

IDAHO SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COLLABORATIVE

Scope: State

Location: Idaho

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 formal mission statement and operating structure and is in the process of obtaining signatures of commitment from member organizations in the collaborative. This statement of purpose is available on the collaborative website at www.protectthesource.org.

MEMBERS:

- » 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 Health Districts
- » USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- » USDA Farm Service Agency
- » USDA Rural Development

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Source Water Program Coordinator
Amy Williams
(208) 373-0115
amy.williams@deq.idaho.gov

Source Water Protection Implementation
Coordinator
Kathryn Elliott
(208) 373-0191
kathryn.elliott@deq.idaho.gov

Collaborative online contact form:
<http://www.protectthesource.org/about-source-water.aspx>

Collaborative website:
<http://protectthesource.org/>

- » US Bureau of Land Management
- » US Forest Service
- » US Environmental Protection Agency
- » Environmental Finance Center at Boise State University
- » Idaho Rural Water Association
- » Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- » Association of Idaho Cities
- » Idaho Association of Counties
- » American Planning Association - Idaho Chapter
- » City of Boise
- » University of Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (Project WET)

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 biannual 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, and the public and are in the process of developing/approving content for the website with assistance from the Collaborative Advisory Committee.
- » 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.