2025
University of Idaho CCR Report

# 2024 Water Use by the University of Idaho (PWS ID2290042)

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## *Where does my water come from?*

The University of Idaho pumps groundwater from the Grande Ronde aquifer for drinking water.

The Grande Ronde aquifer is the deeper of the two aquifers in this area and together with the Wanapum aquifer makes up the Palouse groundwater basin. The U of I has two primary domestic water deep wells used for supplying the Moscow campus with water for domestic use, research, and fire protection. Last year, the U of I pumped 118.4 million gallons of groundwater, which is only 5% of the total water pumped last year from the Grande Ronde and Wanapum aquifers. In 1977 the University of Idaho built a reuse water facilities plant system that takes treated wastewater from the City of Moscow wastewater treatment plant that normally would discharge to Paradise Creek and uses it to irrigate the golf course and parts of campus instead. In 2024 alone, the U of I reclaimed 102.6 million gallons of water. Since 1977, when the reclaimed irrigation system was first installed, the university has reclaimed over 3.3 billion gallons of water. That is 3.3 billion gallons of fresh water saved that wasn’t pumped from the aquifer.

# HELP SAVE WATER ON CAMPUS

## Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day, or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers – a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation. (Irrigating early morning or at night.)
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.
- Contact U of I Facilities about leaky faucets and toilets at (208) 885-6246.

# THE PALOUS BASIN AQUIFER COMMITTEE

The **University of Idaho**, along with **Washington State University**, the **City of Moscow**, the **City of Pullman**, the **City of Palouse**, **Latah County**, and **Whitman County** are members of the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee. The Palouse groundwater basin supplies drinking water to all these groups from two basalt aquifers: the shallow **Wanapum Aquifer** and the deep **Grande Ronde Aquifer**. The goal of the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee is “To ensure a long-term, quality water supply for the Palouse Basin region”.

# SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – They contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

### *Do I need to take special precautions?*

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### *Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?*

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. These include microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

# WATER QUALITY DATA TABLES

## Unit Descriptions and Definitions

| Unit Descriptions | |
|---|---|
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| ppm | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) |
| pCi/L | pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) |
| % positive samples/month | % positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive |
| NA | NA: not applicable |
| ND | ND: Not detected |
| NR | NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended. |

| Important Drinking Water Definitions | |
|---|---|
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| MCLG | MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. |
| MCL | MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. |
| TT | TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| AL | AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. |
| Variances and Exemptions | Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| MRDLG | MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. |
| MRDL | MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. |
| MNR | MNR: Monitored Not Regulated |
| MPL | MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level |

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## Lead and Copper

| Contaminants | MCLG | AL | Your Water | Sample Date | # Samples Exceeding AL | Exceeds AL | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Copper** | | | | | | | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.030 | 2024 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Lead** | | | | | | | |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | .015 | .015 | 0.005 | 2024 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

### Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your Community Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

## Water Quality Test Results

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detected In Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| **Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products** | | | | | | | | |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) | NA | 60 | ND | NA | NA | 2024 | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | NA | 80 | ND | NA | NA | 2024 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Microbiological Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform (RTCR) | NA | TT | NA | NA | NA | 2024 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| **Inorganics Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Nitrate | 10 | 10 | ND | NA | NA | 2024 | No | Run off from fertilizer |
| Nitrite | 10 | 1 | ND | NA | NA | 2024 | No | Run off from fertilizer |
| Sodium | NA | | 21.3 | NA | NA | 2024 | No | Naturally Occurring |
| Asbestos | NA | | N/A | NA | NA | 2024 | No | Naturally Occurring |

## Undetected Contaminates

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detected In Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| **Undetected Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb) | 200 | 200 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories |
| 1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb) | 3 | 5 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |
| 1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb) | 7 | 7 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |
| 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb) | 70 | 70 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from textile-finishing factories |
| 1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb) | 0 | 5 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from textile-finishing factories |

