



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

322 East Front Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 287-4800 Fax: (208) 287-6700 Web Site: www.idwr.idaho.gov

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

April 18, 2005

Stan and Trish Dowton
HC 62 Box 1180
Ellis, ID 83235

Re: Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA)
Subcase Nos. 73-4012A, 73-4013A, 73-4014A, 73-7033

Dear Stan and Trish:

As you know, the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) is currently reviewing your claims to water rights in the SRBA. The claim numbers of interest (subcase nos.) are shown above.

These claims are based on previously unconfirmed water rights. The first step in our investigation is to establish the correct priority date for the water rights. Any further investigation will proceed only after the priority date has been established.

We have received the information you provided concerning homestead entry dates and Desert Land Entry dates. Although this is good information concerning when ranching first occurred on your property, it does not establish priority dates associated with your individual parcels of irrigated land. Remember, when establishing priority, it is important to both establish the date and verify that the use claimed commenced on that date. Rather than a "broad-stroke" overview, we need specific information about which fields were irrigated, by what conveyance system, and when. A more likely approach may be providing evidence of ditch construction or conveyance.

There are many ways to confirm the priority date you have claimed. If you need additional help with this task, please call me at (208)287-4914.

Sincerely yours,

Roxanne Brown
Sr. Water Resource Agent
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources

Enclosure (1)