

Native American Rights Fund

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

<https://www.narf.org/cases/snake-river-basin-water-rights/>

Campaign and Advocacy

NARF represented the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho in its water rights claims in the Snake River Basin Adjudication litigation and settlement for more than 16 years.

Status: Archived

NARF represented the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho in its water rights claims in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) both litigation and settlement phases for more than 16 years. The Final Unified Decree, which closed the SRBA adjudication and approved all water rights set forth in the related agreement, was signed on August 25, 2014.

The SRBA was the legal inventory of about 150,000 water rights in the Snake River basin and all of its tributaries, including areas in 38 of Idaho's 44 counties. In 2004, Congress enacted, and the President signed, the Snake River Settlement Act to implement the settlement of all water rights claims and authorize federal funding. Subsequently, NARF worked with the tribe to secure final approval of the settlement by the state water court and to participate in the federal appropriations process.

NARF then represented the Nez Perce Tribe in negotiations with the United States, Idaho, and private water interests to draft the Final Unified Decree. Filed in August 2014, it was the capstone document closing the SRBA adjudication. Read [the full text of the decree](#).

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