



## State of Idaho

# DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

322 E Front Street, Suite 648 • PO Box 83720 • Boise ID 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 287-4800 • Fax: (208) 287-6700

Website: [idwr.idaho.gov](http://idwr.idaho.gov) • Email: [idwrinfo@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:idwrinfo@idwr.idaho.gov)

BRAD LITTLE  
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN  
Director

May 4, 2021

«OwnerName»  
«StreetAddress1»  
«StreetAddress2»  
«City» «ST» «PostalCode»

### RE: Notice of Basin 37 Administrative Proceeding

Dear Water Right Holder,

You are receiving this letter because, according to the records of the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("Department"), you are the holder of one or more ground water or surface water rights within Water District 37 (Big and Little Wood River basin, including Silver Creek) or Water District 37B (Camas Creek basin).

A drought is predicted for the 2021 irrigation season and the water supply in the Little Wood River-Silver Creek drainage may be inadequate to meet the needs of surface water users in that area. Therefore, the Director of the Department has initiated an administrative proceeding to determine if the surface water rights in the Little Wood River-Silver Creek drainage will be injured in the 2021 irrigation season by pumping from junior-priority ground water rights in the Wood River Valley south of Bellevue. The administrative proceeding could result in curtailment of junior-priority ground water rights south of Bellevue this irrigation season. Domestic uses as defined in Idaho Code § 42-111, and stock watering uses as defined in Idaho Code § 42-1401A(11) are not subject to curtailment under the administrative proceeding.

Attached to this letter is the *Notice of Administrative Proceeding, Pre-Hearing Conference, and Hearing*. The notice provides details of the administrative proceeding and explains how you may participate in the administrative proceeding. The administrative proceeding may affect surface and ground water rights beyond the Little Wood-Silver Creek drainage and Bellevue areas. Therefore, this notice has been sent to holders of ground and surface water rights administered by Water Districts 37 and 37B, except domestic and stock water rights described above.

Many ground water right holders in the Wood River Valley are members of either South Valley or Galena Ground Water Districts and may be represented by those ground water districts in this matter. A list of ground water district contacts is available on the Department's website at: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/files/districts/groundwater-district-contacts.pdf>

Any questions regarding the administrative proceeding may be directed to the Department's State Office at (208) 287-4800, or Southern Region Office at (208) 736-3033. If you have questions regarding notice of intent to participate or details of the pre-hearing conference you may contact Kimberle English at (208) 287-4815.

Sincerely,

Gary Spackman  
Director

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

IN THE MATTER OF BASIN 37  
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING

Docket No. AA-WRA-2021-001

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE  
PROCEEDING, PRE-HEARING  
CONFERENCE, AND HEARING**

A drought is predicted for the 2021 irrigation season and the water supply in Silver Creek and its tributaries may be inadequate to meet the needs of surface water users. Curtailment model runs of the Wood River Valley Groundwater Flow Model v.1.1 ("Model") show that curtailment of ground water rights during the 2021 irrigation season would result in increased surface water flows for the holders of senior surface water rights during the 2021 irrigation season. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-237a.g., "water in a well shall not be deemed available to fill a water right therein if withdrawal therefrom of the amount called for by such right would affect...the present or future use of any prior surface or ground water right." Based on the information from the Model, the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("Department") believes that the withdrawal of water from ground water wells in the Wood River Valley south of Bellevue (commonly referred to as the Bellevue Triangle) would affect the use of senior surface water rights on Silver Creek and its tributaries during the 2021 irrigation season. Therefore, the Director is initiating an administrative proceeding to determine whether water is available to fill the ground water rights, excluding water rights for domestic uses as defined in Idaho Code § 42-111 and stock watering uses as defined in Idaho Code § 42-1401A(11), within the Wood River Valley south of Bellevue, as depicted in the attached map. If the Director concludes that water is not available to fill the ground water rights, the Director may order the ground water rights curtailed for the 2021 irrigation season.

