

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED)
EXPANSION OF THE EASTERN SNAKE)
PLAIN AQUIFER AREA OF COMMON)
GROUND WATER SUPPLY TO INCLUDE)
THE AMERICAN FALLS)
TRIBUTARY BASIN)
_____)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION,
PUBLIC HEARING AND WRITTEN
COMMENT PERIOD

PROPOSED ACTION

Idaho Code § 42-233c(2) authorizes the Director (“Director”) of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (“Department”) to expand the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (“ESPA”) Area of Common Ground Water Supply (“ACGWS”) to include tributary basins that affect the ESPA. Consumptive use of ground water and surface water in basins tributary to the ESPA reduces inflow to the ESPA and Snake River and therefore, reduces the water supply needed by senior surface water users reliant on the Snake River and springs emerging from the ESPA.

Due to the impact of ground water use in ESPA tributary basins on senior surface water users, the Director proposes to expand the ESPA ACGWS to include the American Falls tributary basin pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-233c(2). Attachment A of this notice is a map showing the American Falls tributary basin in blue, all other ESPA tributary basins in tan, and the current ESPA ACGWS boundary as a green line.¹ Non-exempt² ground water rights in the American Falls tributary basin will be subject to priority administration associated with delivery calls connected to the ESPA ACGWS.

NOTICE OF HEARING

The Department will conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed action as follows:

**March 25, 2025 (Tuesday)
1:00 P.M.
Arbon Elementary School
4405 Arbon Valley Highway
Arbon, Idaho 83212**

¹ The ESPA ACGWS is defined in Idaho Code § 42-233c(1).

² Exempt ground water rights include those used for domestic and stockwater rights as defined under Idaho Code §§ 42-111 and 42-1401A (11). These include domestic and stock water uses associated with single family residences where the total daily ground water use is $\leq 13,000$ gallons per day and the total lawn irrigation is ≤ 0.5 acres. Exempt ground water rights also include those administered by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the United States pursuant to the 1990 Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Agreement.

HEARING PROCEDURES AND COMMENT PERIOD

Information and testimony presented at the hearing on March 25, 2025, will create part of the record upon which the Director will rely to determine whether the proposed expansion of the ESPA ACGWS into the American Falls tributary basin is appropriate. It is important that holders of water rights understand the proposed action and participate in the hearing process. The Department will present information at the hearing regarding the proposed actions.

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 any time before the close of the written comment period on April 7, 2025. Written comments not presented at the hearing should be sent to: Department of Water Resources c/o Brian Ragan, PO Box 83720, Boise, Idaho, 83720-0098.

The hearing will be conducted in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Should you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the hearing, please contact the Department at least five days before the hearing.

This notice of hearing has been sent to all current owners of exempt and non-exempt ground water rights that have an authorized point of diversion within the proposed American Falls tributary basin.

If you have questions concerning this notice, please call Brian Ragan at (208) 287-4800.

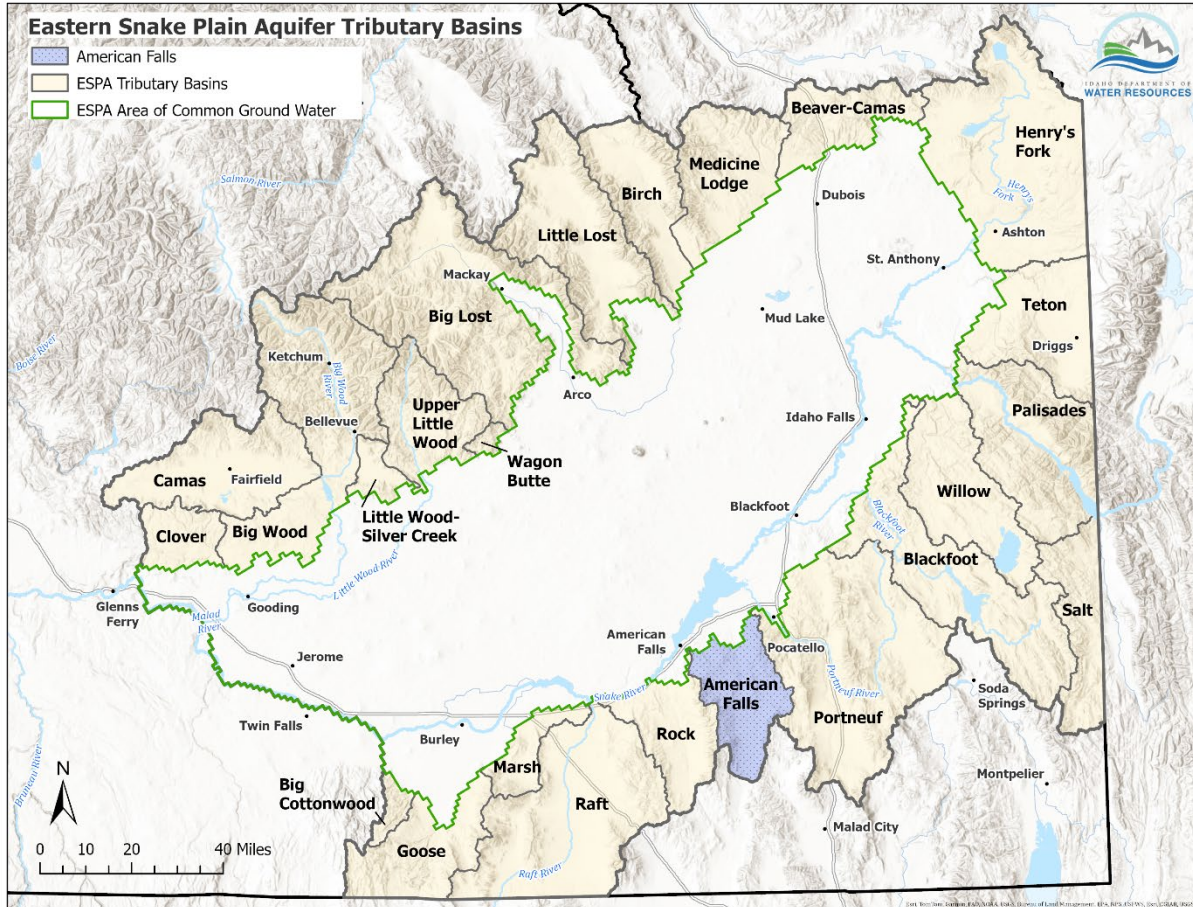
DATED this 7th day of March, 2025



Mathew Weaver
Director

Attachment A

Proposed Expansion of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Area of Common Ground Water Supply



PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK