



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Eastern

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

June 17, 2005

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Company_Name»
«address1»
«City» «State» «Zip_Code»

RECEIVED

JUN 22 2005

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

Re: Upper Salmon Water District Steering Committee

Dear Water Users:

On May 13, 2005, the Idaho Department of Water Resources (Department) sent notice to water right holders in Administrative Basins 71 and 72 advising that the State of Idaho had petitioned the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) District Court to authorize administration of water rights in these two administrative basins. This is the first step towards creation of the Upper Salmon Water District that will provide organization for water right administration and regulation within the Upper Salmon River Basin, including Administrative Basins 71, 72, 73, 74, and 75. The State of Idaho committed to create an Upper Salmon Water District covering Basins 71 through 75 as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Federal Reserved Water Rights Agreement. The Department plans to propose creation of the water district and hold a hearing on the matter this fall. The Department intends to initially limit creation of the water district to Basins 71 and 72, and then expand into the remaining basins the following year.

On February 24, 2005, Department representatives met in Salmon, Idaho with water users and representatives from existing water districts within Basins 72, 73, 74 and 75 to discuss the Wild and Scenic water rights agreement and creation of the new Upper Salmon Water District. Water users who attended the February 24th meeting suggested the Department organize a steering committee consisting of water users and representatives from each of the administrative basins to provide for local water user input prior to the Department's hearing that will be scheduled later this year. The Department agrees with this suggestion and has found the water district steering committee process to work well in other areas of the state. Several water users have expressed interest in serving on this committee.

This letter is an invitation to you to serve on the Upper Salmon Water District Steering Committee. The Department proposes that this committee meet two to three times prior to the Department's hearing on creation of the water district, which will likely be scheduled for late October or early November of this year. In addition, a larger public meeting may also be scheduled in August or September. The steering committee should remain active at least until the first annual water district meeting, and perhaps longer until the other administrative basins are added to the district. We expect the first annual water district meeting to be held in March 2006. The objective of the committee is to provide local water user input regarding organization and governance of the district, including budget issues, watermaster election, staffing, and advisory committee representation and authorities. The Department recommends that the first steering committee meeting be held in July. Meetings would likely be held in Challis, as that is the most central location.

The Department further recommends that the steering committee consist of representatives from each administrative basin as follows:

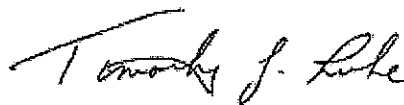
<u>Administrative Basin</u>	<u>Suggested Minimum No. of Representatives</u>
71 (Stanley Basin)	2
72 (Challis & East Fork areas)	2
73 (Pahsimeroi Basin)	1
74 (Lemhi Basin)	1
75 (Salmon River below Salmon)	1
Municipal Representative	1
Industrial/Commercial Representative	1
Idaho Legislative Representative	1
Forest Service Representative	1
BLM Representative	1
Counties Representative	1
<u>Total</u>	<u>13</u>

Please note that the suggested number and type of representation above is merely a Department recommendation. All meetings will be open to the public. The Department welcomes additional participation but cautions against forming a committee that may be too large. Water user representation should not be limited merely to owners of surface water rights, but should include ground water users as well. The Department will have at least one representative working with the committee at all meetings.

This letter of invitation has been sent to those individuals or entities listed on Attachment A, Upper Salmon River Water District Steering Committee Candidates. Several water users have already volunteered to serve on the committee. Other individuals have been recommended by other area water users or based on the Department's knowledge of individuals who own water rights and/or who have been active in local water districts and water issues. The Department seeks additional recommendations for interested persons to fill the minimum number of committee spaces as suggested above. In order to facilitate additional suggestions or comment, a copy of this letter has also been forwarded to those individuals who participated in the Department's February 24, 2005 meeting in Salmon.

Please contact Tim Luke or Bob Foster to accept or reject this invitation on or before **July 5, 2005**. Questions or comments may be directed to Tim Luke by calling 208-287-4959, by e-mail at tim.luke@idwr.idaho.gov, or by writing at the address listed on this letter. You may also contact Bob Foster, IDWR Salmon Field Office, at 208-756-6644.

Sincerely,



Tim Luke
Manager, Water Distribution

Attachment A

Cc: Karl Dreher, Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources
IDWR Southern and Eastern Regions

ATTACHMENT A
UPPER SALMON WATER DISTRICT
STEERING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Basin 71, Stanley Basin

Jay Neider (volunteer)

Recommended names:

Cliff Hansen

James Henslee, President, Salmon Falls Land and Livestock

Bruno or Piero Piva , Iron, Goat, Meadow and Valley Creeks

Basin 72, East Fork Salmon River, Salmon River and Tributaries near Challis

Jack Challis, Challis Creek (volunteer)

Recommended names:

Doug or Wayne Baker, East Fork Salmon River

Gary Chamberlain, Salmon River and Idaho Water Resource Board member

Basin 73, Pahsimeroi River and tributaries

Ted O'Neal (only user from WD73 who attended IDWR meeting of 2/25/05)

OR other representative from current elected water district advisory committee or a water user designated by the advisory committee.

