

Idaho Department of Water Resources
322 East Front Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

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MAR 13 2025

DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES

Dear Sir:

Idaho Code Authorizes The Department To Expand the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Of Common Ground Water Supply To Include Water District #129. The Department is hosting a public hearing on March 25, at 6:00 p.m., at the MVHS Performing Arts Center.


We are concerned about this action for the following reasons. We do not share a common aquifer. The Bear River and the Malad River border District 129 but flow south into the Great Salt Lake. The Blackfoot River is north of District 129 and flows into the Snake River Aquifer, north of 129. The Portneuf River is the largest river in the 129 District and during the summer it is diverted into the Downey Canal. It is reported by the United States Reclamation Service that this canal system is only 30% efficient. Hence, during the summer 70% of its flow already flows into the Snake River system and during the off irrigation season nearly all of the river flows into the Snake Aquifer. This is the only river common to both systems.

There has not been identified an aquifer common to both rivers. Geologists claim that Marsh Valley does not have an aquifer. When the great lake broke through at Swan Lake it washed into the base of the valley, a river of gravel. Water hits this underground riverbed and flows directly to Pocatello. Wells drilled in Marsh Valley are found at different levels. Water is located at different temperatures, and in different amounts which is not characteristic of aquifers. Geologists insist that Marsh Valley is located on a perched Water Table without a source of water recharge. Many wells are just dry holes. The wells have been drilled throughout the Valley. One well below section 14 was drilled to 2800 feet and it was not successful.

Bannock County Commissioners have irresponsibly approved three housing subdivisions to be constructed in or near Robin. No source of water has been located for these subdivisions. Now The Department of Water Resources wants to move water from District 129 to the Snake River Plain, however, any available water has already formed a water channel through the gravel to Pocatello.

We ask the same question of the Department that we have asked the County. Where will you get the water? It is time to apply a little Science to these proposals. In section 14, 21 wells have been drilled! Seven of the wells are dry holes. Experts tell us that we are mining the perched aquifer and that we will eventually mine it dry!

Most respectfully,



Grant H. Olson
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