



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Amy Mattias, Program Director

Sun Valley Institute for Resilience

(208) 309-0414

amy@sunvalleyinstitute.org

Water 101 Panel to Discuss Community Water Issues

- Workshop will cover water rights, climate-smart water usage and efficiency in households and water quality in the Wood River Valley
- Panel discussion features Chris Johnson, EPA Program Manager for Idaho Rural Water Association and City of Bellevue Alderman and Dr. Wendy Pabich, Water Woman, President of Water Futures, author, and member of the International Women's Forum
- Event to be held Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 5:30 pm at Hailey Town Center West, 116 S. River St., Hailey
- Event will be conducted in English with live Spanish language translation available.
- Water 101 is co-hosted by 5B Resilient, a program of Sun Valley Institute for Resilience and Hailey Public Library

Hailey, ID – 5B Resilient, a new program of Sun Valley Institute for Resilience, and the Hailey Public Library, will hold a panel discussion, Water 101, on Thursday, February 23rd at 5:30 pm. The panel features EPA Program Manager and City of Bellevue Alderman, Chris Johnson and water woman, author, and adventurer, Dr. Wendy Pabich.

These water experts will take part in a lively community discussion on water rights, climate-smart water usage and efficiency in households and water quality in the Wood River Valley. The event is designed to give community members a deeper understanding of the Wood River Valley's water and provide positive actions individuals can take at home.

"Over 800,000 people are impacted by drought in Idaho. 30 counties in Idaho have drought disaster designations from the USDA," says says Hannah Harris, Sun Valley Institute for Resilience program coordinator. "By putting in the work as a community to better understand the challenges we face, we will be far better equipped to create solutions that address the state



water in Idaho now and in the future. The panelists we've invited will share wisdom, hope and practical ways that we can all make a difference. We're looking forward to the thoughtful conversations that will arise from this event."

Water 101 is the first in a recurring series of community events hosted by 5B Resilient, a program of Sun Valley Institute for Resilience. Future events will cover a wide range of resilience topics and bring in a multitude of community experts and voices. Visit www.sunvalleyinstitute.org/5b-resilient/resources to find future events and 5B Resilient's monthly digital resources.

About the panelists

Dr. Wendy Pabich holds a PhD in Water Resources and an MS in Environmental Policy and Planning from MIT, an MS in Coastal Geology from Duke University, and a BA in Geography from Dartmouth College, and received a 40-hour certificate in Dispute Mediation from Harvard Law School and a 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training certificate from School Yoga Institute in the Sacred Valley of Peru. She is President of Water Futures, which helps organizations ensure water security, has taught for MIT and the Sierra Institute, and has taken students to the wilds of Patagonia, the Himalaya and Alaska. She is the author of *"Taking on Water: How One Water Expert Challenged Her Inner Hypocrite, Reduced Her Water Footprint (without Sacrificing a Toasty Shower), and Found Nirvana,"* was a science advisor for the film *"Patagonia Rising,"* and shows her contemporary artwork regularly. She is a member of the International Women's Forum, an Advisor to the Sun Valley Institute for Resilience, and served as a Board Member to High Country News and the Blaine County's Land, Water & Wildlife Levy. Her work focuses on bringing wellness to women through water.

Chris Johnson is the program Manager for Idaho Rural Water Association, Alderman for the City of Bellevue, and board member of Blaine County Soil & Water Conservation District. The Idaho Rural Water Association is a non-profit corporation originally formed in 1987 to provide training and technical assistance to water and wastewater facilities in Idaho with populations under 10,000. The non-profit corporation is currently comprised of over 350 water and wastewater systems in Idaho. The services provided by IRWA are critical to the water and wastewater systems in Idaho working to maintain compliance with stringent rules and regulations designed to protect public health and safety, as well as the environment. The Blaine County Soil & Water Conservation District helps local landowners implement federal and state farm conservation practices and programs, conserve and restore wetlands, and protect groundwater resources and water quality. The organization also works with local communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation efforts.



About 5B Resilient

The 5B Resilient Program enhances access to climate action resources, increases community and individual skills that promote self-reliance, increases visibility of existing and new opportunities for resilience related action, and cultivates resource sharing, collaborative events and education opportunities. 5B Resilient is an expansion of 5B Resilience Gardens, which was launched in the spring of 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic to connect a passionate community of gardeners within Blaine County with an intentional focus on resilience. The expansion to 5B Resilient widens the program's focus to cultivate personal and community resilience through everyday climate action.

About Sun Valley Institute for Resilience

5B Resilient is a program of the Sun Valley Institute for Resilience (SVIR). SVIR advances community resilience in Idaho's Wood River Valley region by educating, investing and collaborating to ensure that the economy, environment and people thrive. SVIR is dedicated to supporting our whole community and we are working to develop programs that meet everyone's needs. For more information, please visit: www.sunvalleyinstitute.org