

A Xerxes Project Profile

Potable Water Tanks in National Forests

Boise is one of many national forests using Xerxes potable water tanks.

Over the past five years, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service has installed and put into service more than 20 Xerxes potable water tanks in national forests throughout the western United States. These forest installations are a perfect example of the benefit of having a tank that while durable and long-lasting is also lightweight and, therefore, easy to install.

In Idaho, Boise National Forest was the first forest in its region to use Xerxes water tanks, and in Boise National Forest alone, five sites use a Xerxes fiberglass potable water tank to store drinking water. The first installation in Boise National Forest was in September 2003, a 20,000-gallon potable water tank at the Garden Valley Ranger Station. Since then, tanks ranging in capacity from 2,000 gallons to 10,000 gallons have been installed at four other sites in Boise National Forest – Barber Flats Guard Station, Crawford Guard Station, High Valley Work Center and Lester Creek Guard Station. Brett Barry, a facilities engineer at Boise National Forest, anticipates more water tank installations in the coming years.

Besides Boise, other national forests in Idaho with Xerxes water tanks are Caribou-Targhee, Salmon-Challis and Sawtooth. Idaho is simply one state with Xerxes fiberglass tanks meeting potable water storage needs in national forests. In fact, the first national forest with a Xerxes potable water tank was the San Juan National Forest in Colorado. Recently, a Xerxes potable water tank was installed in Oregon's Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Xerxes tanks are easy to install in remote sites such as those at national forest stations. Usually the tank is delivered to the site with a truck and low-boy trailer, and there is enough room in the station parking lot to offload the tank. Sometimes the installing contractor offloads the tank to a trailer to get the tank up the hill and then uses a small crane or excavator to place the tank in the hole. But that's only if there's an access road up to the site, which isn't always the case.

In cases where there is no access road, the contractor usually has to walk the tank up a steep hill with an excavator or a loader. The fact that a fiberglass tank is much lighter than a steel tank makes it much easier to transport and install.

Another fact that is recognized by the Forest Service in its decision-making process is that fiberglass tanks have been around for a long time and have been used extensively by the oil industry.



When it comes to the water industry, Xerxes potable water tanks meet the widely recognized national and state standard for potable water tanks – NSF® Standard 61. A Xerxes potable water tank is manufactured with materials that conform to the requirements of this national standard for drinking water system components set by the National Sanitation Foundation. In addition, Xerxes can supply a tank that has an NSF listing and carries the NSF label.

Idaho is an example of a state that has stringent requirements for storing potable water. The state of Idaho has adopted as its standard the Recommended Standards for Water Works: Ten State

Standards, which has been adopted by Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and the Canadian province of Ontario. The standards require a hinged lid that can be locked. Xerxes had already developed a potable water tank with just such a lid, allowing easy access for operation and maintenance, for an installation in Colorado's San Juan National Forest.

To meet the state of Idaho's requirements, the riser on the potable water tank also has to have a two-inch lip and a gasket on top. The result of all these requirements: Xerxes provides the Forest Service with an NSF-listed underground fiberglass tank with a riser that has a hinged, lockable lid. Both the riser and lid are gel-coated a tan color to blend into the forest environment.

While the Forest Service requirements for a unique access riser and an NSF listing are stringent, the tank also has to be competitively priced so it is a cost-effective solution for storing water at these remote sites. A Xerxes potable water tank is able to meet that standard as well.



When it comes to water tank applications, every state, sometimes every location or application, has specific requirements. A significant benefit of using a Xerxes tank is that Xerxes Corporation works hard to meet each customer's specific needs. That can mean providing a tank that meets NSF Standard 61 requirements and meets the Ten State Standards with a hinged, lockable lid – or meets any number of other requirements. Potable water tanks in national forests are simply one example of Xerxes' commitment to satisfy the requirements of its customers

Project Profile

Boise National Forest

Application	Potable Water Tank
Site	Lester Creek Guard Station
Location	Boise National Forest
Installer	Circle H Construction
Engineer	USDA Forest Service
Tank Manufacturer	Xerxes Corporation



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