



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

March 6, 2015

Joseph F. James  
Brown & James  
130 Fourth Ave. West  
Gooding, Idaho 83330

Re: Members of Big Wood & Little Wood Water Users Association, Diverting from the Little Wood River, Request for Administration of Water Rights under the Prior Appropriation Doctrine

Dear Mr. James:

The Idaho Department of Water Resources ("Department") received your letter dated February 23, 2015, requesting administration of water rights under the prior appropriation doctrine ("Call Letter"). The Department will treat your Call Letter as a new delivery call pursuant to the Department's Conjunctive Management Rules and will initiate a new contested case proceeding. IDAPA 37.03.11. The Department has assigned a docket number to this contested case. Please file all pleadings under the following docket number: CM-DC-2015-002. The Department is in the process of identifying and notifying potentially affected ground water users. The Department will issue an order setting a date for the initial status conference soon.

Upon initial review of water rights diverting from the Little Wood River listed in the Call Letter, Department staff noticed the following issues:

- 1) Water right no. 37-2142 is not owned by Big Wood Canal Co. and does not authorize diversion from the Little Wood River.
- 2) Water right no. 37-344B has been superseded by water right no. 37-13043, which was claimed and decreed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication.
- 3) Water right no. 37-8887 is a water right application for which no authorization to divert exists.

Please clarify your intent regarding these issues as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Spackman".

Gary Spackman  
Director