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ORIGINAL

Ms. Linda A. Werner

IDWR / NORTH

Water Resource Agent, Sr.

Idaho Department of Water Resources

Northern Region

7600 Mineral Drive Suite 100

Coeur d Alene, Idaho 83815-7763

Re: Claim #95-15374....Tim and Pat Greene

Dear Ms. Werner:

This is in response to your request for more information regarding the above claim. I have included a statement from a neighbor, Harvey Hughett, in support of the claim.

It might be helpful if I were to highlight some background information. The property is a float home in a float home community located in Hidden Bay on Coeur d Alene Lake. There are 20 float home similarly situated. Many of these float homes have a long history and were a part of the St. Joe logging and railroad construction around the turn of the century. Most of these homes were used as company stores and offices at that time. The float homes finally settled in Hidden Bay around 1900 and have been there continuously since that time. The float homes currently are connected to the shore on Idaho state property in Heyburn State Park. Since the float homes are connected to the shore, the homes themselves are considered personal property. The float homes have been updated and improved over the years. Last year all the float

homes received new leases for a 30 year term with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and all the float homes are now connected to the central sewer system for Heyburn State Park. The water usage will increase slightly with the addition of this connection.

These float homes are the subject of a book currently being written by Harvey Hughett, a neighbor, and float home owner. He would be the best resource as to the historical value of these homes and their continuous use of beneficial water.

He can be reached at hhughett@hotmail.com . Harvey Hughett advises that the earliest recorded water usage for the float homes was 1898.

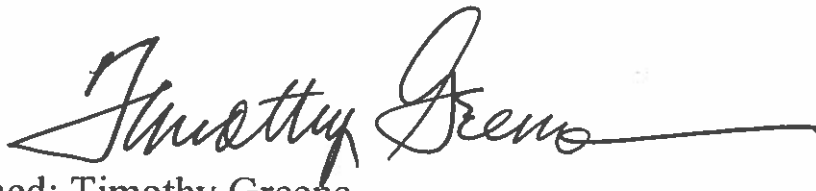
He also is submitting letter confirming our ownership of our float home and water use for the period we have been acquainted as neighbors on the lake.

I acquired my float home in June 1993 and have been the owner with my wife since then. The previous owner owned the property from the mid 1950's. There will be a long list of previous owners *since the property is leased from the State.* Heyburn State Park should have a record of the ownership of each float home for an extended period of time. These historic records will confirm that many of the cabins were utilized beginning in the early 1900's. Water usage would have been a part of that history. Part of the

history of these homes is that they were located in Hidden Bay before there was a State Park and today is one of the only early float home communities still in existence.

As I mentioned in my Claim filing, the float homes are summer only homes. The water usage is limited to the summer and fall. The homes are not insulated or heated for the winter. The water is drained from the pipes when the cabin is closed in the Fall. The float homes are current and in compliance with the requirements of Panhandle Health which will also have a separate record of float home ownership. Financing for the sewer connection was obtained by the float home community from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

If you need additional information, please let me know. I can be reached at tgreene@moscow.com or on my cell phone: 208 651 4512.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy Greene". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Signed: Timothy Greene

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia A. Greene". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patricia A. Greene

Date: February 28, 2018

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Memorandum for Linda A. Werner, Water Resource Agent, NORTH
Idaho Department of Water Resources

Re: Claim #95-15374 Tim and Pat Greene

My name is Harvey Hughett. We are neighbors of Tim and Pat Greene and have known them or their float home owner relatives since 1977.

I can attest that for the period of my ownership of a float home and as a fellow float home owner of the Greenes and their close relatives (the Mosmans), the Greenes have owned this float home and have had regular, beneficial use of St. Joe River water in connection with the summer use of their float home. Tim and Pat Greene acquired their float home in 1993. I know from my research there were prior owners of the Greene's float home who also enjoyed Hidden Bay and the essential use of available water. Their float home was built in 1920 and updated several times since (with outside covering and, more recently, a conventional flush toilet connecting to Heyburn State Park's sewer system). This float home is seen in the background of early photographs. I have read and concur with Mr. Greene's letter to you dated February 29, 2018.

At Hidden Lake, 22 float homes currently are located within the boundaries of Heyburn State Park and pay a lease fee to the park which includes connection to the park's sewer and limited use of park amenities. The historical float homes at Hidden Lake are the last in the continental USA that retain much of their originality and unique configuration.

