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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

Case No. 39576

STATE OF IDAHO)

) ss:
COUNTY OF ADA)

)
) Subcase Numbers: 45-13465, 45-13466,
) and 45-13467
)
) **AFFIDAVIT OF**
) **FREDRIC W. PRICE**
)

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 subcases for SRBA claims 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."

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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 files and IDWR's abstract/recommendations, the above captioned subcases are BLM "dual" claims based upon state and federal law. 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 basis is based on beneficial use with a priority date of June 28, 1934. The 1934 date was reached through settlement with the State of Idaho.

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

8. The water sources described by the above captioned subcases were confirmed by field investigation.

9. Based upon the field verification and my review of the field investigation documents for each of the above captioned subcases, there is sufficient surface water at these sites for consumptive use by livestock.

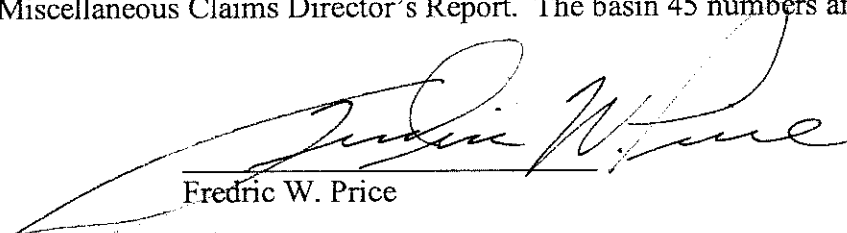
10. Based upon the field verification and my review of the field investigation documents, the source of water for each of the above captioned subcases is a spring or waterhole located at the Point of Diversion (hereinafter "POD") and Place of Use (hereinafter "POU") described in the April 18, 2005 Late & Miscellaneous Claims Director's Report recommendation/abstract (see Attachment 1, pages 1-3).

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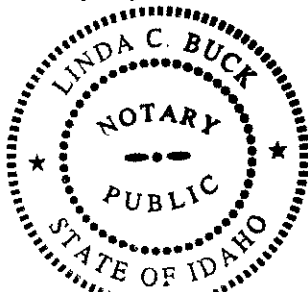
11. I have reviewed the official business records of BLM for each of the above captioned subcases for a federal reserved water right pursuant to PWR 107. The elements of the claimed water rights have been verified through examination of claim files and physical field investigations and are correctly described in the April 18, 2005 Late & Miscellaneous Claims Director's Report recommendation/abstracts. The quantity for a federal reservation based upon Public Water Reserve 107 should be 0.02 cfs, not to exceed 13,000 gpd.

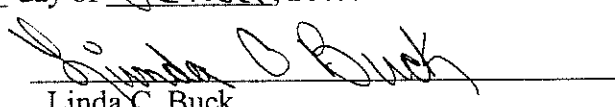
a. BLM would prefer to receive partial decrees for the federal reserve basis.

b. The claims subject to this affidavit were originally recommended/abstracted as 43-10917, 43-10919, and 43-10921, respectively, in the B43 Domestic & Stockwater Director's Report issued on March 2, 1998. BLM objected to each of the basin 43 recommendations/abstracts on July 2, 1998 because the rights actually reside in basin 45. IDWR produced an NCAP on June 27, 2002 disallowing the basin 43 numbers and assigning the basin 45 numbers that are the subject of this affidavit. BLM did not object to the NCAP. The Special Master issued a Report & Recommendation dismissing the basin 43 numbers on August 16, 2005. IDWR reported/abstracted the basin 45 numbers in the April 18, 2005 Late & Miscellaneous Claims Director's Report. The basin 45 numbers are uncontested.


Fredric W. Price

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st day of October, 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 Nov 1, 2005, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **AFFIDAVIT OF FREDRIC W. PRICE; SUBCASE NUMBERS: 45-13465, 45-13466, and 45-13467; 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

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
RECOMMENDED WATER RIGHTS ACQUIRED UNDER STATE LAW

RIGHT NUMBER: 45-13465

NAME AND ADDRESS: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH
USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
IDAHO STATE OFFICE
1387 S VINNELL WAY
BOISE ID 83709-1657

SOURCE: SPRING

TRIBUTARY: SINKS

QUANTITY: 0.020 CFS

This right, Right No. 45-12477, Right No. 45-12479, and other rights common to the same grazing allotment shall be limited to the quantity of water beneficially used by the number of stock with the allotment.

The quantity of water under this right shall not exceed 13,000 gallons per day.

PRIORITY DATE: 06/28/1934

* 4/17/1926 CLAIMED UNDER FEDERAL RESERVED WATER RIGHT.*
THIS WATER RIGHT IS ALSO CLAIMED BASED ON FEDERAL LAW WITH AN APRIL 17, 1926, DATE OF PRIORITY PURSUANT TO AN EXECUTIVE ORDER SIGNED THE SAME DATE AND KNOWN AS PUBLIC WATER RESERVE 107.

