

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF SNAKE RIVER FARM MITIGATION PLAN

Notice is hereby given that on June 13, 2008, North Snake Ground Water District and Magic Valley Ground Water District (collectively referred to as "the districts"), c/o Randall C. Budge, Racine Olson Nye Budge & Bailey, PO Box 1391, Pocatello ID 83204-1391, submitted a Mitigation Plan of North Snake Ground Water District and Magic Valley Ground Water District (plan or mitigation plan) to the Department of Water Resources (Department). The Department will process this plan pursuant to the Department's Conjunctive Management Rules (IDAPA 37, Title 03, Chapter 11).

The members of the districts hold ground water rights for domestic, stockwater, municipal, commercial and industrial uses, and for irrigation of approximately 220,000 acres located mostly north of the Snake River within Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Blaine and Cassia Counties. Certain of these ground water rights have priority dates junior to the priority dates of certain water rights from spring sources that discharge to the Buhl to Thousand Springs reach of the Snake River. The ground water and the springs are interconnected sources of water. The districts have proposed the mitigation plan to mitigate injury to earlier priority surface water rights that may result from depletions under later priority ground water rights.

The surface water rights which the mitigation plan proposes to benefit are: 36-4013B and 36-7148, both held by Clear Springs Foods for use at their Snake River Farm hatchery facility. The water right proposed to be used for mitigation is 36-4076, held by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and diverted from nearby springs to supply flows to a wetlands area just east of Clear Lake Grade. The plan contemplates improvement to one or more of the points of diversion of 36-4076, including the drilling of a deep well, to supply replacement water directly to Snake River Farm raceways. **Water right Application Nos. 36-16645 and 02-10405, and Water Right Transfer No. 74904** seek to authorize the improvements necessary to implement this portion of the plan. The plan also proposes reductions in ground water withdrawals during 2008 through ongoing irrigation conversion projects, which partially offset depletions to the aquifer and increase spring discharges in the Buhl to Thousand Springs reach of the Snake River.

The Department has not determined the adequacy of the proposed plan. A complete copy of the proposed plan is available for review at either the Department's State Office in Boise, the Department's Regional Office in Twin Falls, or may be viewed online at the following website: www.idwr.idaho.gov, under the heading "Thousand Springs Area Water Call Related Documents". Any protest against approval of the plan must be filed with the Department of Water Resources, together with a protest fee of \$25 on or before August 4, 2008. The protest must include a certificate of service showing that a copy of the protest has been mailed to or served on the districts.

DAVID R. TUTHILL JR, Director

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