

**BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO**

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED)
CREATION OF A WATER DISTRICT FOR)
ADMINISTRATION OF GROUND WATER) NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
RIGHTS IN THE RAFT RIVER DRAINAGE)
AREA, ADMINISTRATIVE BASIN 43)
_____)

The Director (“Director”) of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (“IDWR”) is authorized to divide the state into water districts for the purpose of distributing water among appropriators under the laws of the State of Idaho. Idaho Code § 42-604 provides authority for the Director to create, revise the boundaries of, or abolish a water district or combine two (2) or more water districts.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-604, that IDWR will conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed creation of a water district as follows:

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED CREATION OF A WATER DISTRICT FOR
ADMINISTRATION OF GROUND WATER RIGHTS IN THE RAFT RIVER DRAINAGE AREA**

**Thursday, November 12, 2015
6:30 PM
Raft River High School Auditorium
55 North 1st West
Malta, ID**

The authority to create water districts applies to those streams, or other water sources including ground water, for which the priorities of appropriation have been adjudicated by court decree. Both surface water and ground water rights in the Raft River drainage area have been adjudicated by the Snake River Basin Adjudication (“SRBA”) Court. The SRBA was completed on August 25, 2014.

The Director proposes to create a new water district for the Raft River drainage area in Administrative Basin 43 as shown on the attached map. The proposed water district shall include all ground water rights within the Raft River drainage area except for ground water domestic and stock water rights as defined under Idaho Code §§ 42-111 and 42-1401A (11), and ground water rights within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA)¹.

The new water district is required in order to properly administer the ground water uses and ground water rights within the Raft River drainage area. The water district is also needed to facilitate the measurement and reporting of water use diversions.

Upon creation of the water district, a meeting of the holders of water rights in the district will be held for the purpose of electing a watermaster and advisory committee.

¹ Ground water rights within the ESPA are included in Water District No. 130, except ground water domestic and stock water rights as defined under Idaho Code §§ 42-111 and 42-1401A(11).

Information and testimony presented at the hearing on November 12, 2015, will create a record upon which the Director will rely to determine whether formation of the proposed water district is appropriate. It is important that holders of water rights understand the proposed action and participate in the hearing process. Shelley Keen, IDWR, Water Rights Permit Section Manager, will serve as the hearing officer. Persons attending the hearing will be provided an opportunity to make an oral presentation regarding the proposed action. Written comments may be submitted to the hearing officer at the hearing or at any time prior to the close of the written comment period on November 23, 2015. Written comments not presented at the hearing should be sent to the Director, Department of Water Resources, PO Box 83720, Boise, Idaho, 83720-0098.

IDWR will present information at the hearing about why it is proposing creation of the water district, a time frame for district formation and operation, and proposed water measurement requirements. The hearing will be held in accordance with IDWR's Rules of Procedures (IDAPA 37.01.01). These rules may be viewed at the Idaho Department of Administration's website as follows:
<http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/37/0101.pdf>

The hearing 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 hearing, please contact IDWR at least five days prior to the hearing.

This notice of hearing has been sent to all ground water right holders of record in the Raft River drainage area except ground water domestic and stock water rights defined under Idaho Code §§ 42-111 and 42-1401A (11), and ground water rights within the ESPA.

If you have questions concerning this notice, please call the IDWR State Office at (208) 287-4800. You can also contact IDWR's regional office in Twin Falls at (208)736-3033.

DATED this 26th day of October, 2015



Gary Spackman,
Director

Attachment A
Proposed Water District Boundary for Administration of Ground Water Rights

