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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Names of Parties Filing Document:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Attorneys' Names and Addresses:

IGNACIA S. MORENO
Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division

R. LEE LEININGER
Trial Attorney, U.S. Dept. of Justice
Natural Resources Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division
550 West Fort Street, MSC 033
Boise, Idaho 83724
Ph.: (303) 844-1364 FAX: (303) 844-1350

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)
) Subcase Number: 37-20502
 Case No. 39576)
) **AFFIDAVIT OF**
) **FREDRIC W. PRICE**
)

STATE OF IDAHO)
)
COUNTY OF ADA) SS:

I Fredric W. Price, being of lawful age, and having first been duly sworn, do depose and state:

//

1. My name is Fredric W. Price. I am an employee of the United States, Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management. The following statements are based upon my personal knowledge. 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 right 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. Water Rights Specialist at the BLM, State Office in Boise, Idaho since August of 1993.

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), prepare as-built drawings, 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 at the BLM State Office, it is my responsibility to provide guidance and direction to Idaho BLM offices in all matters relating to water rights. I am also responsible for making recommendations to the Department of Justice and provide technical support on matter involving the SRBA. 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 used these resources to determine the ownership history for thousands of legal land descriptions. I provide training to BLM employees in how to read and interpret 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 for thousands of water right descriptions for use within settlement documents (such as 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 water right field investigations, Master Title Plats, Historical Indexes, Control Document Indexes (hereinafter "CDI"), Tract Books, Serialized Case Recordation Files, Cadastral Survey Plats, Mining Claim Files, Grazing Allotment Files, Grazing Operator Files, 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 of the above matters.

4. At the request of counsel for the United States, I have reviewed the official business records of BLM and IDWR regarding the captioned subcase for an SRBA claim 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."

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 file and IDWR's abstract/recommendation, the captioned subcase is a BLM "dual" claim 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 captioned subcase to BLM's MTPs and HIs. I was able to determine that the above captioned subcase is located on unreserved federal public domain as of April 17, 1926; and this land currently remains under Department of Interior administration.

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8. The water source described by the captioned subcase was confirmed by field investigation. The source is a playa which is a waterhole and is correctly described as "Unnamed Stream" pursuant to IDWR standards.

9. Based upon the field verification and my review of the field investigation and claim file documents for the captioned subcase, there is sufficient surface water at this site for consumptive use by livestock.

10. Based upon the field verification and my review of the field investigation and claim file documents, the source of water for the captioned subcase is a spring or waterhole located at the Point of Diversion (hereinafter "POD") and Place of Use (hereinafter "POU") described in the SF-5 filed with the court on August 12, 2009, except as follows. Since the creation of the claim file, this area has been resurveyed, but the resurvey was not detected during preparation of the SF-5, therefore the POD and POU elements need clarification to reflect a reference to a new government surveyed lot, however the location of the claim is not being changed: POD should be changed from SENENW, S13, T03S, R22E to Lot 3 (SENENW); and the POU listed in the same location as NENW should be changed to Lot 3 (NENW). Attachment 1 to this affidavit is a true and correct copy of the Master Title Plat (MTP) for T03S, R22E, which I personally obtained.

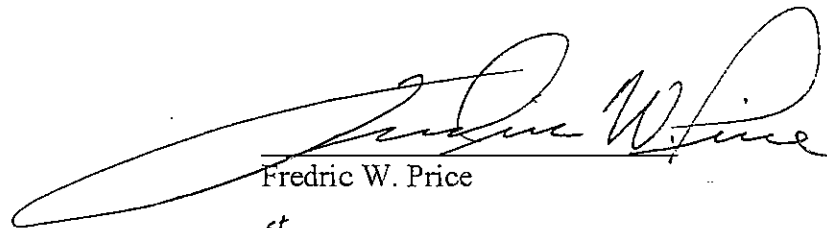
11. I have reviewed the official business records of BLM for the captioned subcase for a federal reserved water right pursuant to PWR 107. The elements of the claimed water right have been verified through examination of the claim file and physical field investigation and is correctly described in the SF-5 filed with the court on August 12, 2009, except as noted herein.

