

Rainwater Harvesting

Palouse Basin Water Summit

October 6, 2009

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What is Rainwater Harvesting?

Collection and storage
for beneficial use
of water
derived from precipitation

Potential Benefits

- Stormwater management tool
 - Reduce peak flow – flooding
 - Reduce pollution in runoff
- Ease pressure on existing sources
 - Doesn't tap potable sources

Some Places Require It

- Santa Fe County, NM – New residential & commercial = irrigation supply.
- Tucson, AZ – New commercial = 50% of irrigation needs.
- Austin, TX – Subsidies for residential systems.



What about the Palouse?



Two States

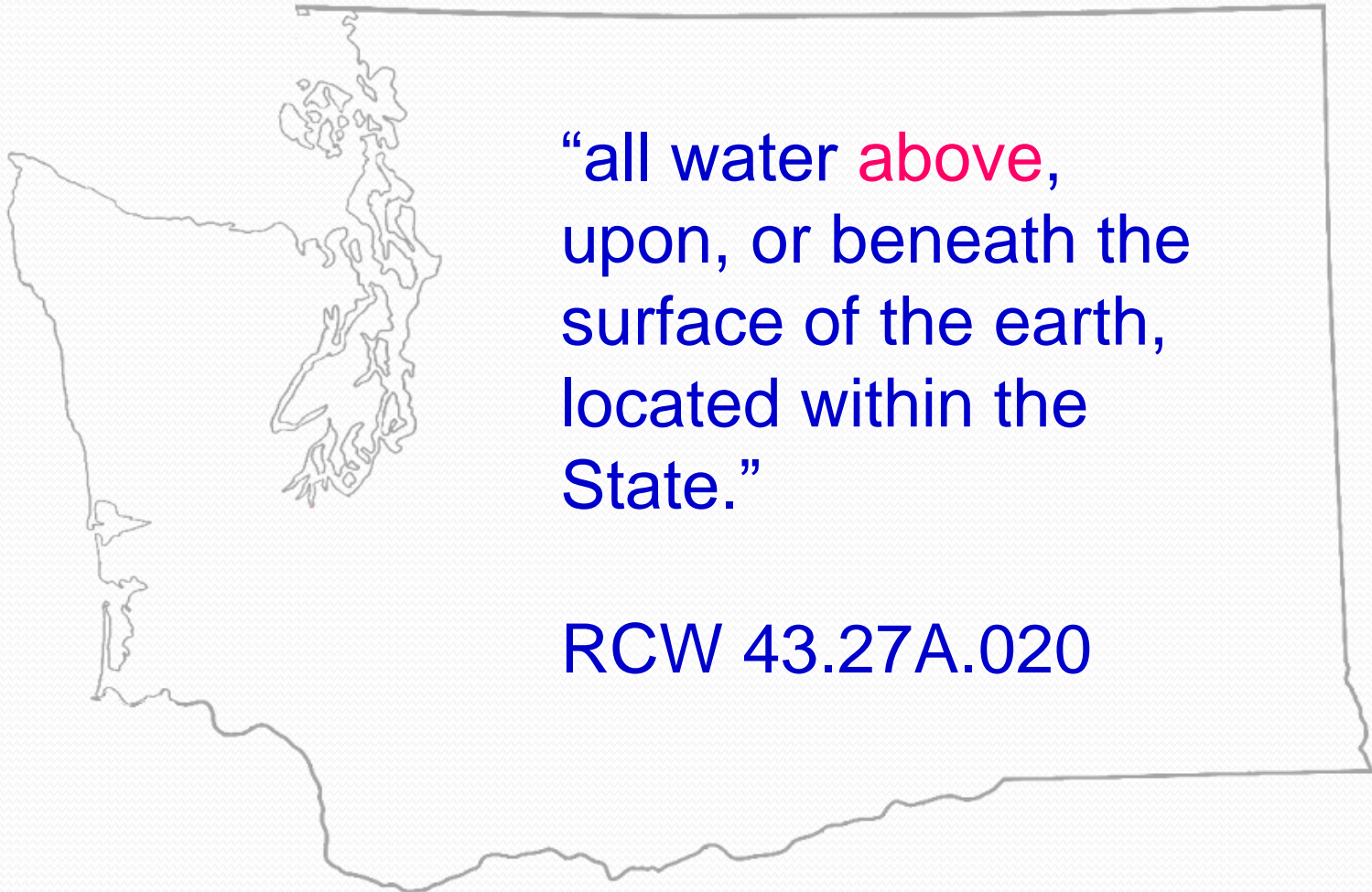
Two Sets of Rules



One Main Concern . . .

