

# VIDEO SCRIPT

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**TITLE: “Our Water, Our Future”  
“Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative”**

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**DRAFT: Fourth/Final**

**DATE: January 31, 2018**

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FADE IN:

1. Fast paced montage (10 seconds): various uses of water (brushing teeth; drinking; showering; watering lawn; car wash) culminates with **CG: Our Water. Our Future. Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative.**

(Music Up)

- 2.

(Music Change)(Narrator VO)

Water...it's the lifeblood of all living things...plants, animals and people.

3. **CG Build: Aquifer builds from Lake Pend Oreille to Lake Coeur d'Alene to Spokane Valley to Spokane to Lake Spokane.**  
**CG Build: border line builds from Canada defining the border between Washington and Idaho.**

Stretching 370 square miles from Lake Pend Oreille in Northern Idaho to Lake Spokane in Eastern Washington, the **Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer**, also known as the **SVRP Aquifer**, is the sole source of drinking water for more than five hundred thousand residents!

And as you can see, our aquifer knows no political boundaries.

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4. Aquifer groundwater 3D model demonstration? Animation?

So just what is an aquifer? Formed from a series of Ice Age floods ten to twelve thousand years ago, our **SVRP Aquifer** is made up of mixed sands, gravels, cobbles and boulders all of which provide a natural underground filtration system as the water flows through it.

5. Spokane River

Eventually, most of that water is discharged into the Spokane and Little Spokane Rivers ultimately flowing into Lake Spokane.

- 6.

The **Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer** is dynamic with water constantly flowing into and out of the system.

7. Animated map of aquifer gaining reach from Spokane River near Sullivan Rd. then losing reach.

The Spokane River provides about forty-three percent of the inflow water that recharges the SVRP aquifer.

The river also provides about sixty percent

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	of the outflow water that discharges or flows out of the aquifer.
8.	Water also enters the SVRP aquifer from precipitation,
9. Hayden Lake recharge area?	Inflow from upland bedrock watersheds,
10. Lake Coeur d’Alene beauty shot?	Seepage from the Spokane River and several area lakes,
11. Stock farming irrigation shot/ golf course sprinklers?	along with water from irrigation and effluent from septic systems.
12. Spokane River high flow shot	Close to one billion gallons of water flow into and out of the SVRP aquifer every day!
13.	Everyone who lives in the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie area uses the aquifer as their water supply to drink, flush our toilets, water our yards and irrigate crops.

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14. So how does water from the SVRP aquifer get to us?
15. Consolidated Irrigation Water Tower. Vera Power hand dug well. Many Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington residents access their water from private wells that tap into the aquifer.
16. However, the majority of residents, businesses and industry rely on public water purveyors dedicated to providing safe, clean drinking water to the people who work and play in communities throughout the region.
16. Large pumps push the water up and out into a pumping station. Careful measurements are taken to ensure the water is safe to drink before it enters the distribution system. The water is pumped into a tower where it is stored in large tanks that typically hold up to a million gallons. From

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- there it travels through underground pipes called water mains to our homes, offices and industry.
17. So after we use the water where does it go?
18. Water from your sink, shower and toilet goes down the drains to a wastewater treatment plant where it is filtered, purified and discharged into the Spokane River.
19. For those residents using a septic tank system, water goes down the drains to their septic tank where it is filtered then discharged back into the aquifer.
20. (Music Change)
- Although our SVRP aquifer is relatively clean, it has no protective layer of clay and rock above it to shield against surface contaminants.

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21. The Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative or IWAC is a partnership in shared stewardship of the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and Spokane River Watershed.
22. Together, representatives from both states work to maintain and enhance water quality and quantity for present and future generations.
23. As keepers of the SVRP aquifer, one of their greatest concerns is the detrimental impact surface contaminants have on our shared and vital resource.
24. Storm water runoff is the greatest potential source of pollutants as it carries a bit of everything it touches into storm drains which flow into our rivers, lakes and aquifer.
25. The biggest offenders --- fertilizers,

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- herbicides, pesticides, leaves and grass clippings from lawn and yard care;
26. Dirty water, grease and motor oil from car maintenance;
27. Pet waste from dog walking;
28. Pool chemicals and paint stored improperly, or that spill and find their way onto driveways and streets are all threats to our sole source of drinking water ...our **Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer**.
29. Many products we use every day contain hazardous materials that can be dangerous to people, water and the environment.
30. It’s important to use products that are non-toxic and environmentally friendly.
31. Read and follow directions carefully when



