



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

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Governor Brad Little

Director Mathew Weaver

August 27, 2026

RE: Notice of Public Hearings for Water District 120 Modification

Dear Water Right Holder:

You are receiving this notice because you are listed as the current owner of a water right located within Water District 120 (“WD120”) or a ground water right proposed for incorporation into WD120. The Idaho Department of Water Resources (“Department”) will hold two public hearings regarding the proposed modification of the WD120 boundary, as described in the enclosed Notice of Public Hearings. The dates and times of the hearings are provided in the enclosed notice.

The proposed action would incorporate approximately 180 additional ground water rights into WD120.

At each hearing, the Department will present information regarding the proposed modification of WD120. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide verbal testimony. The Department will consider testimony presented at the hearings, along with timely-submitted written comments, in determining whether the proposed modification to WD120 is appropriate.

For additional information regarding this notice, please contact me at 208-287-4959 or the WD120 Watermaster Blake Jordan at 208-497-3777.

Sincerely,

Water Resource Agent, Senior
Water Administration Bureau

cc. Blake Jordan, WD120 Watermaster

enc. Notice of Public Hearings

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED)
MODIFICATION OF WATER DISTRICT)
120, AMERICAN FALLS AREA)
_____)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION,
PUBLIC HEARINGS AND
WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Idaho Code § 42-604 requires the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (“Director” or “Department”) to divide the state into water districts to distribute water among water right holders for which the priorities of appropriation have been adjudicated by court decree. This includes the authority to create or modify districts for streams and other water sources, including ground water.

Before issuing an order to create or modify a water district, the Director must mail notice to each affected water right holder in the district or proposed district. The notice must include a description of the proposed action to be taken, the reasons for the proposed action, the time and place of a hearing to be held concerning the proposed action, and a time period within which written comments on the action will be accepted.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

The Department will conduct two public hearings concerning the same proposed action. The public hearings will be held at the following times and places:

September 9, 2026 (Wednesday) 6:00 P.M. Swan Valley Elementary School Gymnasium 3389 Swan Valley Hwy Irwin, Idaho 83428	September 10, 2026 (Thursday) 1:00 P.M. William Schroeder Community Building 2745 Fairgrounds Rd American Falls, Idaho 83211
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Director proposes to modify Water District No. 120 (“WD120”) to include ground water rights in areas of the Department’s Administrative Basins 23, 25, 27, 29, and 41, as shown in Attachment A of this notice. The proposed modification would add all the ground water rights located within the areas shown on the map in Attachment A, except for ground water rights for domestic and stockwater purposes as defined under Idaho Code §§ 42-111 and 42-1401A (11), and ground water rights administered by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the United States pursuant to the 1990 Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Agreement.

REASONS FOR PROPOSED ACTION

Ground water rights within the proposed WD120 expansion area were adjudicated through the Snake River Basin Adjudication (“SRBA”). The SRBA District Court issued the Final Unified Decree on August 26, 2014.

Ground water rights in the proposed WD120 expansion area, as shown in Attachment A, are not currently administered by a water district. The proposed action is necessary to facilitate the Department’s administration of ground water rights and uses within the proposed expansion area, including measurement and reporting of ground water diversions.

HEARING PROCEDURES AND COMMENT PERIOD

Steven Visosky of the Department will serve as the presiding officer for both hearings. The hearings will be held in accordance with Idaho Code § 42-604.

Information and testimony presented at the two hearings, together with timely written comments, will become part of the administrative record that the Director will consider in determining whether to modify WD120 as proposed. It is important that holders of water rights understand the proposed action and participate in the hearing process.

To clarify the process, the following outlines how the hearing will be conducted:

- **Department Presentation:**
The Department will begin the hearing by presenting information on the proposed water district modification, including its boundaries, purpose, and administration.
- **Public Questions:**
Following the Department's presentation, members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed action.
- **Public Testimony:**
Persons attending the hearing will have the opportunity to offer verbal testimony, which may include sharing their thoughts, concerns, or support regarding the proposed action. Testimony will be recorded and is included in the hearing record.
- **Submission of Written Comments:**
Written comments may be submitted at the public hearings or to the Department, at any time before the close of the written comment period, on **September 24, 2026**.

Written comments not presented at the hearings should be sent to: Department of Water Resources, c/o Steven Visosky, PO Box 83720, Boise, Idaho, 83720-0098. Written comments may also be submitted electronically by email to file@idwr.idaho.gov.

The meeting will be conducted in a manner that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require accommodation to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact the Department no later than five (5) days before the hearings. Inquiries for accommodations should be directed to Riley Kafka, Idaho Department of Water Resources, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0098, telephone: (208) 287-4959, or email: Riley.Kafka@idwr.idaho.gov.

This notice has been sent to all current owners of ground water rights administered by WD120 and ground water right holders with an authorized point of diversion within the proposed WD120 expansion area boundary, except domestic and stockwater rights as defined in Idaho Code §§ 42-111 and 42-1401A(11).

If you have questions concerning this notice, please contact Riley Kafka at (208) 287-4959.

DATED this 27th day of August 2026



Steven Visosky
Presiding Officer

Attachment A Proposed Water District 120 Expansion Boundary

