



State of Idaho

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN  
Director

July 17, 2014

RE: Water Rights Diverted in Wyoming and Beneficially Used in Idaho

Dear Property Owner:

You are receiving this letter because you have been identified as owning property in Bonneville and / or Caribou counties within Star Valley. Some owners of the parcels within Star Valley divert water in Wyoming and use the water in Idaho for irrigation and other purposes. Previously, the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("IDWR") discouraged filing claims in the Snake River Basin Adjudication ("SRBA") if the water user diverted water in Wyoming but beneficially used the water in Idaho. Because of recent issues over interstate use of water, IDWR now recommends that water users diverting water in another state but applying water to beneficial use in Idaho file claims in the SRBA and ask the SRBA Court to decree their water use in Idaho.

The SRBA is a general adjudication of the water rights within the Snake River water basin. The purpose of the SRBA is to inventory Idaho water rights to assure proper delivery of water in times of shortage and to provide certainty of water right ownership to property owners. If you divert water in Wyoming and use the water in Idaho, your water rights may be affected if you do not file a late claim in the SRBA. The SRBA is in the process of winding down. **It is imperative you expeditiously file any late claims. IDWR recommends that you file any claims by July 31, 2014.** A late claim is submitted on a Notice of Claim to a Water Right form provided by IDWR or available online at: [www.srba.idaho.gov](http://www.srba.idaho.gov) Idaho Code § 42-1414 requires each person who files a Notice of Claim to pay a filing fee. Failure to pay the fee will result in the rejection of the Notice of Claim. Although filing fees are required, any associated late fees for claims in the Star Valley Area will be waived by IDWR.

All late claims must also be considered by the SRBA Court, which is aware of past confusion about filing claims for the Star Valley diversions. In addition to preparing a Notice of Claim, a Standard Form 4 (SF4) Motion to File Late Notice of Claim must be filed with the SRBA Court along with the Notice of Claim form. The SF4 is available online at [www.srba.idaho.gov](http://www.srba.idaho.gov) or at the SRBA Courthouse. In most cases, the Court will hold a hearing on your late claim in the near future.

If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact Michael Holliday at the IDWR Eastern Regional Office at 900 North Skyline Dr, Suite A, Idaho Falls, ID 83402-1718; Phone: (208) 525-7161 or Carter Fritschle at the IDWR State Office at 322 E Front St, Boise, ID 83720-0098; Phone: (208) 287-4800.

Sincerely,

Gary Spackman  
Director