POINT OF

DIVERSION: T15S R22E S25 NENWSW Within CASSIA County

PURPOSE AND
PERIOD OF USE:

PURPOSE OF USE	PERIOD OF USE	QUANTITY
STOCKWATER	01/01 12/31	0.020 CFS

PLACE OF USE: STOCKWATER Within CASSIA County

T15S R22E S25 NWSW

OTHER PROVISIONS NECESSARY FOR DEFINITION OR ADMINISTRATION OF THIS WATER RIGHT:

This partial decree is subject to such general provisions necessary for the definition of the rights or for the efficient administration of the water rights as may be ultimately determined by the Court at a point in time no later than the entry of a final unified decree. Section 42-1412(6), Idaho Code.

The quantity of water decreed for this water right is not a determination of historical beneficial use.

EXPLANATORY MATERIAL: BASIS OF CLAIM - Beneficial Use

BLM RECORD ID = 4302480055

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
RECOMMENDED WATER RIGHTS ACQUIRED UNDER STATE LAW

RIGHT NUMBER: 45-13466

NAME AND ADDRESS: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH
USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
IDAHO STATE OFFICE
1387 S VINNELL WAY
BOISE ID 83709-1657

SOURCE: SPRING

TRIBUTARY: SINKS

QUANTITY: 0.020 CFS

This right, Right No. 45-13687, and other rights common to the same grazing allotment shall be limited to the quantity of water beneficially used by the number of stock with the allotment.

The quantity of water under this right shall not exceed 13,000 gallons per day.

PRIORITY DATE: 06/28/1934

* 4/17/1926 CLAIMED UNDER FEDERAL RESERVED WATER RIGHT.*
THIS WATER RIGHT IS ALSO CLAIMED BASED ON FEDERAL LAW WITH AN APRIL 17, 1926, DATE OF PRIORITY PURSUANT TO AN EXECUTIVE ORDER SIGNED THE SAME DATE AND KNOWN AS PUBLIC WATER RESERVE 107.

POINT OF

DIVERSION: T15S R22E S25 NWSESW Within CASSIA County

PURPOSE AND
PERIOD OF USE:

PURPOSE OF USE	PERIOD OF USE	QUANTITY
STOCKWATER	01/01 12/31	0.020 CFS

PLACE OF USE: STOCKWATER Within CASSIA County

T15S R22E S25 SESW

OTHER PROVISIONS NECESSARY FOR DEFINITION OR ADMINISTRATION OF THIS WATER RIGHT:

This partial decree is subject to such general provisions necessary for the definition of the rights or for the efficient administration of the water rights as may be ultimately determined by the Court at a point in time no later than the entry of a final unified decree. Section 42-1412(6), Idaho Code.

The quantity of water decreed for this water right is not a determination of historical beneficial use.

EXPLANATORY MATERIAL: BASIS OF CLAIM - Beneficial Use

BLM RECORD ID = 4302480056

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
RECOMMENDED WATER RIGHTS ACQUIRED UNDER STATE LAW

RIGHT NUMBER: 45-13467

NAME AND ADDRESS: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH
USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
IDAHO STATE OFFICE
1387 S VINNELL WAY
BOISE ID 83709-1657

SOURCE: SPRING

TRIBUTARY: SINKS

QUANTITY: 0.020 CFS

This right, Right No. 45-11006, and other rights common to the same grazing allotment shall be limited to the quantity of water beneficially used by the number of stock with the allotment.

The quantity of water under this right shall not exceed 13,000 gallons per day.

PRIORITY DATE: 06/28/1934

* 4/17/1926 CLAIMED UNDER FEDERAL RESERVED WATER RIGHT.*
THIS WATER RIGHT IS ALSO CLAIMED BASED ON FEDERAL LAW WITH AN APRIL 17, 1926, DATE OF PRIORITY PURSUANT TO AN EXECUTIVE ORDER SIGNED THE SAME DATE AND KNOWN AS PUBLIC WATER RESERVE 107.

POINT OF
DIVERSION:

T15S R22E S23 SWNWNE Within CASSIA County

PURPOSE AND
PERIOD OF USE:

<u>PURPOSE OF USE</u>	<u>PERIOD OF USE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
STOCKWATER	01/01 12/31	0.020 CFS

PLACE OF USE:

STOCKWATER Within CASSIA County
T15S R22E S23 NWNE

OTHER PROVISIONS NECESSARY FOR DEFINITION OR ADMINISTRATION OF THIS WATER RIGHT:

This partial decree is subject to such general provisions necessary for the definition of the rights or for the efficient administration of the water rights as may be ultimately determined by the Court at a point in time no later than the entry of a final unified decree. Section 42-1412(6), Idaho Code.

The quantity of water decreed for this water right is not a determination of historical beneficial use.

EXPLANATORY MATERIAL: BASIS OF CLAIM - Beneficial Use

BLM RECORD ID = 4302480057