

Public Land Survey

The US Geological Survey mapped the western United States in a public land survey (PLS) grid system. The Idaho PLS originates at Initial Point between Boise and the Snake River. The grid includes townships composed of 36 sections per township. Each section is 1 square mile.

Any point in Idaho can be identified by the number of townships north or south of the initial point, the number of ranges east or west of that point, and by section. Each section is divided into equal $\frac{1}{4}$ sections and further divided into equal $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4}$ sections, and so on.

Most IDWR records are based on township-range-section- $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ (40 acres) or $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ (10 acres): T14N R4E Sec. 21 NENW (northeast of northwest) or SWNENW (southwest of northeast of northwest).

