

27-103419



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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EASTERN REGION

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

February 28, 2003

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

About 13 years ago you or your predecessor filed with the Idaho Department of Water Resources a claim to water right in the Snake River Basin. The investigation phase of this process is now focused on your area, Basin 27.

You are invited to attend a **public meeting to be held on March 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Eastern Idaho State Fairgrounds, Needle Craft Building, at the corner of Park and Maple streets.** The purpose of this meeting 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 our Eastern Regional Office but also at times from Boise, will be contacting various water users in Basin 27. 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 including the Big Lost River, the Little Lost River, Birch Creek, Camas Creek and the Portneuf River.

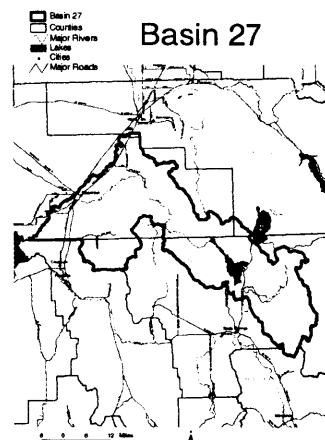
Please contact the Idaho Falls Office with any questions.

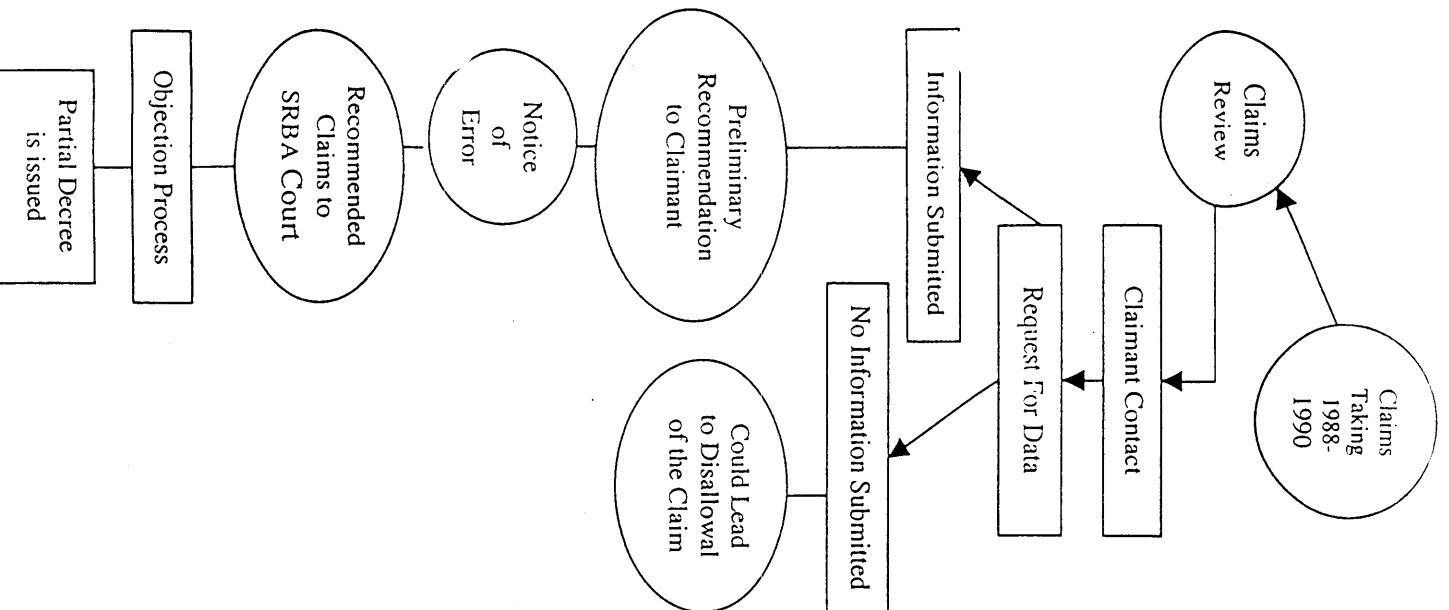
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ernest Carlsen".

Ernest Carlsen
Adjudication Supervisor, Eastern Region

Enclosure: Information Brochure





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 adjudication 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