

On April 30, 2007 Idaho Department of Water Resource's Director Dave Tuthill issued the first of two sets of warning letters advising water right holders junior to June 28, 1985 of a potential curtailment.

The first set of letters affected approximately 600 ground water users and 39,000 acres in Water District 130 in and around the Thousand Springs area. A second set of letters, mailed May 10th, affected an estimated 760 ground water users and 46,000 acres in Water District 120 or the American Falls reach of the Snake River. The potential curtailment is the Department's response to water delivery calls filed first in 2005 and then again in 2007 by surface and spring water users who allege material injury due to declining spring and surface water levels caused by ground water pumping on the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

Curtailment in WD 120 has been averted as of May 23rd when the Director announced his conditional acceptance of IGWA's mitigation plan.

A hearing on May 30th before Jerome's 5th District Court Judge John K. Butler will determine the fate of ground water users in Water District 130. IGWA asked for and was granted a temporary restraining order earlier this month that prevents IDWR from moving forward with curtailment in the Thousand Springs area pending that hearing. In next week's hearing, IGWA will present legal defenses in an effort to convince the Court to postpone or delay curtailment.