

Eastern Snake Hydrologic Modeling Committee

August 20, 2013

The Honorable Mike Simpson
The United States House of Representatives
802 West Bannock
Suite 600
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Representative Simpson:

We are writing to ask for your help and support for the planning and development of Landsat 9 which will allow a continuation of this critical source of satellite imagery that is used to help manage Idaho's water resources. The latest Landsat satellite, Landsat 8, was launched on February 11, 2013, and it has a design life of 5 years. Landsat 8 required 13 years from funding to launch, and Landsat 9 will require at least 5 years.

Idaho uses Landsat data obtained using a thermal sensor for mapping consumptive water use or evapotranspiration (ET). One very important use of ET data developed from Landsat is for calibration of the ground water model of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). The Landsat-based ET data improves the accuracy of the estimated distribution and quantity of aquifer depletions caused by ground water pumping, and improves the estimate of incidental recharge to the aquifer resulting from application of surface water for irrigation. Two million of Idaho's 3.4 million acres of irrigated agriculture overlie the ESPA.

The more accurately calibrated ground water model is being used for aquifer management, water resource planning, and in conjunctive administration of ground water and surface water resources. Landsat-based ET data are being developed for all years having sufficient cloud-free imagery from the mid 1980s to the present. This will allow analysis of long term trends over the ESPA and the resulting impact on the aquifer.

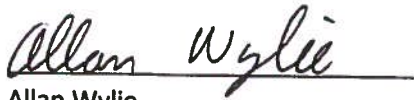
Continued availability of thermal sensor data will be critical to maintaining and updating the ground water model to assist Idaho with future water management challenges. In order to reduce a potential gap in Landsat coverage between the end of Landsat 8's design life (February 2018) and the launch of Landsat 9, NASA and the USGS must initiate a Request for Proposals for Landsat 9 this year. Please encourage NASA and USGS to begin planning and building Landsat 9 with a thermal sensor that is required for mapping ET.

Sincerely,



Rick Raymondi, Chairman

And Members of Eastern Snake Hydrologic Modeling Committee (ESHMC)
(The ESHMC is coordinated by the Idaho Department of Water Resources and composed of hydrologists and modelers from state and federal agencies, private industry, and the University of Idaho.)



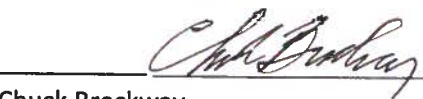
Allan Wylie
Idaho Dept of Water Resources



Bryce Centor
Rocky Mountain Environmental



Chuck Brendecke
Hydrosphere Resource Consultants



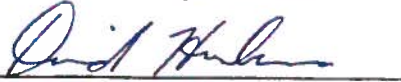
Chuck Brockway
Brockway Engineering PLLC



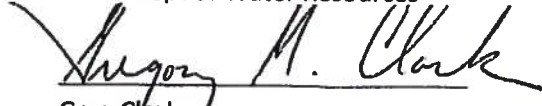
Dave Blew
Idaho Power Company



Dave Colvin
Leonard Rice Engineers Inc



David Hoekema
Idaho Dept of Water Resources



Greg Clark
Private citizen



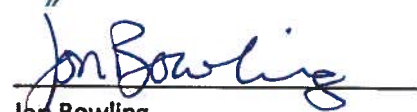
Greg Sullivan
Sprink Water Engineers, Inc



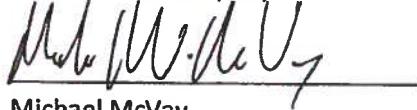
Jim Bartolino
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John Koreny
HDR Inc



Jon Bowling
Idaho Power Company



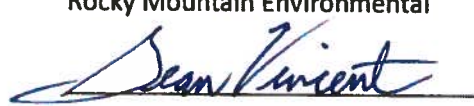
Michael McVay
Idaho Dept of Water Resources



Rick Allen
University of Idaho – Kimberly Research Station



Roger Warner
Rocky Mountain Environmental



Sean Vincent
Idaho Dept of Water Resources



Stacey Taylor
Idaho Water Resources Research Institute



Jennifer Sukow
Idaho Dept of Water Resources



Willem Schreuder
Principia Mathematica



Young Harvey Walker
Huntsman Corporation

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August 20, 2013

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate
251 East Front Street
Suite 205
Boise, ID 83702

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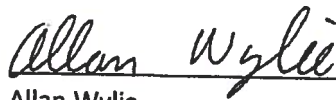
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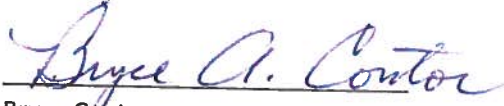


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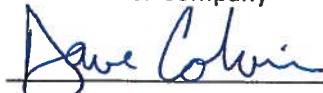
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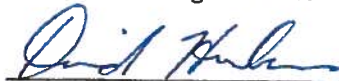
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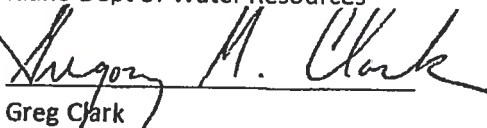
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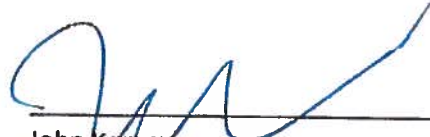
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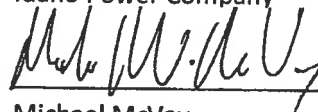
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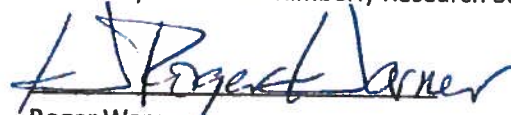
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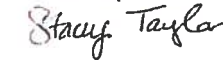
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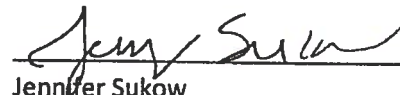
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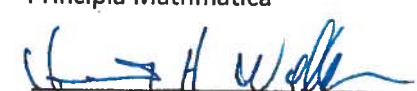
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