Downstream Water Rights

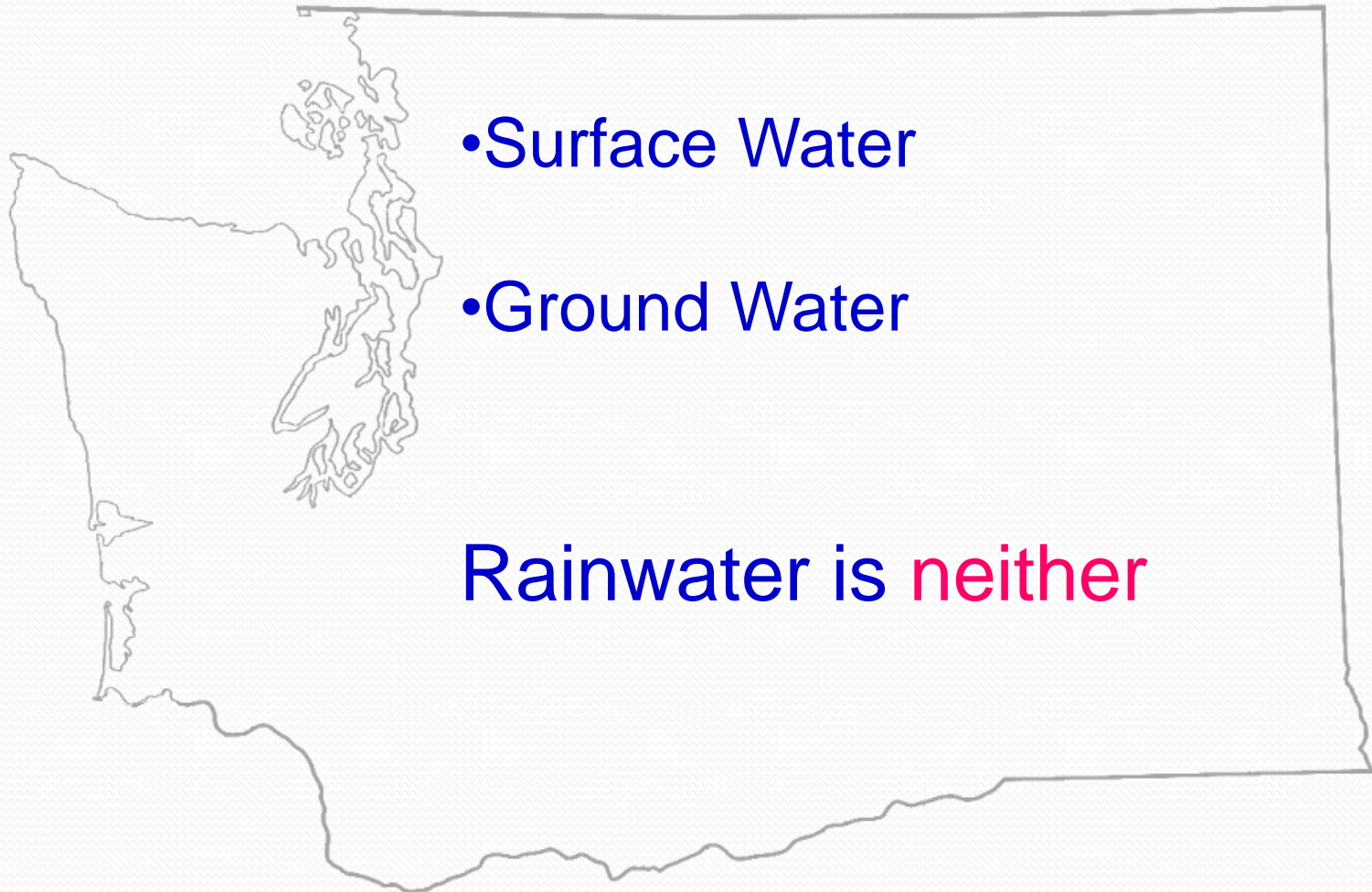
Washington's Rules



“all water **above**,
upon, or beneath the
surface of the earth,
located within the
State.”

