



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

322 East Front Street • P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 287-4800 • Fax: (208) 287-6700 • Website: [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN  
Director

February 7, 2013

Re: Proposed Combination of Water Districts 74-F, 74-J, and 74

Dear Water User:

Records of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR or Department) indicate that you are the holder of one or more water rights located within one or more of the following water districts: Water District No. 74-F (WD74-F, Pratt Creek), Water District No. 74-J (WD74-J, Withington Creek), or Water District No. 74 (WD74, Lemhi River).

On October 23, 2012, the Director of IDWR signed a public hearing notice that was mailed to holders of water rights within the three water districts regarding the proposed combination of these districts. A public hearing on the proposed action was scheduled for and held on November 18, 2012, at the Salmon City Hall in Salmon, ID. Oral testimony was provided by a number of affected water users at that hearing, and written comments were received by IDWR from some additional water users within the ten day post-hearing comment period. Nearly all of the testimony and comments provided by affected water users opposed IDWR's proposed action to combine the water districts. Based upon this record, the Director of IDWR has decided *not* to combine WD74-F, WD74-J, and WD74.

This letter provides formal notice that the Department will *not* combine WD74, WD74-F, and WD-74J as proposed in its Notice of Public Hearing dated October 23, 2012. However, IDWR does direct the water users of WD74-F and WD74-J to hold water district meetings this year to elect a watermaster and adopt an operating budget for the 2013 irrigation season. IDWR has included a notice giving the date, time, and location for the 2013 water district meetings.

The Department appreciates the input provided by those water users who participated in the hearing process.

Respectfully,

Tim Luke  
Assigned Hearing Officer  
Chief, Water Compliance Bureau

C: IDWR Eastern Region