

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Idaho, County of Custer, ss:

I, James M. Smirch, representing the Challis Messenger, a weekly newspaper, published at Challis, Idaho, do solemnly swear that the notice hereto attached and made a part hereof, was published in the regular and entire issue of the Challis Messenger for 2 consecutive weeks, commencing with the issue dated March 30th 2017 and ending with the issue dated April 6th 2017

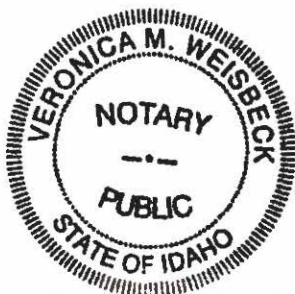
James M. Smirch

STATE OF IDAHO

COUNTY OF CUSTER

On this 6th day of April in the year of 2017, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Jim Smirch, known or identified to me to be the person whose name subscribed to the within instrument, and being by me first duly sworn, declared that the statements therein are true, and acknowledged to me that (s)he executed the same.

Veronica M. Weisbeck  
Notary Public of Idaho  
Residing at Challis, Idaho  
My commission expires 11/9/21



via E-mail  
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APR 12 2017

DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES  
SOUTHERN REGION

## NOTICE OF PETITIONS TO DESIGNATE THE BIG LOST RIVER BASIN A CRITICAL GROUND WATER AREA OR GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA AND INITIATION OF FORMAL PROCEEDINGS

Notice is hereby given that, on September 19, 2016, Rose Bernal, Butte County Commissioner, submitted a letter to the Director ("Director") of the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("Department"), including a petition requesting that the Director "designate a critical ground water area in the Big Lost River Basin." The petition was signed by numerous water users in support of the request.

On January 9, 2017, the Director received a letter from Moj Broadie, Chairman of the Big Lost River Ground Water District ("BLRGWD"), opposing the petition to designate the Big Lost River Basin as a critical ground water area and requesting the Director "allow the BLRGWD to have broad participation" in the consideration of designating the Big Lost River Basin a critical ground water area or ground water management area. On January 23, 2017, the Director received another letter from Moj Broadie, asking the Director to consider designating the Big Lost River Basin a ground water management area "with due process procedures that would enable all interested parties to participate. . . ."

The above-described letters are petitions as defined by the Department's Rule of Procedure 230. IDAPA 37.01.01.230. The petitions may be found on the Department's website for this matter at <https://idwr.idaho.gov/water-rights/critical-ground-water-areas/pending-petitions.html>. The Director will conduct formal proceedings to address the petitions in accordance with the Department's Rule of Procedure 104. IDAPA 37.01.01.104. A copy of the Rules of Procedure may be obtained from the Department or at <https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/37/0101.pdf>.

The Director will hold a prehearing conference on May 3, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. (MDT), at the Butte County School District Auditorium, 250 S. Water St., Arco, Idaho 83213. More information regarding the prehearing conference can be found at the above-described website for the contested case.

Signatories to the petition to designate the Big Lost River Basin a critical ground water area and the BLRGWD are considered parties. Others who want to formally participate must file petitions to intervene with the Department, together with a \$25 filing fee, by May 3, 2017, in accordance with the Department's Rules of Procedure 350-352 and Idaho Code § 42-221(I).

The Director requested that Department staff prepare a memorandum discussing aquifer recharge and discharge, water use, and water level trends in the Big Lost River valley. The staff memorandum may be found at the Department's website for this matter referenced above.

Gary Spackman, Director  
Published: March 30 and April 6, 2017.

✓ DM 4/24/2017