Gary Spackman, Idaho Department of Water Resources,

With regards to the consideration of the Wood River water basin inclusion into the Eastern Snake River Plane Aquifer Ground Water Management Area I must make public comment that the consideration for inclusion must be very carefully and thoughtfully discussed and debated within our community. I feel that the GWMA can be a very useful tool, but with the formation of the Wood River Collaborative (of which I am a member of) and the high level of interest in our basins water needs and interest, I also feel that the Wood River Valley can and should define our water needs and use in a localized manner. We are a unique system that does supply a small amount of water to the ESPA, but as a community I feel we can not only solve our local water needs for future use in all potential climate scenarios, but we can also serve the ESPA's water needs efficiently through our own local management. If we can conserve and work together then more water will be made available for the whole greater good. I understand there are advantages to being part of the GWMA and I feel that at as a community we may decide to become part of the GWMA.

In the Wood River Valley we are positioning to make important decisions for our water by being forward thinking and working together locally. Our water system is unique and complex. With groundwater discharge into Silver Creek, surface water needs into and through Magic reservoir, aquifer discharge out of the Wood River Valley and agriculture use, we need to have a very deep understanding and management of our local needs, budgeting and future use of our water and still serve the needs of the ESPA in the most efficient possible manner.

Our community is extremely dependant on tourism and a very high percentage of our economy comes from Silver Creek and the Wood River. Anything that puts these rivers in jeopardy of low water flows will damage the fragile balance of water budgeting that we as a community are dealing with now. I have lived in the Wood River Valley for nearly 40 years and have seen firsthand how bad our water issues are becoming. Silver Creek is in serious jeopardy of not having enough water to maintain it's very fragile ecosystem and we need to put its needs first on the list. I am very encouraged by the local awareness and efforts to address the

water needs of this basin and I feel that the direction we are moving in now is progressing in a positive manner that will also help the ESPA meet its goals. Our basin needs to very carefully consider becoming involved in the Ground Water Management Area to determine if it is in the best interest of our community.

Thank you for your time, interest and continued involvement in helping to find solid well thought out permanent solutions that we can all live with.

Greg Loomis

P.O. Box 2727

Ketchum, ID. 83340

(208) 720-4525

gloomis@flywaters.com