



COUNTY OF CASSIA

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bob Kunau, Chair
Paul Christensen, Commissioner
Tim Darrington, Commissioner

COURTHOUSE
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Dear Cassia County Farmer:

Irrigation season is in full swing, and concern has been raised about water on the roadways in our County. Water on our roadways causes problems, ranging from safety hazards for drivers to having to use taxpayer dollars to fix and repair damages from such water, instead of using those funds to upgrade our roads and provide other needed work and maintenance. Some estimates have placed repair costs for irrigation water damage to county roads at about 1/3 of the annual budgets for highway districts. In these times of expensive road maintenance costs, and ageing road infrastructure, it is not prudent to spend taxpayer dollars to repair those damages that can be avoided in the first place. It is also not wise to create hazards that affect personal injury and property damage to the lives of our friends, neighbors and families, that travel upon these roads.

We request that you work with us to provide good and safe roadways by not allowing irrigation water to flow into or upon our public roadways.

For your information, Idaho law, at Idaho Code Section 18-3908, provides that it is illegal to allow irrigation water, whether irrigation is by flooding or sprinkler, to flow into or upon any public highway, road or street, in any other manner than that authorized by law. Violation of this law, for first offense is an infraction, and shall then be a misdemeanor for each offense thereafter in the calendar year. The Cassia County Sheriff's Office will be emphasizing enforcement of Idaho Code Section 18-3908, in order to ensure compliance.

Our goal, along with that of the Cassia County Sheriff's Office and the Highway Districts in the County is to seek compliance. We hope that can happen through voluntary efforts rather than by penalty or force. We want to work together with you to be good stewards of our lands, of our roads and of taxpayer dollars. Your cooperation in keeping irrigation water off from public roadways and on your crops and fields brings about the best circumstances for all concerned. Thank you for your assistance, and for your attention to this very important matter.

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