



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IDWR to host first Big Wood GWMA Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 4 in Shoshone

SHOSHONE – (Nov. 2, 2020) – The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) will host the initial meeting of the Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) Advisory Committee on Wednesday, Nov. 4 in Shoshone, Idaho.

The in-person meeting will run from 10 a.m. to noon in the Lincoln County Community Center, 201 S. Beverly Street, in Shoshone. People who would like to attend remotely can call into the meeting at 1-877-820-7831, passcode 295982.

In recent years, landowners with senior surface water rights in the Big Wood River and/or Little Wood River, have alleged that ground water pumping in the upper Wood River and Silver Creek drainages was depleting flows in the rivers and reducing river flows diverted for irrigation.

This dispute resulted in attempted litigation and the submittal of several draft plans to IDWR to address the controversy, officials said. In response, IDWR volunteered to facilitate finding a solution to the controversy and formed the advisory committee to assist.

IDWR designated a GWMA for the Big Wood River Basin in 1991 after ground water monitoring wells showed that ground water levels were declining in the basin. IDWR hydrologists also investigated the connections between surface and ground water in Camas Creek, Silver Creek and the Big Wood River above Magic Reservoir.

An agenda for the meeting can be found at the following link:

<https://idwr.idaho.gov/files/groundwater-mgmt/20201104-Big-Wood-River-GWMA-Advisory-Committee-Meeting-Draft-Agenda.pdf>

The following people will be serving on the Advisory Committee:

- Corey Allen, Sun Valley Company.
- Cooper Brossy, Big & Little Wood Water Users Association
- Rod Hubsmith, American Falls Reservoir District 2
- Sharon Lee, Individual
- Pat McMahon, Chair, Galena Ground Water District
- Kristy Molyneux, Chair, Sun Valley Ground Water District
- Carl Pendleton, Board Chair, Big Wood Canal Company
- Pat Purdy, Owner, Picabo Livestock Company, Inc.
- William Simon, Camas Prairie Water Users
- Nick Westendorf, Big & Little Wood Water Users Association
- Brian Yeager, Public Works Director, City of Hailey
- State Sen. Michelle Stennett (Ex-officio Member), Senate Minority Leader.

The public is welcome to attend the meeting. There will be time set aside for public comment.

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