

Curtailment Order

Idaho *Business News*

Water curtailment ordered in Magic Valley

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By IBR Staff

Idaho Department of Water Resources Interim Director Gary Spackman on July 22 issued a [curtailment order](#) to about 250 holders of 315 junior 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.



Ground water outflows at Thousand Springs supply water to fish farms that produce 70% of the trout raised in the US. Clear Springs Foods, Inc., is the largest fish farm in the area.

State goes ahead with first large-scale well closure of more than 300 water rights in M.V. 7/31/2009

[Water districts have limited options, could file a stay](#)

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

The Idaho Department of Water Resources will go forward this morning with a plan to shut off more than 300 water rights irrigating just less than 9,000 acres of Magic Valley farmland, the first wide-scale well curtailment to actually be carried out by the state.

Curtailment on hold for now

By Nate Poppino 8/24/2009
Staff writer

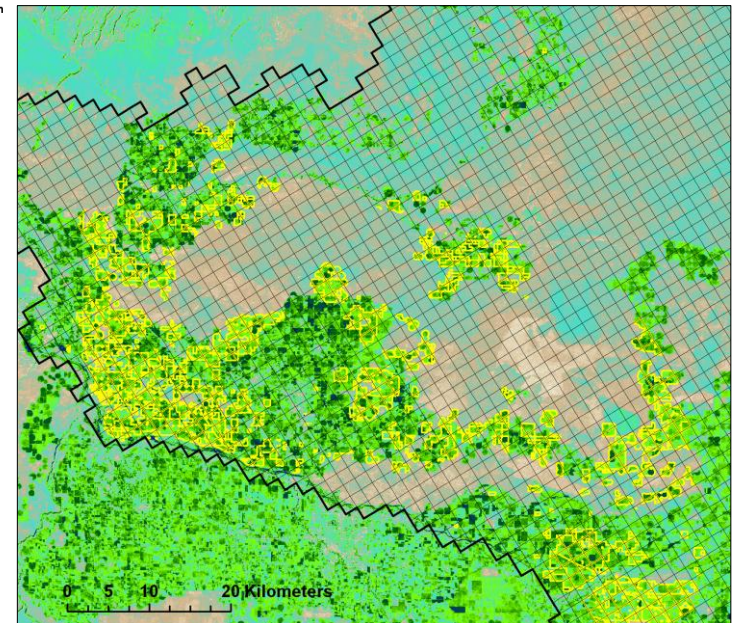
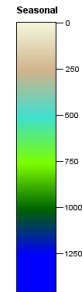
The well closures currently imposed on about 150 water rights in the Magic Valley were lifted today, when 5th District Judge John Melanson conditionally granted a stay sought by two area groundwater districts.

The closures, known as "curtailment," were put in place last month by Idaho Department of Water Resources Interim Director Gary Spackman when he concluded the districts had not followed through with part of an agreement to provide water to Clear Spring Foods in Buhl.

Attorneys for the various parties shared their thoughts on the proposed stay at a hearing Friday in Twin Falls. Melanson, who previously denied a temporary stay of the closures, wrote in today's decision that he would grant the stay as long as the districts follow through with proposed late-season recharge.

IDWR used METRIC ET data to calibrate the Eastern Snake Plain ground water model and to select the junior water rights to curtail. The initial curtailment order impacted 9,000 acres of land irrigated by ground water. On March 24, 2011, the Idaho Supreme Court ruled in favor of senior water right holder Clear Springs Foods, Inc.

Evapotranspiration
(in millimeters)



Seasonal 2006 METRIC ET with ESPA Model cells. Junior water rights affected by the curtailment order are highlighted in yellow.