

Stop the Attack on the Clean Water Rule

Protect Idaho's Drinking Water

The Clean Water Rule was recently finalized by the Obama administration after years of planning, 400 stakeholder meetings, and more than a million public comments. It safeguards our water and restores protections to the drinking water sources for 1 in 3 Americans. This includes the drinking water for nearly 1 in every 6 Idaho residents. **The Clean Water Rule is a strong, commonsense policy that makes clean water a priority throughout the nation.** If Congress blocks the Clean Water Rule, at least 51% of Idaho's stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands nationwide will again be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Blocking this rule would imperil 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 Idaho residents** get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that are protected by the Clean Water Rule.
- **Protections were restored to 4,815 miles of streams** that feed into Idaho's drinking water sources.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are safeguarded.

Rule Provides More Economic Benefits than Costs

- **The Clean Water Rule restores, but does not expand, the historic coverage of the Clean Water Act.** EPA estimates that the rule will provide at least \$339 million and up to \$572 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 throughout the state.
- **Idaho's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** Idaho breweries contribute nearly \$173 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, support 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.
- Recent polling shows that 79% of Americans want Congress to let EPA implement the Rule.

For more information please visit www.protectcleanwater.org