RCW 43.27A.020

Washington's Rules

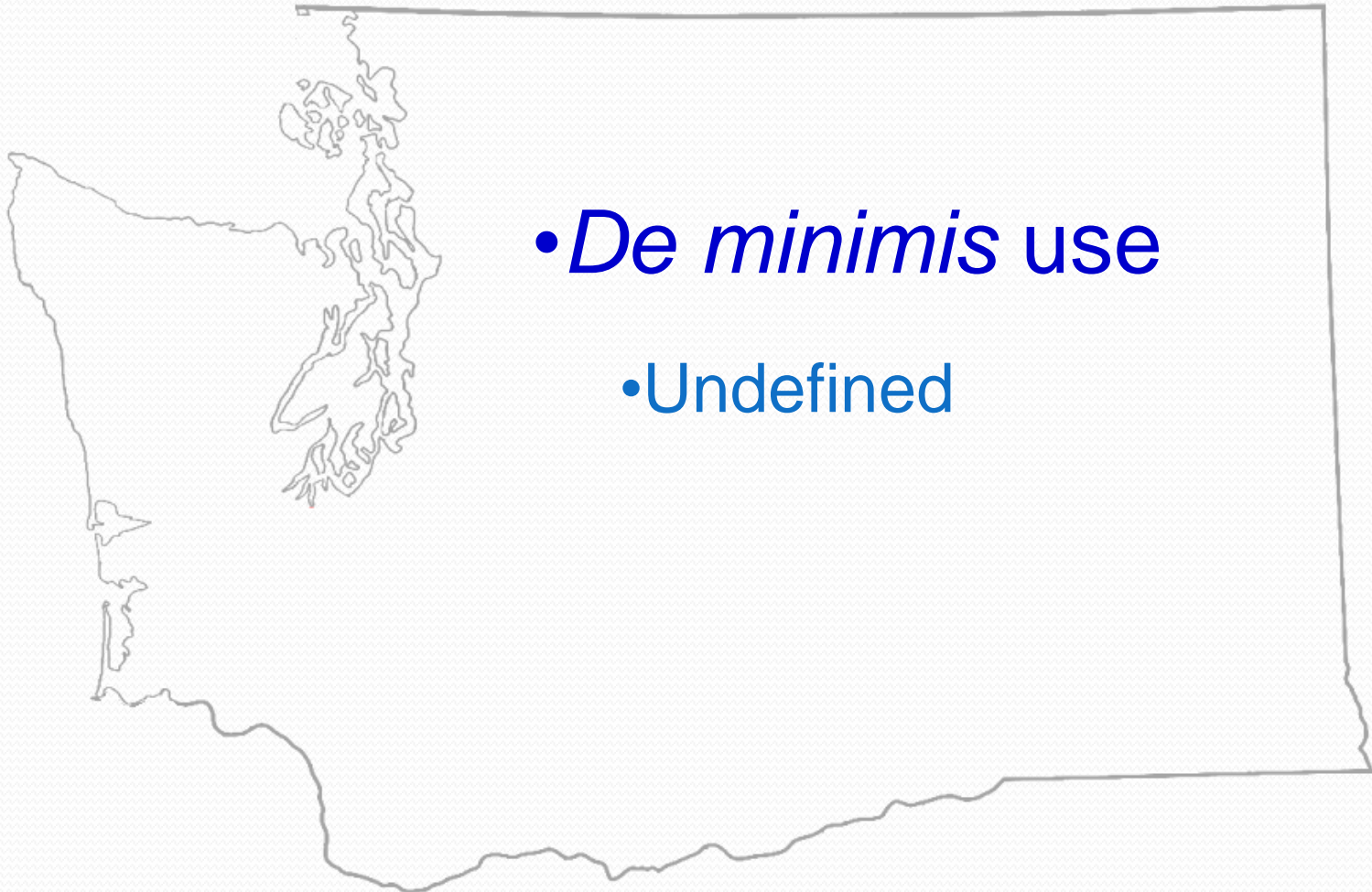


- Surface Water

- Ground Water

Rainwater is **neither**

Washington's Rules



- *De minimis* use
- Undefined

Washington's Rules



Exemptions
apply only to
groundwater

Idaho's Rules

“All the waters of the state,
when **flowing in their natural
channels . . .**”

