

Minimum Stream Flow Fact Sheet
Water Right 95-8780

Source: Spokane River

Owner: Idaho Water Resource Board

Purposes: To preserve fish, wildlife, scenic and recreational values and to protect and enhance water quality.

Priority Date: June 15, 1992

Reach Description: Spokane River beginning at Post Falls Dam and extending downstream for 5 miles to Idaho Washington state line.

Rates of Flow: 2,495 cfs November 1 to June 30
951 cfs July 1 to October 31

Additional Information:

- Minimum stream flow amounts were established using the Tennant Method. This method, established by Donald L. Tennant, a fisheries biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, assigns various percentages of mean annual flow to stream values such as fish and aquatic habitat and riparian health. The 2,495 cfs flow for November through June, 40% of the mean annual flow, is classified as an "Outstanding" flow rate for November through March and a "Good" flow rate for April through June. The 915 cfs flow for July through October is based on the lowest mean monthly flow for that period. It is approximately 15% of the mean annual flow, falling between "Poor or Minimum" and "Fair or Degrading" June through September and "Good" and Fair or Degrading" in October. The "Optimum" flow is 60-100% of the mean annual flow.
- No stream specific flow studies have been conducted on the Spokane River.
- Flow records from the USGS Gage on the Spokane River near Post Falls (12419000) were used to develop the mean annual flow.
- This minimum stream flow will protect flows from Post Falls Dam, but will not affect the operation of the dam.

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