



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Director

May 29, 2015

Re: Public Meeting – Creation of New Water District or Modification of Existing Water Districts for Administration of Ground Water Rights in the Mountain Home Area, Administrative Basin No. 61

Dear Water User:

As part of the Idaho Department of Water Resources' ("Department") ongoing responsibility to administer water in the Department's Administrative Basin No. 61 ("Basin 61") as required by Idaho Code § 42-602, the Department is proposing to either create a new water district for ground water rights or include ground water rights in existing area surface water districts. Several factors affecting Basin 61, or the Mountain Home – Glens Ferry area, have focused the Department's attention on the need to create a water district for the administration of ground water rights and/or combine the administration of both ground water and surface water rights in one or more water districts. These factors include:

1. The Snake River Basin Adjudication ("SRBA") was completed on August 25, 2014.
2. Ground water rights in Basin 61 have not been included in water districts, and therefore, are not subject to any administration or regulation. Whereas many of the streams and other surface water sources in the area have been subject to regulation by a water district watermaster for many years. Most ground water rights and diversions in the drainage are not measured or monitored and little data exists regarding ground water use.
3. Much of Basin 61 is included in the Mountain Home Ground Water Management Area and the Cinder Cone Butte Critical Ground Water Area where specific water management programs or objectives may be necessary under Idaho law, including the measurement and reporting of ground water withdrawals.

The Department has scheduled a public information meeting as follows:

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2015
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Elks Lodge
325 South 3rd West
Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

The purpose of the meeting will be to inform water users of the requirements of water districts, the anticipated schedule for creation of any new water district or the modification of any existing water districts, and to gather feedback. The Department is considering the following options:

1. Create one separate water district for Basin 61 for administration of ground water rights only;
2. Add ground water rights to existing surface water districts in the area;
3. Merge the existing surface water districts in the basin into one single water district to cover the entire basin and add ground water rights to that single district; or
4. Some variation or combination of options 1 through 3.

The meeting will be conducted in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Should you require special accommodations in order to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact IDWR at least five days prior to the meeting.

A copy of this notice has been sent to all holders of water rights in Basin 61, except domestic and stockwater rights as defined under Idaho Code §§ 42-111 and 42-1401A(11), or in-stream stockwater rights as defined under Idaho Code § 42-113(1). Notice was also sent to holders of ground water rights within a small area of Administrative Basin 63 in the I-84 corridor area near Mayfield adjacent to Administrative Basin 61, except domestic and stockwater rights as defined under Idaho Code §§ 42-111 and 42-1401A(11). Ground water in this area of Basin 63 is located within a topographic divide that is connected to aquifers within Basin 61 and the Mountain Home area.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the IDWR State Office (Boise) at 208-287-4800, or the IDWR Western Regional Office (Boise) at 208-334-2190.