



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

15 West Center Street, Soda Springs, ID 83276

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DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

Roland Allen Land & Livestock, Inc.
2020 Conant Ave.
Burley, Idaho 83318

April 23, 2003

Re: Evidence of Priority

Claim No.(s) A27-04156 & A27-04157

Dear Claimant (s):

The Idaho Department of Water Resources has begun its water right review in Basin 27. The Notice(s) of Claim identified with the number shown above, has been filed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA). The Notice 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 Notice. The date the water was first put to use, known as the priority date, has not been confirmed by a 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.**

It is important that each element of the Notice be substantiated. 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 enclosed the pamphlet entitled "Evidence of Priority". The pamphlet describes the types of evidence required 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".

It is our goal to recommend historical water rights within the Snake River Basin as accurately as possible.

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The Department cannot recommend the court decree the Notice if no evidence of a priority date is submitted.
.....

Please submit the documentation supporting the priority date by May 23, 2003, referencing all documents with the corresponding Notice number. If you have any questions not covered by this letter, please feel free to contact me at 547-3993.

Respectfully,

Cindy E. Bird
Adjudication Bureau

Enclosure: Brochure on "Evidence of Priority"
Adjudication Claim Report

Pertaining to Water Rights on Slug Creek:

Allen Ranches Inc. ^{Before 1952} ~~from 1945~~; then Roland Allen Land & Livestock Inc. up to the present time have used water rights on Slug Creek when water was available. There are ditches and levies still in place. These were developed before H.H. Allen bought the ranch ^{from JD} by Austin Bros Inc.

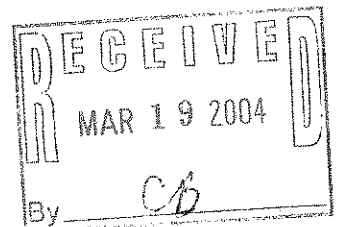
Blackfoot River is the only water delivered: Slug Creek is a tributary to the Blackfoot River, therefore does not have to be listed on reports because it is not delivered. To my knowledge Allens have used irrigation water more than 70% of the years and stock water every year.

Pertaining to the Blackfoot River: Pertaining to extended use: Allens have been given permission to use extended water after July 1 date when water was available. Probably 50% of years since the ranch was purchased.

John Davidson

John H. Davidson

Date 15 Mar 04



WATER RESOURCES BOARD
BOISE, IDAHO
FEB. 6, 1995

Dear Sir:

My father, H. H. Allen, bought the Lower Austin Ranch early in 1941. On October 11th of that year, I Roland Allen, moved to the ranch as manager. Since that time I have consistently been connected with the ranch. So I am speaking about my experience there.

When I moved to the ranch there were two concrete dams in the river as points for taking water from the river for irrigation. A few years later we added one more dam which helped to get water to the west end of the meadows. This one was used for a few years and then was abandoned because it was difficult to maintain.

The first two mentioned deteriorated and finally had to be replaced and are in use every summer. Until about 1962 we were harvesting hay from the meadows. Since that time we have continued to irrigate the same land for pasturing cattle. During the years that we put up hay we would turn off the water about July 1st and then after the hay was up we would turn out the water again if it was available and with permission of the water master.

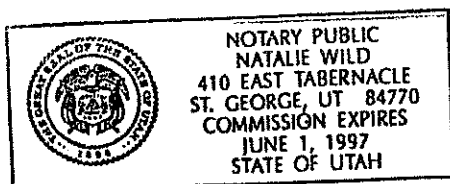
On extremely dry or short water years we were informed by the water master when it would be necessary for us to stop irrigating. This always varied from year to year depending on how full the reservoir was and the amount of rainfall. On good water years the water master would just tell us to use it as needed unless we were notified otherwise.

For quite a few years I served on the board of directors of the irrigation company and attended the meetings annually. Since that time my son in law has been serving in that capacity. So we have always stayed in touch with the Water Master and have never used late water without his permission. We have even cleared with him when we needed stock water on extremely dry years. And we have had a few of those lately. For the most part we live in an area that gets a heavy snow fall during the winters and there is sufficient water.

We have used water for irrigation on the ranch well over 50% of the years from 1942 to 1994 after July 1st. Of course the time used each year has varied with water conditions at the time as well as our needs and the needs of other users as determined by the Water Master.

Respectfully submitted by,


Roland R. Allen



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