

May 22, 2006

<Name & address>

Re: Watermaster Appointment for Water District No. 170, Upper Salmon River Basin

Dear Water User:

The water users present at the Water District No. 170 annual meeting held in Challis on April 11, 2006, elected the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("IDWR") to provide watermaster services in the district for the ensuing year at no expense to the water users. The resolution adopted at the annual meeting simply stated that IDWR be elected to provide watermaster services, but no individual IDWR employee was named in the resolution for appointment by the Director of IDWR. You may recall that I had advised the users present that my staff, including individuals from Boise, Twin Falls and Salmon, and me would do the necessary watermaster work this summer. I mentioned at the meeting that this was a temporary approach, that IDWR would re-evaluate staff resources this fall after anticipated completion and filing of the remaining Director's Reports in the Snake River Basin Adjudication ("SRBA"), and that IDWR would at that time re-appoint a different employee to assume the primary responsibility of watermaster for the remaining term of service.

Karl Dreher, IDWR Director, has decided that it is in the best interest of the water district, the water users and IDWR to immediately appoint one employee for the full 2006 watermaster term of service, where such service is set to expire at the next annual water district meeting scheduled for March 13, 2007. The Director therefore announces the immediate appointment of Roxanne Brown as watermaster of Water District No. 170. Roxanne has been an employee of IDWR for over 17 years and has spent most of that time working on the Snake River Basin Adjudication. She is currently the Water Rights Supervisor for the IDWR SRBA Section in Boise, and is overseeing the completion of Director's Reports for Basins 73 and 75 in the Upper Salmon Basin. She also oversaw completion of the Basin 74 SRBA Director's Report earlier this year. The Director has also appointed Bob Foster of the IDWR Salmon Field Office as an assistant watermaster for Water District No. 170. This latter appointment is also effective through March 13, 2007.

Roxanne will serve as the primary contact on all questions and issues related to Water District No. 170. Questions pertaining to the water district may also be directed to Bob Foster or myself. Roxanne will report directly to me on matters related to Water District No. 170. Bob currently works under my supervision. Roxanne will continue to work on the SRBA this summer in Basins 73 and 75. Other staff from the IDWR Water Distribution Section in Boise and Twin Falls will assist this summer with the planned water district watermaster activities this summer, including inventory of diversions, miscellaneous measurement of some diversions, assisting water users with measurement and regulatory concerns, and any other matters pertaining to the water district.

This letter has been sent to the Water District No. 170 advisory committee and those water users who were present at the annual meeting last month. The Department will issue a press release regarding the watermaster and assistant watermaster appointments. I felt it was important to inform you of the Director's decision in advance of that release given the explanation that I had provided last month at the annual meeting regarding how IDWR would address the workload this summer and potential changes in watermaster appointments after the summer.

Please contact me directly at 208-287-4959 if you have questions regarding this matter. Again, questions regarding the water district may be directed to Roxanne Brown at 287-4914, or Bob Foster in Salmon at 756-6644.

Sincerely,

Tim Luke
Manager, Water Distribution Section

Cc: Roxanne Brown, IDWR
Bob Foster, IDWR
Allen Merritt, IDWR Southern Region Manager
Dave Tuthill, IDWR Water Management Division Administrator