My wife and I have been owners of a float home at Hidden Lake (often referred to as Hidden Bay) on Lake Coeur d'Alene for about 8 years. Our float home is one of the newest and was built in 1957.

The float home between ours and the Greene's was purchased as a "second hand" float house in 1898 by Joe Schnurr. Most float homes at Hidden Lake were built from about the turn of the century through the 1940s and 1950s.

I am in the late stages of completing a book tentatively entitled: "Float Homes of the St. Joe River Drainage." I have conducted many interviews with "old timers" and former owners and done extensive research of books, personal diaries and museum archives on the float home community at Hidden Bay. I have collected a great deal of information concerning the early history of these and other float homes and their part in the early development of northern Idaho and am pleased to share this information.

I also have written a short history of Hidden Lake float homes which was published in the March, 2012 issue of IDAHO Magazine.

A few facts which you may find helpful follow:

Trappers, loggers, railway workers and recreationists have used float homes in this area from the 1860s to the present. The earliest mentioned float homes were built by "hand loggers" and towed to frequently-changing work sites. They were particularly useful because they were portable and located along the major travel route of that time (the river) and easily built from native logs and lumber.

Hidden Bay was a popular location for loggers to park floating log booms on their way to saw mills. At one time, hundreds of float homes were quite common all the way from St. Joe City, down the St. Joe River and up to the area of Coeur d'Alene. St. Maries frequently mentions the colorful "float house row" that once graced the river side of town.

The oldest documented float home at Hidden Lake is the reported 120 year-old-plus "Schnurr float home." It's one of several that still retain the rounded roof beams common to the old logging camp bunkhouses. In fact, the Schnurr float home was originally made by joining two of these together. Other float homes were also built and used by early pioneers and loggers at or near this location before Idaho became a state in 1890, before Heyburn State Park was established and mentioned before the Coeur d'Alene Tribe was established in 1873. There were no roads and the most convenient travel was by boat, making movable float homes both popular and practical with workers whose job locations moved from place to place. Earlier, trappers also made use of the portability.

The Schnurr float home was acquired "used" by Joe Schnurr in 1898. The original construction date is not known. The interior is largely original, including the rounded roof beams that verify that this was formerly a logger's bunkhouse. A former resident carved initials and the date 1907 on an exposed wall inside the float home. It is believed that some of the large cedar logs under this float house are original and may be 100 or so years old. Joe Schnurr married the daughter of immigrant John Robinson who came to Colfax from the Oregon Trail in 1840. Mr. Schnurr moved his new bride to Hidden Lake and operated a butcher's shop from a shed on the bank by the float house (part of which still stands). Descendants of Joe Schnurr still own a float home at Hidden Lake.

The Simmons family has used their float home for nearly half a century. Prior owners extend back to early railway construction days and this float house was used as a time keeper's office by the railroad. Each corner of the float house still retains hooks for towing to and from different job locations.

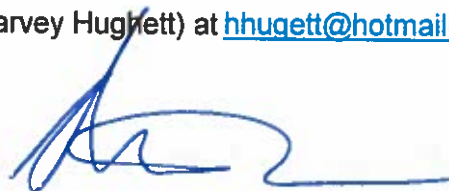
The Williams float house contains much of its original furniture and still retains its look of the 1950s when it was used for R & R by WWII veterans in rehabilitation.

Another float home was a "chow house" for railroad workers in early construction years. Several float homes were "speakeasies" during prohibition.

James Welford Edwards was a surveyor/manager for the railroad and, for a time, was a close confidant to James J. Hill, the famous railroad baron and founder of the Great Northern Railway (See Wikipedia for more information). Mr. Edwards immigrated to northern Idaho from Virginia in 1873 via the Mullan Military Road. When land became available, he homesteaded at Hidden Lake in 1911 and became "guardian of the bay." The sleeping house he built in 1916 (on the bank) still stands. The Thiebes family bought a used float house at Hidden Lake in 1921, inherited James Edwards' homestead and spent summers there until 1944. Since then, it has undergone considerable renovations and currently belongs to our daughter.

Today's few remaining float homes are part of the historical fabric left over from the region's pioneer days.

If I can help in any way, please contact me (Harvey Huguett) at hhugett@hotmail.com or by telephone at (208) 882 6897.



2/24/2018