

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 29, 2021
To: Transfer 84789
From: Michelle Watts
Re: Review & Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information

This transfer proposes to change the point of diversion and place of use for a 20-acre portion of water right 13-7147. The 20-acre portion will be combined with water rights 13-2269 and 13-8054 to irrigate 263 acres within a 320 acre permissible place of use.

Currently, water right 13-7147 is used to irrigate 307 acres under two center pivots. The 20 acres proposed to be changed are rock pile acres within the footprint of the center pivots. Applicants provided evidence that the center pivots are equipped with a variable rate irrigation package, which allows individuals sprinklers to turn on or off as the pivot rotates. According to the applicants, the pivots have been programmed to avoid irrigation of the rock piles. Applicants provided satellite imagery showing that the rock piles were not irrigated in 2021. Applicants have agreed to maintain a flow meter and data logger on the pivots irrigated with water right 13-7147 to ensure that the irrigation use under the right is not enlarged.

Authority to File:

Bart and Cherie Christensen are the applicants and owners of right 13-2269. Bart Christensen is the sole owner of rights 13-7147 and 13-8054. According to Caribou County parcel data the current and proposed place of use are on parcels owned by the Bart O & Cherie Christensen Family Trust, Central Links LLC, and the BKR Farms LLC. The applicants provided statements that they are agents of all three organizations and approve of the transfer application. Parcel 09S40E237600 owned by BKR Farms LLC is currently under mortgage with RaboAgrifinance and a statement was provided authorizing the change in place of use. The applicants have the authority to make the changes.

Water Right Validity:

Rights 13-7147 and 13-8054 were processed in approved transfer application 83977 on June 11, 2020. Right 13-2269 was processed in approved transfer 82216 on May 1, 2018. Review of remote sensing vegetation indices from 2019 to 2020 for right 13-2269 indicate application of water in the current place of use. Forfeiture is not an issue.

Injury to Other Water Rights:

Other water rights will not be impacted by the proposed transfer. The transfer was advertised, and no protests were received. The watermaster of WD 13T has been notified of the proposed changes and has not provided comment.

Enlargement of Use:

The proposed changes will not result in enlargement because water use will not increase as a result of the transfer.

Local Public Interest:

No issues identified.

Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources:

No issues identified.

Review of the application finds there is no clear inconsistency with criteria set forth in Section 42-222 Idaho Code preventing processing this application.