

What is Source Water?

Source water is the untreated ground water (aquifers and springs) and surface water (rivers, streams, or lakes) used to supply private, domestic wells and public drinking water systems. A public water system is a drinking water system that supplies water to at least 25 people or has at least 15 service connections.

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?



Ground water is the source of drinking water for 95% of Idaho citizens. The remaining Idahoans rely on surface water (rivers, streams, or lakes) for their drinking water. Ground water and surface water are often vulnerable to contamination, so protection is important.

What is Source Water Protection?

Source water protection is an effort a community can implement to help prevent contamination of the source water that supplies its public water system. The first step in source water protection is completing a source water assessment.

For More Information

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DEQ Web Resources

Source Water in Idaho

www.deq.idaho.gov/source-water

DEQ Source Water Assessment Online Application

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

DEQ's Mission

To protect human health and preserve the quality of Idaho's air, land, and water for use and enjoyment today and in the future.



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Idaho's Source Water Protection Program



Assessing and protecting source water supplying public drinking water systems throughout Idaho



Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov



Why Is Source Water Protection Important?

We all need clean and safe water to drink. Preventing contamination through protection can help to:

- Protect public health and the economic viability of the community
- Avoid additional monitoring requirements for public water systems
- Reduce treatment costs
- Increase a community's eligibility for grants and loans for infrastructure upgrades

How Can My Community Protect its Source Water?

Local communities working in cooperation with state agencies can use the information provided in the assessment to create a broader drinking water protection program to address current problems and prevent future threats to the quality of their drinking water. Protection efforts may include:

- Developing and implementing a source water protection plan
- Enacting a county or city source water protection ordinance or overlay district
- Acquiring land in source water assessment areas
- Implementing best management practices



What is a Source Water Assessment?

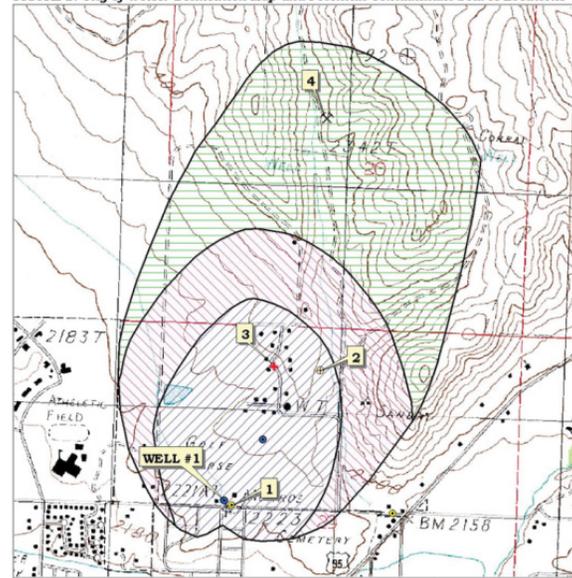
A source water assessment provides information on the potential contaminant threats to public drinking water sources. Each source water assessment involves three steps:

Step 1: Source Water Assessment Area – Delineate the portion of the watershed or subsurface area contributing water to the surface water intake or well.

Step 2: Contaminant Source Inventory – Identify potential sources of contamination within the source water assessment area.

Step 3: Susceptibility Analysis – Determine vulnerability (high, moderate, or low) of the drinking water source to potential contaminants.

FIGURE 2. City of Weiser Delineation Map and Potential Contaminant Source Locations



LEGEND	
Thin x of Travel Zone	★ Dairy
10-15 µg TDS	● LOST Site
5-10 µg TDS	▲ Closed USE Site
3-10 µg TDS	▲ Open USE Site
Wellhead	● Business Working Unit
Enhanced Inventory	● NPDES Site
● CERCLA Site	● Mine
● RCRA Site	● AET
● Toxic Release Inventory	● SARA Title 30 Box (RFRAL)
● SARA Title 30 Box (RFRAL)	● Package Point
● Package Point	● Septic Tank
● Septic Tank	● Storage Site
● Storage Site	● Cattle Site
● Cattle Site	● Landfill
● Landfill	● Watershed Land App Site



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WELL #1

Example of a source water assessment delineation

Do You Need Assistance with Source Water Protection?

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) may be able to provide you with:

- **Information** – Source water assessments provide information on where drinking water comes from (source water assessment area), potential threats to the source (potential contaminant inventory), and how susceptible the source is to potential contamination (susceptibility analysis).
- **Technical Assistance** – DEQ is available to help public water systems identify and track potential contaminants, prioritize threats, and identify ways to mitigate risks. DEQ also offers workshops on topics related to source water protection.
- **Planning** – DEQ can assist with developing source water protection plans.
- **Funding** – Funding is available for developing and implementing source water protection efforts. Visit DEQ's website for more information:

www.deq.idaho.gov/water-grants-loans

Questions?

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