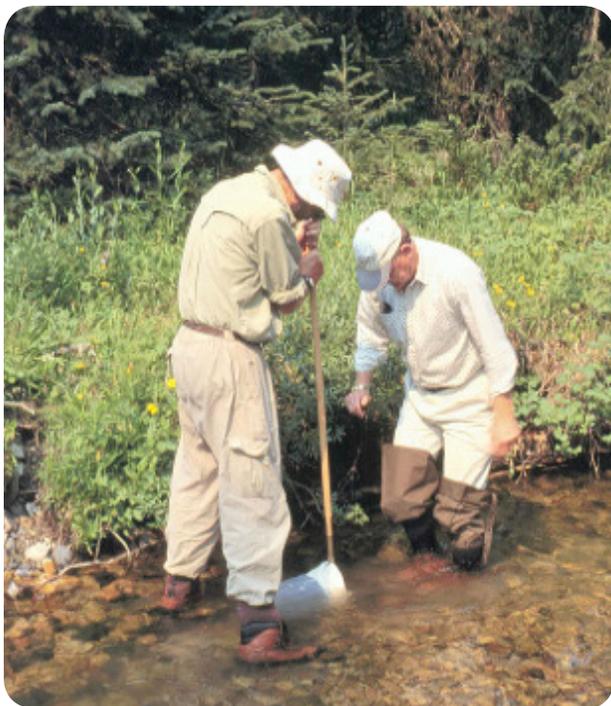


Idaho's water resources consist of more than 2,000 lakes, 5 major navigable rivers, and thousands of streams. The state's total water area is 880 square miles.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for protecting the quality of Idaho's water resources. One way DEQ works to fulfill this responsibility is by monitoring and evaluating water quality.

It is beyond the state's resources to monitor all Idaho water bodies on a continuing basis. That's why DEQ relies upon the *Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program* to help gather information on our lakes, rivers, and streams. The CVMP is a cost-effective method of acquiring data and a great way to involve citizens in protecting water quality.

Read this brochure to learn about the important role of citizen volunteers in protecting the quality of Idaho's lakes, rivers, and streams.



## For More Information

### Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

#### State Office

1410 N. Hilton  
Boise, ID 83706  
(208) 373-0502

#### Regional Offices

##### Boise

1445 N. Orchard  
Boise, ID 83706  
(208) 373-0550  
toll-free: (888) 800-3480

##### Coeur d'Alene

2110 Ironwood Parkway  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
(208) 769-1422  
toll-free: (877) 370-0017

##### Idaho Falls

900 N. Skyline, Suite B  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
(208) 528-2650  
toll-free: (800) 232-4635

##### Lewiston

1118 F Street  
Lewiston, ID 83501  
(208) 799-4370  
toll-free: (877) 541-3304

##### Pocatello

444 Hospital Way #300  
Pocatello, ID 83201  
(208) 236-6160  
toll-free: (888) 655-6160

##### Twin Falls

650 Addison Ave. W,  
Suite 110  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
(208) 736-2190  
toll-free: (800) 270-1663

### DEQ Web Resources

#### Monitoring and Assessment

[www.deq.idaho.gov/surface-water-monitoring-assessment](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/surface-water-monitoring-assessment)

#### Water Quality Standards

[www.deq.idaho.gov/surface-water-quality-standards](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/surface-water-quality-standards)

#### Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program

[www.deq.idaho.gov/burp](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/burp)



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## Water in Idaho

# Idaho's Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program



Partnering with DEQ to  
protect the quality of our  
lakes, rivers, and streams



Idaho Department of  
Environmental Quality  
[www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov)



## What is CVMP?

The Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program, known as CVMP, is a partnership between DEQ and community volunteers interested in protecting Idaho's water resources. Goals of the CVMP are to:

- collect data that will be used to protect or improve water bodies
- identify water quality problems and locate their sources
- provide citizens with a practical opportunity to learn about aquatic ecosystems, and
- develop local grass roots support for environmental programs and foster cooperation among citizens, organizations, and government.

## How Does the CVMP Work?

The core element of the CVMP is found in its title – citizen! Without the commitment of dedicated volunteers, this program could not exist. Volunteers may live on or near a water body or may simply be interested in helping to protect water bodies in their communities.

Before volunteers embark on their monitoring activities, DEQ provides monitoring training. Training focuses on how to recognize water pollution and how to assess physical habitat conditions and collect chemical and biological samples.

After volunteers are trained, they are assigned various types of monitoring activities (See *What Does a CVMP Monitor Do?*) to be performed at regular intervals, thereby ensuring that data collected are scientifically reliable. DEQ scientists and water quality analysts work closely with volunteers each step in the monitoring process.



## What Does a CVMP Monitor Do?

A CVMP monitor may be called upon to perform various types of monitoring activities.

The traditional and most common method of monitoring is the collection and analysis of water samples to measure such things as turbidity, temperature, and levels of various chemicals and metals.

Another method is visual monitoring. In this method, monitors follow the shoreline and note such things as the condition of the bank, presence of shoreline vegetation, composition of the stream or lake bottom, and other physical characteristics that can be used to predict water quality problems.

An increasingly popular method involves recording the abundance and diversity of insects and other organisms. Since these organisms each have different levels of tolerance to pollution, the number and type present can tell a great deal about the quality of the water.

## What Do We Do with the Data?

Data collected by CVMP monitors are used for three major purposes: education, problem identification, and decision-making. We evaluate the data and share it with citizens to encourage good water management practices. We also use it to identify and head off potential water quality problems. And lastly, the data is used by local and state officials to support water quality improvement projects.

### Top 10 Reasons to Become a CVMP Monitor

10. Gain a greater understanding of the environment.
9. Save taxpayer dollars.
8. Learn exciting water quality testing techniques.
7. Understand what's in your water glass.
6. Get to know your backyard and new areas of your community.
5. Meet new people and make new friends.
4. Actually "do something" about the environment.
3. Help your community protect natural resources.
2. Get some exercise in the great Idaho outdoors.

**And the number one reason to become a CVMP Monitor:**

1. It's fun to get your feet wet!

*Get involved!*

*Contact your local DEQ regional office.*