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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

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Idaho Department of Water Resources
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TITLE: COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REVISION OF BOUNDARY OF WATER DISTRICT 170 TO INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE BASIN 75, CREATING A NEW WATER DISTRICT, COMBINING WATER DISTRICTS AND DESIGNATING SUBDISTRICT WITHIN ADMINISTRATION BASIN 75.

POINT 1: All holders of water rights in Water District 170 were not notified: Example: Hyde Creek water holders and Pope Ditch (S-13 diversion).

POINT 2: If a water district by the definition given by what David Graybill (presenter at 5/23/2022 information meeting) is, "You have a source of water that then goes to a destination," then there is a problem with the area disclosed as 75 and 74. On all of the following ditches -- Kane Ramey Ditch Company (S-12), Pope Ditch (S-13), Edwards Ranch Diversion (S-11), Rainbow Ditch Co. (S-14), Norton Wheeler (it has to be S-10), the Town Ditch -- each has its own drainage system at the end of the irrigated acres that then diverts water back into the river by a slough or Kids Creek, or through Kids Creek Fishing Pond as from the Lemhi River into Kids Creek. So, the water returns back into the Salmon River when the water table rises. There should be credit to these ditches for water returned to the river.

POINT 3: Since there is no legend for the maps defining lines and where the river flows or where a road begins, the area southeast and northeast of Salmon City should be in the 74 water area. The biggest portion of the 74 should be in the southeast part and go around S Hill all the way to Lovers Lane and Demick Lane.

POINT 4: I do not know what 75-C is. There is no definition.

POINT 5: The southern boundary of 75-A should go all the way to Lake Creek since the diversion for the Rainbow Ditch starts just north of Lake Creek and irrigates the west side of the Salmon River below Henry Creek, Williams Creek, Perreau Creek and Gorley Creek on the west side of the Salmon River.

POINT 6: The Drnjevic diversion out of the Salmon River is south of Henry Creek and north of Lake Creek, and irrigation use is from Lake Creek north to Henry Creek.

POINT 7: The hiring of an all-encompassing water master for District 170 would cost more, and I cannot understand how it will help any of the people that are having trouble on their ditch since his or her power will only be in recording the use of the water. Unless, by not having a legal weir, the all-encompassing water master shuts off the water on those ditches until the ditch gets organized and puts in a weir. Does he or she have that power? We were told at the Fish and Game Office meeting that he or she does not.

POINT 8: How can a river be designated as a wild and scenic river if it has dikes all along it? In some places there are dikes on both sides of the river. I'm not sure that this part of the river qualifies as wild and scenic.

POINT 9: Jessie Creek that runs through Salmon off the bar hill and splits below the city water works, should also include that part of Jessie Creek that runs past the Elks lodge and north to the Austin Ranch.

POINT 10: I understood that water masters must be elected, however this all-encompassing water master is to be appointed. If that is the case, why should we, the water users, be responsible for paying him or her. This is taxation without representation. I further understood that water masters must reside in the area where they are regulating water. It does not appear that that is the case for the all-encompassing water master that is to be appointed.

SUMMARY

If this entire issue came to being because there are certain water users in Gibbonsville and the Dahlonga area, and other areas, who are not organized, then the responsibility of the IDWR should be to make certain that those water users ARE organized and appoint a water master for those specific areas. The remainder of the water users in the areas outlined in your proposal already have water masters who live in the area they are monitoring, and these water users are organized. They should not be penalized, taxed, or additionally monitored because of the lack of organization and monitoring of the others.

Sincerely,


Scott R. Ziegler