

**BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO**

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATIONS AND	)	ORDER RESCINDING
PERMITS FOR THE DIVERSION AND USE	)	SALMON - CLEARWATER
OF SURFACE WATER AND GROUND	)	BASIN MORATORIUM AND
WATER IN THE SALMON RIVER AND	)	WILDERNESS
CLEARWATER RIVER BASINS	)	MORATORIUM

FINDINGS OF FACT

Salmon - Clearwater Basin Moratorium

1. On May 15, 1992, the Director of the Department of Water Resources ("Director" or "Department") issued a *Moratorium Order* enjoining the processing of most applications to appropriate surface water sources within the Salmon and Clearwater River Basins. On April 30, 1993, the Director issued an *Amended Moratorium Order* ("Salmon - Clearwater Order"), again enjoining the processing of most applications to appropriate water.

2. The Salmon - Clearwater Order stated:

This moratorium shall be in effect on and after the date it is entered until withdrawn or modified by further order of the Director. A future decision to continue or rescind the moratorium will consider all efforts being made within the region toward the recovery of the salmon.

3. Since the issuance of the Salmon - Clearwater Order, significant efforts have been undertaken in the Salmon River and Clearwater River Basins for the recovery of salmon. These activities include:

- Protection of instream flows in streams and rivers to benefit anadromous fish habitat;
- A process for re-establishment of flows in dewatered anadromous fish streams by delivery of rented or acquired water rights to the dewatered reaches;
- Screening and control of irrigation diversions;
- Consolidation of irrigation diversions;

- Riparian habitat improvement projects; and
- Administration of water rights following creation of the Upper Salmon River Water District (creation anticipated at the end of 2005).

Wilderness Moratorium

4. On October 26, 1999, the Director issued a *Moratorium Order* (“Wilderness Order”) enjoining further processing and development of pending applications and permits for the diversion and use of surface and ground water in and tributary to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area, the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Area, and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area.

5. The Director issued the Wilderness Order in response to an Idaho Supreme Court decision titled *United States v. City of Challis*, 133 Idaho 525, 988 P.2d 1199 (1999). The *City of Challis* decision affirmed a 1997 Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) District Court decision that the United States is entitled to reserved water rights to all unappropriated water within the Selway-Bitterroot, the Gospel-Hump, and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness areas. The Director determined the recognition of the federal reserved water rights to include all unappropriated water within and upstream of the wilderness areas.

6. The Wilderness Order affected all water permits and applications for permit for which proof of beneficial use had not been filed with the Department in the Salmon River Basin upstream from the location where the Salmon River leaves the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Area in Section 3, Township 24 North, Range 4 East, Boise Meridian, and in the Clearwater River Basin upstream from the location where the Selway River leaves the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in Section 7, Township 31 North, Range 10 East, Boise Meridian.

7. The Wilderness Order required all water permit holders to cease development authorized by the permits. Some permit holders submitted proof of beneficial use for the beneficial use completed as of the date of the Wilderness Order. Other permit holders ceased development, and the requirement for filing proof of beneficial use was stayed until the Wilderness Order was amended or lifted to allow additional development.

8. The Idaho Supreme Court granted a petition for rehearing of the *City of Challis* decision, and, on October 27, 2000, the Idaho Supreme Court issued another decision titled *Potlatch Corp. v. United States of America*, 134 Idaho 916, 12 P.3d 1260 (2000). The Court reversed its previous decision in *United States v. City of Challis* and held the Wilderness Act and associated wilderness designations did not create federal reserved water rights for the Frank Church River of No Return, the Selway-Bitterroot, and the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Areas.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

9. In the case of *Potlatch Corp. and Hecla Mining v. United States*, 134 Idaho 912, 12 P.3d 1256 (2000), the Idaho Supreme Court determined that federal designation of Wild and Scenic Rivers in Idaho reserved water rights for the federal government to satisfy the intent of the designation. The Idaho Supreme Court remanded the case to the SRBA District Court for quantification of the reserved water rights for the Wild and Scenic Rivers.

