

IGWA Bulletin



IGWA Membership,

It seems as spring has finally arrived. I'm sure everyone was hoping for another great busy season ahead. We've been lucky for the last few years now. Looks like we might be in for a considerably slower season. At least it seem that way across the Southern end of the state. Might need to tighten our belts a little but I am confident we will get through it.

The Pacific NW Expo was a big success and if you didn't attend, you missed out on a great time. We have put out a test exam for our new electrical license. I want to thank everyone who has been willing to take it so we can get an idea of where we are on a final draft. Our next meeting is in early May to go over the results of our example test. Rest assure that we are putting in the time and effort to get this test finished and implemented by the end of the year.

I hope you all have a great season. Work hard but stay safe. Our families need us all to come home at the end of the day after all.

Sincerely,
Bill Tanner
IGWA President



Crisis Fund Update

I am happy to report that the 2026 IGWA Crisis/Scholarship gun raffle raised over \$6K this year. Congratulations to Sam Kingrey of Down Right Drilling & Pump on his purchase of the winning ticket for the AR-15 package. Sam must have a lucky rabbit's foot in his pocket as he also won the 2025 pistol giveaway.

The 2026 auction event did not disappoint. We had enormous success due to incredibly talented individuals, M&S, and others who donated items. A special thanks to auctioneer Steve Wells and my good friend Tony Hackett for doing an impressive job as always!

This is a great cause to serve, and I am proud to be part of this association. We could not do without everyone's support. There are so many who contribute and I am profoundly grateful. Stay safe and stay tuned for future events.

Charlie Fox
Crisis Fund Chairman, IGWA



Column Pipe + Inner Column

Threaded Column Pipe

- + Turbine column pipe and submersible drop pipe
- + Size: 2.50" - 14"
- + Material: A53 Grade B, 316SS, 304SS, galvanized pipe
- + Oil lube, water lube

Inner Column

- + Enclosing Tubes: A53 Grade B, 316SS, 304SS, galvanized, 416SS
- + All OEM specifications
- + Water lube, Oil lube, water flush
- + Shafting: C-1045, 416SS, 316SS, 17-4
- + Bearings: Alloy 844, Vesconite
- + Shaft Couplings: 1215, 1141, 416SS, 316SS, 304SS

Pump Fabrications

- + Flange column: 4" - 36"
- + Fabricated discharge heads
- + Fabricated pump cans/barrels
- + Sole plates, motor stands, Etc (can be manufactured)
- + Material: A53 grade B, 316SS, 304SS
- + In house coating, epoxy and scotchkote

Water Well Casing

- + Sizes: 4" - 36"
- + Casing: beveled, threaded
- + Slotted casing
- + Johnson well screen, industrial, municipal and agricultural
- + Material: A53 grade B, 316SS, 304SS, galvanized

Contact: Kevin Betita
Cell: 509-578-4201
kbetita@custompipe.com

Pump Parts

- + Bowl bushings
- + Wear rings
- + Sand collars
- + Tube adapters
- + Impeller collets
- + Collet knockers
- + Bowl bushings
- + Stuffing box bushings
- + Tension bearings
- + Tension Assemblies
- + Head nuts
- + Column reducing bushings
- + Line shaft bearings
- + Column couplings
- + Shaft and shaft couplings
- + Custom coatings
- + Casing alignment clamps





Executive Director Report

As we wrap up the 2026 legislative session, I want to thank you for the opportunity to represent the Idaho Ground Water Association and advocate on behalf of your industry. We take that responsibility seriously and appreciate the trust you place in us to be your voice at the Statehouse.

This year's session ran 81 days and was largely defined by budget discussions and revenue concerns. Lawmakers focused heavily on balancing the state's finances while also delivering tax relief. In total, about \$5.6 billion in tax cuts were approved, along with 3 to 5 percent reductions across most state agency budgets. Because of that, much of the oxygen in the room was taken up by budget negotiations and long-term fiscal planning. That meant fewer major policy swings in some areas, but it also reinforced how closely tied state spending and regulation are to the work you do every day.

