



House of Representatives
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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

David R. Tuthill

Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources

P.O. Box 83720

Boise, ID 83720-0098

December 4, 2008

Dear Director Tuthill:

In early October you met with Senator Clint Stennett and representatives of water districts 37 and 37M to discuss concerns arising out of the need for expedited water management. You indicated that the department is moving toward this goal as quickly as possible. You assure the group that the Big Wood is now number two in priority. We are grateful for that designation.

You also indicated that a model is needed for water management. In conversations following the above meeting as well as one that was held in the community, concerns were raised about "fast tracking" the model development when work was to be done by combining modeling done in the 1970's with updates from the Old Cutters modeling. Wendy Pabich was asked to follow up with Jim Bartolino of the USGS to determine the status of the Wood River study. He indicated that the final results of part two of the study, which documents a water budget for the watershed, should be out by December. In addition, he confirmed that:

1. This water budget data will provide much of the input data necessary to create a groundwater model for the basin,
2. He worked with Allen Wylie at IDWR on the Spokane-Rathdrum model and gives Wylie very high marks,

3. He has been involved in discussions with IDWR and others about the recently allocated funds for Modeling in the state and is helping to move the Wood River basin modeling along, and
4. The next phase of the USGS study will focus on refining data necessary to characterize the Aquifer; this data will also be helpful in a groundwater model.

Based on this information, it may be possible that USGS can provide the necessary input data for IDWR to model this basin so that groundwater, surface water and tributary streams can all be managed conjunctively, all without the help of a Brockway/Old Cutters study.

We are now in December and I am asking that you confirm the above: Is and will the Wood River basin remain in the number two position? And, do you agree that the USGS study will give you the data you need to model this basin so we can have the conjunctive management that is necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Season's greetings and a very happy new year to you.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,



Wendy Jaquet

Representative