10. On November 16, 2004, the SRBA District Court entered an Amended Order Approving Stipulation and Entry of Partial Decrees in SRBA Case No. 39576 (Consolidated Subcase No. 75-13316 Wild & Scenic Act Claims). The amended order and the associated partial decrees define federal reserved water rights nos. 75-13316, 77-11941, 77-13844, 78-11961, 81-10472, 81-10513, and 81-10625 in Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Salmon and Clearwater River basins. A stipulated agreement (hereafter referred to as the "Wild & Scenic Agreement") between the United States and parties to the original subcases prior to consolidation forms the framework for the partial decrees issued by the SRBA District Court. The Wild & Scenic Agreement and the partial decrees defining the federal reserved water rights set forth subordination provisions under which the federal reserved water rights are subordinate to other existing and future water rights, describe limitations on appropriation and beneficial use under existing and future water rights to which the federal reserved water rights are subordinate, and provide specific requirements for the administration of water rights within the Salmon and Clearwater River basins.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. In issuing the Salmon - Clearwater Order and the Wilderness Order, the Director relied on Idaho Code § 42-1805(7). The subsection grants the Director the authority:

After notice, to suspend the issuance or further action on permits or applications as necessary to protect existing vested water rights or to ensure compliance with the provisions of chapter 2, title 42, Idaho Code, or to prevent violation of the minimum flow provisions of the state water plan.

2. The Salmon - Clearwater Order was issued after the Director found and concluded that further appropriations of surface water at the time would not be in the local public interest and would not be consistent with conservation of the waters of the State of Idaho.

3. Enhancements to streamflows, other improvements to anadromous fish habitat, the execution of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Agreement, and the determination of related federal reserved water rights, have addressed the underlying basis upon which the *Amended Moratorium Order* was issued.

4. The prohibition of new water right appropriations by the Director's Salmon – Clearwater Order dated April 30, 1993, can be rescinded and processing of applications to appropriate surface water in the Salmon River and Clearwater River Basins can be allowed.

5. The Wilderness Order was issued following the initial Idaho Supreme Court decision of *United States v. City of Challis*, 133 Idaho 525, 988 P.2d 1199 (1999). Based on the Court's decision, the Director determined there was no additional water available for appropriation. Upon reconsideration, the subsequent Idaho Supreme Court decision, *Pollatch Corp. v. United States of America*, 134 Idaho 916, 12 P.3d 1260 (2000), determined that the wilderness designations did not reserve water rights for the wilderness. As a result of the latest Supreme Court decision in *Pollatch*, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Agreement, and related federal reserved water rights, there is additional water available for appropriation within the limitations described by the Wild & Scenic Agreement and the partial decrees for related federal reserved water rights.

6. The prohibition of new water right appropriations and development authorized by permits to appropriate water by the Director's Wilderness Order dated October 26, 1999, can be rescinded and processing of applications to appropriate water and continued development authorized under existing permits to appropriate water can be allowed.

7. Permit holders who were prohibited from completing application of water for the beneficial use authorized under existing permits are entitled to additional time to complete application of water for beneficial use. For each permit, the additional time granted for completing development should be equal to the number of days from the date the Wilderness Order was issued to the date proof of beneficial use was originally due under the permit. The Department should issue an order subsequent to this order establishing the additional time to complete development delayed by the Wilderness Order and specifying the revised date for filing proof of beneficial use for each permit.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the *Amended Moratorium Order*, issued on April 30, 1993, prohibiting appropriations of surface water in the Salmon and Clearwater River Basins, is **RESCINDED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the *Moratorium Order*, issued on October 26, 1999, prohibiting appropriations of surface and ground water and development of permits for the use of surface water or ground water in and tributary to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area, the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Area, and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Areas, is **RESCINDED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that permit holders who were prohibited from completing beneficial use of water authorized under existing permits by the *Moratorium Order* issued on October 26, 1999, are granted additional time for completing the beneficial use authorized. For

each permit, the additional time granted for completing development shall be equal to the number of days from the date the Wilderness Order was issued to the date proof of beneficial use was originally due for the permit. The Department shall issue an order subsequent to this order allowing additional time for completion of beneficial use delayed by the Wilderness Order and specifying a date for filing proof of beneficial use for each permit.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that appropriations of ground water and surface water within the Salmon River Basin may resume subject to the requirements of the Wild and Scenic Agreement and the federal reserved water rights decreed in accordance with that stipulated agreement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Department staff shall process new applications to appropriate water generally in the chronological order of the receipt of the applications. Department staff shall also process a reasonable number of applications per month considering all other duties assigned to Department staff.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2005.



KARL J. DREHER
Director

**EXPLANATORY INFORMATION
TO ACCOMPANY A
FINAL ORDER**

(To be used in connection with actions when a hearing was not held)

(Required by Rule of Procedure 740.02)

The accompanying order is a "Final Order" issued by the department pursuant to section 67-5246, Idaho Code.

PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

Any party may file a petition for reconsideration of a final order within fourteen (14) days of the service date of this order as shown on the certificate of service. **Note: The petition must be received by the Department within this fourteen (14) day period.** The department will act on a petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of its receipt, or the petition will be considered denied by operation of law. See section 67-5246(4), Idaho Code.

REQUEST FOR HEARING

Unless the right to a hearing before the director or the water resource board is otherwise provided by statute, any person who is aggrieved by the action of the director, and who has not previously been afforded an opportunity for a hearing on the matter shall be entitled to a hearing before the director to contest the action. The person shall file with the director, within fifteen (15) days after receipt of written notice of the action issued by the director, or receipt of actual notice, a written petition stating the grounds for contesting the action by the director and requesting a hearing. See section 42-1701A(3), Idaho Code. **Note: The request must be received by the Department within this fifteen (15) day period.**

APPEAL OF FINAL ORDER TO DISTRICT COURT

Pursuant to sections 67-5270 and 67-5272, Idaho Code, any party aggrieved by a final order or orders previously issued in a matter before the department may appeal the final order and all previously issued orders in the matter to district court by filing a petition in the district court of the county in which:

- i. A hearing was held,
- ii. The final agency action was taken,
- iii. The party seeking review of the order resides, or
- iv. The real property or personal property that was the subject of the agency action is located.

The appeal must be filed within twenty-eight (28) days of: a) the service date of the final order, b) an order denying petition for reconsideration, or c) the failure within twenty-one (21) days to grant or deny a petition for reconsideration, whichever is later. See section 67-5273, Idaho Code. The filing of an appeal to district court does not in itself stay the effectiveness or enforcement of the order under appeal.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 21st day of November, 2005, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing documents described below were served on the following by placing a copy of the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid and properly addressed to the following:

Document(s) Served: Order Rescinding Salmon-Clearwater Basin Moratorium and Wilderness Moratorium
Explanatory Information to Accompany a Final Order

See attached service list.


