



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Malad ground water users encouraged to join application for BOR WaterSmart grant to help cover costs for flow meters

MALAD – (Sept. 4, 2020) – Malad Valley area ground water users can work together with the Malad Valley Water Measurement District Advisory Committee to apply for a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart grant to receive cost-share funds for installing ground water flow meters, officials said on Friday.

The application deadline for the BOR WaterSmart grant is Sept. 17, 2020, so interested water users should contact measurement district advisory committee members immediately, officials said.

Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) officials met with the Malad Valley Water Measurement District Advisory Committee in August to assist the Malad Valley Water Measurement District in applying for a BOR WaterSmart grant for local ground water users. The grant, if approved, could provide 50 percent cost-share funds for water users, officials said.

For the District to put together a grant application, Malad-area ground water users need to provide information about their water wells and sign a letter of commitment to the Malad Valley Water Measurement District Advisory Committee to receive cost-share funds, officials said.

Water users that have ground water wells irrigating more than 5 acres of land or non-irrigation wells that divert more than 0.24 cfs are eligible. Owners of uncontrolled flowing artesian wells may also be eligible to receive cost-share funds for installation of control valves.

A Ground Water Management Area and a temporary water right moratorium was designated in the Malad Valley by IDWR in 2015 because of declining aquifer levels. Ground water flow meters are being required by IDWR to get more detailed information about ground water use in the Malad Valley to work toward a sustainable long-term management plan.

For more information about the BOR WaterSmart grant application, contact the Malad Valley Water Measurement District Advisory Committee at 208-520-9430, or contact one of the

committee members: Austin Tubbs, Carol Stevens, Dave Harris, Anton Jensen, Arne Jones, Doug Mills or Tom Willie.

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