

Stop the Attack on Idaho's Drinking Water

Stop the attacks on America's drinking water. 1 in 3 Americans' drinking water sources are at risk now. That includes the drinking water for nearly 1 in every 6 Idahoans. **The Administration has a strong, commonsense plan to make clean water a priority by protecting the sources that feed the drinking water for more than 117 million Americans, including 252,000 Idahoans.** If Congress blocks the proposal to protect clean water, at least 51% of Idaho's streams and 20 million acres of wetlands nationwide will continue to be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Stopping this proposal imperils drinking water sources, as well as the small businesses and communities that rely on clean water.

Idaho's Selway River



Credit: Forest Service Northern Region on flickr

- **15% of Idahoans – nearly 1 out of 6 residents** – get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams currently vulnerable to pollution.
- **4,815 miles of streams** that feed into Idaho's drinking water sources are at risk. The Clean Water Rule would clarify protections for 60% of the stream miles in ID's Source Water Protection Areas, including intermittent, ephemeral, and headwater streams.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk.

Rule Provides More Economic Benefits than Costs

- **This commonsense proposal restores, but does not expand, the historic coverage of the Clean Water Act.** EPA estimates that the proposed rule would provide **\$388 million to \$514 million annually in benefits** to the public, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, supporting hunting and fishing, and recharging groundwater.
- **Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish and wildlife and Idaho's vibrant recreational industry.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011, \$1.6 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in Idaho, including \$422 million on fishing, and close to a million people participated in these recreational activities in Idaho.
- **Idaho's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** Idaho breweries contribute \$172 million to our economy every year and support more than 2,250 jobs.

Idaho Clean Water Rule Supporters

- **Nearly 2,000 Idahoans, out of more than 800,000 Americans, expressed support for the rule.**
- Groups like the Idaho Wildlife Federation and the Idaho Conservation League support clean water.
- In 2003, Idaho opposed Bush administration efforts to roll back protections for small streams and wetlands.

For more information, please visit protectcleanwater.org.