



# VIDEO SCRIPT

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

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Red Text = copy revision from V.4

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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. Animation: Aquifer builds from Lake Pend Oreille to Lake Coeur d'Alene to Spokane Valley to Spokane to Lake Spokane.

Stretching 370 square miles from Lake Pend Oreille in Northern Idaho to Lake Spokane in Eastern Washington, the **Spokane Valley**

Border line builds from Canada defining the border between Washington and Idaho.

**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 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 confluence-aerial

Eventually, some of that water is discharged into the Spokane and Little Spokane River- ultimately flowing into Lake Spokane.

6. Upriver Dam riverbank – where you can see the aquifer feeding into the river

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 and losing reach /Video of Spokane River near Sullivan Rd. (losing reach)

In some places water seeps out of the bottom of the Spokane River and into the aquifer.

This spot along the river near Sullivan Road is one place where water flows the other

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AUDIO

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direction... out of the aquifer and into the river.

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| 8. Rain on grass   | 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, graphic emphasizing 1,000,000,000! | Close to one billion gallons of water flow into and out of the SVRP aquifer every day!  |
| 13. Valley neighborhood  | 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.<br><br>So how does water from the SVRP aquifer |
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**VISUAL**

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**AUDIO**

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14. People using water at home

get to us?

Many Northern Idaho and Eastern

Washington residents access their water

from private wells that tap into the aquifer.

15. Consolidated Irrigation Water Tower. Vera Power hand dug well.

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.

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AUDIO

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16. City of Spokane well and facility at Upriver dam-pumps, laboratory, Shadle water tower

Measurements being taken

pipes

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 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. Spokane Co. Market Street wastewater treatment facility

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. Graphic of septic system-cross section of soils below house.

Some residents still use septic systems to treat wastewater. Water goes down the

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**VISUAL**

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**AUDIO**

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drains into the septic system and is filtered through the soil, returning water to the aquifer.

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20. Central Premix pit showing soils – CU of gravel etc.

(Music Change)

The SVRP aquifer is clean but our sandy, gravelly soils have a very limited filtration ability. Soil here provides little protection to the aquifer compared with other aquifers where clay or rock layers shield the aquifer from surface pollution.

21. IWAC Logo, names and logos of members

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. Stormwater pipes by river

As keepers of the SVRP aquifer, one of their greatest concerns is the detrimental impact

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|                                      | surface contaminants have on our shared and vital resource.   |
| 24. Water flowing into storm drains  | 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. Lawn care products and clippings | The biggest offenders --- fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, leaves and grass clippings from lawn and yard care;  |
| 26. Under car getting oil change     | Dirty water, grease and motor oil from car maintenance;   |
| 27. Dog walker                       | Pet waste from dog walking;   |
| 28. Paint cans, pool chemicals       | 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 <b>Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.</b> |
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AUDIO

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29. Home owner enters garage,  
goes to shelves

Many products we use every day contain hazardous materials that can be dangerous to people, water and the environment.

30. Pan of products-labels  
emphasis non-toxic

It's important to use products that are non-toxic and environmentally friendly.

31. Reading directions

Read and follow directions carefully when using any hazardous product.

32.

Store products in their original container and label them clearly.

33. Garage shelves

Store products above basement flood level and off the ground in garages and sheds.

34. Photo with NO symbol

Never throw toxic substances or their containers in the trash!

35. Photo with NO symbol

Never pour leftover products down sink drains or into the toilet.

36. Photo with NO symbol

Never mix left over products.

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37. Photo with NO symbol

Do not dispose of household hazardous waste in streams, rivers or lakes.

38. Photo with NO symbol

And never dump toxic substances into storm drains.

39. Transfer stations

Regional facilities in Spokane and Kootenai County accept 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. CdA water dept. exterior

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

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AUDIO

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Idaho/Washington state line was initiated to reduce septic system contamination of the SVRP aquifer through the installation of piped sewer collection systems.

43. Spokane County treatment plant

A growing number of systems utilize a “tertiary treatment” --- a state of the art microscopic filtration technology that removes smaller particles and most viruses and bacteria. Some systems use a final disinfection stage before discharge into the environment.

44. Treatment plant continued

In the future all facilities discharging to the Spokane River must operate tertiary treatment technology to meet current environmental standards.

45. Country Homes Blvd  
And Target lot

Local jurisdictions are also utilizing low-lying swales in business and residential landscapes to catch rainwater so it percolates into the

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AUDIO

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46. Panhandle Health Dist.

ground and slowly releases into the SVRP aquifer.

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, flooding and diminished groundwater.

47. Puddled water

Nutrients found in fertilizers can cause environmental damage when they enter a waterway reducing oxygen levels and impact vegetation and aquatic life.

48. Household detergents,  
dishwashing soap

The phosphorous reduction ban has greatly reduced the levels of phosphates from reaching Spokane water treatment plants.

49. Cities of CdA and Post Falls

The Kootenai County Aquifer Protection District and the Spokane County Aquifer Protection Area are protecting our shared aquifer.

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AUDIO

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50. Video of each lake/river  
CG: Rathdrum Prairie. Lake  
Coeur d’Alene. Lake Pend  
Oreille. Spirit Lake. Spokane  
River in Idaho.

These voter approved laws protect  
groundwater quality; monitor and inspect  
potential sources of pollution; implement  
educational programs; and coordinate the  
work of public agencies to prevent  
degradation of our precious drinking water  
and the staggering cost of remedial action.

51. Scenic lake footage  
continued

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.  
Video-cleaning drain

Remove debris from storm drains so only  
rainwater finds its way to the aquifer.

53. Sweeping driveway

Use a broom not a hose to clean driveways  
and sidewalks.

54. CG: A full bath requires 70  
gallons of water. A 10-

Take shorter showers and choose showers

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VISUAL	AUDIO
minute shower uses 25 gallons.	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.
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. Water pitcher	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 of hazardous waste properly.
61. Mechanic under car	Repair auto leaks that end up on driveways washing into storm drains polluting the aquifer.
62. Car wash	And wash your car on grass or at the car

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AUDIO

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63. Lawn spreader-adjust settings

wash to prevent dirty water from entering storm drains.

64. Sprinkler

Do not over fertilize your lawn washing harmful chemicals into storm drains.  
Make sure sprinklers are watering your lawn and not the street.

65. Sprinklers in the sun

Never water in the heat of the day due to rapid evaporation.

66. Lawn mower

Mow grass at a higher setting which requires less water.

67.

(Music Change)

68. People on and near the water-boating, fishing, on the beach.  
Sunset.

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.

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69. Fade to black.