

STARWEATHER WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION & IRRIGATION OVERVIEW

The purpose of this document is to keep the community records up to date on the Starweather water system.

Current Well House Equipment & Maintenance Information:

- **Well house back-up generator:** Installed in May 2026
- **Well pumps:** Both well pumps were installed in September 2026

Water System, Water Rights, Water District and Irrigation Season:

As an established, self-sufficient neighborhood in Blaine County's Mid-Valley area, the Starweather Homeowners Association owns, operates, and maintains its own private community water network.

1. Our Water Source: The Wood River Valley Aquifer

Starweather draws its entire water supply from two dedicated community wells located within our subdivision boundaries. These wells tap directly into the **Wood River Valley aquifer system**— a highly permeable, unconfined shallow alluvial aquifer fed by the Big Wood River and alpine mountain runoff.

Our specific neighborhood wells tap into a rich gravel and sand pocket at exact depths of **61 feet** and **64 feet**. Drawing from this shallow alluvial layer provides our community with direct access to naturally crisp, constantly recharging mountain groundwater.

2. We Are an HOA Water System (Not Hailey Municipality)

Our independent infrastructure is dictated by geography, legal water rights, and long-term cost benefits:

- **Outside Municipal Limits:** Starweather is in unincorporated Blaine County. Extending Hailey municipal water mainlines this far north is structurally and financially impractical.
- **Infrastructure Autonomy:** The [City of Hailey's water system](#) operates on a completely separate public grid sourced from Indian Springs Canyon and four city-owned wells.
- Starweather was intentionally engineered from its inception to be entirely self-contained, operating under local water rights approved by the [Idaho Department of Water Resources \(IDWR\)](#).

STARWEATHER WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION & IRRIGATION OVERVIEW

- **Direct Community Control:** By managing our own system, our community maintains 100% oversight of operational costs, preventative maintenance schedules, and capital reserves without being subject to municipal tax adjustments or external city restrictions.

3. Engineering Reliability: Our Lead/Lag Pump System

To guarantee uninterrupted service, our neighborhood relies on a dual-pump configuration running on a **Lead/Lag system**.

- a) The Lead Pump:** This is the primary workhorse. When a resident turns on a faucet or a routine lawn cycle kicks in, the system automated control panel activates the designated "lead" pump to handle the demand and maintain baseline pressure.
- b) The Lag Pump:** During peak demand hours—such as warm summer mornings when multiple household irrigation lines activate simultaneously—a single pump might not be able to maintain optimal pressure alone. When the system detects pressure dropping below a preset threshold, the secondary "lag" pump automatically powers on to assist.
- c) Built-in Redundancy:** The control panel automatically alternates which physical pump acts as the "lead" over time to ensure equal wear and tear on the machinery. Furthermore, if a pump fails mechanically, the system immediately recognizes the fault and forces the healthy pump to step up as the permanent lead. This built-in mechanical safety net reduces the possibility that a single pump failure won't cause a neighborhood-wide water outage.

4. Water Quality & Natural Mineral Footprint

Groundwater pulled from the Wood River Valley aquifer is exceptionally pure and regularly monitored to ensure safety and compliance with the [Idaho Department of Environmental Quality \(DEQ\)](#) standards.

Because it is drawn through natural mountain gravel channels, our water features a regional mineral footprint averaging around **171 mg/L**, classifying it as "**hard water**." While these minerals are completely safe and healthy to drink, many homeowners choose to use water softeners to protect household plumbing fixtures and prevent scale buildup on appliances.

STARWEATHER WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION & IRRIGATION OVERVIEW

STARWEATHER WATER RIGHTS:

Water Right Owners: Starweather Subdivision Property Owners

Priority Date: 10/25/1988

Basis: License

Status: Active

Water Source: Ground Water

Starweather has two water rights – one for Domestic use and one for Irrigation

Domestic/Household Water Rights:

Starweather domestic use is for 55 homes and does not include lawn, garden, landscape or other types of irrigation

DOMESTIC	01/01	12/31	0.34 CFS	33.00 AFA
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The annual water volume of 33 acre-feet (afa) is **10,753,083 gallons**

10,753,083 gallons / 55 homes = 536 gallons per day per home in Starweather

Domestic use comparison

To put this volume into perspective, consider the average household's water consumption.

- **Average U.S. household:** Uses about 300 gallons of water per day, or about 109,500 gallons annually.

33 afa volume: 10,753,083 gallons/109,500 gallons per household

10,753,083 gallons/109,500 gallons per household $\approx$ 98

Based on the average usage, 33 afa could serve roughly 98 households for a full year

Irrigation Water Rights: ***NOTE: See Next Page>>>**

This right is limited to 29.7 acres within the Starweather community with an **irrigation season from 4/15 to 10/31 annually.** (see next page)

The irrigation water limits per lot in Starweather are as follows:

Irrigation within Lots:

A.) Lots 1, 6, 9, 11, 12, 17, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27, 28, 32-35, 40, 41, 45, 47, 49, and a portion of lot 53 in the Starweather Subdivision are limited to irrigating a collective total of 16.4 acres (approximately .745 acres per lot).

B.) Lots 2-5, 7, 8A, 10, 13-16, 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29-31, 36-39, 42, 43, 44A, 46, 48, 50, 51A, 52A, 59, 60A-1, and 60B in the Starweather Subdivision are limited to a collective total of 13.3 acres not to exceed 0.4 acres per lot.

STARWEATHER WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION & IRRIGATION OVERVIEW

Water District & Irrigation Rules:

- Starweather is a member of the **Galena Ground Water District (GGWD)**. We actively cooperate with district and state efforts to manage the Wood River Valley aquifer sustainably and **therefore the following supersedes the irrigation information under the water rights on page 1.**
- **Lawn Irrigation Season: April 1 – September 15th unless there are additional curbs put in place due to drought conditions**
- **Season Cutoff Rule:** While individual property water rights for Starweather may state that irrigation is permitted through October 31st, **Starweather strictly follows the recommendations of the Galena Ground Water Districts irrigation season.** This means our neighborhood irrigation window closes on **September 15th**, to protect regional water levels.
- **Watering Window:** Lawn irrigation is permitted only between **7:00 PM and 8:00 AM**. Watering during peak daylight hours is prohibited to prevent evaporation loss.
- **Lawn Care:** Set your lawnmower blades to a **height of 3 inches**. Taller grass shades the soil, retains moisture, and reduces the need for frequent watering