface waters (rivers, streams, and lakes) used to supply drinking water for private, domestic wells and public water systems. Approximately 95% of Idahoans rely on ground water for drinking water; surface water supplies the remaining 5%. Both ground water and surface water used for drinking water supplies are vulnerable to contamination from land-use practices (such as farming) and potential contaminant sources (such as gas stations) within the vicinity of drinking water wells and intakes. However, steps can be taken to minimize this vulnerability and help keep public drinking water free from contaminants.

Source Water Assessments

A source water assessment provides information on the potential contaminant threats to public drinking water sources. As required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, assessments of all recognized public water sources in Idaho have been completed and summarized in reports that define the zone of contribution, identify the significant potential sources of contamination, and determine the likelihood that the water supply will become contaminated. Local communities can use the assessment to create a broader source water protection program to address current problems and prevent future threats to the quality of their drinking water supplies.

Learn more about source water assessments and access the report on your water system.

PROTECT IDAHO'S DRINKING WATER AT THE SOURCE

Join us on

Have a question?
Ask an Expert

For General Public.

What can the public do to protect source water?

A safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water supply is important to everyone. Protecting existing source water is a prudent way to protect public health and keep treatment costs to a minimum. Protecting drinking water is something everyone in the community can do. Whether you are a student, educator, landowner, business, farmer, or retiree, you play a role in source water protection. All community members can directly impact the quality of the water resources around them through the decisions they make on a daily basis.

An important first step in source water protection is knowing where your drinking water comes from and what potential contaminants pose a threat to your water supply. You can learn more about your specific drinking water source by visiting the Source Water Assessment Database (link). You can then incorporate pollution prevention, water conservation, and other best practices at work, school, and home to better protect drinking water sources.

Learn more about tools and resources to help the general public protect source water.

Profile Links : Library » Resources »

For Local Government.

What can local governments do to protect source water?

Local governments play a primary role in protecting a community's drinking water supply. In many cases, public drinking water systems are not operated by local governments and do not have the authority needed to protect drinking water sources. Therefore, municipal and county governments have the responsibility and legal authority to enact and enforce drinking water source protection measures.

Local governments have the authority to manage potential source water contamination within their

Questions?