



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

900 N. Skyline Dr., Suite A, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402-1718 - (208) 525-7161- Fax (208) 525-7177

EASTERN REGION

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER
DIRECTOR

May 1, 2001

Dear Claimant in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA):

About 10 years ago you or your predecessor filed with the Idaho Department of Water Resources a Notice of Claim to Water Right in the Snake River Basin Adjudication. As explained in the enclosed letter from Senators Marley and Wheeler the investigation phase of this process is now focused on your area, Basin 29, the Portneuf River Drainage.

You are invited to attend a public meeting:

McCammon	Wednesday, May 9 at 2:00 p.m. McCammon City Hall 802 Front St., McCammon
Pocatello	Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. Armed Forces Reserve Center 611 W. Quinn, Pocatello
Soda Springs	Thursday, May 10 th at 10:00 a.m. Soda Springs City Hall 9 West 2 nd South, Soda Springs

The purpose of these meetings is for (1) the Department to update you on how the adjudication process works, and (2) for you, the claimant, to express concerns or discuss problems relating to water delivery in your area. This will help us to understand from an historical perspective the use and delivery of your water right.

Throughout this summer our adjudication staff, primarily from the Idaho Falls Eastern Regional Office but also at times from Boise, will be contacting various water users in Basin 29. We ask for your cooperation in this process – the better we understand your water rights the better chance of you receiving an accurate decree from the SRBA Court that fully describes your water rights.

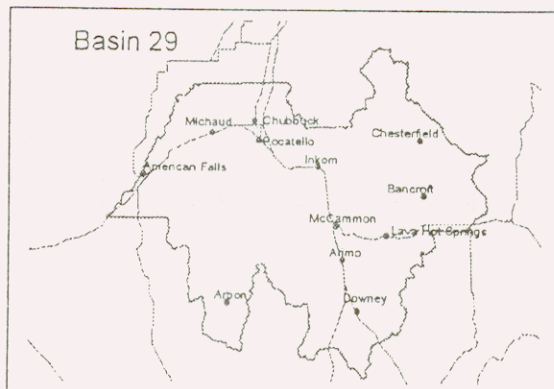
This investigation effort is being conducted by an experienced and successful staff. During recent years, this staff has accurately investigated and reported water rights in neighboring basins to the west, including the Big Lost River, the Little Lost River, Camas Creek, and Birch Creek.

Please contact the Idaho Falls Office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ernest Carlsen
Adjudication Supervisor, Eastern Region

Enclosures: Letter from Representative Marley and
Senator Wheeler
Information Brochure





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Dear Water Users:

Ten years ago or more, we filed Adjudication Claims for our water rights. Over the last ten years, the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("IDWR") and the SRBA Court have been working on a number of legal questions called "Basin Wide Issues." These have been settled to the point that the Department is proceeding with investigating claims. Claims investigation in Basin 29, the Portneuf River Drainage, is now underway.

This summer IDWR will be examining claims in Basin 29 with a goal of making "preliminary recommendations" in December. An informal "notice of error" process will follow, where claimants can present additional information to IDWR if they believe the recommendations are incorrect.

Early in 2002, IDWR will present its recommendations to the Court in the form of a "director's report". This will begin the "objection" period, where water users can object to their own or others' water rights before the Court. Finally, the Court will make a determination based upon the claims, the department recommendations, and any information presented in trial as a result of the objection process. Partial decrees of individual Basin 29 rights should be issued some time in 2002.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that we be informed and involved in this process, to make sure the Department makes correct recommendations for our water rights. If the Department asks for information, PLEASE RESPOND. They need that information to recommend your right, or they wouldn't ask for it.

