



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1301 North Orchard Street, Boise, ID 83706 - P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0098
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DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

June 18, 2002

Arie Hilt, Cecil Hilt, Henrietta Hilt
Rt 1 Box 160
Wendell, Idaho 83355

Re: Curtailment of Ground Water Use Under Water Right(s) 36-8265

Dear Water Right Holder:

The records of the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("Department") indicate that you own one or more water rights for the use of ground water within Water District 130 and the Thousand Springs Ground Water Management Area (GWMA). Department records do not indicate that out-of-priority diversion and use of water under your water right(s) is covered by either an approved mitigation plan or one of the stipulated agreements negotiated last year by the North Snake and Magic Valley Ground Water Districts and certain municipal and industrial water users.

Because of severe drought conditions persisting across the Upper Snake River Basin, the Thousand Springs GWMA was established last August. This allowed the Department to seek curtailment of relatively junior priority ground water diversions from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer ("ESPA") that further reduce the water supply available to senior priority water rights from springs and surface water tributary to the Snake River. The order designating the Thousand Springs GWMA identified an area within 10 kilometers from the Thousand Springs canyon wall north and east of the Snake River within which use of ground water rights having priority dates later in time than July 21, 1967, were determined by the Department to be injuring senior priority surface water rights. Within this area, curtailing ground water diversions will increase spring discharges tributary to the Snake River by an amount equal to 50 percent or more of the associated ground water depletions within 6 months of curtailment. This determination was made using the results from the Department's ESPA regional ground water flow model.

Curtailment orders were not issued last year to the holders of water rights for ground water in the area identified for curtailment because ground water districts and other entities representing the holders of the water rights entered into 2-year stipulated agreements with representatives of holders of affected senior rights from the interconnected springs and surface water tributary to the Snake River. These stipulated agreements provided for creation of a water district pursuant to Chapter 6, Title 42, Idaho Code, to enforce the terms of the agreements and curtail the diversion and use of water under junior priority water rights that the Department determines are injuring senior priority water rights, if the holders of the junior priority water rights are not represented by entities entering into the stipulated agreements or are not otherwise mitigating the injury.

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On February 19, 2002, a Final Order was issued creating Water District 130 for the administration of rights to the use of ground water and springs discharging from the ESPA in the Thousand Springs area. The first annual Water District 130 meeting was held on April 23, 2002, at which a watermaster was elected and certain resolutions were adopted.

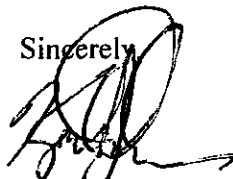
On March 27, 2002, the Department sent a letter to you and others within Water District 130 who had water rights that were not afforded the "safe harbor" provided by an approved mitigation plan or one of the stipulated agreements negotiated last year by either the ground water districts or a group of municipal and industrial users. That letter notified right holders that the Department, through Water District 130, might need to take action to curtail diversions not covered by a stipulated agreement or an approved mitigation plan where the Department has determined that such diversions are causing injury to senior priority water rights.

Unfortunately, drought conditions continue to persist across southern Idaho and the Snake River plain, and spring discharges in the Thousand Springs reach of the Snake River are similar or less than last year. Therefore, certain senior priority water rights that were calling for water last year are again not being satisfied during parts of this year. As described above, the Department, through use of its ESPA ground water model, has determined that unmitigated ground water pumping in the area of impact is causing injury to the holders of senior priority water rights from the Snake River. Consequently, in accordance with Idaho Code §§ 42-237a.g. and 42-607 it is necessary to seek curtailment of all junior priority ground water rights within the Thousand Springs impact area that are not covered by an approved mitigation plan or stipulated agreement.

Because the water right you hold is located in Water District 130 and the Thousand Springs GWMA impact area and is not covered by an approved mitigation plan or one of the stipulated agreements negotiated by either the ground water districts or the group of municipal and industrial water users, you are hereby notified that the watermaster for Water District 130 has been instructed to curtail diversion and use of ground water under your water right for the remainder of this irrigation season. The watermaster for Water District 130 will contact you after 14 days from the date of this letter to arrange for the curtailment of the diversion and use of ground water under your water right. The watermaster will allow you reasonable time to make adjustments or arrangements to minimize hardships caused by this action. Unless water supply conditions dramatically improve, I anticipate that curtailment will need to be extended for all of next year's irrigation season.

I regret that this action is necessary. You may want to consider joining one of the ground water districts that has signed a stipulated agreement as an alternative to having your use of ground water curtailed. Should you have questions about this matter, or if you believe your water right should be excluded from this action, please contact Cindy Yenter (Water District 130 Watermaster) by telephone at (208) 736-3033 or contact Tim Luke at the Department of Water Resources at the address above or by telephone at (208) 327-7864.

Sincerely,



Karl S. Dreher
Director

c: Cindy Yenter, Water District 130 Watermaster

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