

From: [Norman Spencer](#)
To: [Ragan, Brian](#)
Subject: Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Area of Common Ground Water Supply
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Mr. Ragan,

After attending the Public Hearing for the Portneuf Basin held at the Marsh Valley High School Performing Art Center, 12655 S Old Hwy 91, Arimo, Idaho 83214 on March 25, 2025, it is evident that the Idaho Department of Water Resource has already made a decision regarding the Portneuf Basin Aquifer. I am hereby requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act, all studies completed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources regarding the Portneuf Basin Aquifer Ground Water Supply. I am also requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act, any and all studies that the Idaho Department of Water Resources relied upon in their computer model, any and all variables relied upon, and the scientific data supporting the same.

In the public hearing it was stated that the ground water users in the Portneuf Basin were using 25,000 acre feet of ground water that adversely impacted the waters available to senior priority rights. I am hereby requesting all scientific studies that have been completed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources that prove this statement to be true. I am also requesting the detailed scientific method of measuring ground water flow in the Portneuf Basin that has been done by the Idaho Department of Water Resources and any, and all other studies that prove this statement to be true.

During this public hearing there were several individuals that provided oral comments that were directly contrary to the position regarding the Portneuf Basin Ground Water Supply as presented by the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

We moved to Downey in the Marsh Valley area in 1983. We irrigated out of the Portneuf Marsh Valley Canal Company Canal up through 2000. The Portneuf Marsh Valley Canal has the storage rights for irrigation water in the Chesterfield Reservoir of 24,000 acre feet. When the irrigation water is released from the Chesterfield Reservoir, it's general direction of travel is north to south. The canal is diverted from the Portneuf River into the canal above McCammon, Idaho and continues north to south through Downey, Idaho. There is more than a 50% loss in the canal system from McCammon, Idaho to Downey, Idaho. This water loss plus the flood irrigation from the canal and ditches of the Portneuf Marsh Valley Canal Company Canal recharges the Portneuf Basin Aquifer from McCammon through Downey. We have seen that the lowest point in the aquifer in that area we have farmed in is early spring, March and April, the highest point in the aquifer in that same area is late August and September at the conclusion of the irrigation season. In that area, from May through September, the Portneuf Marsh Valley Canal is recharging the aquifer at a rate greater than the water being pulled from the aquifer in the Portneuf Basin.

I have installed a meter on our well. I will measure our ground water flow and use beginning in April and will continue the same day of each month through September to prove and verify my claims.

Respectfully,

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