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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

July 19, 2005

Roxanne Brown
Sr. Water Resource Agent
Adjudication Bureau
Idaho Department of Water Resources
P. O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

Re: Water Right Claim Number 75-10003

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing this letter to confirm priority status for a small domestic and stockwater beneficial use claim (number 75-10003) on the 25 acres of private homesteaded land surrounding the mouth of East Boulder Creek on the Salmon River. The following articulates historic beneficial water use over several generations, beginning with when my family obtained and used water on the land. To the best of my knowledge, this is an accurate record that affirms historic beneficial water use.

My parents purchased the land from Jim "Elmer" M. and Verna Hall in 1970. We, personally, have had 3.5 decades of water use on the property beginning in April, 1970. Our water usage has been primarily domestic and culinary, and for garden irrigation. My father, Donald Thurber, worked for the US Forest Service at Indianola Ranger Station, just across from this property for 23 years. He was the one in our family who first managed a large organic garden from which our family routinely obtained vegetables each summer, as well as enjoyed a remarkable selection of hand seeded flowing plants.

With regard to earlier historical use of water on this property, during the process of inspecting and exploring the options for purchase in 1969 and 1970, we spent a number of days with the Halls getting to know them, hiking the acreage to examine boundaries and learning the history of their experience on the Salmon River. Mr. Hall told us that he moved to this property when he was 5 years old which must have been in the late 1800's or early 1900's. Mr. Hall grew up on this property and stayed and lived there after he married his wife, Verna, who had been his school teacher in Shoup. His parents moved down river below Hale Gulch where Mr. Hall described stories of himself and his brothers helping his Dad, Frank Hall, build their new house. He showed us the site where that home was located and told us that one of his family members was buried on the ridge overlooking the site. In the history River of No Return by Johnny Carrey and Cort Conley, it says that "on the point across the river from the road about a mile below Hale Gulch, a two story log house was built by Frank Hall and his 3 boys about 1915." (page 87) We know that the Halls had already been living on our property at East Boulder Creek prior to that, affirming their water use back through the turn of the century. We learned from the Halls that there were two families sequentially using our property prior to them, thereby extending use that much earlier.

When the Hall family lived there, there was a house on the upper end of our property right across from Indianola Ranger Station where they had apple trees and kept livestock. When we purchased the property in 1970, there still existed a diversion ditch from East Boulder Creek to irrigate this acreage.

On the lower end of the property down around the corner from Indianola Ranger Station, the Halls had another house, a workshop, a shed for their cow, a shed for storage and a one room log cabin. They built a series of rock ponds in front of the house that they kept fish in and they landscaped the grounds with some 37 different varieties of lilacs that Verna proudly nurtured. The grounds also had a number of fruit trees including apricots and apples. Mr. Hall, a talented woodworker, made toys and built all of his own furniture in his shop that was powered by water from East Boulder Creek. We still have one of his chairs that he made that was an early version of a recliner where you can lower the seatback by placing a support into different notches like a modern day lawn chair. Mr. Hall's shop was equipped with a lathe, a drill press, a jigsaw and a circular saw, all powered with a system of belts and pulleys and a waterwheel using East Boulder Creek water.

Mr. Hall had also built a shower behind the shop where the water was stored in a metal lined container on top where it was warmed by the sun during the day. In addition to the family's domestic water use, the hydro power for running the shop and the irrigation for the grounds and the livestock, Mr. Hall also reported the use of East Boulder Creek for placer mining in his family's early years on the property.

Sadly the Halls and my parents, Don and Lois Thurber, are all deceased, but the lives of my brother, sister and myself are all richer for the treasured experiences and history that they shared with us. The current use of East Boulder Creek for us, remains primarily domestic and culinary with some irrigation of the garden and grounds. Our major concern is that the water remain pure and drinkable. We are anxious to retain our priority rights to assure that the water in East Boulder Creek remains unpolluted by other interests or misuse.

Please contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,


Wendy Thurber Gross, RN, MPH
7227 San Pedro Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32217
(904) 737-6907
Water Right Claim Number 75-10003

Cc: Lee P. Ritzau, Esq.

Subscribed and sworn before me, this 20th
day of July, 2005, a Notary Public
in and for Duval County,
State of Florida

(Signature)
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission expires Sep. 08, 2008



Heather Fazio
Commission # DD353533
Expires: SEP. 08, 2008
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