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**Idaho Ground Water Appropriators
Support State's Enforcement of Idaho Water Law**

POCATELLO, Idaho – August 27, 2025 – Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc. (IGWA) supports the State of Idaho's enforcement of Idaho water law and the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan through the Office of the Attorney General and the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR).

After extensive negotiations throughout 2024, water users entered into a landmark water mitigation agreement that protects the needs of senior water right holders, avoids large-scale curtailment of junior groundwater rights, and sustains Idaho's economy and the longevity of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). A water mitigation plan identifies actions and measures taken by holders of junior groundwater rights to protect senior water rights from being injured by the juniors' water use. The 2024 mitigation plan gives farmers multi-year stability through groundwater conservation, allows junior groundwater users to provide storage water to surface water users and manages aquifer recharge projects that strengthen the ESPA. Water users who comply with the plan secure reliable access to water, more control over crop planning, and avoid having their water rights shut off (known as "curtailment") by IDWR.

The 2024 mitigation plan is consistent with the prior appropriation doctrine, and nearly all groundwater rights participate in the plan. A small handful of groundwater users have chosen not to participate in the plan, however, risking curtailment of their water rights during droughts. This happened this summer when hot, dry conditions forced IDWR to curtail junior groundwater rights to supply additional water to senior surface water rights.

The Office of the Idaho Attorney General recently filed a lawsuit to ensure that groundwater users who don't participate in the mitigation plan comply with IDWR's curtailment order. IGWA supports the enforcement of Idaho's water laws, including curtailment of junior groundwater rights that decline to participate in an approved mitigation plan. These necessary enforcements protect the integrity of the mitigation plan and the livelihoods of senior water users and junior water users who participate in the plan.

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