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-237a.g. and IDAPA 37.01.01.104, the Director is initiating an administrative proceeding to determine whether water is available to fill the ground water rights, excluding ground water rights for domestic uses as defined in Idaho Code § 42-111 and stock watering uses as defined in Idaho Code § 42-1401A(11), within the Wood River Valley south of Bellevue, as depicted in the attached map. Additional information and maps will be posted on the Department's website at: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/legal-actions/administrative-actions/basin-37.html>.

If you wish to participate in the administrative proceeding, **please send written notice to the Department by May 19, 2021, to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098 stating your intent to participate in AA-WRA-2021-001. If you do not participate, you may still be legally bound by the results of the proceedings.**

**NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Department will hold a prehearing conference to discuss the Administrative Proceeding on May 24, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. (MDT), in Conference Rooms 602C and 602D of the Department's State Office, located at 322 E. Front Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boise, Idaho. Parties may appear in person or via Zoom teleconference. However, due to gathering restrictions, in-person

attendance is limited. Contact Kimberle English to reserve an in-person spot at: Idaho Department of Water Resources, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098, telephone: (208) 287-4815.

All parties must be present at the prehearing conference in person, by telephone or by video conference. Parties will be provided with login information for the video conference a few days before the conference.

Parties should come to the prehearing conference prepared to discuss the following:

- Procedure at Hearing
- Remote Participation at the Hearing
- Discovery
- Witnesses
- Burdens

The prehearing conference will be held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 17, Title 42 and Chapter 52, Title 67, Idaho Code, and the Department's Rules of Procedure. IDAPA 37.01.01. A copy of the Rules of Procedure may be obtained from the Department upon request or at <https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/37/index.html>.

The prehearing conference will be conducted in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations in order to attend, participate in or understand the conference, please advise the Department no later than five (5) days prior to the conference. Inquiries for special accommodations should be directed to Kimberle English, Idaho Department of Water Resources, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098, telephone: (208) 287-4815.

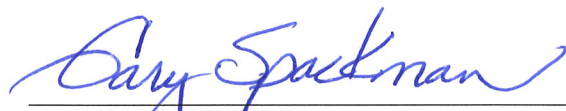
#### NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Department will hold a hearing in the matter on June 7-11, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. (MDT), in Conference Rooms 602A, 602B, 602C, and 602D of the Department's State Office, located at 322 E. Front Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boise, Idaho. All parties must be present at the hearing. The possibility of remote participation will be discussed at the pre-hearing conference.

The hearing will be held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 17, Title 42 and Chapter 542, Title 67, Idaho Code, and the Department's Rules of Procedure. IDAPA 37.01.01. A copy of the Rules of Procedure may be obtained from the Department upon request or at <https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/37/index.html>.

The conference will be conducted in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations in order to attend, participate in or understand the conference, please advise the Department no later than five (5) days prior to the hearing. Inquiries for special accommodations should be directed to Kimberle English, Idaho Department of Water Resources, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098, telephone: (208) 287-4815.

