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Department of Water Resources

Names of Parties Filing Document:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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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 Number: 55-13667
	)	
	)	AFFIDAVIT OF
Case No. 39576	)	FREDRIC W. PRICE
	)	
	)	
_____	)	

STATE OF IDAHO)
) ss:
COUNTY OF ADA)

I Fredric W. Price, being of lawful age, and having first been duly sworn, state the following:

1. My present position is that of Water Rights Specialist for the United States, Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (hereinafter "BLM"), Idaho State office. My current responsibilities include coordinating the BLM's efforts for the Snake River Basin Adjudication (hereinafter "SRBA") in Idaho. In that capacity, I provide guidance and technical support to the State Director, Field Office Managers, and technical specialists in BLM field offices, particularly those specialists working in water rights and related issues. I develop agency policy on water issues and in other programs affected by water rights, such as the range management and realty programs. I also review, interpret and analyze water rights claims for preparing opinions, recommendations, objections and other SRBA documents to the Department of Justice.

2. I have been employed by the BLM since 1982 in the following positions:

a. Eleven and a half years in various positions within the Rangeland Firefighting Program at the BLM, Shoshone Field Office. I spent 12 months working on that office's water rights team to develop and create 5,500 BLM claims;

b. Since August of 1993 as a Water Rights Specialist in the BLM, State Office;

3. My experience with water rights is as follows:

a. My eleven and a half years in BLM's fire program required that I have the ability to understand and interpret maps, legal land descriptions, and Range Improvement Project Files. I was routinely required to: travel to remote fire locations with just a map; map the position and extent of fires for which I was responsible; locate, construct and maintain range improvements (including but not limited to: spring developments, pipelines and fences), and to supplement the range improvement project files. I taught several

courses to new employees in interpreting maps and BLM Master Title Plats, as well as, in the use of a compass. In my work with the BLM, I have been responsible for tasks requiring an ability to interpret: maps, legal land descriptions, and water claims, including the preparation, mapping and review of 5,500 SRBA water right claims for BLM. I have reviewed hundreds of Range Improvement Project Files for the purpose of locating the project, to determine when it was constructed, whether it was completed, whether it is still functional, to identify candidates for filing SRBA water claims, and to capture certain types of projects into the Geographic Information System (i.e. computer mapping system).

b. As a Water Rights Specialist in the BLM State Office, it is my responsibility to provide guidance and direction to Idaho BLM offices in all matters relating to water rights, and make recommendations to the Department of Justice. My experience with water rights in my present position is as follows. I develop policy for BLM across several programs to deal with water issues, such as the range management and realty programs. I have reviewed tens of thousands of legal land descriptions represented in Points of Diversion (hereinafter "POD") and Places of Use (hereinafter "POU") that were published in SRBA Director's Reports to determine land ownership by comparing those land descriptions to BLM's Master Title Plats and Historical Indexes. I have reviewed hundreds of deeds to determine who owned what land descriptions. I've determined the changes needed to over a thousand water right descriptions for use with the SRBA Standard Form 5 (hereinafter "SF-5") to resolve objections involving the BLM. I have extensive knowledge of, and experience with, the official business records of BLM and the Idaho Department of Water Resources (hereinafter "IDWR"), including but not limited to: BLM water right claim files, BLM field investigations, Master Title Plats, Historical

Indexes, Control Document Indexes (hereinafter "CDI"), Tract Books, IDWR Adjudication Files, and IDWR Water Right Files. I provide advice, guidance and direction to BLM field office personnel as to investigating and preparing claims, how to interpret water rights and how they relate to other water rights. For hundreds of subcases, I have made determinations whether multiple claims exist for the same source and what the nature of their relationship is to each other. I have reviewed hundreds of Range Improvement Project Files for the purpose of locating the project, to determine when it was constructed, whether it was completed, if it is still functional, who contributed to the construction and in what amounts, and to determine whether water is present and in what amounts. I developed the investigative criteria to be used for BLM field offices to investigate water sources for claims preparation and for objection purposes. I have reviewed thousands of BLM claim files and field investigations conducted by BLM. I have also performed investigations of water rights in the field. I routinely provide technical assistance, reports, recommendations and opinions to the Department of Justice concerning all the above matters.