Given the direction coming out of this session, staying engaged continues to matter. Idaho's primary election on May 19th is often the one that determines who ultimately represents your district. We encourage you to take the time to vote and stay involved.

Water

Water remained a central issue this session, and overall, there were some positive outcomes for groundwater users and the drilling community. On the domestic side, S1222 builds on last year's domestic exemption legislation by providing needed clarification. It defines a "subdivision" as five lots and confirms that new requirements apply only to applications filed on or after July 1, 2025. That clarity helps avoid confusion in the field and ensures projects are not impacted retroactively.

The Legislature also continued to invest in water infrastructure, maintaining \$30 million annually for water projects and \$1 million for research through the Idaho Water Resource Research Institute. Long-term water supply planning was highlighted through HJM014, which sets a goal of developing additional water storage and calls for stronger coordination with federal partners. Finally, H789 was signed into law, finalizing the Coeur d'Alene Tribe water rights settlement and providing added certainty for water users in North Idaho.

Private Property

Property rights continue to be a priority in Idaho. S1326 reinforces protections for private landowners by clearly limiting when government officials can enter private property. For many of you working on private land, this provides additional clarity and reassurance around access and authority in the field.

Transportation

Two transportation bills passed this session that may impact how you move equipment and operate on Idaho roads. H664 removes separate speed limits for trucks and passenger vehicles on state highways, aiming to reduce speed differences and improve safety. S1224 clarifies expectations for slow-moving vehicles, allowing drivers to use reasonable judgment when there is not a safe place to pull over, and recognizing the realities of working equipment in transit. These bills will be effective come July 1st.

Even in years without major legislation directly impacting our industry, it is just as important to stay engaged. The relationships built, the conversations had, and the presence we maintain at the Capitol all play a role in shaping future policy decisions. Your involvement helps ensure our industry is understood and considered long before issues become urgent.

Domestic Pump Installer Exam

The IGWA Domestic Pump Installer Exam working group met on January 28 with IDOPL and the CTEC folks to start drafting an exam for domestic pump installers. During that meeting the group agreed to include plumbing as part of that exam. IDOPL has recently drafted a mock exam for Industry to take and provide feedback.

The purpose is to determine what parts of the exam are relevant to Industry practices and what parts of the exam need re-written. The next IGWA working group meeting will be held on May 6. We anticipate the new Exam to be approved and ready to be taken by Industry by the end of the year.

Roger Batt
Executive Director, IGWA



Scholarship Update

As Scholarship Chairman, I'm pleased to share that we received five applications for this year's IGWA Scholarship Program. We have \$6,000 in scholarship funds available to award, and the committee is currently reviewing all applications. We look forward to announcing this year's recipients later this summer.

I also want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who participates in our annual auction. Your support plays a key role in making this program possible and helps us continue investing in the next generation.

Rod Hendricks
Scholarship Chairman, IGWA

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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Personnel Change at IDWR

Many of you may already be aware, but if not, April 17th was Aaron Skinner's last day at IDWR. Aaron has spent the past 8 years developing a great working relationship between the drilling community and IDWR. His knowledge, experience, and customer service will be greatly missed.

New Moratorium Area in Canyon County

On March 20, 2026, IDWR established a five-year temporary moratorium on processing and approval of presently pending and new applications to appropriate ground water with the designated area (Figure 1). What does this moratorium mean to you well drillers? Here is a brief summary:

- Start Cards are not allowed within the boundaries of the designated area. The impacted area has been identified on the well drillers locator tool.
- This moratorium is in effect for 5 years unless withdrawn or modified by the Director.
- This moratorium does not affect continued development of any existing or approved permit to appropriate water.
- Domestic exemptions still apply UNLESS the domestic well is within a designated subdivision developed after July 1, 2025, then in-house use is the only approved use of water from such wells (irrigation of ½ acre not allowed).
- This moratorium does not apply to non-consumptive uses. (e.g. municipal wells and community wells).
- This moratorium does not apply to applications for drilling permits to replace or deepen existing wells with valid water rights.
- This moratorium does not apply to applications for transfer, including applications to add points of diversion to valid, existing water rights.
- This moratorium does not prevent the Director from reviewing or approving, on a case-by-case basis, an application which otherwise would not be approved under the terms of this moratorium if:
 - o Protection and furtherance of the public interest requires consideration and approval; or
 - o The Director determines that the development and use of the water pursuant to an application will have no effect on prior surface or ground water rights.