The quantity for a federal reservation based upon Public Water Reserve 107 should be 0.02 cfs, not to exceed 13,000 gpd. For this claim (37-20502), the source is a waterhole (playa) and therefore the quantity is defined in terms of an annual volume (acre-feet per year) instead of cubic

feet per second (CFS). The quantity claimed (2.30 AFY) under this right (37-20502) is the capacity of the natural playa (2.30 AFY).

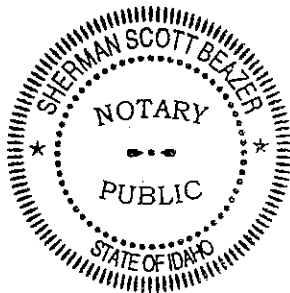
A portion of the playa was deepened to increase the total capacity to better serve demand within the allotment. The additional capacity was claimed pursuant to state law under 37-20496, hence the combined use remark under the quantity element.

BLM prefers to receive a partial decree for 37-20502 under the Federal Reserve basis.


Fredric W. Price

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of February, 2010.
Witnessed by my hand and official seal.


Sherman Scott Beazer



Notary Public in and for the State of Idaho
Residing at: Boise, Idaho
My Commission Expires: 12-10-2015

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on Feb 1, 2010, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **AFFIDAVIT OF FREDRIC W. PRICE; SUBCASE NUMBER: 37-20502** by placing the document in the United States Mail in Boise, Idaho, postage paid, and addressed as follows:

Original to:

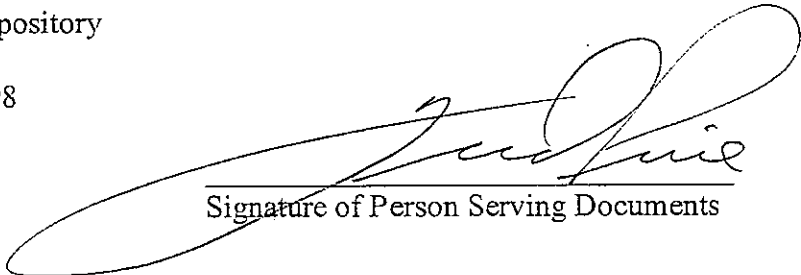
Clerk of the District Court
Snake River Basin Adjudication
253 Third Avenue North
P.O. Box 2707
Twin Falls, ID 83303-2707

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

Names of Parties Filing Document:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Attorneys' Names and Addresses:

