

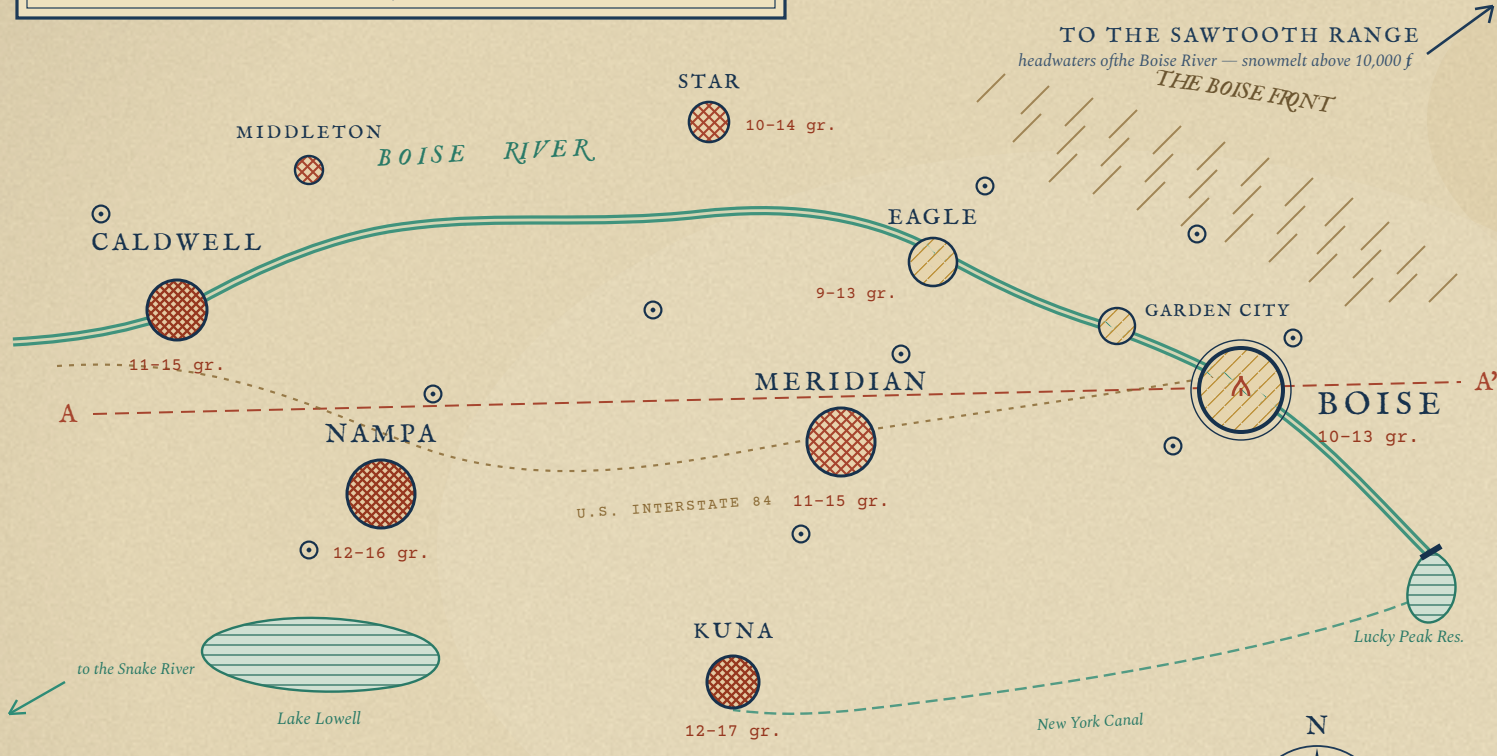
# HARD · WATER · SURVEY

of the

## TREASURE VALLEY

showing the sources, depths & measured hardness of domestic water  
ADA & CANYON COUNTIES, IDAHO · COMPILED 2026

**FIELD SHEET No. 1**  
DOMESTIC WATER · GEM STATE



### EXPLANATION

- 0-3½ gr. — soft (not found here)
- 3½-7 gr. — moderately hard
- 7-10½ gr. — hard
- 10½ gr. & above — VERY HARD — where the whole valley sits

- municipal well — ~83 serve the valley, some drawing from 1,100 ft down
- Boise River — Sawtooth snowmelt; only ~25-30% of the valley's tap water
- △ geothermal district, 177°F — heats the only geothermal State Capitol in America
- - - line of geologic section A-A'

### WHAT IS A GRAIN?

One grain is 64.8 milligrams of dissolved rock — calcium & magnesium — riding in every gallon of your water.

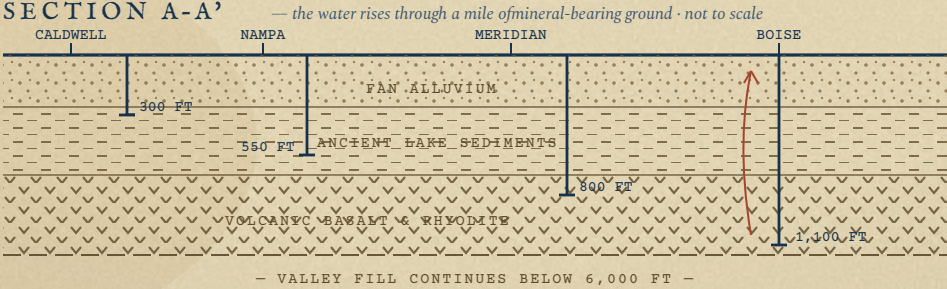
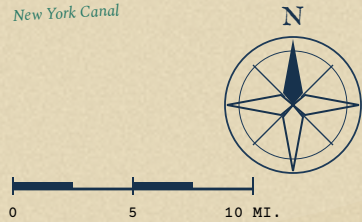
At 12 gr., a Treasure Valley family pushes more than a pound of dissolved rock through the home's plumbing every week.

It settles as scale in the water heater, spots on the glassware, crust on the fixtures, and the film that dries out your skin.

### MEASURED HARDNESS

BOISE	10-13 gr.
MERIDIAN	11-15 gr.
NAMPA	12-16 gr.
CALDWELL	11-15 gr.
EAGLE	9-13 gr.
STAR	10-14 gr.
KUNA	12-17 gr.

Anything above 7 gr. is officially "hard"; above 10.5 is "very hard." Every city in the valley qualifies.



~70% of the valley's tap water rises from wells like these. Some of it fell as Sawtooth snow tens of thousands of years ago — older than the country.

On the long climb up, it dissolves the rock it passes through. That mineral load is the hardness you feel on your skin & see on your dishes. The fix is removing it at the door — a whole-home softener — not scrubbing the symptoms.

Hardness ranges compiled from municipal water reports and U.S.G.S. classifications, 2026. Your tap varies by neighborhood and well blend — the map is a field guide, not a lab test.