

## Privacy Policy

At Coastal Research, we prioritize transparency and your privacy. This policy outlines how we collect, use, and protect your personal information when you interact with our website or services.

### 1. Data Collection and Purpose

We collect personal data to enhance your experience with our services. Here's what we collect:

- **Visitor Information:** When you visit our website, our server automatically logs details like your IP address, browser type, referral page, and visit time. This helps us analyze traffic and improve our site.
- **Cookies:** We use cookies to store your preferences and optimize your interactions with our website. For registered users, cookies may be used to store login details, so you don't have to re-enter them every time you visit.
- **Registration Data:** If you register on our site, we collect your email address and username to create an account and provide personalized services.

### 2. User Contributions (Comments and Media Uploads)

- **Comments:** If you leave comments on our site, we collect the data shown in the comments form, along with your IP address and browser details. This data helps us prevent spam and enhance the security of the platform.
  - *Gravatar:* An anonymized version of your email may be sent to the Gravatar service to verify if you're using it. After approval, your Gravatar image will be visible alongside your comment.
- **Media Uploads:** If you upload images, please ensure they don't contain embedded location data (EXIF GPS). Other users could download and extract this information. We recommend removing such data before uploading to protect your privacy.

### 3. Contact Forms

When you submit a form on our website, the information is stored in our system to better assist you. Occasionally, we may share this data with third-party service providers who help us deliver a seamless experience. Rest assured, these vendors are bound by strict privacy agreements.

## 4. Cookies

We use cookies to enhance your experience:

- **Comment Cookies:** If you leave a comment, you can opt to save your details in a cookie for convenience. These cookies last for one year.
- **Login Cookies:** If you log in, we store cookies to remember your login details and screen preferences. Login cookies last for two days, while screen option cookies last for a year. If you select "Remember Me," your login will persist for two weeks. If you log out, these cookies are deleted.
- **Article Cookies:** When you edit or publish content, a temporary cookie is set to track your post activity. This cookie contains no personal data and expires after 24 hours.

## 5. Embedded Content from Other Sites

Content on our site may include embedded media (such as videos or articles) from external websites. Interactions with embedded content behave as if you visited the source site directly. These external sites may collect your data, use cookies, or monitor your interaction with their content. We recommend reviewing their privacy policies for more details.

## 6. Analytics

To improve our services, we analyze website traffic and user behavior using third-party analytics providers. These tools help us understand visitor trends, optimize the user experience, and enhance our content.

## 7. Data Sharing and Advertising

- **Third-Party Vendors:** We may share anonymized data with trusted vendors for service improvements, but we never sell your personal data. For advertising purposes, we work with services like Google Ads.
  - *Google Ads:* Google uses cookies (such as the DART cookie) to display ads based on your browsing habits. You can opt out of this by visiting Google's ad preferences page.

## 8. Data Retention

- **Comments:** If you leave a comment, both the comment and its metadata are stored indefinitely. This allows us to automatically approve future comments instead of holding them in moderation.
- **Registered Users:** For registered users, we retain your personal information in your user profile. You can view, edit, or delete this information at any time (except your username). Our administrators can also access and manage user data as needed.

## 9. Security of Your Data

We take all necessary measures to ensure your personal data is protected. This includes secure storage, restricted access, and the use of encryption where appropriate. However, no online transmission is completely secure, and we encourage users to exercise caution when sharing sensitive data.

## 10. Your Rights

As a user, you have full control over your personal data. You may request to access, modify, or delete your data at any time. If you wish to exercise any of these rights, please contact us directly.

## 11. Changes to This Privacy Policy

We reserve the right to update this policy periodically. Any significant changes will be communicated to our users, and the updated policy will always be available on our website.

## 12. Contact Us

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this privacy policy or how we handle your data, please don't hesitate to contact us:

**Email:** [cases@coastalresearch.net](mailto:cases@coastalresearch.net)

**Phone:** 208-581-4265

**Mailing Address:** 950 W Bannock St Boise, ID 83702