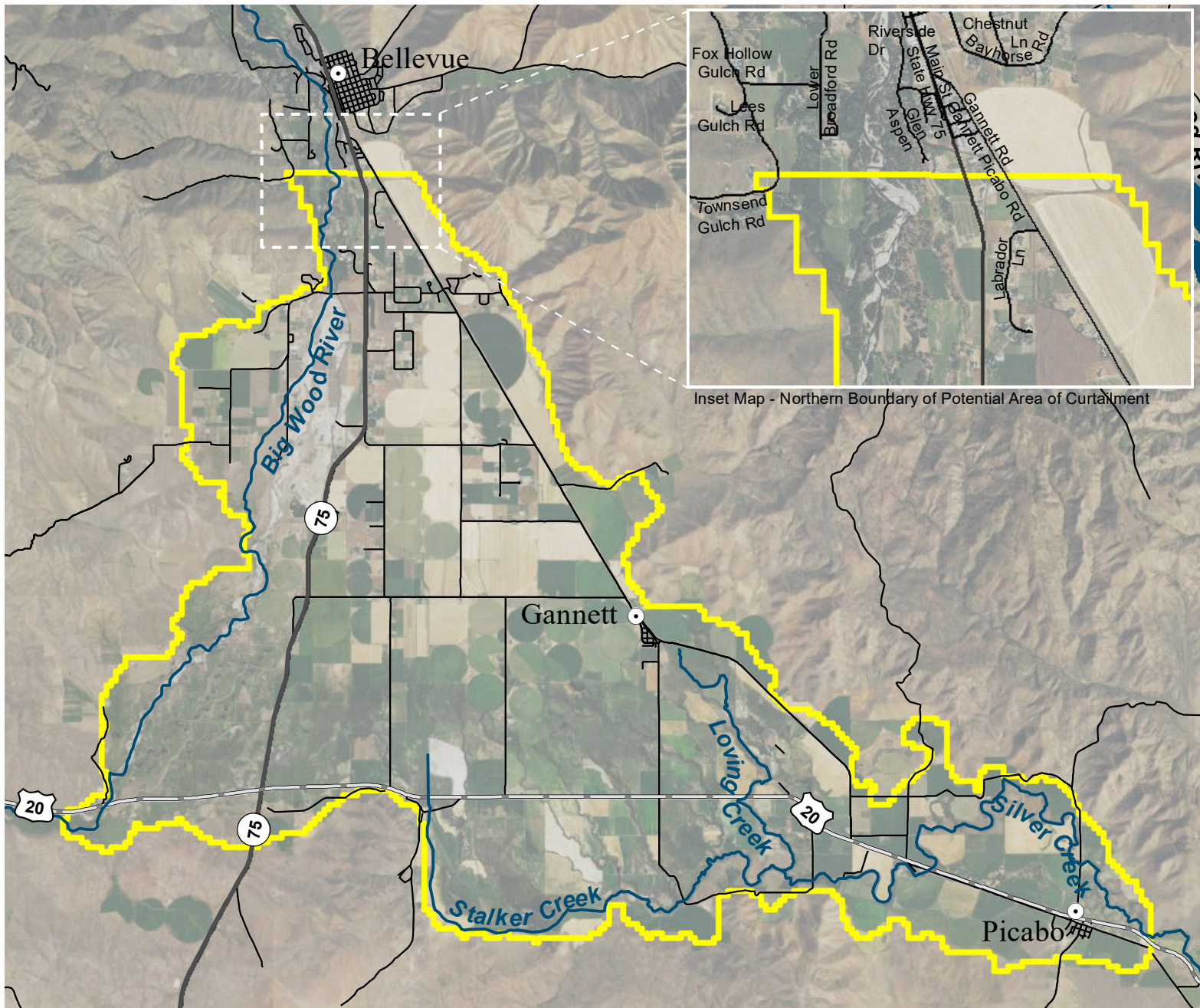
DATED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.



GARY SPACKMAN  
Director



# Basin 37 Administrative Proceeding

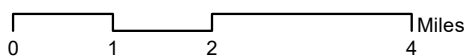


Inset Map - Northern Boundary of Potential Area of Curtailment

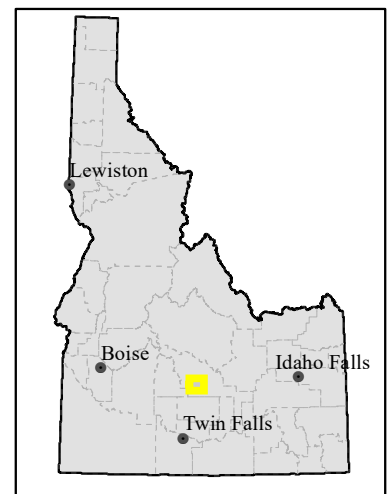
## Legend

- Selected Rivers and Creeks
- Cities
- Potential Area of Curtailment

Imagery is 2019 (NAIP/FSA source)



April 29th, 2021



Location Map

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that, on this 4 day of May, 2021, the above and foregoing **NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING, PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE, AND HEARING** was mailed through United States Postal Service to the service list posted on the Department's website: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/legal-actions/administrative-actions/basin-37.html>.

  
Kensie Thorneycroft