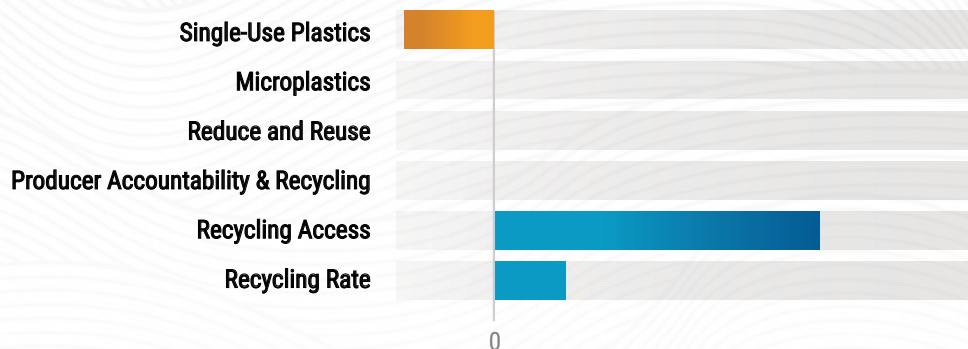


United States OF PLASTICS

Idaho

PACIFIC AND COLORADO RIVER BASINS

Idaho, while landlocked, possesses a rich network of rivers and lakes that are integral to its environment and economy. The Snake River, coursing over 1,000 miles, flows through Idaho before merging with the Columbia River and ultimately into the Pacific Ocean.¹ Communities in Idaho rely on the Snake River for agricultural irrigation and wildlife, including culturally and economically important salmon and steelhead species, depend on the river. Despite research that has found microplastics throughout the Snake River,² the state has yet to pass legislation that would address plastic pollution and has enacted a law that could hinder further progress.



FINAL SCORE



Needs Improvement

¹ "Snake River." American Rivers. Accessed May 2025.

² Kapp, K.J. and E. Yeatman. (2018). *Environmental Pollution*.



Single-Use Plastics

Idaho limits local governments' ability to regulate single-use plastics and has not passed any laws restricting the single-use plastics covered in our study.³



Microplastics

The state has not passed any laws to address microplastic pollution.



Reduce and Reuse

The state has not enacted any laws relating to plastic reduction or reuse.



Producer Accountability and Recycling

The state does not have any extended producer responsibility or deposit return programs for packaging or beverage containers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Idaho should remove restrictions on local governments and allow them to regulate single-use plastics in their communities.
- Idaho would benefit from increased participation in Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup® (ICC). Organizing cleanup efforts removes harmful plastic pollution from the environment, helps raise citizen awareness and gathers important data to better target policy solutions. A great way to get involved and contribute valuable data is to download Ocean Conservancy's Clean Swell® app or join an ICC event.
- As microplastics have been shown to affect soil health and crop productivity,⁴ Idaho should consider policies to address microplastic pollution such as requiring filters for new washing machines to reduce microfiber pollution.

Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

- 1 Cigarette Butts
- 2 Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- 3 Beverage Cans
- 4 Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- 5 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 6 Grocery Bags (Plastic)
- 7 Other Plastic Bags
- 8 Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- 9 Paper Bags
- 10 Cups & Plates (Plastic)

³ HB 372, 63rd Leg., 2nd Reg. Sess. (Idaho 2016).

⁴ Hoang, V.-H., et al. (2024). *Science of the Total Environment*.