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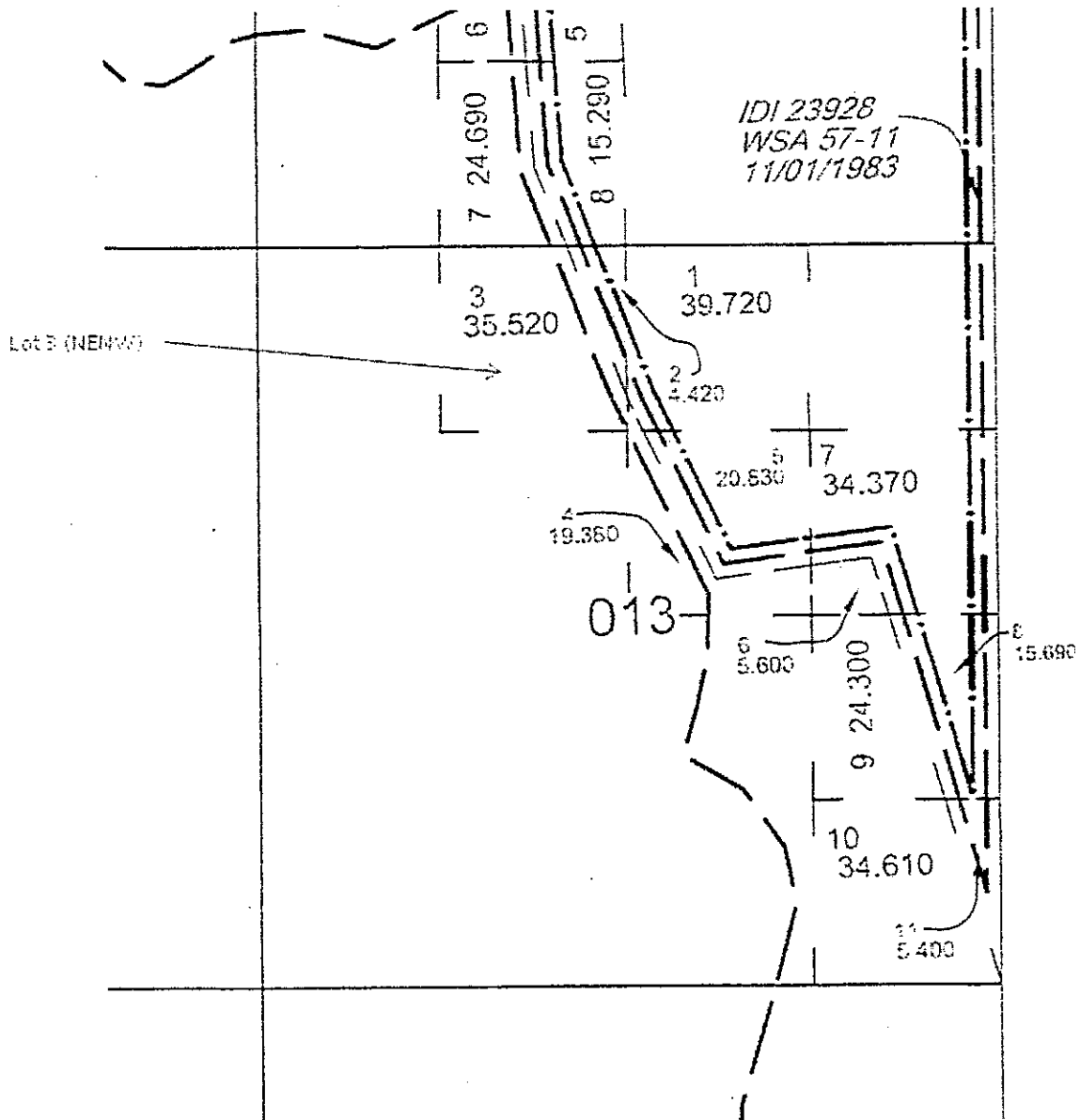
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Subcase Number: 37-20502

