

**Water Quality Status Report No. 6**

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**REPORT ON SANITARY QUALITY OF WATER  
IN PAYETTE LAKE AND CASCADE RESERVOIR**

**August, 1961**

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Engineering and Sanitation Section**



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Department of Health  
Engineering and Sanitation Division  
Boise, Idaho

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On July 11 and 12 we did some extensive sampling for bacteriological examination of water from Payette Lake and Cascade Reservoir. The results of these samples are as follows:

PAYETTE LAKE

<u>Location</u>	<u>Most Probable Number of Coliform Bacteria per 100 Milliliters*</u>
YMCA Camp Ponderosa	15
Pilgrim Cove Camp	460
Ponderosa State Park	28
McCall - Public Beach	460
Shore Lodge	93
Wagon Wheel Bay	43
Wagon Wheel Bay #2	150
Little Sylvan Bay	93
Sylvan's Point	23

CASCADE RESERVOIR

1 Mile North of Cascade Boat Dock East Side - 300 feet from shore	0
1 Mile North of Cascade Boat Dock Halfway between East and West Shore	15
1/2 Mile North of Barnard Gratton Boat Dock West Side - 400 feet from shore	4
Barnard Gratton Boat Dock West Side - 150 feet from shore	9
2 Miles South of Barnard Gratton Dock West Side - 500 feet from shore	4
2-1/2 Miles South of Barnard Gratton Dock West Side - 50 feet from shore	150
1 Mile South of Cascade Boat Dock Halfway between East and West Shore	4
1/2 Mile South of Cascade Boat Dock East Side - 150 feet from shore	4
Cascade Boat Dock - End of Dock	23
Cascade Picnic and Beach Area 50 feet from shore	24
Bridge Across Reservoir near Donnelly	9

\*Coliform bacteria are bacteria normally found in the intestinal tract of man and warm-blooded animals. Their presence in water indicates the presence of sewage pollution. The number indicates the degree of pollution. Untreated domestic sewage which has not been diluted with clean water will contain several million of these bacteria per 100 milliliters.


### CASCADE RESERVOIR

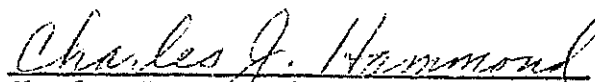
It is interesting to note that the bacteriological quality of the water in Cascade Reservoir is considerably better than in Payette Lake. This is to be expected since the building of summer homes is just beginning on Cascade Reservoir while some areas around Payette Lake are quite heavily populated. It is important that the quality of water in Cascade Reservoir be kept this way. To do this it would be helpful if Valley County had a Sanitary Code which would require inspection of each waste disposal system before installation is completed. We would be glad to assist in such a program. Another problem associated with summer cabin development is contamination of individual wells in populated areas. Where lots are less than one acre in size, provisions for a public water supply and/or sewage collection and treatment facilities should be made before a plat is accepted for a subdivision. We would be glad to assist the county in reviewing these subdivision plats.

### PAYETTE LAKE

The bacteriological quality of the water in Payette Lake indicated the presence of some pollution in the lake. This could be due to drainage from waste disposal systems and increased recreational activity on the lake. It should be the responsibility of each cabin owner to check their waste disposal system to be certain that there is no outlet to the lake. Where problems occur we would be glad to provide whatever assistance we can to develop a suitable waste disposal system.

In areas where samples were collected, bacteriological examination shows the water acceptable for swimming. This does not mean that the lake water is acceptable as a domestic water supply without treatment. There are many cabin owners who pipe the water into their cabins and do not treat the water before using. In all cases the lake water should be first chlorinated before using as a water supply.

  
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Charles J. Hammond  
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