

**Water District Expansion  
Upper Boise River Basin**

IDWR PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING  
March 19 & 27, 2013  
Mountain Home & Idaho City, ID

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**Meeting Objective**

- Inform water right holders of:
  - Requirements to extend water right administration to Upper Boise Basin
  - Plans to expand Water District 63 to Upper Boise Basin (scope/timeline/schedule)
  - Water District operations
  - Address Questions/Receive Input

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**Area of Notice:**  
Upper Boise Basin – drainage area above Lucky Peak Reservoir

- Over 440 Notices Sent (surface water rights only)
  - Excluding in-stream stock water rights
  - Excluding Smith Creek (Water District 63-B)

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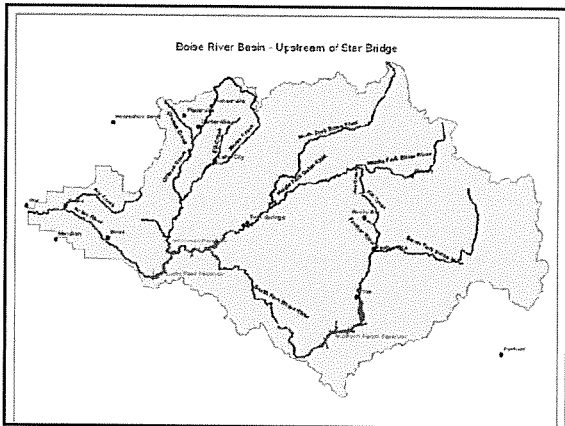
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### Number of Water Rights in Area

- About **1280** water rights total (excludes in-stream stock)
- About **650** water rights = Federal stock water (one inch)
- About **360** water rights = de minimis uses ( $\leq 0.24$  cfs)
- About **120** water rights with irrig. use  $> 5$  acres
- About **110** water rights with irrig. use  $\leq 5$  acre
- About **40** water rights for other uses/non-de minimis

263 upper irrig. ac size  
Irrig. Prod/Use NR Anderson Ranch  $\approx 2,800$  ac  
next ac  
next biggest = mt Home ID;  
next  $\approx 200$  ac  
very few  $> 100$  ac.

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### Number of Water Rights and Diversions in Area

- Of total **230** Irrigation Water Rights
  - $\approx 265$  unique diversion locations (per water rights)
  - $\approx 190$  cfs total (gross) diversion rate

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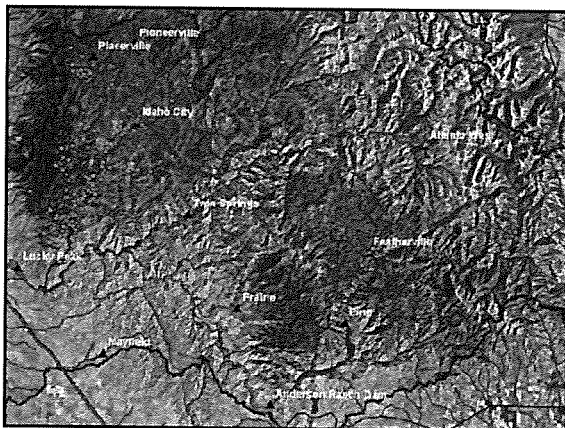
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**Why Expand Water District for this area?**

- SRBA completed for this area
- SRBA District Court issued Order of Interim Administration on February 22, 2011
- Expand administration of surface water rights to entire Boise River Basin
  - provide equitable administration of rights for the whole basin and protect senior priority rights

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**Why Expand Water District for this area?**

- Regulation
  - assure water rights are diverted in priority
  - assure diversions within water right limits
  - address unauthorized uses
- Administer/Manage water rights
  - maintain current/accurate records (ownership & water right descriptions)

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**Water Districts**

Chapter 6, Title 42, Idaho Code  
Created by order of Director of IDWR for purposes of water right administration, specifically, distribution of water from public or natural water sources in accordance with water right priority dates.

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**Water Districts**

- Creation of Water Districts
  - "The director shall divide the state into water districts ... such that each public stream and tributaries, or independent source of water supply, shall constitute a water district."
  - "The director may create a water district by entry of an order ... in order to properly administer uses of the water resource."

Idaho Code § 42-604

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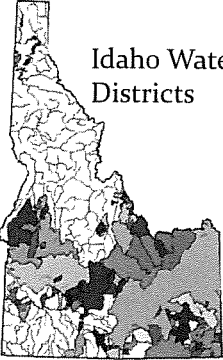
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**Idaho Water Districts**



A map of the state of Idaho, divided into numerous irregularly shaped regions representing water districts. The map is shaded in various tones of gray and black to distinguish between the different districts. The title 'Idaho Water Districts' is centered above the map.

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**Water Districts**

**Features**

- Watermasters elected annually to provide water distribution services
  - elected by users, appointed by IDWR Director
  - compensated by users via assessments
  - receive guidance/direction from Director
- Advisory Committee elected annually
  - comprised of water users in district
  - serve in advisory capacity to watermaster and director, draft and implement resolutions, may mediate problems within district

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**Water Districts**

- **General Duties of Watermaster:**
  - 1) deliver water in accordance with water right priority dates
    - authority to control/regulate diversion works
  - 2) measure and report diversions under water rights
  - 3) provide annual reports of expenses & water delivered (watermaster report, daily log books or distribution report, proposed budget)
  - 4) report and control unauthorized diversions
    - local resource/expert; review transfers

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**Water Districts**  
**Meetings, Elections, Budgets**

- Annual meeting held to elect watermaster, adopt a budget and resolutions, and select an advisory committee.
- Voting is by majority vote of users present, or if requested, by alternative method that involves votes equal to dollar amount assessed.  

