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FEB 15 2018

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Via email Feb 13 2018

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

SALMON REGION
99 Highway 93 North
Salmon, Idaho 83467

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor
Virgil Moore / Director

February 13, 2018

State of Idaho Department of Water Resources
ATTN: Jean Hersley, Technical Records Specialist II
322 East Front Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Pahsimeroi River Farms
ATTN: Roxanne Brown,
SPF Water Engineering
P.O. Box 971
Sun Valley, ID 83353

State of Idaho Department of Water Resources, Salmon Field Office
ATTN: Cindy Yenter, Water District 170 Watermaster
102 S. Warpath, Salmon, Idaho 83467

**RE: Notice of Protest-Transfer No. 81861(WR 73-189), Pahsimeroi River,
tributary to Salmon River**

Dear Jean, Cindy and Roxanne:

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has reviewed the above referenced Application for Transfer submitted by Pahsimeroi River Farms (Applicant). The Applicant seeks to transfer a portion of WR 73-189 to appropriate 0.70 cfs of public surface water from Pahsimeroi River for the proposed irrigation of 35 acres from April 1 through October 31. We are quite familiar with water use and aquatic habitat conditions in the Pahsimeroi River. IDFG spends considerable time and financial resources with many collaborative partners monitoring and improving anadromous and resident fish populations in this drainage.

The purpose of this protest is to assist the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) by providing technical information addressing potential effects on anadromous fish and how any adverse effects might be mitigated. Pahsimeroi River is a known spawning and rearing stream for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout. The proposal submitted by the applicant may potentially affect these species by diminishing or altering the water supply in both Pahsimeroi River and the Salmon River.

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

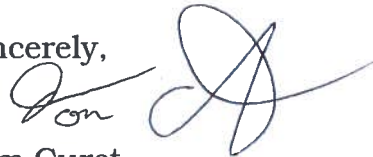
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In accordance with provisions of I.C. § 42-203A (4) IDFG understands that a formal protest is required to participate in the proposed Transfer of a portion of WR 73-189 review process. It is part of the role and responsibility of IDFG in fulfilling its mission of protecting, preserving, and managing fish and wildlife resources to provide technical information regarding the potential effects of the proposed transfer of the water right on these resources and assess how any adverse effects can be avoided, minimized or mitigated. The Fish and Game does not support or oppose the application but is instead filing this protest to assist IDWR in the decision-making process.

Please initiate the Interagency Billing for the applicable protest fee of \$25.00. The PCA is 11706 and the ABC code is B7/99. Please send the billing documents to IDFG Headquarters, Attention: Dr. Walt Poole, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707.

If you have any questions, please contact the Region's Program Coordinator, Paddy Murphy at 208-756-2271.

Sincerely,



Tom Curet
Regional Supervisor

TC: jr

CC: Walt Poole (IDFG-HQ)
Ann Vonde (Deputy Attorney General)
Sharon Kiefer (IDFG-HQ)
Gary Vecellio (IDFG-Idaho Falls)
Cindy Yenter (IDWR-Salmon)
Greg Schoby (IDFG-Salmon)
Chad Fealko (NOAA-Fisheries-Salmon)
Fred Price (BLM-Boise)