



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor

GARY SPACKMAN, Director

January 12, 2015

To: Distribution List

Re: Weiser River Water District #67

Dear Interested Parties:

I want to send you this letter before the annual meeting early next month. Last year included considerable discussion about water delivery in your water district. There are some concerns and questions along those lines regarding natural flow and storage rights, priority calls, curtailments and so forth. I understand some people in your area have benefited by installing improved measuring devices and implementing other management methods to improve beneficial use under their water rights. I imagine everyone would agree that is a worthwhile goal for every water user.

As you know, your district covers a lot of territory with many rights from numerous sources. It is a big challenge to manage water rights on that scale. Storage provides some relief but adds complexity to the mixture.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) supports your Watermaster in her efforts to manage this situation. Ideally we would have had more resources in recent years to help with training, measuring devices, delivery calls etc. Now that the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) is essentially behind us, IDWR Western Region staff can focus more on supporting a number of water districts, including yours.

One purpose of the SRBA was to provide some level of certainty regarding water right owners and help all of us deal with current and future water uses. IDWR hopes to work with you to determine how we can best do that for your district. Of course, this will not be easy and will take some time, probably years. Funding for more measuring devices and other water management tools will be a challenge.

I think IDWR can help facilitate this process by working closely with you and other interested participants. I look forward to talking with you about this at the upcoming water district meeting. A good start would be to develop a plan and authorize a working group to get started along these lines.

Best Regards,

Steve Lester
Interim Western Region Manager

Enclosure: Distribution List

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