

12/13/2024

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
RECOMMENDED WATER RIGHTS ACQUIRED UNDER STATE LAW

RIGHT NUMBER: 97-2020

NAME AND ADDRESS: STATE OF IDAHO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATEHOUSE
BOISE ID 83720

SOURCE: PRIEST LAKE TRIBUTARY: PRIEST RIVER

QUANTITY: 800000.00 AFY

The quantity of water for this right is to maintain the level of Priest Lake no lower than the following minimum lake levels:

MONTH	MINIMUM LAKE LEVEL
January	2439.43 feet
February	2439.39 feet
March	2439.50 feet
April	2439.99 feet
May	2441.77 feet
June	2441.13 feet
July	2439.80 feet
August	2439.10 feet
September	2438.83 feet
October	2438.81 feet
November	2439.03 feet
December	2439.28 feet

The elevation of the lake is measured at the USGS Priest Lake Outlet Gage (12393000) Near Coolin, ID ("gage"). The lake levels in this water right are based on the datum at this gage of 2438.43 feet.

PRIORITY DATE: 01/24/1927

POINT OF DIVERSION: T59N R04W S5 Within BONNER County

The point of diversion is the natural outlet of Priest Lake.

PURPOSE AND
PERIOD OF USE:

PURPOSE OF USE	PERIOD OF USE	QUANTITY
AESTHETIC	01/01 12/31	800000.00 AFY
LAKE LEVEL MAINTENANCE	01/01 12/31	800000.00 AFY
RECREATION	01/01 12/31	800000.00 AFY

The purpose of this right is to protect and preserve Priest Lake in its near natural condition as it existed on the date of priority, for scenic beauty, health, recreation, transportation, and other commercial purposes necessary and desirable for all the inhabitants of the State of Idaho.

PLACE OF USE:

The place of use for this water right is within Priest Lake.

Priest lake is located with T59N, R04W; T60N, R04W; T60N, R05W; T61N, R04W; T62N, R04W

OTHER PROVISIONS NECESSARY FOR DEFINITION OR ADMINISTRATION OF THIS WATER RIGHT:

The name "State of Idaho, Office of the Governor", appears in the Name and Address section of this right. However, as a matter of Idaho law, the Governor of the State of Idaho acts on behalf of the people of Idaho, the beneficiaries of this water right.

This partial decree is subject to such general provisions necessary for the definition of the rights or for the efficient administration of the water rights as may be ultimately determined by the Court at a point in time no later than the entry of a final unified decree. Idaho Code § 42-1412(6).

EXPLANATORY MATERIAL: BASIS OF CLAIM - License

Commented [SK1]: This seems to be the same gage as referenced in the IWRB rights, but it's referenced differently. I recommend being consistent among the rights, if we can.

Commented [CS2R1]: The elevations used for the Governor's right are in a different datum than what is described for the Board's rights in Idaho Code 50-507. The USGS conversion between the two datums is **NGVD 29 = NAVD 88 - 3.6 feet** with an error of +/-0.5 feet for 95% of the study area. I was able to use the NGS Coordinate Conversion and Transformation tool (NCAT) [NGS Coordinate Conversion and Transformation Tool \(NCAT\)](#) to narrow down the conversion to what I think is **NGVD 29 = NAVD 88 - 3.99 feet**. However, the statutory language in 50-507 references a "supplementary adjustment of 1947". I cannot find what that adjustment is, but I assume it has something to do with the error. In short, since the data used to calculate elevations for the minimum lake levels was collected in NAVD 88, then I think we want to list it on the WR in NAVD 88 and let the operators make the conversion as necessary.