

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE BOISE FRONT )  
LOW TEMPERATURE GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE )  
GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA )  
ORDER ESTABLISHING  
A GROUND WATER  
MANAGEMENT AREA

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This matter having come before the Director of the Department of Water Resources as a result of declining water levels reported in the low temperature geothermal resource system, the Director Finds, Concludes and Orders as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Director of the Department of Water Resources has the responsibility to administer the ground water basins of the State to protect prior rights yet allow full economic development.
2. There is a growing concern that the present stage of permitted development of the low temperature geothermal resource system in the Boise Front Area may be approaching the conditions of a critical ground water area.
3. Two of the three major users of the thermal system came on line in the early 1980's.
4. Outstanding, approved permits allow for the additional development of more than 30 cubic feet per second from the low temperature geothermal resource system.
5. The early priority user of the thermal system has expressed concern over declines in production and recovery of their wells over the past few years.

6. A preliminary study performed by Boise State University on several wells in a portion of the low temperature geothermal resource system indicates that the resource may be limited and that significant declines in water levels in pumped and monitored wells within the system are occurring.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Section 42-226, Idaho Code, declares all ground waters to be the property of the State, and charges the State with supervising the appropriation and allotment of the same so that early appropriation of underground water are protected in the maintenance of reasonable groundwater pumping levels.

2. In order to establish whether withdrawals from the low temperature geothermal resource system are exceeding the capacity of the system to provide an ongoing supply of water and to protect early appropriators, all existing wells and future wells that obtain water either from a depth greater than 300 feet and/or a temperature of 85°F within the area designated, must be monitored and controlled.

3. Section 42-233b, Idaho Code, authorizes the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources to designate areas as "groundwater management areas" to allow increased management of the groundwater resources.

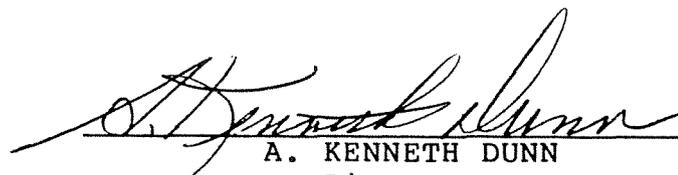
#### ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following described area be included within and designated as the "Boise Front Low Temperature Geothermal Resource Ground Water Management Area" pursuant to provisions of Section 42-233b, Idaho Code:

From a point of beginning at the Northeast corner of Sec. 8, T4N, R2E; thence southerly 1 mile to the southeast corner of Sec. 8; thence easterly approximately 3 miles to the northeast corner of Sec. 14; then southerly 2 miles to the southeast corner of Sec. 23; thence easterly 2 miles to the northeast corner of Sec. 30, T4N, R3E; thence southerly 2 miles to the southeast corner of Sec. 31; thence easterly approximately 1 mile to the southeast corner of Sec. 32; thence southerly approximately 2 miles to the northwest corner of Sec. 16, T3N, R3E; thence easterly 1 mile to the northeast corner of Sec. 16; thence southerly 1 mile to the southeast corner of Sec. 16; thence easterly 1 mile to the southeast corner of Sec. 15; thence southerly approximately 5 miles to the southeast corner of Sec. 10, T2N, R3E; thence westerly approximately 9 miles to the southwest corner of Sec. 8, T2N, R2E; thence northerly 4 miles to the southwest corner of Sec. 20, T3N, R2E; thence westerly approximately 2 miles to the southwest corner of Sec. 24, T3N, R1E; thence northerly approximately 4 miles to the southwest corner of Sec. 36, T4N, R1E; thence westerly 2 miles to the southwest corner of Sec. 34; thence northerly approximately 5 miles to the northwest corner of Sec. 10; thence easterly approximately 5 miles to the point of beginning.

IT IS FURTHER HEREBY ORDERED that the resource of concern is the ground water greater than 85°F and/or the ground water at a depth of 300 feet or more below land surface.

DATED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 1987.

  
A. KENNETH DUNN  
Director

# BOISE FRONT GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA

(Designated June 15, 1987)

85° F to 212° F Water

