Inclusion of the Wood River Valley into the ESPA

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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

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I, Rodney Hubsmith am a board member of the American Falls Reservoir District #2; also I serve on the Advisory Board for Water District 37 and a Board Member on The Big and Little Wood River Water Users. So I am a part of the Water Call on the ground water users in the Wood River Valley.

I attended the public input meeting held by the IDWR in Hailey ID, on July 25, 2016, regarding the inclusion of the Big and Little Wood River water shed to the ESPA. I AM VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF THIS PROPOSAL.

I do not believe the groundwater districts of the Wood River Valley would EVER agree to any type of settlement with the Senior Surface Water Users. I have attended numerous meetings to back up my conclusion.

I have been a member of the small working group that was assembled to try and solve the Water Call. There was much talk and an offer was made by the by the Calling Parties, from that point on, it has been paid water experts and lawyers. Which the staff of the IDWR witnessed at July 25, 2016 meeting. They (lawyers and paid experts) took over the public meeting, the people with senior water rights were there to learn and listen. Maybe we were buried in their expertise!

Reasons I am in favor of the Wood River Valley water shed being included in the ESPA.

1. To help protect what is left of the Little Wood River. The Little Wood River has, on many occasions been dried up to as little as 5 cfs of water! There have been large fish kills and much ecological damage to this very unique reach of the Little Wood River between Richfield and Picabo.

2. The CALL will never be solved, if some kind of major step isn't taken. Please IDWR, please step up, Follow State Law Priority Doctrine!!...FIRST IN RIGHT. The negotiation to settle The Water Call would then be taken more serious. Right now ground water pumpers hold the Best Water in the State!

3. The problem to the ESPA, if wells are not shut down, the problem gets bigger. Right now NO WATER OR VERY LITTLE is leaving the Wood River Valley. Think high farm prices had an impact on that? When you CURTAIL the Senior Water Rights, some users have supplemental wells, which they kick on after curtailment, hence taking more water out of the ESPA.

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