

**Media Contact:**

Keith Esplin  
Recharge Development Corp.  
Director of Industry Outreach  
pgike@cableone.net  
208-243-1824

Barb Shelley, Consultant  
barbshelleyprcommunications@gmail.com  
801-673-7837



***For Immediate Release***

**Eastern Idaho Water Crisis to Bring Together Farmers,  
Civic Leaders, Water Experts and Others  
To Discuss Solutions and Prevent Idled Farmland  
*Public Symposium to be Held Feb. 22 in Idaho Falls***

**February 2, 2016 Aberdeen, Idaho** –Groundwater pumping across the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer must be reduced by an average of 12.5 percent this year. Thousands of acres of farmland could possibly be idled due to these water reductions, and that would be devastating to Eastern Idaho communities.

The Recharge Development Corporation, a private organization bringing together many entities, has a proposed solution to solve the water crisis – developing a private managed system to replenish and store water in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

The RDC is organizing a symposium for all interested individuals and entities to discuss the alternative method to meet water needs. The meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 22 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Shilo Inn, 780 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls. As many as 400 people are expected to attend in person, and others can participate through a webinar option.

The symposium will bring together farmers, engineers, legislators, civic leaders, water attorneys, and experts in water management and distribution to discuss a proposed

Water Crisis Symposium to be held Feb. 22 in Idaho Falls, Recharge Development Corporation

method of privately building a system to recharge groundwater and cooperatively manage surface and groundwater resources. The symposium is especially relevant due to last year's settlement agreement between the Surface Water Coalition and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators that represents Ground Water Districts in Southern and Eastern Idaho.

"Our proposed, privately managed aquifer recharge project is critically needed to optimize groundwater and surface water supplies," said Chris Pratt, RDC president and an Eastern Idaho farmer. "All interested parties, especially farmers, are invited to join with us at the symposium to learn about how private managed aquifer recharge can help meet water needs in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer area now and in the future. Many communities across the country have successfully used similar methods to replenish aquifers and store water. Working together, we can do the same."

The RDC notes that historically, private individuals and groups have stepped up to meet the irrigation needs of Idaho agriculture by building reservoirs. In today's environment, it is suggested that individuals and organizations could now work together to build infrastructure and use aquifers to store water during times of surplus. Under consideration is the fact that, according to the Idaho Department of Water Resources, an annual median of 964,097 acre-feet of natural flow passed Milner Dam near Burley on the Snake River from 1980 - 2102. The RDC believes that this is much more water than would be required to compensate for the groundwater pumping cutbacks in the settlement agreement.

At the symposium, Idaho Falls Mayor Rebecca Casper will deliver the keynote address, titled, "What Water Means to Eastern Idaho Cities." To see a full list of speakers, visit [rechargedevelopment.com/symposium/](http://rechargedevelopment.com/symposium/)

### **About the symposium**

**Date:** Monday, February 22, 2016

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. Registration check-in. Presentations from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Water Crisis Symposium to be held Feb. 22 in Idaho Falls, Recharge Development Corporation

**Cost:** \$40 early bird registration prior to Feb. 16, \$60 thereafter. Includes buffet luncheon.

**Where:** Shilo Inn, 780 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Webinar Option Available. Seating is limited.

**Register online at [rechargedevelopment.com](http://rechargedevelopment.com) or call 208-378-1513.**

***About the Recharge Development Corporation***

*The Recharge Development Corporation, an Idaho C corporation, was formed in 2013 to bring together diverse entities that have an interest in solving the water crisis in Eastern Idaho. Of top concern is preventing the possibility of farmland from being idled due to lack of water. Headed up by a Board of Directors, RDC is a diverse group representing farmers, academics, engineers, water management professionals, and business and civic leaders. Through the leadership of RDC and its programs, Eastern Idaho entities and individuals will be able to come together to help meet groundwater pumping reduction requirements while cooperatively instituting private projects that provide water now and in the future. RDC is located at 144 S. Main Street, Aberdeen, Idaho, 83210.*

*To learn more, visit [rechargedevelopment.com](http://rechargedevelopment.com).*

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