

22-12654

Trent

February 2, 2006

Wilford Irrigation & MGF Co.
C/O Brant Kerbs Pres.
20 N 2500 E
St Anthony ID 83445

RE: Supporting documentation for Stock Water or Ground Water Recharge

Dear Brant:

Over the past several months numerous meetings have taken place with individuals and representatives of water delivery organizations in the upper Snake River Valley and the Department of Water Resources (IDWR) concerning the non-irrigation season diversion of stock water and ground water recharge. In response to these meetings the following criteria were identified for evaluating and recommending these two uses.

- The claimant will have to provide documentation that verifies a historical practice of diverting water during the non-irrigation season for the purpose of providing stock water and ground water recharge. An example would be copies of the minutes for a water delivery organization referencing the diversion of water for these two uses. This information also will be used to help establish the priority date of the use.
- The claimant needs to provide copies of records showing the quantity of water historically diverted during the non-irrigation season. These records will be used as a basis for recommending the diversion rates for these two uses.
- The claimant will have to provide documents, written statements and/or affidavits from individuals who have witnessed the non-irrigation season diversion of water. These individuals need to provide a historical perspective based on actual observation.

Claimants need to assess their actual diversion requirements for stock water and ground water recharge. The quantity of water claimed for non-irrigation season stock water should be the amount needed to reach the end of the delivery system plus provide drinking water for stock. Claimants should not rely upon ground water recharge as a use to supplement the stock water in order for water to reach the end of the delivery system. *Claimants holding Winter Water Savings contracts may have lost their entitlement to divert water for 150 days between November 1 and April 30 through either abandonment or forfeiture.*

For some claimants, amending claims to reflect the necessary quantity for stock water will result in a substantial filing fee (\$100 per cfs). This fee is not refundable, which emphasizes the importance of providing documentation that supports the claimed uses.

If you or the organization you represent have already amended one or more claims and provided the documentation identified above, you may disregard this letter.

Individuals or organizations wishing assistance in amending their claims can call the Eastern Region office.

Respectfully yours,
Ernest Carlsen

Water Right Supervisor

Enclosures (2)
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