



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **IDWR officials to host public workshops in Sandpoint to assist with water rights claims for the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille River Basin Adjudication**

SANDPOINT – (April 20, 2022) - The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) will host public workshops the first week in May to assist the public with filing water rights claims in the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille River Basin Adjudication.

IDWR staff will be available at the Ponderay Events Center on May 3-5, from 8 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day. IDWR staff will serve the public on a first-come, first-served basis to answer questions and help people with filing water right claims. To avoid longer wait times, IDWR recommends avoiding peak busy periods around 8 a.m., 12 p.m., and 5 p.m. Officials recommend coming at off-peak hours, if possible.

Since September 2021, IDWR has sent out approximately 17,000 notices to property owners, notifying them about the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille River Basin Adjudication and requesting water rights claims. Additional notices will be mailed in the coming months. Water users that have yet to receive notices are still welcome to attend the workshop.

Filing complex water rights claims or multiple claims may take more time and could require follow-up through additional appointments or by telephone, e-mail, or written communication. IDWR staff recommends bringing your property tax notice with parcel information, any related water right records, and knowledge of the facts related to the development of water use on your property, especially the date when the water was first used.

Payment of filing fees for water rights claims can be made during the public workshops in Sandpoint. For cash transactions, please bring the exact amount due.

For additional information, including a map of the adjudication area and the filing fee schedule, go to [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov) or call:

- Adjudication Hotline: (800) 451-4129
- Northern Region Office: (208) 762-2800

In related news, the Lakes Commission and IDWR staff are co-hosting an informational meeting on Thursday, April 28 in Sandpoint to explain the water rights adjudication process for the Clark Fork - Pend Oreille Basin Adjudication. People who received a water right claim filing notice in the mail from IDWR may have questions about the benefits of adjudicating water rights. The purpose of this meeting is to get those questions answered.

In addition to IDWR representatives, guest speakers Norm Semanko and State Senator Jim Woodward will attend the information meeting and present their thoughts about the adjudication. Semanko grew up in Northern Idaho and is a well-known water law attorney in Idaho. Senator Woodward is currently serving legislative District 1. Semanko and Woodward are interested in sharing information with local residents about the water adjudication process.

**When:** Thursday, April 28, from 6-7:30 p.m.

**Location:** University of Idaho Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center

**Address:** 10881 N Boyer Ave, Sandpoint, ID

Click on link for directions: [Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center](#)

For more information on the April 28 meeting, contact Molly McCahon, Executive Director, Lakes Commission, 208-265-4568; [lakescommission@gmail.com](mailto:lakescommission@gmail.com); web: [lakes-commission.com](http://lakes-commission.com)

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