

**Boe, Erik**

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**From:** Margheim, Kris  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** Boe, Erik  
**Subject:** FW: Greenfield trust/AOC for Soda Springs (written comments)

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NOV 07 2023

DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER RESOURCES

Erik,

Can I get you to address this concern, it was for the Public meeting that you were at last week.

Thanks

*-Kris*

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**From:** Justin Steele <jsteele@co.caribou.id.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 3:13 PM  
**To:** IDWRInfo <idwrinfo@idwr.idaho.gov>  
**Subject:** Greenfield trust/AOC for Soda Springs (written comments)

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Contact information:

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1. My first concern is the proposed map of the contamination plum that Greenfield Trust is being asked to mitigate. It was explained in the public meeting the reasons why the boundary lines were drawn where they were within the AOC. I felt that it was explained thoroughly; however, I felt that the lines were placed arbitrarily due to where property lines started and ended within the plum. In my case I am adjacent to the proposed plum based on my property line, the question I posed after the meeting was the AOC would limit drilling and the type of drilling, and this could be made smaller over time. I am also concerned that they could be expanded as easily as reduced and therefor could directly effect my property and residence. It was said that it is unlikely, however,

this cleanup process has been going on for nearly 35 years so I have concerns as to the effectiveness and overall success of the cleanup and the potential for extended contamination to occur for years to come.

I am also concerned that the boundary that has been set with property lines does not accurately represent the proposed plum. The AOC should be placed as near to the known plum area as possible as to not effect property owners and the value of their property. This would directly effect individuals in potentially developing this area in the future and surely would devalue property values in the future. Technology and GPS coordinates are very precise, I believe that a more appropriate way to establish the AOC would be to move the boundaries to the plum area, not to the closest property line which could be quite a distance away effecting large tracts of land not within the plum area.

2. The second comment I have is an issue directly associated with my property located south of Soda Springs. My address is 700 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> E. I am located next to a large alfalfa/farm ( East of my location, Brodie Gibson), which in the summer months pumps a large amount of water to their crops from May-Sept. This well is drilled into the blackfoot Basalt aquifer and I have concerns that by a large scale pumping of water may pull contaminated water from the Greenfield site into the water we access in the same aquifer. It was stated in the meeting that they are only testing in the Spring, the contamination would most likely be pulled throughout the summer months and into the fall based on their large use of water, and if only testing in the spring would most likely not verify any contamination of the water that takes place during the summer months.
3. I would like to see the Greenfield Trust work with the City of Soda Springs in developing water infrastructure to all residences within the city of Soda Springs to eliminate any issues with contaminated water. Development of the areas south of Soda Springs at some point will take place. City water extended down 3<sup>rd</sup> East to the end of City limits would allow current residents to attach to city water and also allow the city to potentially run city water to any developments that are done in the future. It is a concern that Vanadium could be a slower moving contaminant and we still may not see its effects within the plum for years to come. I believe that it would relieve many potential issues in the future for all agencies involved to ensure safe water to city residents now vs. having to be reactive to an issue in the future.
4. I also have concerns about an AOC that could potentially turn into a no drill area if the cleanup is not successful. I am fully in support of the clean-up efforts, however, I am concerned about the future of the property that falls with in the area of the AOC and the surrounding lands. I tried to follow the explanation at the meeting from the drilling expert on how you can drill through one aquifer and into the next without potentially contaminating one or the other. The assessment that was given may be 100% accurate, or not. It seems to me that great risk is present when you drill through one aquifer to another. I do not know drilling techniques and best practices, through my eyes that seems like that comes with substantial risk for contamination.
5. Last comment, I am concerned that industry has been the cause of the contamination, Greenfield has been entrusted to clean-up the environmental issues that have been left behind. I am concerned that the trust was established for clean-up, but nothing has been done for property owners, and for the future of the property owners and their land. If this not addressed now, and the money goes away the locals will be left holding the proverbial bag in this situation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Justin Steele  
11/7/23