Basin 74, Lemhi River and tributaries

Carl Ellsworth (WD74 and WD74W, attended IDWR meeting, recommended by several users)

OR other representative from Lemhi Basin that may represent WD74 and at least one other district, preferably a water user designated or recommended by the WD74 advisory committee. Other names recommended include: RJ Smith, Bruce Mulkey, James Whittaker

Basin 75, Salmon River near/below Salmon

Dave McFarland, Carmen Creek (volunteer)

Legislative Representative(s):	Rep. Lenore Barrett, Challis Sen. Don Burtenshaw, Terreton
Municipal Representative:	Letters sent to cities of Challis, Salmon, and Stanley
Industrial/Comm. Representative:	Letter sent to Thompson Creek Mining Co.
Counties Representative:	Letters sent to Custer and Lemhi County Commissions
Forest Service Representative:	Letter sent to US Forest Service
BLM Representative:	Letter sent to BLM

MAILING INFORMATION FOR ATTACHMENT A
 UPPER SALMON WATER DISTRICT STEERING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

First Name	Last Name	Company Name	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip Code
JAY	NEIDER		5821 MORNING DOVE DR		NAMPA	ID	83686
	CLIFFORD CLOUGH		10758 NORTH RIVER RD		PAYETTE	ID	83661
JAMES	HENSLEY	SALMON FALLS LAND & LIVESTOCK	123 BELL RAPIDS		HAGERMAN	ID	83332
BRUNO & PIERO	PIVA		PO BOX 176		CHALLIS	ID	83226
J R "JACK"	CHALLIS		PO BOX 1220		CHALLIS	ID	83226
DOUG	BAKER		HC 68 BOX 350		CLAYTON	ID	83227
WAYNE	BAKER		HC 68 BOX 304		CLAYTON	ID	83227
GARY	CHAMBERLAIN		HC 63 BOX 1770		CHALLIS	ID	83226
TED	O'NEAL		81 FUREY LN		MAY	ID	83253
CARL	ELLSWORTH	ELLSWORTH RANCH	PO BOX 60		LEADORE	ID	83646
R J	SMITH		PO BOX 65		TENDOY	ID	83468
BRUCE	MULKEY		25 MULKEY LN		SALMON	ID	83467-5167
JAMES	WHITTAKER		PO BOX 240		LEADORE	ID	83464
DAVE	MCFARLAND		BOX 125		CARMEN	ID	83462
LENORE	BARRETT	REPRESENTATIVE	PO BOX 347		CHALLIS	ID	83226
DON	BURTENSHAW	SENATOR	1603 N 1000 E		TERRETON	ID	83450-5033
		CITY OF CHALLIS	PO BOX 587		CHALLIS	ID	83226
		CITY OF SALMON	200 MAIN ST		SALMON	ID	83467
		CITY OF STANLEY	PO BOX 53		STANLEY	ID	83278
		THOMPSON CREEK MINING CO	PO BOX 62		CLAYTON	ID	83227
		CUSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	COUNTY COURTHOUSE		CHALLIS	ID	83226-0385
		LEMHI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	COUNTY COURTHOUSE		SALMON	ID	83467-3943
BOB	KENWORTHY	FOREST SERVICE	161 E MALLARD		BOISE	ID	83706
		FOREST SERVICE	50 HWY 93 S		SALMON	ID	83467
		USDI - BLM	50 HWY 93 S		SALMON	ID	83467
		SALMON DISTRICT			SALMON	ID	83467

ATTENDEES OF THE WILD SCENIC MEETING
 (WHO RECEIVED THE 6/17/05 LETTER)

February 24, 2005

Salmon, Idaho

First Name	Last Name	Company Name	address1	address2	City	State	Zip Code
LAMAR & MONA	COCKRELL		237 LEMHI RD		SALMON	ID	83467
JERRY	EASTMAN		PO BOX 59		TENDROY	ID	83468
DALE	EDWARDS		PO BOX 846		SALMON	ID	83467
PAUL	EDWARDS		BOX 747		SALMON	ID	83467
BILL	GATTUNG		88 LOIS LANE		SALMON	ID	83467
JIM & TINA	HAWKINS		HC 82 BOX 4023		CHALLIS	ID	83226
TIM	KEMERY		BOX 621		CHALLIS	ID	83226
DAVID J	LOGAN		171 CORBETT LN		SALMON	ID	83467
BRUCE	MC CONNELL		100 COTTOM LN		LEADORE	ID	83464
BRUCE	MCFARLAND		BOX 124		CARMEN	ID	83462
CHARLES R	MORTON		BOX 133		CARMEN	ID	83462
VIRGINIA	PERRY		37 LOVER'S LANE		SALMON	ID	83467
RICK	PHILIPS		HC 63 BOX 1630		CHALLIS	ID	83226
JOE	PROKSCH		823 UNION AVE		SALMON	ID	83467
DONALD & BONNIE	ROWLES		PO BOX 1087		CHALLIS	ID	83226
RICK	SAGER		985 HWY 28		SALMON	ID	83467
DAN & KELLY	SMITH		BOX 22		LEADORE	ID	83464
BOB	THOMAS		12 REBA LANE		SALMON	ID	83467
TOM	UDY		BOX 215		LEADORE	ID	83464
CALVIN	WHITTAKER		BOX 10		LEADORE	ID	83464
JON	WINEGARNER		PO BOX 1032		CHALLIS	ID	83226