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Department of Water Resources

**Names of Parties Filing Document:**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Attorneys' Names and Addresses:**

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**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE  
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS**

|                |   |                                   |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| In Re SRBA     | ) | Subcase Numbers: 73-10518 et. al. |
|                | ) | See Attachment 1                  |
|                | ) |                                   |
| Case No. 39576 | ) | <b>AFFIDAVIT OF</b>               |
|                | ) | <b>ALAN R. BITTNER</b>            |
| _____          | ) |                                   |

|                 |   |     |
|-----------------|---|-----|
| STATE OF IDAHO  | ) |     |
|                 | ) | ss: |
| COUNTY OF LEMHI | ) |     |

I Alan R. Bittner, being first duly sworn, do depose and state:

1. My name is Alan R. Bittner. I am a graduate of Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology in 1989. I am currently employed by the United States, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM),

as a Natural Resource Specialist for the Salmon Field Office, Upper Columbia Salmon Clearwater District (hereinafter "UCSC") of the Bureau of Land Management (hereinafter "BLM") located in Salmon, Idaho. I have extensive knowledge of, and experience with, the official business records of BLM associated with its water right claim filings in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA). This knowledge and experience includes but is not limited to BLM water right claim files, BLM water right field investigations, Master Title Plats (hereinafter "MTP"), Historical Indexes (hereinafter "HI"), and Control Document Index cards (hereinafter "CDI cards"). In the 6 years that I have been dealing with water rights, I have: investigated thousands of claims; collected, compiled and analyzed factual information and evidence for thousands of water right claims; and reviewed and analyzed countless numbers of official business records associated with water rights and maintained by BLM, the Idaho Department of Water Resources (hereinafter "IDWR"), several Idaho Counties, and various federal agencies.

2. As part of my assigned duties and responsibilities, I am responsible for coordinating the activities of BLM within the SRBA for the Challis Field Office and the Salmon Field Office, and individually responsible for handling the water right claims made by the United States of America on behalf of BLM for the Challis and Salmon Field Offices within the UCSC District.

3. At the request of counsel for the United States, I have reviewed the official business records of BLM that comprise the SRBA Water Right Claim files for the above captioned SRBA claims made by the United States of America on behalf of the BLM and have reached the determinations described below.

4. The Master Title Plats are official business records of the United States that identify United States' property and its status. The MTP is the United States' official Record of Title. It is

a graphic display of township survey data, and are drafted from information abstracted, compiled, and composed from the latest approved U.S. Government Survey Plats, survey field notes, and protraction diagrams. It describes the locations of United States property, aliquot parcels, and government surveyed "lots." I have reviewed these records and determined that the federal public domain containing the water sources asserted in the above captioned SRBA claims are located on unreserved federal public domain as of April 17, 1926; and this land currently remains under Department of Interior administration.

5. The claimed water sources were confirmed by field investigation.

6. Based upon the field verification and my review of the field investigation documents, there is sufficient surface water at this site for consumptive use by livestock.

7. Based upon the field verification and my review of the field investigation documents, the source of water for each of the captioned subcases is a spring located at the claimed Point of Diversion (hereinafter "POD") and Place of Use (hereinafter "POU"), except as noted below.

8. I have reviewed BLM official business records for the captioned subcases, including but not limited to, BLM claim files and BLM physical field investigations. I have also reviewed the official business records of IDWR for the captioned subcases, including IDWR's Director's Report recommendations. Each element of the water rights described by the captioned subcases has been independently verified and are exactly as described in the Director's Report recommendations for the state basis of the captioned subcases, except the priority date for a federal reservation pursuant to PWR 107 would be April 17, 1926, quantity was stipulated to in Basin-Wide Issue #9 to be 0.02 cfs, and except as follows. For the following subcases and based upon my review and independent verification, certain elements of the federal reserve basis are not

exactly as described in the Director's Report recommendations for the state basis of the captioned subcases and those elements should be altered as described below:

- a. **Subcase 73-10518:** The Section was incorrectly recorded as Sec 1. The correct legal should be Section 31.
- b. **Subcase 73-10592:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File, GPS data recorded at the site and the respective map it was discovered that the POD and POU location would be more accurately described as SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  respectively.
- c. **Subcase 73-10818:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File and its respective map it was discovered that the POD and POU location would be more accurately described as SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  respectively.
- d. **Subcase 73-10848:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File and its respective map it was discovered that the POD and POU location would be more accurately described as NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  respectively.
- e. **Subcase 73-10882:** There is a discrepancy between the section lines of the United States Geological Survey quadrangle map and the MTP. Based on the MTP and the underlying cadastral survey, the legal description should be NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  for the POD and SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  for the POU.
- f. **Subcase 73-11245:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File and its respective map it was discovered that the POD location would be more accurately described as SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$ .
- g. **Subcase 73-11255:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File and its respective map it was discovered that the POD location would be more accurately described as NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ .
- h. **Subcase 73-11643:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File, its respective map and Master Title Plat it was discovered that the POD and POU location would be more accurately described as NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  and SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  respectively.
- i. **Subcase 73-11645:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File, its respective map and Master Title Plat it was discovered that the POD and POU location would be more accurately described as NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  respectively.