To read the full order, it is available here: [Final Order Establishing Southern Canyon County Temporary Moratorium | In the Matter of Ground Water Appropriations in Southern Canyon County | March 20, 2026](#)

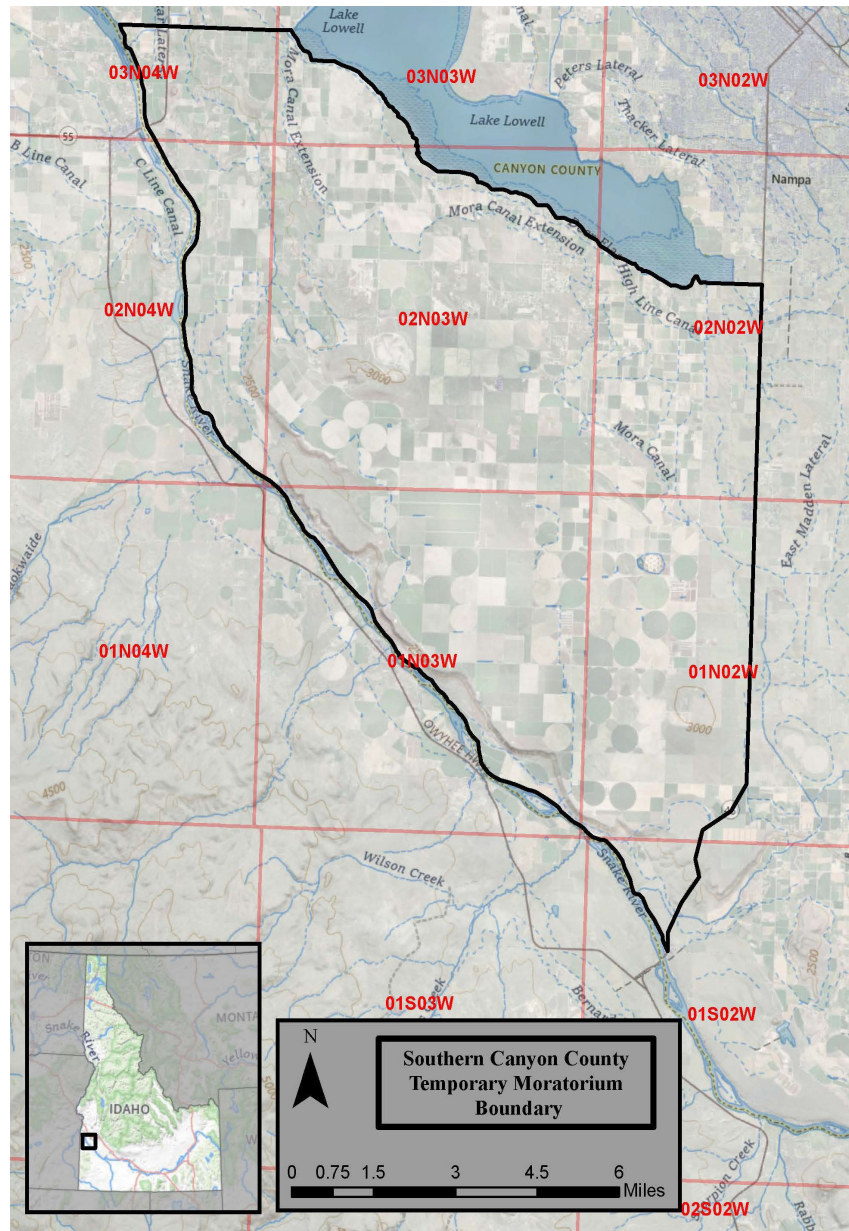


Figure 1. Boundary of Southern Canyon County Temporary Moratorium



WHICH TRIP WILL YOU PICK?

