

Idaho Source Water Protection Collaborative

Scope: State

Location: Idaho

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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SCOPE:

- The Idaho Source Water Protection Collaborative consists of various federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations that play a role in protecting Idaho's drinking water sources.
- The Collaborative recognizes that a coordinated approach to protecting Idaho's drinking water strengthens each organization, leverages resources, and leads to better protection of public health.
- Members of the Collaborative are committed to work together to:
 - Raise awareness of the importance and value of source water protection
 - Enhance coordination of protection efforts
 - Provide information, education and sample documents in support of protection efforts
 - Recognize successful protection efforts and provide examples for communities to use as models

COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

- In 2010, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) organized a meeting of various state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations to discuss source water protection in Idaho. The group decided to continue to meet biannually to share information and identify partnership opportunities among the group.
- In 2013, the group decided to expand its efforts to the public by developing a collaborative website to serve as a clearinghouse of source water protection information in the state.
- In 2013, the collaborative developed a mission statement and operating structure. This statement of purpose is available on the collaborative website at <http://www.protectthesource.org/who-we-are.aspx>.
- Since 2013, the collaborative has met on a bi-annual to annual basis sharing and advancing source water protection efforts in Idaho.

MEMBERS:

- 1 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- Idaho State Department of Agriculture
- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Idaho Office of Emergency Management
- Idaho Health Districts
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- USDA Rural Development
- US Bureau of Land Management

- US Forest Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Idaho Rural Water Association
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- Association of Idaho Cities
- Idaho Association of Counties
- American Planning Association - Idaho Chapter
- Cities of Boise and Meridian
- University of Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (Project WET)
- Public Water Systems

WATER CONCERNS:

The Collaborative members are interested in protecting Idaho's drinking water sources and 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

Strategies:

- Share information with each other by participating in collaborative meetings.
- Collaborate on source water protection activities with partner organizations to promote protection and coordination, when possible.
- Provide information to the public through the Source Water Collaborative website and by participating in other outreach and education opportunities.
- Function as effective and respected champions to accomplish our mission to protect drinking water sources in Idaho.

Results:

- The Collaborative has developed a website as a platform for education and outreach for public water systems, local governments, the public, planners, and agencies to promote clean, safe, abundant, and reliable supplies of drinking water at the source.
 - The website provides information on source water protection and source water assessments, as well as audience specific information.
 - The website also provides resources for planners on how they can integrate source water protection planning into their communities.
- Discussions at Collaborative meetings have led to several partnership opportunities including;
 - A study by the Idaho Department of Water Resources and DEQ was completed to assess the presence of motor vehicle waste disposal wells in Idaho.
 - Additional protections for source water protection areas were included in Idaho Department of Lands rules for oil and gas conservation (IDAPA 20.07.02.07.a)
 - A memorandum of understanding was developed between DEQ and Idaho Rural Water Association to foster data sharing, improve coordination, and promote partnership opportunities.
 - A contract was developed and funded to provide assistance to public water systems to develop source water protection plans.
 - Shared training events and activities were provided around the state.
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Information current as of November 2020. Please check with the Collaborative contacts (or website if available) for the most up to date information. To find other source water collaboratives across the U.S. or to add yours to the list, visit the Source Water Collaborative's [How To Collaborate Toolkit](#)