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| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detected In Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| 1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb) | 0 | 5 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from textile-finishing factories |
| 2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb) | 50 | 50 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Residue of banned herbicide |
| 2,4-D (ppb) | 70 | 70 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops |
| Alachlor (ppb) | 0 | 2 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops |
| Antimony (ppb) | 6 | 6 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 0 | 10 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| Atrazine (ppb) | 3 | 3 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Benzene (ppb) | 0 | 5 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills |
| Benzo(a)pyrene (ppt) | 0 | 200 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines |
| Beryllium (ppb) | 4 | 4 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries |
| Cadmium (ppb) | 5 | 5 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints |

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| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detected In Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| Carbofuran (ppb) | 40 | 40 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa |
| Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb) | 0 | 5 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities |
| Chlordane (ppb) | 0 | 2 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Residue of banned termiticide |
| Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene ) (ppb | 100 | 100 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | |
| Dalapon (ppb) | 200 | 200 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way |
| Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb) | 400 | 400 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from chemical factories |
| Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb) | 0 | 6 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from rubber and chemical factories |
| Dibromochloropropa ne (DBCP) (ppt | 0 | 200 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards |
| Dichloromethane (ppb) | 0 | 5 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories |
| Dinoseb (ppb) | 7 | 7 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables |
| Endothall (ppb) | 100 | 100 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff from herbicide use |
| Endrin (ppb) | 2 | 2 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Residue of banned insecticide |
| Ethylbenzene (ppb) | 700 | 700 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from petroleum refineries |
| Ethylene dibromide (ppt) | 0 | 50 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from petroleum refineries |
| Glyphosate (ppb) | 700 | 700 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff from herbicide use |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) | NA | 60 | ND | NA | NA | 2024 | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detected In Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| Heptachlor (ppt) | 0 | 400 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Residue of banned pesticide |
| Heptachlor epoxide (ppt) | 0 | 200 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Breakdown of heptachlor |
| Hexachlorobenzene (ppb) | 0 | 1 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories |
| Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb) | 50 | 50 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from chemical factories |
| Lindane (ppt) | 200 | 200 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from chemical factories |
| Mercury [Inorganic] (ppb) | 2 | 2 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from cropland |
| Methoxychlor (ppb) | 40 | 40 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm | 0 | | ND | NA | NA | 2024 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 0 | | ND | NA | NA | 2024 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Oxamyl [Vydate] (ppb) | 200 | 200 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| PCBs [Polychlorinated biphenyls] (ppt) | 0 | 500 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff from landfills; Discharge of waste chemicals |
| Pentachlorophenol (ppb) | 0 | 1 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from wood preserving factories |
| Picloram (ppb) | 500 | 500 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Herbicide runoff |

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detected In Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| Selenium (ppb) | 50 | 50 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines |
| Simazine (ppb) | 4 | 4 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Herbicide runoff |
| Styrene (ppb) | 100 | 100 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | NA | 80 | ND | NA | NA | 2024 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Tetrachloroethylene (ppb) | 0 | 5 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from factories and dry cleaners |
| Thallium (ppb) | .5 | 2 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories |
| Toxaphene (ppb) | 1 | 1 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from petroleum factories |
| Toxaphene (ppb) | 0 | 3 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle |
| Trichloroethylene (ppb) | 0 | 5 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories |
| Vinyl Chloride (ppb) | 0 | 2 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories |
| Xylenes (ppm) | 10 | 10 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |
| cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb) | 70 | 70 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |
| cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb) | 600 | 600 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Detected In Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb) | 75 | 75 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |
| trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb) | 100 | 100 | ND | NA | NA | 2019 | No | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |

If you detect problems or have questions, please call Elmer Johnson, the McKinstry Incident Report Center, or University of Idaho Facilities. In after hour emergencies, please call University of Idaho Campus Security or the McKinstry Incident Report Center.

| Contact | Phone Number | After Hours |
|---|---|---|
| Elmer Johnson (water purveyor) | 208-301-0662 | |
| McKinstry Incident Reporting Hotline (24/7) | 1-855-936-3685 | 1-855-936-3685 |
| U of I Facilities | 208-885-6246 | |
| U of I Campus Security (24/7) | 208-885-7054 | 208-885-7054 |