

2002 APR -9 PM 3:15

DISTRICT COURT - SRBA
TWIN FALLS CO., IDAHO
FILED

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	)	SPECIAL MASTER'S REPORT AND
	)	RECOMMENDATION; FINDINGS OF
Case No. 39576	)	FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
	)	
	)	
	)	FOR WATER RIGHT 37-13697

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

A notice of claim was filed for this water right by the United States, USDA Forest Service. The Director of the State of Idaho Department of Water Resources examined the water system for this reporting area. This claim was based only on state law, and asserted a priority date of June 1, 1885. The *Director's Report* contained a recommendation for the elements of this water right. At the hearing on March 7, 2002, IDWR reported that it had investigated the priority date prior to issuing the *Director's Report*.

Objections were filed by Pickett Ranch & Sheep Co., Joe Tugaw, Jared Bedke, Bruce Bedke, Joyce Livestock Company, Jerry Hoagland, Scott Bedke, Karl Bedke, Michael Poulton, Gary Poulton and Western Stockgrowers Association (hereafter "Objectors"). The "Objectors" filed a *Notice of Withdrawal of Objections* on January 29, 2002, and the *Objection* was dismissed with prejudice. There are no unresolved objections remaining.

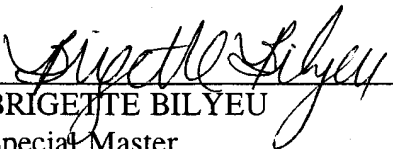
II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The United States claimed this right under state law. There is no assertion that this right is based on a federal reservation. The United States claimed the priority date as June 1, 1885. That priority claim was investigated by IDWR and recommended in the *Director's Report*. Recommendations in *Director's Reports* have *prima facie* weight as set forth in I.C. § 42-1411(4)-(5). Where the *Director's Report* draws a conclusion as to priority date, the *prima facie* weight afforded the *Director's Report* confers a presumption that sufficient proof has been made to

prevail on the issue, absent competent evidence to the contrary. If rebutted, the presumption disappears, and the party with the benefit of the presumption retains the burden of persuasion on the issue. *State v. Hagerman Water Right Owners*, 130 Idaho 736, 947 P.2d 409, 418 (1997). The *Director's Report* was not challenged.

Based on the file and record herein, IT IS RECOMMENDED that this right be decreed with the elements set forth in the attached *Special Master's Recommendation for Partial Decree*.

DATED: April 9, 2002.



BRIGETTE BILYEU
Special Master
Snake River Basin Adjudication

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RECOMMENDATION

APR - 9 2002

Walter S. Sipes
SPECIAL MASTER

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TWIN FALLS CO., IDAHO

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)
Case No. 39576)
_____)

NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF
SPECIAL MASTER'S
RECOMMENDATION

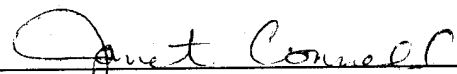
Water Right(s): 37-13697

On April 09, 2002, Special Master BRIGETTE BILYEU issued a SPECIAL MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION for the above subcase(s) pursuant to SRBA Administrative Order 1 (AO1), Section 13a.

Pursuant to SRBA Administrative Order 1, Section 13a, any party to the adjudication including parties to the subcase, may file a Motion to Alter or Amend on or before the 28th day of the next month.

Failure of any party in the adjudication to pursue or participate in a Motion to Alter or Amend the SPECIAL MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION shall constitute a waiver of the right to challenge it before the Presiding Judge.

DATED April 09, 2002.



JANET CONNELL
Deputy Clerk

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In Re SRBA)

Case No. 39576)
_____)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Water Right(s): 37-13697

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that a true and correct copy of the SPECIAL MASTER'S REPORT, SPECIAL MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PARTIAL DECREE and NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL MASTER'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION were mailed on April 09, 2002, with sufficient first-class postage prepaid to the following:

DIRECTOR OF IDWR
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0098

USDA FOREST SERVICE
Represented by:
US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ENVIRONMENT & NATL' RESOURCES
550 WEST FORT STREET, MSC 033
BOISE, ID 83724
Phone: 208-387-0835



JANET CONNELL
Deputy Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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