



# News Release

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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[www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

Release 2009-26

For Immediate Release  
Boise, Idaho – August 7, 2009

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### **IDWR Director Issues Order Reducing the Number of Curtailed Ground Water Rights in the Magic Valley**

Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Interim Director Gary Spackman today issued an amended curtailment order reducing the number of curtailed ground water rights that were included in a July 22 curtailment order. The change comes in response to a commitment from the North Snake and Magic Valley Ground Water Districts to increase the amount of acres being converted from ground water to surface water from approximately 4,200 acres to 7,745 acres.

The amended curtailment order will impact approximately 120 water right holders of approximately 153 junior ground water rights in south-central Idaho's Magic Valley. The curtailment order is part of a continuing response to a water delivery call made in 2005 by senior water right holder Clear Springs Foods.

The amended curtailment order affects holders of certain ground water rights in portions of Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, and Lincoln counties with priority dates of April 12, 1990 and junior which have been ordered curtailed since July 31. The affected water rights include agricultural, commercial, industrial, municipal, stockwater, non-exempt domestic and other consumptive uses. The curtailment order impacts approximately 4,154 acres of land irrigated by ground water.

Curtailment orders are necessary to satisfy the director's duty under Idaho law to administer water rights. When a water right is filed, it is assigned a priority date which determines whether it is junior or senior to another water right. The older the priority date, the more senior the water right is.

A delivery call is made when the holder of a senior water right experiences a shortfall in water that the right holder is authorized to receive for a beneficial use. The call is made on junior water rights that are diverting from a common water supply. Under the State of Idaho's conjunctive management rules, IDWR requires the holders of junior water rights to either mitigate the effects of their diversions or stop diverting water to satisfy the senior right.

Information about the curtailment order can be found on the Idaho Department of Water Resources' web site at [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov) under the heading "Major Issues" and "2009 Curtailment Information".

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