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TREASURE VALLEY ARTESIAN DELINEATION PROJECT

In order to help protect and sustain groundwater supplies in the Treasure Valley, a coalition of stakeholders, including several public water systems, and the Idaho Groundwater Association (IGWA) are working together to advance a project intended to ensure wells are constructed in a manner that prevents waste and contamination of the groundwater resources of the Treasure Valley. This project will benefit municipal water providers and their customers, domestic well owners, agricultural and commercial water users, and well drillers.

Project Background - the need to improve administration of the Idaho drilling rules:

The problem this project seeks to address is the construction of wells in artesian conditions that, in many cases, do not comply with the Idaho Well Construction Rules, resulting in the loss of artesian pressure and the creation of pathways for contamination to enter artesian aquifers or move between aquifers. This is especially important in the Treasure Valley aquifer system where historic agricultural activity and rapid urbanization have both introduced contaminants to an aquifer system that already had some naturally occurring contaminants. In the Treasure Valley aquifer system, confining layers of clay can separate high-quality drinking water from water that is unsuitable for drinking. Loss of artesian pressure affects pumping costs and alters aquifer pressure and flow paths which can make the aquifer more susceptible to contamination.

This problem occurs for several reasons, including the technical complexity of determining whether a well is truly artesian during the drilling process. In some cases, field conditions during drilling can make it difficult for Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) well inspectors to definitively confirm artesian conditions and enforce sealing requirements in real time. In other instances, drillers may be unaware that they have encountered artesian conditions, or they may knowingly fail to report such conditions to avoid the additional work required to properly construct and seal wells. Each unsealed penetration through protective confining layers creates a direct conduit for vertical movement of water and contaminants within the aquifer system, increasing the risk of long-term groundwater degradation.

The Project- provide a tool for better administration of well construction rules:

The objective of this project is to delineate areas within the Treasure Valley where artesian groundwater conditions are likely to be encountered during well drilling. This will be accomplished by leveraging existing sources of data such as well driller reports, groundwater level data, geologic and water chemistry information, relevant scientific literature, and

accepted analytical methods. A core group of stakeholders including five municipal water providers and IGWA completed a competitive selection process and selected HDR to perform this work. The work will result in delivery of a mapping tool that clearly identifies where artesian conditions are expected, allowing drillers to plan for and properly construct wells in accordance with existing drilling and sealing requirements.

The project will also benefit Idaho Department of Water Resources staff by providing a defensible, data-driven tool to support more consistent and efficient administration of the Idaho Well Construction Rules. Once developed, the results can be integrated into digital mapping platforms, such as IDWR's Well Drillers Locator Mapping Tool, to support automated and transparent implementation.

This effort will further benefit the well drilling community by creating a level playing field in which all drillers must anticipate and bid for artesian conditions where they are likely to occur, rather than placing responsible drillers at a competitive disadvantage. Improved information will support fair bidding practices and reduce disputes related to unanticipated artesian conditions. In an inspiring show of leadership, the IGWA Board of Directors decided to contribute \$10,000 to the project. This should help encourage other stakeholders to step up to the plate. It would be money well-spent as the American Water Works Association (AWWA) estimates that the cost of treating contaminated water can be up to 40 times higher than the cost of preventive measures.

Most importantly, this project will benefit the people of the State of Idaho by reducing groundwater waste, preventing contamination associated with unsealed wells, and avoiding the significantly higher costs of remediating or treating impacted water supplies, thereby protecting the long-term reliability and quality of groundwater resources in the Treasure Valley.

The Project- provide a tool for better administration of well construction rules:

Currently, HDR is developing the project scope and budget. After review and agreement by the core group of stakeholders, the project will be presented to the Idaho Water Resources Board (IWRB) with a request for partnership and funding. The project aligns with the Strategies and Objectives of the State Water Plan and helps to fulfill a statutory requirement to inventory and locate artesian wells throughout the state.

After funding is sorted out between willing stakeholders and agreements are in place, the project can proceed. HDR has estimated it will take about 14 months to acquire, assemble, and interpret data and provide the requested deliverables.

Kyle Radek
Assistant City Engineer, City of Meridian

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