

# City of Bancroft

## Consumer Confidence Report

for Fiscal Year 2017 Made available 7/1/2018

### Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 10 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we informed you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

### Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Where does my water come from?

The City of Bancroft currently utilizes a single source deep water well that is referred to as the "Park Well". This well supplies all of the drinking water for the citizens of Bancroft. The well water is pumped to a 350,000 gallon tank then gravity fed through the supply lines to each connection point in most cases a water meter. The gravity system provides approximately 30 gallons per minute to domestic 3/4" connections, 50 gallons per minute to domestic 1" connections, and 200 gallons per minute to commercial 2" connections.

The Pounds per square inch (psi) ranges from 80 psi to 86 psi at each connection point. One additional well exists. The "City Well" is used on a regular basis to relieve and supplement the "Park Well".

### Source water assessment and its availability

A source water assessment was completed in 2002 for the City of Bancroft water system. A copy of this report can be found at the City Hall at 95 South Main Street, Bancroft, Id 83217 or online at the following web address:  
[http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/SWARreports/6150002\\_City\\_of\\_Bancroft.PDF](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/SWARreports/6150002_City_of_Bancroft.PDF)

### Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural

livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **How can I get involved?**

The best way citizens can get involved is to ensure they are in compliance with the Cross Connection Control Policy For The City Of Bancroft Water System. To review this document, please feel free to contact the City of Bancroft by writing us, calling, faxing or sending an e-mail to the following:

95 S Main Street,  
Bancroft, ID 83217  
Phone: (208) 648-7648  
Fax: (208) 648-7636  
Email: [bancroftcity@icsofidaho.net](mailto:bancroftcity@icsofidaho.net)

### **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

1. Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
2. Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
3. Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
4. Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
5. Water plants only when necessary.
6. Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
7. Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
8. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
9. Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

### **Source Water Protection Tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

1. Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
2. Pick up after your pets.
3. If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
4. Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
5. Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
6. Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

### **Additional Information for Lead**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Bancroft is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Additional Information for Arsenic**

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

### **Additional Information for Nitrate**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

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## **Water Quality Data Table**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

**Water Quality Data Table (Continued)**

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1	NA	NA	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.073	NA	NA	2013	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	4	NA	NA	2013	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	8.08	NA	NA	2017	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits



Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
E. coli (RTCR) - in the distribution system	0	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive and either is E. coli - positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli.	1	NA	NA	2017	Yes	E. coli) bacteria, a coliform species, are naturally occurring microorganisms in the intestinal tract of all warm-blooded animals, including humans. Most forms of the bacteria are harmless, however some strains can cause severe illness. The most common strain, E. coli 0157:H7, produces toxins that cause abdominal pain, fever, diarrhea, and vomiting. People may become infected with the bacteria by swimming in or drinking contaminated water. The following are potential sources of E. coli bacteria:  High human activity in the water. Wild (geese, gulls, ducks, deer, raccoons, etc.) & domestic (dogs, cats, etc.) animal waste. Urban storm water runoff, including rain and snowmelt. Polluted runoff from rural areas, including roads, golf courses, agriculture, and lawns. Illicit waste connections to storm sewers or roadside ditches. Malfunctioning on-site sewage disposal systems (septic systems). Sanitary sewer overflows and sewer line break discharges.
We had a total coliform-positive repeat sample following an E. coli-positive routine sample.								
Total Coliform (RTCR)	NA	TT	NA	NA	NA	2017	No	Naturally present in the environment

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	.14	NA	NA	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	1.41	NA	NA	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCL G	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.357	2017		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	3	2017	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## Violations and Exceedances

### E. coli (RTCR) - in the distribution system

E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We found E. coli bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution system. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. The City of Bancroft routinely monitor the conditions in the drinking water distribution system. On March 1st and 2nd and we took a total of 5 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. One (1) Sample, our well source was clean and free of any coliform or bacteria of any kind. The other four (4) of our samples tested positive for coliform with one (1) of those samples testing positive for e-coli.

"[Two]...potential issues...could have caused the positive sample results: the first possible cause is a potentially leaking water line that is located near the railroad well house (1st St and First St W). This area is also susceptible to surface water runoff which can contribute to infiltration and contamination. Please evaluate this water pipe and repair or replace any leaking lines. The second potential cause for the recent contamination issues is possible cross contamination between samples. The operator noted that while collecting the samples that resulted in positive results, one of the sink aerators was fairly dirty and may have contaminated the sample. Please ensure that proper care is taken during sample collection to prevent cross contamination of drinking water samples." (Jessie Benet EIT, DEQ Level 2 Assessment Letter)

By following the corrective measures stated below the DEQ allowed us to pull the Boil alert on March 14, 2017. A notice of the violation in the form of a door hanger and boil advisory was provided to the public within 24 hours of receiving the water sample

## Violations and Exceedances

results. Other measures such as texts sent directly to local citizens and word of mouth communication were also put into action. The City of Bancroft worked closely with the DEQ to resolve the violation. Multiple water samples were pulled to isolate the problem area and treatment of the water with chlorine was implemented as directed by the DEQ. We also flushed the distribution lines several times to ensure cleanliness.

Currently, the majority of the time the City of Bancroft water system does not require treatment of any kind. To maintain the cleanliness of the transmission pipes, distribution pipes, valves and components of the water system, treatments using chlorine will be conducted periodically. The water during treatment is completely safe to consume. We will do our best to keep treatments to as short a time as possible.

During treatment chlorination levels are kept far below what most municipalities generally treat their water. Our water is treated at or under 0.09 parts chlorine per million parts water (or 9 parts chlorine per 100 million parts water). Most water systems requiring chlorination treat between 1.00 and 2.00 parts per million. We are grateful for your patience and regret any inconvenience this might cause.

### Level 1 Assessment and Sanitary Defects

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliform indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 1 Assessment(s). One Level 1 Assessment(s) were completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action(s) and we completed one assessment(s).

### Level 2 Assessment and Sanitary Defects

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliform indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 2 Assessment(s). One Level 2 Assessment(s) were completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective actions and we completed one assessment(s).

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## Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
% positive samples/month	% positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive
NA	NA: not applicable

## Unit Descriptions

ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year

## Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

### For more information please contact:

Contact Name: Gary Sievers  
Address: 95 S. Main St.  
Bancroft, Id 83217  
Phone: 208-648-7648, Mobile: 208-221-6858