

June 17, 2004

**HENRYS FORK RANCH PARTNERSHIP  
CO ROBERT LEE  
PO BOX 488  
REXBURG ID 83440**

**RE: EVIDENCE OF PRIORITY FOR SRBA WATER RIGHT CLAIM 21-4099**

Dear Claimant (s):

The Idaho Department of Water Resources is nearing the beginning of water rights review in Basin 21, the Henry's Fork drainage. The Notice(s) of Claim identified with the number shown above has been filed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA). The Notice of Claim indicates water usage is based on "Beneficial Use". Water rights of this type are established by the historical use of water, dating back to when water was first used for the purpose claimed, at or on the place of use identified on the Claim. The date the water was first put to beneficial use, known as the priority date, has not been confirmed by License, Decree, or Permit. For this reason, proof must be provided supporting the priority date. As the claimant, you are responsible for submitting the necessary proof to support the priority date.

*Your claim, as referenced above, claims a Priority Date of JUN 1 1950 from UNNAMED STREAM.*

It is important that each element of the Notice of Claim be verified. For instance, regarding claims for irrigation, the evidence should tend to show that diversion works were in place, that they were capable of diverting the claimed diversion rate, and that the diverted water was beneficially used on the entire claimed place of use on or before the claimed priority date.

For your reference, I have provided a printout of your Notice of Claim and the pamphlet entitled "**Evidence of Priority**". The pamphlet describes the types of evidence which are acceptable and suggests which documents will fulfill this requirement. While I encourage you to read the entire pamphlet, I direct your attention to the two sections entitled "**What Kind of Evidence is Required**" and "**Some Examples of Documents Which May Be Evidence of the Priority Date**". **PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSED PAMPHLET.**

It is our goal to recommend historical water rights within the Snake River Basin as accurately as possible. Field exams to verify other elements of the Notice of Claim have been or soon will be conducted by Department personnel.

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**The Department will not recommend the Notice of Claim be decreed by the court if  
evidence of a priority date is not submitted. The Notice of Claim will be disallowed.**  
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Please submit documentation supporting the priority date as soon as possible,  
referencing all documents with the corresponding claim number.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ernest Carlson*

*for*

Allen B. Ruberry  
Sr. Water Resource Agent  
Adjudication Bureau

cc: File

Enclosure: Brochure on "Evidence of Priority"