



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Director

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

October 5, 2017

RE: South Fork Clearwater River Special Supplement Permit Conditions

Dear Interested Party,

You are receiving this letter due to your demonstrated interest in small scale dredge mining issues on the South Fork of the Clearwater River (SFCR) and the Special Supplement Permit (Special Supplement) process. Last summer, following a Public Listening Session held on June 21, 2017 in Grangeville (June 21 Listening Session), and receipt of written and oral comments regarding the Special Supplement conditions from many participants, the Idaho Department of Water Resources (Department) in coordination with the Idaho Water Resource Board (Board) revised some of the conditions placed on the Special Supplement for the 2017 dredge season. Notice was sent out to participants on July 10, 2017 (July 10 letter), informing them of changes to the Special Supplement. In the July 10 letter the Department and Board committed to reengaging in discussions following the dredge season with all interested parties to consider the following: (1) review changes to the Special Supplement conditions from the 2017 dredge season; (2) consider additional changes to the Special Supplement conditions for the 2018 dredge season; and (3) review the technical and scientific basis for the 15 permit limit. This letter serves as notice of the processes and scheduled public listening session that the Department and Board plan to carry out this fall as referenced in the July 10 letter.

Before, during, and after the June 21 Listening Session, the Department and the Board received many comments regarding the technical basis for the Special Supplement conditions. In light of the received comments, the Department is currently preparing a memorandum summarizing the scientific and technical basis for each Special Supplement condition.

The current limit of 15 Special Supplement permits on the SFCR was another area of concentrated comment before, during, and after the June 21 Listening Session. In light of the comments received on this matter, the Department is preparing a second memorandum summarizing the basis for the 15 permit limit.

A copy of the memoranda will be sent to parties on or before November 16, 2017. The memoranda will inform participants of the technical basis for the conditions and 15 permit limit prior to meeting, with the intent of focusing comments and discussion on those issues, and improving the efficiency and utility of the Fall Public Listening Session. Following issuance of the memoranda, the Department and the

Board will hold a Fall Public Listening Session on December 5, 2017, to take comment on the memoranda and special supplement conditions for the 2018 dredge season. Parties will also be able to supply written comment to the Department regarding the memoranda at or before the Fall Public Listening Session. An agenda for the Fall Public Listening Session is included as an attachment to this electronic letter. Details for the Fall Listening Session are as follows:

Date/Time: December 5, 2017, 10:30 AM start

Location: IDWR State Office (322 E. Front Street Boise, ID 83720)
6th Floor of the Idaho Water Center, Conference Rooms 602 B, C, & D.

If you have questions regarding this matter please contact Aaron Golart, State Coordinator for the Stream Channel Protection Program or myself at (208) 287-4800.

Respectfully,



Mathew Weaver, PE
Deputy Director

CC: Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League;
John Cardwell, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Barry Burnell, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Ron Miller, Tenmile Mining District Board of Director's Chairman
Dave Hembree, Vice-Secretary Tenmile Mining District
Tony Snodderly, Regional Director for Mike Crapo United States Senator
Marc Gibbs, State Rep. Idaho District 32 Chairman of the House Resources and Conservation
Don Smith
Andrew Ottoson
Ty Martin
Pat Finnegan
Gay Richardson
Brian Koon
Jeff Shinn
Ron Nielson Jr.
Marty Stanford
Ronald Stanford Sr.
Jason Streeter
Ron Hartig
Derek Farr
Ken Troyer, NOAA
Gary Macfarlane, Friends of the Clearwater
Michael Gibson, Trout Unlimited
Ken Clark, Nez Perce Tribe
Dave Johnson, Nez Perce Tribe
Brian Brooks, Idaho Wildlife Preservation
Priscilla Giddings, State Rep. Idaho District 7
Paul Shepherd, State Rep. Idaho District 7
Skip Brandt, Idaho County Commissioners Chairman
Roger Chase, Idaho Water Resource Board Chairman
Cheryl Probert, United States Forest Service
Martin Jones, United States Forest Service
Scott Sanner, Bureau of Land Management
Amanda Rogerson, Nez Perce Tribe
Mary Jane Miles, Nez Perce Tribe
Jerome Hansen, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Jann Higdem
Tracy Peak, Environmental Protection Agency