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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 2013

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New Health District Director Selected

Eastern Idaho – Eastern Idaho Public Health District's (EIPHD) Board of Health has appointed Geri Rackow as the agency's new Director, replacing Richard Horne who is retiring in March after a 42 year career in Idaho's public health system. The Board approved the selection of Rackow at its February 14 meeting after a nationwide search for the best candidate to fill the health district's top position.

Rackow has been with Eastern Idaho Public Health District for nine years, serving as the agency's Deputy Director for the past five years. "Geri is an accomplished leader in public health," said Commissioner Robert Cope, EIPHD's Board Chairman. "She has dedicated her professional life to serving her community and brings enthusiasm to every task she tackles. Geri successfully reaches the goals she sets for herself and Eastern Idaho Public Health District. Her work and insight will continue to benefit the people of Eastern Idaho and public health across the state."

As director, Rackow will oversee public health services in Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties. Public Health's main program areas include: immunizations, reproductive health services, environmental health services, health promotion, public health emergency preparedness, infectious disease surveillance/epidemiology, and nutrition counseling for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). EIPHD is governed by a board that consists of a county commissioner from each of the district's eight counties and one physician. "I believe the Board made an excellent decision to appoint Geri to this position. I am completely confident in her abilities and know I will be leaving the health district in good hands," said Horne. Horne has served as the agency's director since 2002.

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“I appreciate the trust EIPHD’s Board of Health has placed in me and am honored and very excited to have been chosen to lead our agency into the future,” Rackow said. “I look forward to the opportunity to continue working with partners throughout eastern Idaho to help our residents and communities become healthier and safer. I will continue to be an advocate for public health in Idaho.”

Prior to joining Eastern Idaho Public Health District in 2003, Geri served as the Executive Director of the PRMC Healthcare Foundation and Director of Volunteers at Pocatello Regional Medical Center. She participated in the consolidation of Pocatello Regional Medical Center and Bannock Regional Medical Center in 2002 and served as the Director of Philanthropy of the newly created Portneuf Medical Center. Rackow will officially assume her new assignment on April 1.

To learn more about Eastern Idaho Public Health District, visit www.phd7.idaho.gov.

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