

Groundwater Use in Idaho

Overview¹

Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline) 4,250
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state 24.7%

Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) 212
Percentage of total groundwater 4.99%
Percentage of total public supply 88.7%

Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) 79.0
Percentage of total groundwater 1.86%
Percentage of total individual household supply 100%

Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) 3,820
Percentage of total groundwater 89.9%
Percentage of total irrigation 27.3%

Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) 104
Percentage of total groundwater 2.45%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture 3.72%

Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) 32.6
Percentage of total groundwater 0.77%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 65.6%

Mining

Groundwater (mgd) 1.28
Percentage of total groundwater 0.03%
Percentage of total mining 6.34%

Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) 0.88
Percentage of total groundwater 0.02%
Percentage of total thermoelectric 100%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

¹ US Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

² Idaho Department of Water Resources

³ US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2014.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

Groundwater's Role in Idaho's Economic Vitality

- Approximately 42,500 known residential wells statewide.²
- 673 community water systems use groundwater for 926,000 people³
- 217 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 48,700 people⁴
- 985 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 98,800 people⁵
- 9,190 irrigation wells used serving 3,070 farms and 1,430,000 acres⁶



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Idaho's Groundwater Industry Employment

Men and women working to provide and protect Idaho's groundwater resources for the benefit of people, business, and our environment.

Idaho's Contracting Employment

Drill and service water wells, install and service pumps, install and service point of use water treatment devices. This portion of the industry is characterized by small firms, many of which are multi-generation family-owned and operated.⁷

- 79 firms employ an estimated 443 people⁸
- Annual estimated sales of \$106 million

Idaho's Scientists and Engineers Employment

Geologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, geochemists, geophysicists, microbiologists, regulators.

Environmental Consulting⁹

NAICS 54162: Establishments primarily engaged in providing advice and assistance on environmental issues, such as the control of environmental contamination from pollutants, toxic substances, and hazardous materials.

- 175 firms employ an estimated 500 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$74.5 million

Remediation¹⁰

NAICS 56291: Establishments include those engaged in remediation and cleanup of contaminated buildings, mine sites, soil, or groundwater.

- 35 firms employ an estimated 354 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$51.9 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



⁷ InfoUSA, SIC 1781, March 2015.

⁸ Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

⁹ Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

¹⁰ Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.