4. At the request of counsel for the United States, I have reviewed the official business records of BLM and IDWR for the above captioned subcase for an SRBA claim made by the United States of America on behalf of the BLM, and have reached the determinations described herein.

5. The Master Title Plat (hereinafter "MTP") is an official business record of BLM. The MTP is the United States' official Record of Title. It is a graphic display of township survey data, and is 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."

The Historical Index (hereinafter "HI") is an official business record of the United States that maintains a time line of events occurring on United States' property.

6. Based upon a review of BLM's SRBA water right claim file and IDWR's files, the above captioned subcase is derived from a BLM "dual" claim (BLMIdent 5501582513) based upon state and federal law. Subcase 55-13667 represents the federal law based portion of the original claim. The federal claim basis is claimed pursuant to an Executive Order, dated April 17, 1926, and known as Public Water Reserve 107 (hereinafter "PWR 107").

The state law based portion of BLM's claim 5501582513 was recommended disallowed by IDWR under 55-12464 and a partial decree disallowing 55-12464 was issued on January 27, 1999. The disallowance of 55-12464 is acceptable to BLM as BLM normally prefers to receive a partial decree of the federal basis.

7. I have reviewed the official business records of BLM and compared the above captioned subcase to BLM's MTP and HIs. I was able to determine that the above captioned subcase is located on unreserved federal public domain as of April 17, 1926; and this land currently remains under Department of Interior administration.

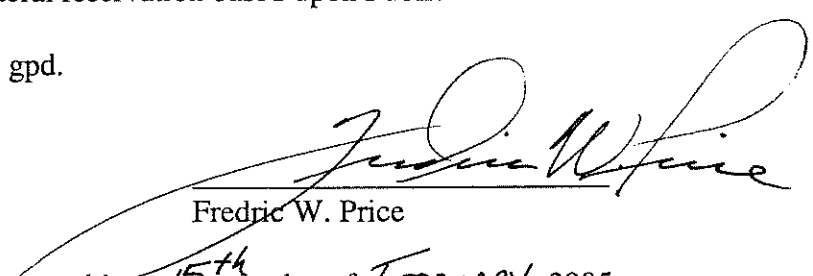
8. The water source described by the above captioned subcase was confirmed by field investigation.

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

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10. Based upon the field verification and my review of the field investigation documents, the source of water the above captioned subcase is a spring or waterhole located at the Point of Diversion (hereinafter "POD") and Place of Use (hereinafter "POU") described in the federal reserve abstract of 55-13667 dated February 12, 1998.

11. I have reviewed the official business records of BLM for the above captioned subcase for a federal reserved water right pursuant to PWR 107. The elements of the claimed water right have been verified through examination of the claim file and physical field investigation and is correctly described in the February 12, 1998 abstract of 55-13667. See Attachment 1. Attachment 1 to this affidavit is a true and correct copy of the federal reserve abstract of 55-13667 from Part II of the Basin 55 Domestic & Stockwater Claims Director's Report. The quantity for a federal reservation based upon Public Water Reserve 107 should be 0.02 cfs, not to exceed 13,000 gpd.


Fredric W. Price

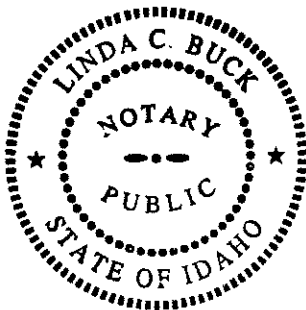
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of FEBRUARY, 2005.
Witnessed by my hand and official seal.