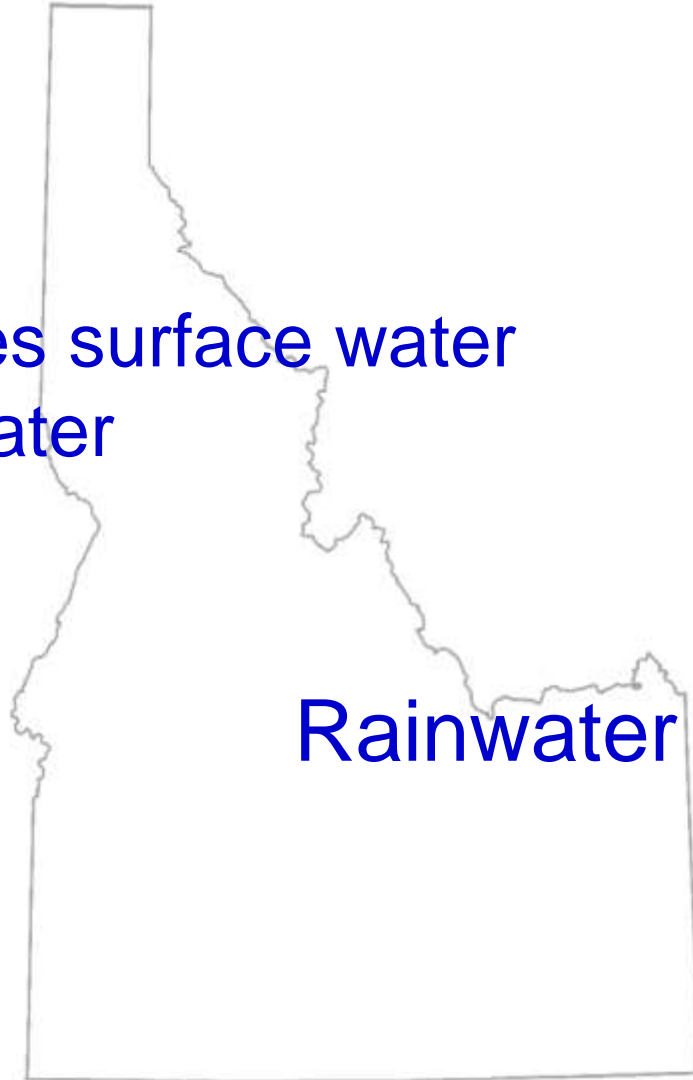
IC 42.101



Idaho's Rules

IDWR allocates surface water
and ground water

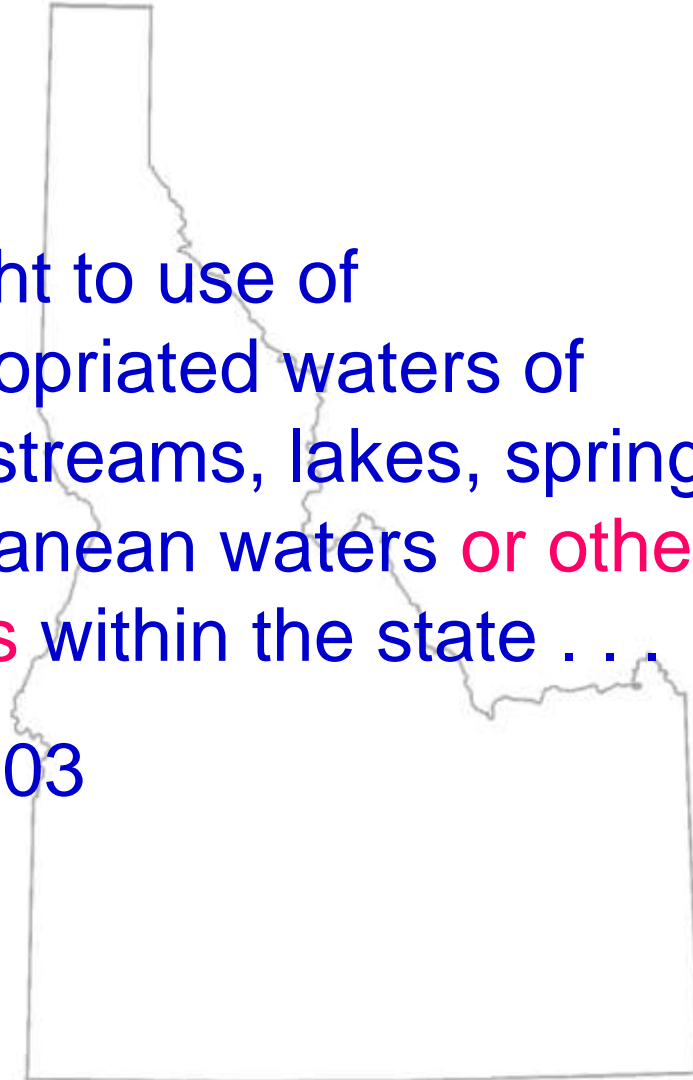
Rainwater is **neither**



Idaho's Rules

The right to use of
unappropriated waters of
rivers, streams, lakes, springs,
subterranean waters **or other
sources** within the state . . .

