

Harris, Lori

From: Storms, Scott
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2020 8:28 AM
To: 'Tom & Joanne O'Brien'
Subject: RE: Adjudication Claims 87-11071 & 87-11072

Joanne,

Thank you for your timely response. I should be available by phone most of the day today, however, in order for any statement of your knowledge of the history of the property to be acceptable as proof, I will need you to write down your statement or story about the property's history and sign it and have it notarized. You can then send that statement to me at the following address:

Idaho Department of Water Resources
Attn: Scott Storms
322 E Front St.
P.O. Box 83702
Boise, ID 83702

I can then use your notarized statement as proof of priority date for the claim. Be sure to include any knowledge you have of when the original well was first used for stockwater and when it was first used for domestic use i.e. any sort of household use. Again, feel free to call me if you would like, and we can discuss this process.

Scott

Scott Storms
Senior Water Resource Agent
Idaho Department of Water Resources
208-287-4915
Scott.Storms@idwr.idaho.gov

From: Tom & Joanne O'Brien [mailto:oldriverranch@moscow.com]
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2020 8:09 AM
To: Storms, Scott <Scott.Storms@idwr.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: Adjudication Claims 87-11071 & 87-11072

Scott, My husband Tom, passed away on Dec. 6, 2017. We purchased this property July 1994. The information we have was word of mouth from elderly friends who were neighbors. I will call you today and try to answer your questions. Thank you, Joanne.

From: Storms, Scott
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2020 8:47 AM
To: oldriverranch@moscow.com
Subject: Adjudication Claims 87-11071 & 87-11072

Hello Joanne,

I am in the process of reviewing your claims to water rights 87-11071 (Domestic) and 87-11072 (Stockwater) in order to develop the Department of Water Resource's recommendation to the court, and I have a couple questions.

Those questions are:

- Can you provide further proof that the original hand-dug well was indeed completed and put to use by 5/20/1930?
- What date were both main house and the bunkhouse completed?
- Was Thomas intentionally crossed off on the domestic claim?

First, on both rights you claim a priority date of 5/20/1930 and from what I can tell, this is based on the completion date of a hand-dug well on the property. Currently I can only find aerial photography dating back to 1947, and that photography does indeed show evidence of a dug out well or pond on the property, but there are no developed buildings on the property. As such, this would provide me enough evidence to recommend a priority date of 1/1/1947 for the stockwater but not for the domestic right. Can you provide further evidence of a well completed and put to use on 5/20/1930? I have attached a copy of the Department's pamphlet on Evidence of Priority Date. Please refer to this pamphlet to decipher what would suffice as evidence.

Second, in regards to the domestic claim, this also included a priority date of 5/30/1930, however the earliest evidence I can find showing any form of buildings developed on the property is aerial imagery from 1954, and that appears to be very minimal development (perhaps just a barn). The claim is for one home and one bunkhouse. Since both will be included on the final right, I need to know when both structures were completed and water was supplied to both.

Third, on the Name line of the domestic claim, it reads Thomas or Joanne O'Brian, but Thomas was crossed off. I just want to confirm this was done by you intentionally. Typically we ask for initials next to any changes on a form, so I just want to be sure this is correct and was not something done unintentionally.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, either through email or the phone number listed below.

Thank you,

Scott

Scott Storms
Senior Water Resource Agent
Idaho Department of Water Resources
208-287-4915
Scott.Storms@idwr.idaho.gov