



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

PANHANDLE REGION

2885 West Kathleen Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

RECEIVED

JAN 25 2017

IDWR/NORTHERN

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

January 23, 2017

Mr. Adam Frederick
Idaho Department of Water Resources
7600 N Mineral Drive, Suite 100
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

REFERENCE: Barnhart 95-17241

Dear Adam:

We have reviewed the application by Steve Barnhart to appropriate 17.2 AF (0.20 cfs) water per year for domestic, stockwater, fire protection, wildlife, and power uses. The proposal includes construction of a storage pond impounded with a 9 ft dam. The source of water is a spring that feeds Careywood Creek. The purpose of these comments is to assist the decision-making authority by providing technical information addressing potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat and how any adverse effects might be mitigated. It is not the purpose of Idaho Department of Fish and Game to support or oppose this proposal.

Careywood Creek is a perennial stream with an EPA-approved TMDL in place for sediment and water temperature. The loss of spring-fed, cold water to Careywood Creek may exacerbate the temperature impairment, affecting temperature-sensitive fish and wildlife that may reside in this stream. The application lacks any detail as to how the hydropower system will be constructed and maintained. We recommend hydropower operations are constructed so that only sediment-free water is released downstream and the dam is built to avoid erosion and flood blow-outs. If water were released from the bottom of the pond rather than the top, this could mitigate for some of the coldwater losses to Careywood Creek.

The pond to be used for power storage also has a wildlife storage appropriation. The small pond (2.5 AF) will likely provide little benefit to big game or waterfowl, while adding risk to amphibians and other small, semi-aquatic wildlife through impingement or entrainment. In order to minimize losses of wildlife to turbines, we recommend screening the hydropower intake with 1/4 in mesh or less. If fish are to be stocked, the pond will require a Private Fish Pond Permit, administered through IDFG. This permit will require inlet and outlet screening and use of

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approved fish species and hatcheries. Please contact IDFG Regional Fisheries Manager, Andy Dux, at (208)769-1414 regarding Private Fish Pond Permits.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chip Corsi', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chip Corsi
Regional Supervisor

CEC:KJS:njk

C: Gary Vecellio, IDFG Idaho Falls