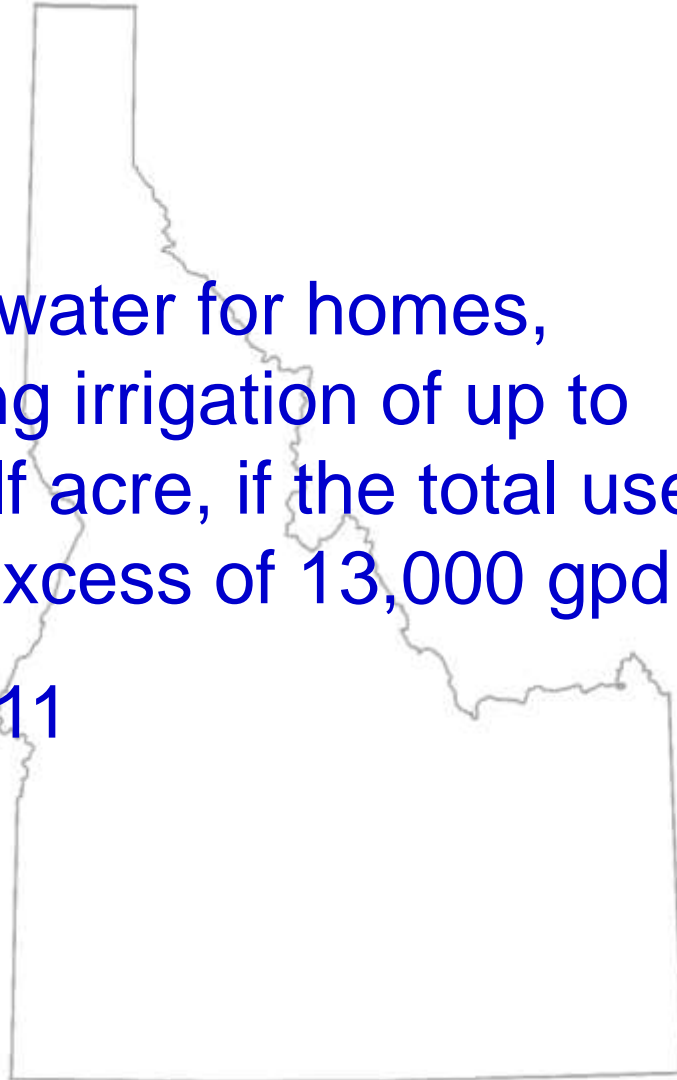
IC 42-103



Idaho's Rules – Exemption a

Use of water for homes,
including irrigation of up to
one-half acre, if the total use is
not in excess of 13,000 gpd

