## C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER Governor

GAVIN M. GEE Director

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

July 25, 2007

## STATE FINANCE DEPARTMENT APPROVES IRELAND BANK'S ACQUISITION OF BANKING OFFICES IN CAREY AND MACKAY

Boise, Idaho... Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, announced that the Department has approved Ireland Bank's acquisition of banking offices located in Carey and Mackay, Idaho, currently operated by Summit National Bank based in Hulett, Wyoming. The offices, the only banking offices operated by Summit in Idaho, are currently authorized as loan and deposit production offices under federal law with limited authority to transact banking services. Ireland Bank will convert the limited purpose offices to full service branch offices offering all banking services provided by the bank.

The office in Carey, located at 20449 Main Street, is the only bank or financial institution in that growing community. The office in Mackay, located at 208 South Main Street, is only the second banking office in that community and will be the only banking office operated by a state chartered community bank.

Gee stated, "We are very pleased to approve this important acquisition which will not only preserve but expand vital banking services to these rural Idaho communities. Ireland Bank has an exemplary 115 year history of providing quality banking products and services to a number of rural southern Idaho communities and we are confident that

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its expansion into Carey and Mackay will add significant value to these communities and the surrounding areas."

Ireland Bank, founded in 1892, is headquartered in Malad, Idaho and operates branch offices in Aberdeen, Downey, Grace, Inkom, Lava Hot Springs, Montpelier, Pocatello (2 offices), Preston and Soda Springs. The bank is the oldest independent bank in Idaho and is led by Blair Hawkes, Chairman and CEO, who is the longest serving CEO of the same bank in Idaho, having worked in that capacity for over 28 years.

The transaction is expected to be completed by August 6, 2007.

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Department of Finance Press Releases and other information can be found on the Internet via the worldwide web at <a href="http://finance.idaho.gov">http://finance.idaho.gov</a> or may be obtained by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8000 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.