

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF DEFERRED
DE MINIMIS STOCK WATER USE**

Claim No. 65-23973

In Re SRBA

Twin Falls County Civil Case No. 39576

Report to the SRBA District Court

Prepared by the Idaho Department of Water Resources
Gary Spackman, Director
Craig L. Saxton, Manager, Adjudication Section

May 27, 2021

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

This is a Director's Report of Deferred *De Minimis* Stock Water Use submitted by the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR).

INTRODUCTION

A Motion for Determination of Deferred *De Minimis* Stock Water Use (Motion) and Notice of Claim to Water Right for water right claim no. 65-23973 was submitted to the Court on September 14, 2020. IDWR published a notice of the pendency and purpose of the Motion, and the Director has now completed his examination of the claim. The examination for the above-mentioned water right claim was conducted by Craig Saxton, Manager, Adjudication Section, on behalf of the Director. The materials used in and results of the examination of the elements of the claim are discussed below.

DISCUSSION

Priority Date

Mark Phillips, President of Stillwell 117 Ranch, Inc., filed claim no. 65-23973 on behalf of the Stillwell 117 Ranch, Inc., for the instream stockwater use. The claimed priority date of January 23, 1922, is supported by land patents #706372 and #845052 issued to Daniel B. Griffith¹ on September 12, 1919 and January 23, 1922 respectively. Together, both patents #706372 and #845052 include all of the claimed place of use. The claimed priority date of January 23, 1922, is consistent with the issue date of the more junior of the two patents covering the claimed place of use. The priority date is recommended as claimed.

¹ Land Patents #706372 and #845052 were established under the Homestead Act of 1862. To receive a patent, applicants were required to live on the property for 5 years for the purpose of settlement and cultivation. It's reasonable to assume that applicants would have stock that drank from available water sources. IDWR has regularly accepted land patents as evidence of instream or non-diverted stock water use

Points of Diversion

The claimed beginning point for instream stockwater use is in Township 9N, Range 1E, Section 11, NWSW, and was verified by identifying stream locations using USGS Quadrangle maps. The claimed ending point for instream stockwater use is in Township 9N, Range 1E, Section 14, NWNW. After reviewing USGS Quadrangle maps, it was determined that the ending point is more accurately described as being in Township 9N, Range 1E, Section 14, SWNW, and will be recommended as such.

Source

The source for water is Unnamed Stream tributary to Squaw Creek. After reviewing the USGS quadrangle maps it was determined that the Unnamed Stream is actually tributary to Little Squaw Creek. The source of water has been recommended as Unnamed Stream tributary to Little Squaw Creek and can be verified using the USGS quadrangle maps.

Place of Use

The claim uses the public land survey to describe the place of use and includes each quarter-quarter or government lot between the beginning and ending points that the Unnamed Stream passes through.

The claimed place of use is entirely within Gem County parcel numbers RP09N01E114800 and RP09N01E142400. According to the Gem County property records Stillwell 117 Ranch, Inc. owns both parcels.

Quantity

The quantity claimed in the amended claim is for 0.02 cfs. The typical diversion rate recommended for claims for watering stock directly from a stream is 0.02 cfs. This rate is consistent with diversion rates claimed for *de minimis* instream stockwater use.

Purpose and Period of Use

The extent of the water use can be described as in-stream *de minimis* stockwater use.

Water used for stockwater purposes is generally recommended for year-round use if year-round use is claimed.

CONCLUSION

There is sufficient evidence to recommend claim 65-23973 for the instream watering of livestock from an Unnamed Stream tributary to Little Squaw Creek.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of May, 2021.



CRAIG L. SAXTON
Manager, Adjudication Section

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on May 28, 2021, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of this Director's Report of Deferred *De Minimis* Domestic or Stock Water Use, to the following persons, in the manner indicated and addressed as follows:

1. Original to:

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

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2. Copies to:

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Environment & Natural Resources Div.
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Gem County Courthouse
415 E. Main St
Emmett, ID 83617

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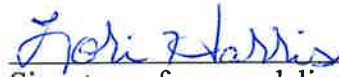
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65-23973