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- j. **Subcase 73-11647:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File, its respective map and Master Title Plat it was discovered that the POD and POU location would be more accurately described as NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  respectively.
- k. **Subcase 73-11649:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File, its respective map and Master Title Plat it was discovered that both the POD and POU location would be more accurately described as Lot 6 of T16N R22E Sec31.
- l. **Subcase 73-11694:** This claim was made at a junction box on a pipeline. The actual spring feeding the pipeline was verified by GPS. The correct location for the POD and POU is T11N R24E Sec 27 SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  and SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  respectively.
- m. **Subcase 73-11886:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File and its respective map it was discovered that the POD and POU location would be more accurately described as SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  respectively.
- n. **Subcase 73-11890:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File and its respective map it was discovered that the POD location would be more accurately described as NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$ .
- o. **Subcase 73-11896:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File, GPS data recorded at the site and the respective map it was discovered that the POD and POU location would be more accurately described as Section 36 NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  and Section 36 NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  respectively.
- p. **Subcase 73-11899:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File, GPS data recorded at the site and the respective map it was discovered that the POD location would be more accurately described as SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SW  $\frac{1}{4}$ .
- q. **Subcase 73-11901:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File, GPS data recorded at the site and the respective map it was discovered that the POU location would be more accurately described as NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

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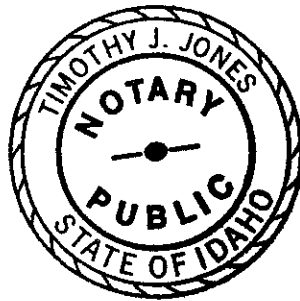
r. **Subcase 73-11902:** Upon closer inspection of the BLM Claim File, its respective map and MTP it was discovered that both the POD and POU location would be more accurately described as Lot 2 of T16N R22E Sec 31.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2003

Alan R. Bittner

Alan R. Bittner

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2003, before me Timothy J. Jones, a notary public, personally appeared Alan R. Bittner, personally known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to this instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same.



Timothy J. Jones

Notary Public for the State of Idaho

Residing at: Salmon

My Commission Expires: 2/16/08

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on August 12, 2003, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **AFFIDAVIT OF ALAN R. BITTNER; SUBCASE NUMBER: 73-10518 et. al., together with Attachment 1** upon the following individuals by placing the documents in the United States Mail in ~~Salmon~~, Idaho, postage paid, and addressed as follows: *by facsimile also to addresses below:*  
*Boise*

Original to:

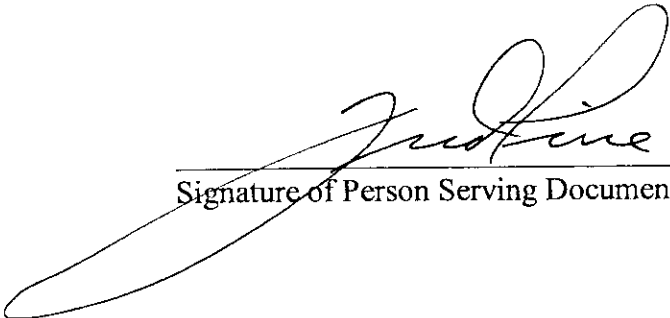
Clerk of the District Court  
Snake River Basin Adjudication  
253 Third Avenue North  
P.O. Box 2707  
Twin Falls, ID 83303-2707

Copies to:

U.S. Department of Justice  
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Office of the Attorney General  
State of Idaho  
P.O. Box 44449  
Boise, ID 83711-4449

IDWR Document Depository  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0098



Signature of Person Serving Documents

## Attachment 1

73-10518  
73-10592  
73-10818  
73-10848  
73-10882  
73-11245  
73-11255  
73-11643  
73-11645  
73-11647  
73-11649  
73-11694  
73-11886  
73-11890  
73-11896  
73-11899  
73-11901  
73-11902