



# News Release

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

The Idaho Water Center, 322 E. Front St., Boise, ID - TEL: (208) 287-4800 FAX: (208) 287-6700

[www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

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For Immediate Release  
Boise, Idaho –

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### **Property owners receive notices to file water right claims**

Notices about water right claims in the Northern Idaho Adjudication are being sent to Shoshone County property owners in Coeur d'Alene Basin drainage area.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources is continuing its multi-year process of cataloging and confirming all surface and ground water rights in the Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River Basin Adjudication. Approximately 10,000 property owners will receive notice to file a water right claim in this mailing. The deadline to file a water right Notice of Claim for these property owners is December 15, 2011.

A Notice of Claim is **NOT** required to be filed where the individual property owner and water user is not the owner of the water right (if the individual property owner receives all of their water from a city, an irrigation district, water utility district or a company). A water delivery organization typically files for the water right used by all its customers or patrons.

A notice is mailed to every property owner to insure all water right owners are notified of the process. There are records for about 4,000 water rights, while it is expected that over 13,000 water right claims will be filed in the adjudication.

Water users of a small domestic and/or stock water right may elect to file a Notice of Claim now or wait until later in the process. All other users are required to file a water right claim with IDWR at this time.

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However, IDWR recommends filing your claim for a small domestic or stock water right. The one-time \$25 filing fee eliminates any question about the water right for your property that might arise in the future. The procedure for litigating a deferred claim is more involved and can be much more expensive than the current filing fee.

Typically, a single-family residence with a small yard falls in the small domestic water right category and may be deferred. Others are in gray areas of the definition. A water user may contact IDWR if they are uncertain whether their right is deferrable.

A Notice of Claim must be filed on forms provided by IDWR online at <http://www.idwr.idaho.gov>. Those forms are available in three ways:

1. A web based form on the internet to complete and submit a claim;
2. A form with blanks to type on a computer, print, and mail to IDWR;
3. A form to print and complete by hand to mail to IDWR.

A water right claimant may get assistance by making an appointment with a representative at any of the IDWR regional offices at the following locations:

1. IDWR, Northern Region, 7600 Mineral Dr, Suite 100, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815;  
Phone: (208) 762-2800;
2. IDWR, Western Region, 2735 Airport Way, Boise, ID, 83705-5082;  
Phone: (208) 334-2190;
3. IDWR, Southern Region 1341 Fillmore St, Suite 200, Twin Falls, ID 83301-3380;  
Phone: (208) 736-3033;
4. IDWR, Eastern Region, 900 N Skyline Dr, Suite A, Idaho Falls, ID 83402-1718;  
Phone: (208) 525-7161;
5. IDWR, State Office. 322 E Front St, Boise, ID 83720-0098; Phone: (208) 287-4800.

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