

# News Release

## IDAHO WATER USERS ASSOCIATION, INC

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### **IWUA's 80<sup>th</sup> Convention, General Meeting Opens Jan. 24 At Riverside Hotel in Boise**

For Immediate Use  
Boise, Idaho – Jan. 16, 2017

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Updates on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permitting and its new pesticide general permit process are two key issues affecting irrigation waters that will draw close scrutiny when the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and general meeting of Idaho's largest water user group meets January 24-26 at The Riverside Hotel in Boise.

"These EPA permits have been controversial since they were implemented because of the burdensome, unnecessary impact they can have on irrigation agriculture here in Idaho. There will be very keen interest by water users in what the government officials have to say, especially about Idaho's effort to take over state control of the permitting process from the EPA," noted Norm Semanko, IWUA Executive Director.

Convention attendees will also get the latest water supply outlook from federal water officials. Additional panels will focus on Idaho's ongoing aquifer recharge efforts.

Gary Spackman, Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, will give a state water management update. Jennifer Carrington, Assistant Regional Director of the Pacific Northwest Bureau of Reclamation, will present attendees a BOR report on area federal water issues.

Other panels will focus on Idaho's species conservation efforts, Bureau of Reclamation grant opportunities and implementing a GIS system to track and manage accounts.

IWUA will also elect new officers during the convention, and decide on resolutions that will guide the Association's activities during the coming year.

The convention begins January 24 with standing committee meetings during which resolutions, legislation, water quality issues, education, rural and urban affairs and other Association activities will be discussed in detail

The main convention program will begin Wednesday, January 25. IWUA officials will also present a series of water related awards at a special luncheon the same day. The convention will end Thursday, January 26, with the Association's Annual Legislative Banquet, according to Semanko.

More information about the convention can be found at the IWUA website: [www.iwua.org](http://www.iwua.org). You can also call the Association at (208) 344-6690.

The Idaho Water Users Association consists of approximately 300 irrigation districts and canal companies, agri-businesses, public water supply organizations, professional firms and individuals from around the state that manage water supplies for more than 2 million acres of irrigated Idaho farmland.

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