











Adjudication of Water Rights

- Value of Adjudicating Water Rights
 - Document, by decree of the court, the perfection of a water right
 - Assure existence of a water right when land is sold, purchased, or passes in an estate
 - Define and quantify actual Idaho water rights in case of interstate dispute
 - Establish priority dates and water quantities for possible in-state regulation

Northern Idaho Adjudication

- **Idaho Code § 42-1406B requires:**
 - A separate petition for adjudication must be filed with the adjudication court to initiate an adjudication in the Palouse Basin
 - Each petition is contingent upon legislative funding approval

Legislative Approval

- For present schedule of the Northern Idaho Adjudication, the **latest date for legislative approval is spring of 2015.**
- Discussion should start now with public, local leaders, and legislators. If local people want to proceed with adjudication, a joint resolution in the 2014 legislature might be appropriate.

Water Board Financial Initiative

- 2009 - \$20 million appropriated to Idaho Water Resource Board for ground water planning
- 2010 - \$12 million removed from budget to address state budget shortfall – The reduction included loss of money for Palouse Basin Comprehensive Aquifer Management Planning

Water Board Financial Initiative

- Proposal would restore the money lost in 2010
- The proposal would include money for the Palouse Basin Comprehensive Aquifer Management Planning effort
- Also proposal for appropriation of annual funding for water monitoring
- The proposal is included in the Idaho Department of Water Resources' FY2015 budget – next legislative session



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