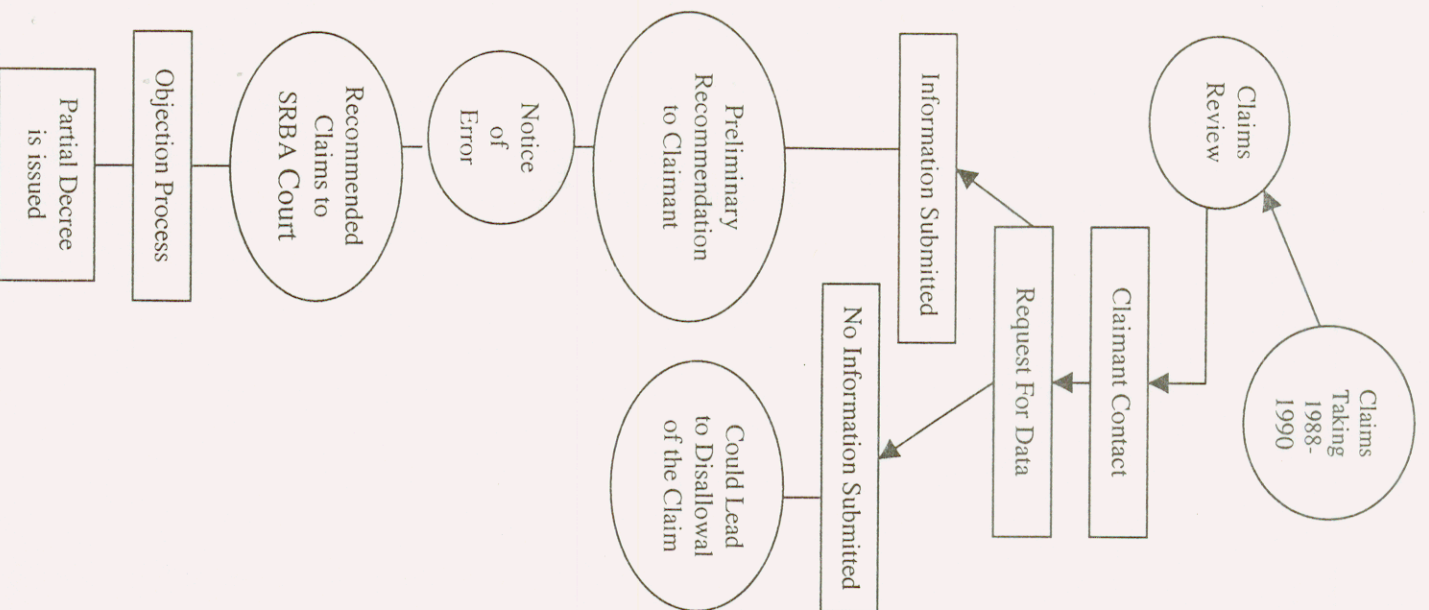
The Department has invited us to a public meeting at 2:00 P.M. on May 9th, at the McCammon City Hall; 7:00 P.M. on May 9th, at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Pocatello; or 10:00 A.M. on May 10th at the Soda Springs City Hall. They will explain the process, and answer questions. Please come and participate.

Please call the Idaho Falls office for IDWR at 525-7161, if you have questions.

Thank You,

Representative Bert C. Marley
Pocatello, Dist. 33

Senator "Moon" Wheeler
American Falls, Dist. 35



Questions and Answers:

Q: Why now? I adjudicated my water rights in 1989.

A: You filed your claims in 1989. Now we are investigating those claims to make accurate recommendations to the Fifth District Court.

Q: If I furnish more information will you take away my water right?

A: The State does not want your water right. We ask for additional information so that we may make accurate recommendations of Beneficial Uses of the water rights. Our schedule is very tight – we need the info ASAP.

Q: How much more money do you want?

A: You paid for your claim in 1989, or so. There might be additional fees only in extenuating circumstances, such as additional acres or new claims.

Q: How come you want me to file another claim?

A: If we suggest you file additional claims it means we have found

additional uses of water to which you may be entitled, or we have identified additional acres.

Q: What about my Domestic well and Stockwater?

A: There is no statutory requirement to file either; but IDWR accepts your Domestic and/or Stockwater claims.

The Tools We Use:

In the evaluation of water right claims and preparation of recommendations the adjudicator staff utilize:

- State-of-the-art computer technology.
- High resolution 1987 NAPP photography to identify the place of use.
- Global Positioning System (GPS) used to pin-point points of diversion or detail significant features.
- Prior decrees, licenses and transfers.
- Water measurements for claims based on beneficial use.
- Watermaster records
- Historical records
- Claimant input and participation

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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Eastern District Office
900 N. Skyline Dr., Suite A
Idaho Falls, ID 83402-1718

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Karl E Anderson

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