

# Member Topic: Exempt Groundwater Wells

WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE  
TONI HENNEMAN – OCTOBER 2025

## EXEMPT GROUNDWATER WELLS STUDY STRATEGY

### JULY 30 COMMITTEE DECISION:

#### Summary of Member Requests:

- Review past work on the topic of exempt groundwater wells, including the identification of areas or topics of concern;
- Analyze legislation introduced in the 2025 legislative session that did not pass and analyze the reasons for failure; and
- Examine additional methods to address issues and concerns.

#### (HIGH)

#### .40 FTE

- Panel discussion with members of 2023-24 DNRC Comprehensive Water Working Group
- Staff legislative history of applicable 2025 bills
- Analysis of applicable legislation from other states
- Additional panel discussions with stakeholders
- Review of related or impactful litigation
- Potential legislation with multiple public comment opportunities

### SCHEDULED

#### OCTOBER 20, 2025

- Panel discussion with members of 2023-24 DNRC Comprehensive Water Working Group
- DNRC discussion of current mitigation processes available for existing wells
- Staff review of SB 358, 2025 and Idaho Sen. Bill 1083, 2025
- Committee Work Session: Identification of focus area(s)

### NEXT STEPS

#### January 2026 meeting:

- Additional panel discussion, if desired
- Review of related or impactful litigation
- Potentially begin crafting draft legislation, with the understanding that bill drafting software for 2027 will not be available yet
- Solicit additional direction and focus from committee

#### March 2026 meeting:

- Continue exploring committee areas of interest and related research
- Potentially begin compiling policy decisions that may be included in draft legislation

#### May – July 2026 meetings:

- Ideally, present draft legislation for public and committee review