



## State of Idaho

# DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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March 3, 2011

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN  
Interim Director

Dear water user:

Several factors affecting the water resources in the Big Wood River Basin have focused the Idaho Department of Water Resources' (Department or IDWR) attention on the need to phase in the measurement and reporting of ground water pumping. These factors include:

1. The population in the basin continues to grow and it needs water. Consequently, finite supplies are being stretched.
2. A 2007 technical study by the United States Geological Survey indicates that flows in the Big Wood River and its associated aquifer are declining over time.
3. Surface water users have requested the Department to implement conjunctive administration of ground water and surface water resources in the Upper Big Wood River Basin, including the initiation of measurement and reporting of ground water withdrawals.
4. The Snake River Basin Adjudication is nearing completion in the Upper Big Wood River Basin.

The Department intends to initiate steps to create a water measurement district that would provide for the measurement and reporting of ground water diversions in the Upper Big Wood River Basin. Ultimately the water measurement district would be replaced by a water district covering ground water rights that would provide for the measurement and reporting of ground water diversions, as well as some limited administration of ground water rights. As necessary tools and resources are developed, the water district would initiate conjunctive administration of ground and surface water rights in the Big Wood River Basin.

The Department has scheduled an information meeting as indicated below. The purpose of the meeting will be to inform water users of the requirements of water measurement districts and water districts, the anticipated schedule, and to gather feedback.

**Date:** March 14, 2011  
**Time:** 6:30 pm  
**Location:** Blaine County School District Community Campus  
Minnie Moore Multipurpose Room (301 – 302)  
1050 Fox Acres Road  
Hailey, Idaho

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Tim Luke at 287-4959 or the IDWR Regional Office in Twin Falls at 208-736-3033. A copy of this notice has been sent to all holders of ground water rights located in the Big Wood River Basin outside of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, excluding non-irrigation use ground water rights with rates of diversion less than or equal to 0.24 cubic feet per second.