**ATTACHMENT 1, AFFIDAVIT OF
FREDRIC W. PRICE**

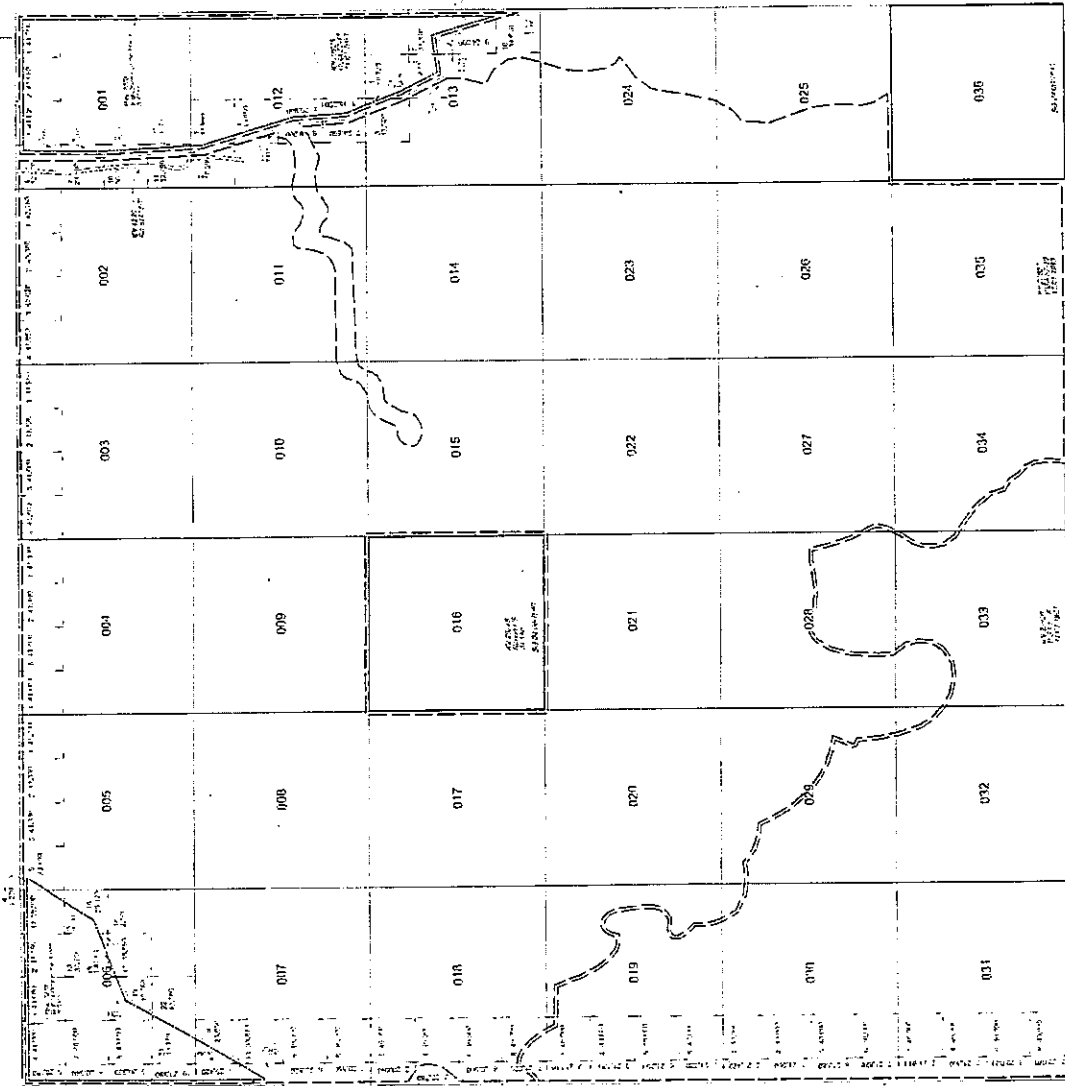
T03S R22E



TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH RANGE 22 EAST OF THE BOISE MERIDIAN, IDAHO

LINCOLN COUNTY 083
4000' 00" 00" 00" 00"

25 27 E 25 28 E



NOTES:
1. This map is a reproduction of the original map filed for record in the office of the County Clerk of Lincoln County, Idaho, on the 10th day of May, 1987, and is subject to the same conditions and limitations as the original map.
2. The original map is on file in the office of the County Clerk of Lincoln County, Idaho, and is available for inspection and copying upon request.
3. The original map is on file in the office of the County Clerk of Lincoln County, Idaho, and is available for inspection and copying upon request.

STATUS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN
LAND AND MINERAL TITLES

MT PLAT

SECTION	OWNER	DATE	REMARKS
001			
002			
003			
004			
005			
006			
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FOR CHAINING EFFECTS OF TOTAL USE OF
UNDEVELOPED LAND REFER TO MAPS OF
MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

SECTION	OWNER	DATE	REMARKS
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003			
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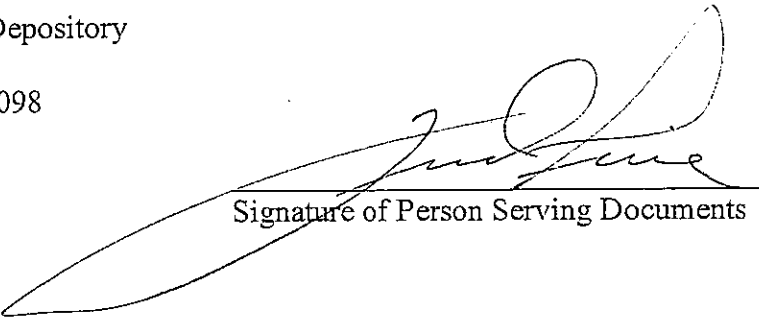
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P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098



Signature of Person Serving Documents