



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **IDWR requests water rights claims for Palouse Basin Adjudication**

MOSCOW – (April 10, 2019) - The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) is sending out approximately 8,000 notices to property owners today, soliciting water right claims for the Palouse River Basin Adjudication.

Notices will be sent to all property owners within the Palouse River Basin, which is primarily located in the western portion of Latah County bordering Washington, and includes the communities of Moscow, Potlatch and Genesee.

The Palouse River Basin Adjudication represents Phase 2 of the Northern Idaho Adjudications. IDWR will catalog and confirm all surface and ground water rights in the Palouse River Basin as part of the adjudication. Eventually, IDWR will file a Director's report, detailing the department's recommendations to District Court regarding the elements of each water right.

The Northern Idaho Adjudications commenced in March 2017 with Phase 1 - the Coeur D'Alene – Spokane River Basin. Phase 3 will cover the Clark Fork – Pend Oreille River Basin.

Notices are being mailed to every property owner because the location of many existing water uses in the area is not known. IDWR has records for about 330 water rights on file. It is expected that up to 2,000 water right claims will be filed in the Palouse River Basin Adjudication.

A Notice of Claim is required for all water uses. However, owners of small domestic and/or stock water rights may choose to file a claim now or defer (wait) until later in the process. A claim is **NOT** required to be filed in instances where the individual property owner or water user is not the owner of the water right.

Water users who receive all of their water from a city, an irrigation district, water utility district or a company are not required to file a claim for that water. A water delivery organization

typically files for the water right used by all its customers or patrons.

Claim fees for uses other than small domestic or stock water vary according to use. A one-time \$25 filing fee applies to domestic and stockwater rights. Typically, a single-family residence with a small yard falls within the small domestic water right category.

While filing a claim for small domestic and/or stock water use may be deferred, the procedure for litigating a deferred claim will be more expensive in the future so IDWR recommends filing now. Establishing a water right eliminates questions about water rights for your property that might arise in the future.

A Notice of Claim must be filed using IDWR's forms provided online at [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov). Claims can also be filed and submitted using IDWR's online claim filing application.

A water right claimant may get assistance by making an appointment with a representative at the IDWR regional offices at the following locations:

1. IDWR, Northern Region, 7600 Mineral Dr., Suite 100, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815; Phone: (208) 762-2800;
2. IDWR, State Office, 322 E Front St, Boise, ID 83720-0098; Phone: (208) 287-4800.

For more information, contact Doug Jones, IDWR Regional Manager, 208-762-2800.

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