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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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STATE GRANTS NEW BANK CHARTER TO FIRST BANK OF IDAHO

Boise, Idaho . . . Gavin M. Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, today announced the approval of a new bank charter for First Bank of Idaho. The bank received final approval from the state Department of Finance after receiving approval for federal deposit insurance from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The bank will officially open for business on Friday, April 25, 1997 at its office located at 100 Second Street East in Ketchum, Idaho.

Gee stated, "We are very pleased to approve a new community bank to serve the Wood River Valley and believe the locally owned and operated bank will offer customers another option in selecting financial products and services. We also believe the sound economic conditions in the Wood River Valley and the market opportunities created by the trends in the banking industry towards consolidation and reorganization will allow a community oriented financial institution to prosper." First Bank of Idaho plans to offer a full range of deposits, loans and related banking services to small and medium-sized businesses, professionals and high value retail customers by focusing on responsiveness, flexibility and local market knowledge.

The organizers raised \$3.25 million from investors in a private securities offering to capitalize the bank. Members of the board of directors are William Babcock, Dennis Lallman, Greg Lovell, Greg McDonald, Marcus Peperzak, Peter Van Der Meulen, and Deborah McWhinney. Mr. Lovell serves as chairman, president and chief executive officer and has sixteen years banking experience with West One Bank, Idaho and Bank of America, Idaho. Other bank officers include Jeff Manser, Linda Rowe, Bryan Furlong, Jennifer Campbell and Pamela Colesworthy. A majority of the directors and shareholders are either local residents or have business or personal ties to the Wood River Valley area. The Wood River Valley has been without a locally-owned financial institution since 1988 when Mountain States Savings Bank, FSB merged with First Federal Savings and Loan Association, headquartered in Coeur d'Alene, to form Mountain West Savings, FSB. Mountain States Savings opened as Mountain States Savings and Loan Association in 1978.

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