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32. using any hazardous product.
33. Store products in their original container and label them clearly.
34. Store products above basement flood level and off the ground in garages and sheds.
35. Never throw toxic substances or their containers in the trash!
36. Never pour leftover products down sink drains or into the toilet.
37. CG: Never mix left over products.  
SpokaneWasteDirectory.org
38. Do not dispose of household hazardous waste in streams, rivers or lakes.
39. And never dump toxic substances into storm drains.
- Regional facilities in Spokane County and transfer stations in Kootenai County accept

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- trash, recyclables, organics and yard waste, household hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste and appliances.
40. Taking the time to dispose of these kinds of potential contaminants will protect and preserve the SVRP aquifer for all of us.
41. Municipalities such as Coeur d’Alene, Post Falls, Spokane Valley and Spokane have also stepped up prevention efforts to protect our precious aquifer.
42. Sewers under construction, septic tanks being removed In 1985 a major effort on both sides of the Idaho/Washington state line was initiated to reduce septic system contamination of the SVRP aquifer through the installation of piped sewer collection systems.
43. Most of these systems utilize a “tertiary treatment” --- a state of the art microscopic

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- filtration technology that removes smaller particles and most viruses and bacteria. Some systems chlorinate the wastewater again in a final disinfection stage before discharge into the environment.
44. Today, all facilities discharging to the Spokane River must operate tertiary treatment technology to meet current environmental standards.
45. Cities are also utilizing low-lying swales in business and residential landscapes to catch rainwater so it percolates into the ground and slowly releases into the SVRP aquifer.
46. Storm gardens reduce rain runoff by allowing storm water to soak into the ground rather than flowing into storm drains and surface waters which causes erosion, water pollution,

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47. flooding and diminished groundwater.
47. Phosphorous found in fertilizers can cause environmental damage when the chemical enters a waterway reducing oxygen levels and killing vegetation and aquatic life.
48. The phosphorous reduction ban has greatly reduced the levels of phosphates from reaching Spokane water treatment plants.
49. The establishment of the Kootenai County Aquifer Protection Districts in 2007 has also proven to be a boon to our aquifer.
50. Video of each lake/river  
CG: Rathdrum Prairie. Lake Coeur d'Alene. Lake Pend Oreille. Spirit Lake. Spokane River in Idaho.
- Voter approved---the law protects groundwater quality; monitors and inspects potential sources of pollution; implements educational programs; and coordinates the work of public agencies to assist in the prevention of degradation of our valuable

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- ground water and the extensive cost of remedial action.
51. There are many easy ways that residents of Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington can work together to protect and preserve the quality and quantity of water in our shared resource...the **Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer**. Here are just a few:
52. CG: Conservation Solutions. Remove debris from storm drains so only rainwater finds its way to the aquifer.
53. Use a broom not a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
54. CG: A full bath requires 70 gallons of water. A 10-minute shower uses 25 gallons. Take shorter showers and choose showers over baths.
55. CG: Faucets that drip once per second waste over 3,000 gallons a year. Repair leaking pipes, dripping faucets and running toilets.

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56. CG: statistic: how much water saved.	Convert older toilets to low flow with a displacement device.
57. CG: Use a front-loading washing machine and suds savers.	Only wash full loads of laundry and dishes.
58. CG: Look for the EPA Water Sense and Energy Star logos. (show both logos)	Replace old appliances and fixtures with energy-efficient models.
59.	And keep a pitcher of water in the fridge rather than letting the water run in the sink until it's cold.
60. CG: Prevention Methods.	Dispose hazardous waste properly.
61.	Repair auto leaks that end up on driveways washing into storm drains polluting the aquifer.
62.	And wash your car on grass or at the car wash to prevent dirty water from entering storm drains.

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63. Do not over fertilize your lawn washing harmful chemicals into storm drains.
64. Make sure sprinklers are watering your lawn and not the street.
65. Never water in the heat of the day due to rapid evaporation.
66. Mow grass at a higher setting which requires less water.
67. (Music Change)
68. Residents, businesses and industries of Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington working together today ensures a legacy of abundant, clean water in our **Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer** for our children, grand children and generations to come.
69. Fade to black.

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