

NOTICE OF HEARINGS IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED CREATION OF A WATER DISTRICT IN THE AMERICAN FALLS AREA WITHIN THE EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN AQUIFER IN ADMINISTRATIVE BASINS 35 AND 41, and IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED CREATION OF A WATER DISTRICT IN THE THOUSAND SPRINGS AREA WITHIN THE EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN AQUIFER IN ADMINISTRATIVE BASINS 36 AND 43.

The Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("Director") is authorized to divide the state into water districts for the purpose of distributing water among appropriators under the laws of the State of Idaho. The authority to create water districts applies to those streams, or other water sources including ground water, for which the priorities of appropriation have been adjudicated by court decree. During a water rights adjudication, the district court is authorized by Section 42-1417, Idaho Code, to approve interim administration of the water rights by the Director if reasonably necessary to protect senior water rights. The district court may permit the distribution of water pursuant to chapter 6, title 42, Idaho Code, in accordance with partial decrees entered by the court or in accordance with a Director's Report as modified by the court's order.

On January 8, 2002, the Snake River Basin Adjudication ("SRBA") District Court issued an order authorizing the Director to distribute water pursuant to chapter 6, title 42, Idaho Code, in accordance with the Director's Reports and the partial decrees that have superseded the Director's Reports within all or parts of Administrative Basins 35, 36, 41, and 43, overlying the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer ("ESPA"). The Director now proposes to create two permanent water districts; one in the American Falls area within portions of Administrative Basins 35 and 41 and the other in the Thousand Springs area within portions of Administrative Basins 36 and 43 overlying the ESPA, as shown on the attached map.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 42-604, Idaho Code, that the Director of the Department of Water Resources will conduct two separate public hearings regarding the proposed creation of the two water districts as follows:

Hearing for Proposed Water District within Basins 35 and 41 -

**1:00 p.m., February 4, 2002, at the Blackfoot Civic Center
132 South Shilling, Blackfoot, Idaho**

Hearing for Proposed Water District within Basins 36 and 43 -

**7:00 p.m., February 4, 2002, at the Jerome High School Auditorium
104 N Tiger Dr., Jerome, Idaho**

The Director will serve as the hearing officer for both hearings. Persons attending a hearing will be provided an opportunity to make an oral presentation regarding the creation of the proposed district. Written comments may be submitted to the Director at the hearing or at any time prior to the close of the written comment period on February 14, 2002. Written comments not presented at the hearing should be sent to the Director, Department of Water Resources, 1301 North Orchard, Boise, Idaho, 83706. The written comments should identify the proposed district to which the comments relate.






Each hearing will be conducted in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Should you require special

accommodations in order to attend, participate in, or understand the hearing, please contact the Department of Water Resources, 1301 North Orchard, Boise, Idaho, 83706, telephone number (208) 327-7900, at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing.

The Director proposes that all water rights with points of diversion located within the boundaries of the proposed districts be included in the districts, except those used solely for domestic and/or stock water purposes. Permitted and licensed rights not decreed in the SRBA and/or not included in SRBA Director's reports are subject to inclusion within the proposed water districts unless used solely for domestic and/or stock water purposes. This notice of hearing has been sent to all water right holders of record in accordance with these criteria.

Karl J. Dreher, Director

PROPOSED WATER DISTRICT AREAS

-  Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer
-  IDWR Administrative Basins
-  Townships
-  Proposed Water District - Basins 35 and 41
-  Proposed Water District - Basins 36 and 43

0 5 10 20 Miles

