

2025 Exempt Well Bill Review

Montana and Idaho

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Idaho Senate Bill 1083, 2025

4 Main Ideas included in the “Statement of Purpose”:

1

Allow multiple exempt domestic uses to be combined in a single well (only applies to in-home water use)

2

Streamline process for ensuring compliance

4

Require community wells within municipal service areas be compatible with muni. systems & use surface water for irrigation

3

Designate areas as:

1. “Ground Water Management Areas,”
2. “Critical Ground Water Areas” or
3. “Moratorium Areas.

Domestic Use Exemption only applies to in-home or stock watering uses
- all other uses require permit

Idaho Funding Companion: HB 445

House Bill 445, signed into law on April 4, appropriated \$31 Million for:

- **4** additional FTE in Dept. of Water Resources
- **\$716,000** for aquifer monitoring, measurement, and modeling
- **\$30** million for water projects

Idaho Funding Companion: HB 445

Water Project Prioritization (**\$30M**):

- Aquifer recharge & groundwater management
- Groundwater-to-surface water conversion
- Development/rehab of water storage
- Water supply & delivery improvements
- Emergency water infrastructure repairs