



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IDWR contacts: Ashley Ritter, Associate Engineer Water Allocation Bureau, 208-287-4907

IDWR extends temporary moratorium for five years on ground water permits in the Malad Valley Ground Water Management Area

MALAD – (Nov. 7, 2022) – The Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources has issued an order extending a temporary moratorium on the issuance of new ground water permits in the Malad Valley Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) for another five years through 2027.

IDWR Director Gary Spackman issued the order extending the temporary moratorium on Thursday, Nov. 3. It takes effect immediately. Water users in the Malad Valley who had pending applications with IDWR to withdraw ground water from the GWMA have been notified by letter about the 5-year moratorium extension. A previous temporary moratorium has been in place since 2015.

As of Oct. 31, 2022, there were 13 pending applications requesting water rights permits for ground water withdrawals in the Malad Valley GWMA, seeking to divert 32 cubic feet per second to irrigate about 8,700 acres of farm land. Those applications will not be processed while the moratorium is in place, officials said.

The purpose of the moratorium is to allow IDWR to collect more information about how existing ground water use is affecting the Malad Valley ground water aquifer and Malad River surface water flows at the Woodruff gage, the order said.

IDWR has been monitoring additional ground water wells to track aquifer levels. In addition, Malad Valley ground water users were required to place measuring devices on their pumps to provide water use data.

“The Department requires a sufficient record of water level data along with an accurate record of water use to complete a defensible water budget for the MVGWMA,” the order said.

For more information, contact Ashely Ritter, Associate Engineer Water Allocation Bureau, 208-287-4907

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