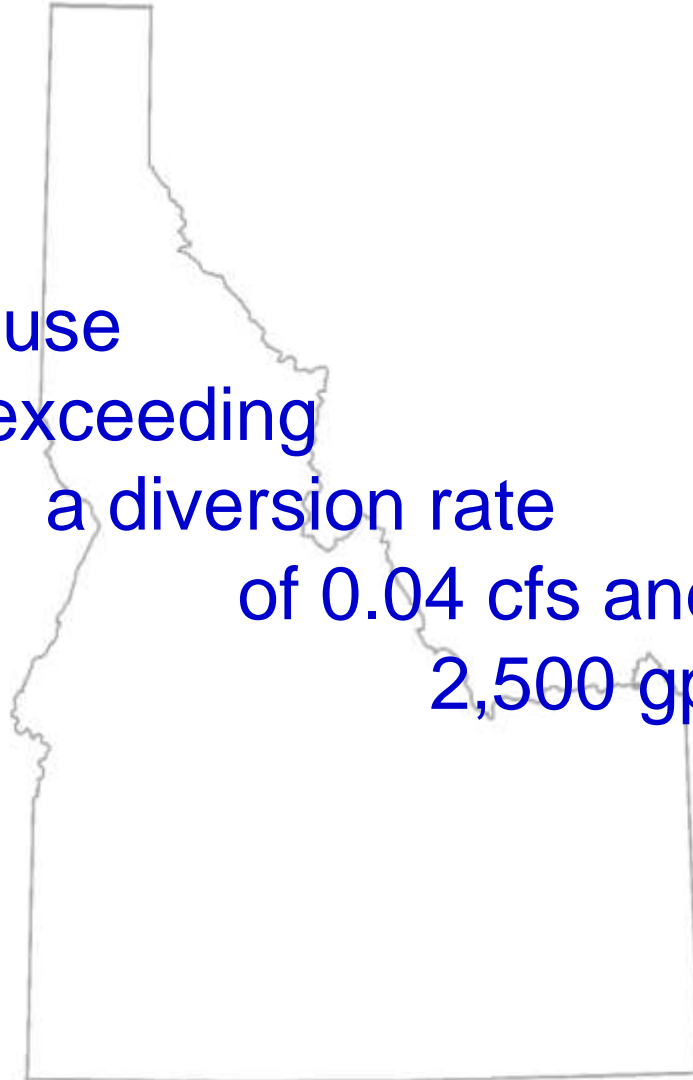
IC 42.111



Idaho's Rules – Exemption b

Any other use
not exceeding
a diversion rate
of 0.04 cfs and
2,500 gpd

IC 42.111



Questions?