



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Director

June 12, 2013

Re: Notice of Public Meeting

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (Department or IDWR) intends to initiate steps that would provide for the administration of ground water rights in the Upper Big Wood and Little Wood River drainages by creating either a new water district limited to ground water rights in the area or by including the ground water rights in existing area water districts such as Water Districts 37 (Big Wood River) and 37M (Little Wood River). Several factors affecting the Upper and Little Wood River drainages have focused the Department's attention on the need to create a new water district or modify existing water districts for the administration of ground water rights. These factors include:

1. The Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) is nearing completion.
2. The SRBA District Court issued an order on February 19, 2013, authorizing the Director of IDWR to distribute water in accordance with partial decrees issued by the SRBA Court and water rights that have been recommended by the Director to the SRBA District Court.
3. Surface water users have requested the Department to implement conjunctive administration of ground water and surface water resources in the Upper Big and Little Wood River drainages. IDWR created the Upper Wood Rivers Water Measurement District (UWRWMD) two years ago but that district is limited to the measurement and reporting of ground water diversions only and is not authorized to regulate or administer ground water rights. IDWR needs to abolish the water measurement district and replace it with a water district or merge the ground water rights with surface water rights in existing area water districts.

The Department has scheduled a public information meeting as follows:

Date: June 25, 2013
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Blaine County School District Community Campus
Auditorium
1050 Fox Acres Road
Hailey, Idaho

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. Abolish the Upper Wood Rivers Water Measurement District (UWRWMD) and create a separate water district for ground water rights only within the UWRWMD boundaries;
2. Abolish the UWRWMD and add ground water rights from the UWRWMD area to Water District 37M and Water District 37 (including surface water rights from Camas Creek and tributaries not already in a surface water district), and merge districts 37 and 37M as one district; or
3. Implement Option 2, but also merge Water District 37A (Corral Creek and tributaries) and Water District 37C (Soldier Creek and tributaries) with Water Districts 37 and 37M.

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 ground water rights located within the UWRWMD and to the holders of all surface water rights in Water Districts 37, 37A, 37C and 37M, 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).

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the IDWR State Office at 208-287-4800 or the IDWR Twin Falls Regional Office at 208-736-3033.