



**Governor Brad Little**

**Director Gary Spackman**

February 11, 2022

**Re: Public Information Meeting Regarding the Incorporation of Administrative Basin 75 into Water District No. 170**

Dear Water User,

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (Department) is proposing to expand Water District 170 - Upper Salmon River basin (WD170) to include the Department's Administrative Basin 75 (Basin 75) located within Lemhi County (map attached). The proposed expansion is necessary to property administer water rights and diversions within Basin 75. Water users, watermasters and other interested parties can provide valuable input concerning the proposal and related planning efforts.

The Department will hold a public information meeting concerning the proposed action as noted below:

**Date -Time: Friday, February 25, 2022 - 6:00 pm**  
**Location: Idaho Department of Fish and Game Regional Office**  
**99 Hwy 93 N Salmon, ID 83467**

The Department proposes incorporating Basin 75 into WD170 to include surface and ground water rights (exceptions in first bullet point below), and to create, revise the boundaries of, consolidate, or abolish existing water districts within Basin 75. Current Basin 75 water districts include WD75A (Jesse and Gorley Crs.), WD75B (Williams Cr.), WD75C (Runsten-Minzer Ditch), WD75D (Carmen Cr.), and WD75E (Wallace Cr.).

Reasons for the proposed changes include:

1. The Snake River Basin Adjudication was completed in 2014. Idaho law requires the creation of water districts for the proper administration of water rights following an adjudication.
2. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Stipulation (Agreement), signed in 2004, required the creation of WD170 to include all waters including surface and ground water of the Upper Salmon River Basin from the headwaters to the confluence with the Middle Fork Salmon River. Basin 75 is the last of the Upper Salmon River Basins to be included in WD170.

Proposed actions to be presented at the public meeting include:

- Revising the boundary of WD170 to include all surface and ground water rights in Basin 75, except for domestic and stock water rights as defined by Idaho Code §§ 42-111 and 42-1401A(11), and water rights used for in-stream watering of livestock as defined by Idaho Code § 42-113.
- Designating existing Basin 75 water districts as sub-districts within WD170, and revising those districts to include administration of ground water rights and main-stem Salmon River rights.
- Abolishing WD75C (Runsten-Minzer Ditch). This is a lateral ditch subject to the provisions of Chapter 13, Title 42, Idaho Code.
- Combining WD75A with WD75E, and revising the boundaries to include the Perreau Creek drainage to the south and those drainages between Jesse Creek and Wallace Creek.
- Revising the boundaries of WD75D to include the Big Flat area and the area south of Carmen Creek to the Lemhi drainage.
- Creating the Lost Trail Water District - WD75F to include the North Fork of the Salmon River, Tower Creek, Fourth of July Creek and tributaries.

Department staff will also present information and answer questions about requirements of water districts, anticipated timelines, and future related actions.

The meeting is being held at a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations to attend this meeting please contact David Graybill at 208-742-0658 at least five days prior to the meeting.

This notice has been sent to all current owners of water rights administered by WD170 and water rights in Basin 75, except domestic and stockwater rights as defined in Idaho Code §§ 42-111 and 42-1401A(11).

Sincerely,



David Graybill  
Water Distribution Section  
Water District 170 Watermaster

Attachment A  
Water District 170 Expansion Map

