

** This is a clarification letter of Roland R. Allen's letter to Water Resources of Feb 6, 1995

All clarifications are in parenthesis with an attachment of the legal description of the Lower Austin Ranch.

Water Resources Board
Boise, Idaho
Feb. 6, 1995

Dear Sirs:

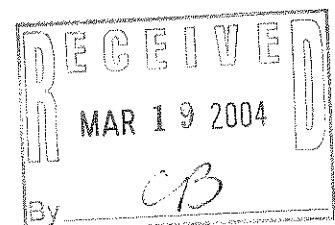
My father, H.H. Allen(Jr.), bought the Lower Austin Ranch (attachment) early in 1941. On October 11th of that year, I, Roland R. Allen, moved to the ranch as manager. Since that time I have consistently been connected with the ranch. So I am speaking about my experience there.

When I moved to the ranch there were two concrete dams (1st-NENE of Sec 25) (2nd-NENE quarter corner of Sec 26) in the Blackfoot River as points for taking water from the river for irrigation. A few years later we added one more damn (Sec 34 SWSW quarter corner, where the Slug Creek drops into the Blackfoot River) which helped to get water to the west end of the meadows. This damn was used for a few years and then abandoned because it was difficult to maintain.

The first two mentioned (damns) 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 hay we would turn off the water about July 1st and then after the hay was up we would turn out the water again (in reduced amounts) if it was available and with the 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, Keith Hunsaker, 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 (extended water in reduced amounts) for irrigation on the ranch well over 59% 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 3/16/04

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