Idaho Code § 42-605

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**Water Districts**  
**Meetings, Elections, Budgets**

- District meeting is first Monday of March, by law, or
- Between first Monday of January & third Monday of March, by district resolution
- Director can schedule special meeting or first meeting at any time

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**Water Districts**  
**Meetings, Elections, Budgets**

- Amount of water use is basis for assessments. (IC § 42-612)
- Alternative methods and flexibility provided for voting and assessment of non-consumptive uses. (IC § 42-605A)
- Budget collected either by county or by district. (IC § 42-612 and 42-618)
- Participation is mandatory

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**District Creation/Expansion**  
**Who's usually included:**

- All water rights are included, but for Administrative & Assessment purposes, IDWR may exclude:
  - domestic/stock water uses meeting definition of Sec. 42-111, Idaho Code
  - in-stream livestock
  - other small rights/uses (<= 0.24 cfs)
  - minimum in-stream flow rights

Note: hydropower rights included but may be assessed differently

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**District Creation/Expansion**

**Measurement Requirements:**

- For Measurement Purposes, typically exclude:
  - domestic/stock water uses, in-stream livestock & other small rights/uses  $\leq 0.24$  cfs diversion rate
- May exclude irrigation uses/diversions  $\leq 5$  acres, but could be subject to minimum assessment
- All other rights/diversions are measured
  - Estimate over 200 diversions total?

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**District Creation/Expansion**

**Potential Scenario:**

- Expand WD63 to Upper Basin this year
  - Hold hearing this summer
- Limit administration in first several years to South Fork and Middle Fork drainages
- Expand administration after several years to Grimes and Moores Creek drainages

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**District Creation/Expansion**

**Potential Scenario:**

- Limit administration in first several years to South Fork and Middle Fork drainages
  - o Watermaster will inventory diversions
  - o Determine measurement methods
  - o Begin assessments

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## Measurement Requirements

**Likely Scenario:**

- IDWR will issue separate order to require installation of measuring devices:
  - Phase-in over several years
  - Submit measurement plans prior to install dates
- Must install standard measuring devices per IDWR standards
  - Open channel (weirs, flumes, doppler meters)
  - Closed conduit (magnetic flow meters)

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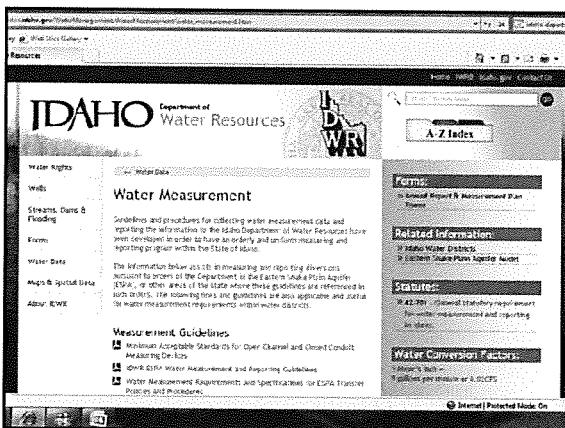
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## Measurement Requirements

**Costs:**

- Open Channel
  - Start at several hundred dollars for smaller size ditches
- Closed Conduit
  - Mag Meters: = \$2,000 – \$3,400 for 10 inch line + install
  - For smaller diameter pipe: Mag cost varies on diameter
    - \$300 to \$800 for 1 to 3 inch diameter lines
    - \$1,200 – \$2,500 for 4 to 8 inch diameter lines

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### Creation Timeline – Next Steps

- Schedule hearing summer 2013
- Issue order – likely phase in drainage areas with two separate dates
- WD63 annual meeting = first Monday of January

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### Creation Timeline - Hearing

- Mail individual notice
- Publish notice in local papers (two weeks)
- Hold hearing at least ten days after notice
- Ten day comment period
- Issue order

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### Annual Meeting

- Need to add advisory committee members from affected areas of order
- Determine budget and assessments
  - For diversions in areas affected first

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**Advisory Committee, including  
reps from expansion area**

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- Work with IDWR on:
  - Implement measurement requirements
  - Future water district budget & resolutions
  - Shaping of Water District

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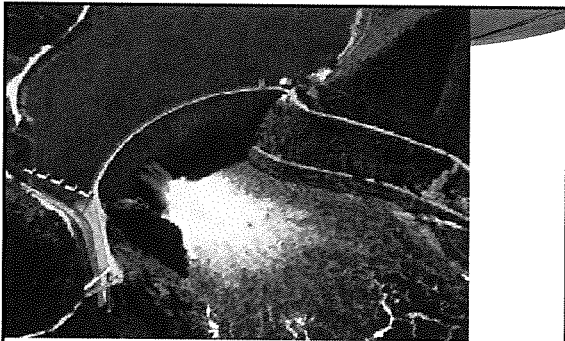
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Additional Questions?

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