Linda C. Buck

Notary Public in and for the State of Idaho

Residing at: Mountain Home, ID

My Commission Expires: 12-21-2005



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on FEB. 15, 2005, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **AFFIDAVIT OF FREDRIC W. PRICE; SUBCASE NUMBER: 55-13667, together with Attachment 1** by placing the document in the United States Mail in Boise, Idaho, postage paid, and addressed as follows, as well as, by facsimile:

Original to:

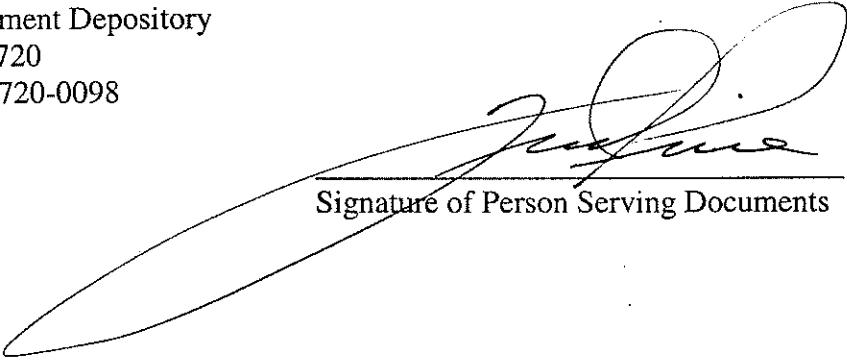
Clerk of the District Court
Snake River Basin Adjudication
253 Third Avenue North
P.O. Box 2707
Twin Falls, ID 83303-2707

Copies to:

U.S. Department of Justice
General Litigation Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division
550 West Fort Street, MSC 033
Boise, ID 83724

Chief, Natural Resources Division
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

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

IN RE THE GENERAL ADJUDICATION
OF RIGHTS TO THE USE OF WATER FROM
THE SNAKE RIVER BASIN WATER SYSTEM.

CIVIL CASE NUMBER: 39576

Ident. Number: ASS-13667
Date Received: 3/25/1993
Receipt No: X111111
Received By:

NOTICE OF CLAIM TO A WATER RIGHT
ACQUIRED UNDER FEDERAL LAW

1. Name: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH 208-373-4000
Address: USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
IDAHO STATE OFFICE
1387 S VINNELL WAY
BOISE ID 83709
2. Date of Priority: APR 17, 1926
3. Source: SPRING Trib. to: JORDAN CREEK
4. Point of Diversion:
- | Township | Range | Section | 1/4 of 1/4 of 1/4 | Lot | County |
|----------|-------|---------|-------------------|-----|--------|
| 05S | 03W | 6 | NE SE NW | | OWYHEE |
5. Description of diverting works:
UNDEVELOPED SPRING
6. Water is used for the following purposes:
- | Purpose | From | To | C.F.S | (or) | A.F.A. |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|
| STOCKWATER | 01/01 | 12/31 | 0.020 | | |
7. Total Quantity Appropriated is:
- 0.020 C.F.S. (and/or) A.F.A.
8. Total consumptive use is Acre Feet Per Annum.
9. Non-irrigation uses:
- STOCKWATER; WILDLIFE VAR AMOUNTS; DOMESTIC

10. Place of Use:

Township	Range	Section	1/4 of 1/4	Lot	Use	Acres
05S	03W	6	SE	NW	STOCK	

11. Place of use in counties: OWYHEE

12. Do you own the property listed above as place of use? YES

13. Other Water Rights Used:

STATE LICENSE PREVIOUSLY OBTAINED, SEE REMARKS

14. Remarks:

BIM RECORD ID = 5501582513

15. Basis of Claim: RESERVED

16. Signature(s)

(a.) By signing below, I/We acknowledge that I/We have received, read and understand the form entitled "How you will receive notice in the Snake River Basin Adjudication." (b.) I/We do not wish to receive and pay a small annual fee for monthly copies of the docket sheet.

Number of attachments:

For Individuals:

I/We do solemnly swear or affirm that the statements contained in the foregoing document are true and correct.

Signature of Claimant(s):

Date:

Date:

State of Idaho)

)

Ss.

County of)

)

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) before me this day

of 19

Notary Public

Seal

Residing at

My Commission Expires