



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Water Rights

KENT L. JONES
State Engineer/Division Director

INTERIM GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR MALAD AND BEAR RIVER DRAINAGES IN WATER RIGHT AREA 29

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to set forth interim guidelines for groundwater appropriations and change applications in the Malad and Bear River drainages within water right area 29 (Shown in Figure 1). The State Engineer believes there exists a hydrologic connection between groundwater aquifers and surface waters within this area. In adopting this interim policy the State Engineer's primary objective is to protect prior water rights while putting to beneficial use the greatest amount of available water.

The State Engineer has contracted with the United States Geologic Survey and the Utah Geologic Survey to conduct a groundwater study within the policy area. The study will reassess the groundwater budget components and estimate the effects of additional groundwater withdrawals in the form of capture maps. This information will be used to assist the State Engineer in making decisions within the area.

Interim Policy

The State Engineer will use the following guidelines in reviewing applications and managing the groundwater resources of the Malad and Bear River Groundwater Policy Area.

- 1) The area is open to appropriation for individual family domestic purposes. Such applications are limited to a maximum diversion of 1.73 acre-feet per year for the indoor domestic purposes of one family, up to 0.25 acres of irrigation of lawn and garden, and stock watering of 10 equivalent livestock units. Applications are subject to local interference issues.
- 2) Applications to appropriate groundwater, larger than the limitations set forth in paragraph 1, above, will be held pending the results of the groundwater study.
- 3) Applications to appropriate which have been filed prior to this interim policy may be held pending the results of the groundwater study or may be acted on based on the available information. All applications to appropriate will be considered on their own individual merits subject to the statutory criteria set forth in section 73-3-8, Utah Code Annotated.
- 4) Change applications proposing to move surface water to groundwater and/or move within the groundwater system will be considered on their own individual merits



Page 2


April 23, 2012

Subject: Interim Groundwater Management Plan for Malad and Bear River Drainages in Area 29

subject to the statutory criteria set forth in sections 73-3-3 and 73-3-8, Utah Code Annotated. Applications will be review to ensure there is no enlargement of the underlying right and intervening rights are not impaired.

- 5) The effective date of this interim groundwater management plan is April 23, 2012.

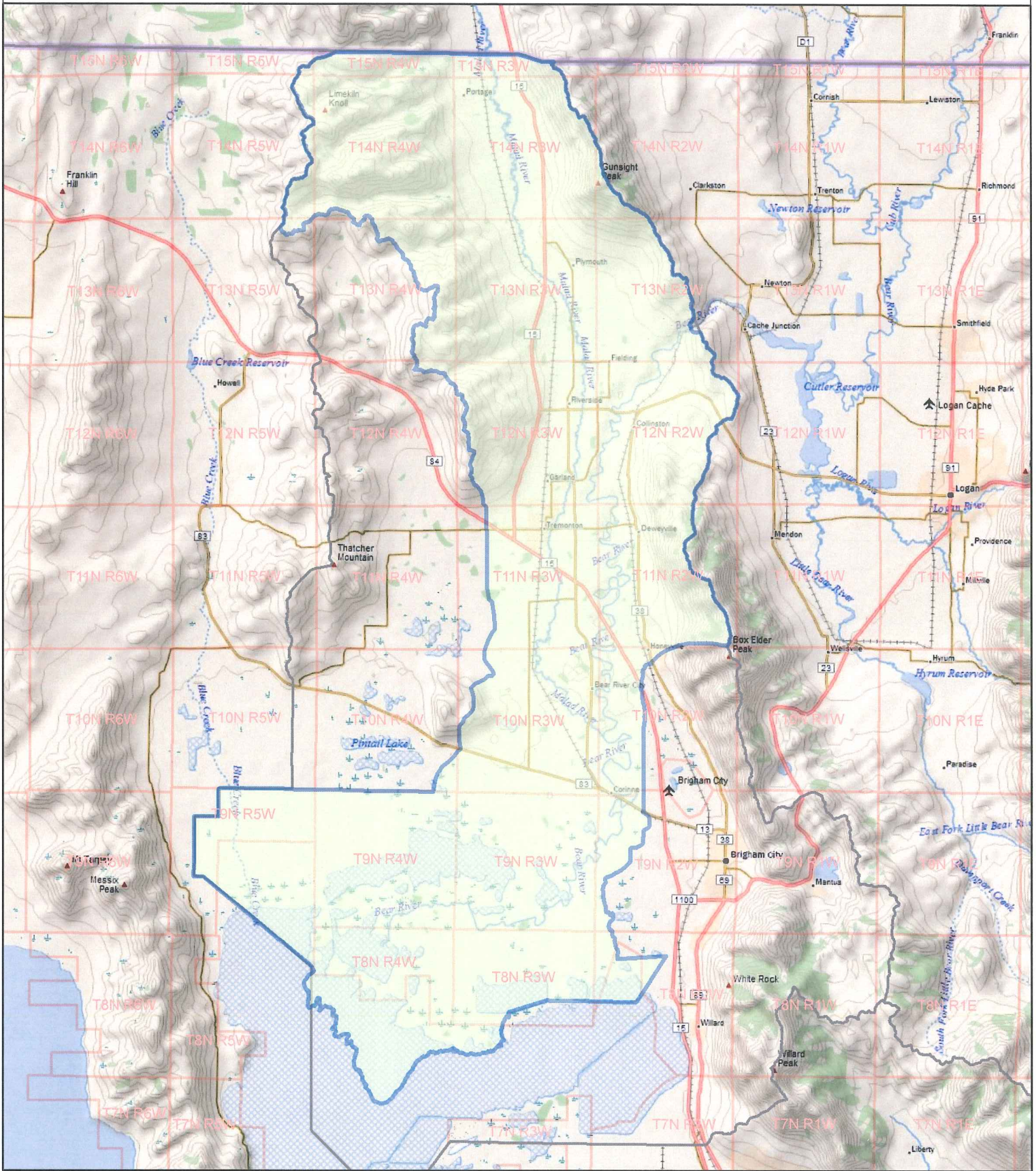
Dated this 23 day of April, 2012.


Kent L. Jones, P.E., State Engineer

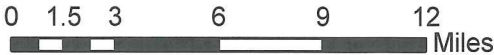


Malad and Bear River Groundwater Policy Area

Figure 1



Run Date:
04-23-2012



Legend

- Bear/Malad Policy Area
- wreaas
- townrang