Deborah J. Gibson
Administrative Assistant

Name	Address	City	State	Postal Code
PATRICK W LEE	C/O JOHN T BROWN PO BOX 61	SUN VALLEY	ID	83353
STANLEY SEWER ASSN	PO BOX 71	STANLEY	ID	83278
SALMON RIVER HEREFORD RANCH	HC 63 BOX 1760	CHALLIS	ID	83226
ELINOR J CORRIGAN	PO BOX 569	CHALLIS	ID	83226
MOUNTAIN SPRINGS WATER INC	PO BOX 628	CHALLIS	ID	83226
US DEPT OF INTERIOR	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SALMON DISTRICT 1206 S CHALLIS ST	SALMON	ID	83467
ROBERT A PIVA	HC 63 BOX 1641	CHALLIS	ID	83226
DANA C HURLESS	HC 67 BOX 621	CLAYTON	ID	83227
TRENT J ROMAN	HC 82 BOX 4023-4	CHALLIS	ID	83226
PARKINSON FOUNDATION SEED FARM	C/O BOB PARKINSON PO BOX 65	ELLIS	ID	83235
THOMPSON CREEK MINING CO	PO BOX 62	CLAYTON	ID	83227
CHALLIS IRRIGATION CO	PO BOX 71	CHALLIS	ID	83226
TAIT P JOHNSON	1317 N 141ST AVE	OMAHA	NE	68154
ARCHIE SHERWOOD	PO BOX 163	CLAYTON	ID	83227
L & W STONE CORP	PO BOX 789	CHALLIS	ID	83226
DON M ONEAL	8 ONEAL LN	MAY	ID	83253-2003
US DEPT OF INTERIOR	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SALMON DISTRICT 1206 S CHALLIS ST	SALMON	ID	83467
RICHARD L TYLER	796 LEE CREEK RD	LEADORE	ID	83464
ERNEST GEORGE HOLSCHER	BOX 96	LEADORE	ID	83464
ROBERT L THOMAS	12 REBA LN	SALMON	ID	83467
EDWARD M SNOOK	1205 HWY 28	SALMON	ID	83467
STEPHANIE SNOOK	505 W WINDSOR CT	COEUR D ALENE	ID	83815
HARRY L COLEMAN	PO BOX 70	LEADORE	ID	83464-0070
SHIRLEY R COLEMAN	435 TEE CIR	ST GEORGE	UT	84770
JAMES KRUCKEBERG	411 EIGHTEEN MILE RD	LEADORE	ID	83464-5030
GERALD R MORPHEY	PO BOX 625	SALMON	ID	83467-0625
ALBERT D ANDERSON	5425 BUNDY AVE NORTH	KEISER	OR	97303
JERRY G BLACKBURN	PO BOX 41	LEADORE	ID	83464
VELMA MAHAFFEY	PO BOX 14	LEMHI	ID	83465
DALE A PETERSON	PO BOX 67	LEADORE	ID	83464
WILLIAMS LAKE RECREATIONAL WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	PO BOX 82	SALMON	ID	83467
E J SCHWARZENBERGER	PO BOX 146	UCON	ID	83454
MERRIDEE S OVERACKER	1510 HWY 93 N	SALMON	ID	83467
MICHAEL J OVERACKER	162 HIGHWAY 93 N	SALMON	ID	83467-5301
LEWIS E ROSS	HC 10 BOX 112	GIBBONSVILLE	ID	83463
THOMAS CHARLES PIKE	3478 SALMON RIVER RD	SHOUP	ID	83469-6506
J REX TOLMAN	41 CORBETT LN	SALMON	ID	83467
SALMON RIVER PROPERTIES INC	PO BOX 774	SALMON	ID	83467
DONALD L HAWKINS	14429 WATKINS DR	LA MIRADA	CA	90638
DIXIE GRAVES	PO BOX 963	SALMON	ID	83467
GUY M CARLSON	PO BOX 319	RIGGINS	ID	83549
JOE B SCOTT	380 E PARKCENTER BLVD STE 100	BOISE	ID	83706
WELLS LIVESTOCK INC	512 N BROADWAY	BUHL	ID	83316
JACK A WALKER		YELLOW PINE	ID	83677
SALMON RIVER TOURS CO	PO BOX 779	NORTH FORK	ID	83466
KENNETH D CASPER	812 7TH ST S	NAMPA	ID	83651
DALE J LACRONE	BOX 63	NEW PLYMOUTH	ID	83655
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO REGENTS	C/O GERARD BILLINGTON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION PO BOX 443162	MOSCOW	ID	83844-3162
BARBARA G PYLE	77 SILVER FOX TR	MC CALL	ID	83638
STEVE M WRIGHT	PO BOX 1450	MCCALL	ID	83638
RICHARD L PULLEN	STAR RT	POLLOCK	ID	83547
ROBERT J KYRK	HC75 BOX 3546	NEW MEADOWS	ID	83654
THOMAS D MEES	1882 POLE CREEK RD	COUNCIL	ID	83612
WAYNE H REDENBAUGH	PO BOX 275	POLLOCK	ID	83547
RAYMOND K STOLTEY	HC 75 BOX 3556	NEW MEADOWS	ID	83654

DELBERT M WELCH	PO BOX 962	VALDEZ	AK	99686
PAUL SAND	PO BOX 16	WHITE BIRD	ID	83554
JAMES E BONATO	PO BOX 350	LUCILE	ID	83542
BONNIE E KANNADA	PO BOX 55	WHITE BIRD	ID	83554
EUGENE H TENNIES	HCR 75 BOX 32	KOOSKIA	ID	83539
RUSSELL C TRAINOR	HCR 75 BOX 38 A	KOOSKIA	ID	83539
USDA FOREST SERVICE	NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISORS OFFICE 1005 HIGHWAY 13	GRANGEVILLE	ID	83530
US DEPT OF AGRICULTURE	US FOREST SERVICE CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST 12730 HWY 12	OROFINO	ID	83544 9333
FRANK CAPITO	PO BOX 2545	COEUR D ALENE	ID	83816
GARY BOWLING	3366 N CROFT WAY	EAGLE	ID	83616
AHSAHKA WATER & SEWER DIST	PO BOX 37	AHSAHKA	ID	83520
IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD	PO BOX 83720	BOISE	ID	83720-0098
DON R BERRY	PO BOX 424	LEWISTON	ID	83501
CITY OF KOOSKIA	PO BOX 126	KOOSKIA	ID	83539-0126
MARK LADOUX	PO BOX 149	PECK	ID	83545-0149
JOSEPH SCHNELL	RR 2 BOX 311A	GRANGEVILLE	ID	83530
CITY OF KENDRICK	PO BOX 195	KENDRICK	ID	83537
PORT OF LEWISTON	1626 6TH AVE N	LEWISTON	ID	83501