

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Right File – 65-13382
FROM: Patrick Kelly – Water Resource Agent, Sr.
DATE: November 18, 2016
SUBJECT: Maximum annual volume

A draft license was created for water right 65-13382 in the total diversion of 0.34 cfs and 5.5 af for snow making purposes at Bogus Basin Recreational Resort based on a field exam that was completed in August of 2016. A copy of the draft license with my field exam report was sent to representative Chris Bromley and Brad Wilson of Bogus Basin as a courtesy notifying them what was being recommended for license.

Concerns were expressed by the permit holder regarding the recommended annual volume of 5.5 af. A meeting that included Chris Bromley, Christian Petrich of SPF Water Engineering, Nick Miller of IDWR and I took place at Western Region on October 24 to discuss options for the volume.

At the meeting, information regarding the snow making practices was presented. An original concern when attempting to quantify a total volume was identifying the hours in a day available to create snow. It seemed unreasonable that the machines would run an average of 7+ hours a day for each day of the season to make snow. However, it was discovered at our meeting with Mr. Bromley and Mr. Petrich that snow making operations can be run for a full 24 hour period for weeks at a time early in the snow season.

The department received a report on November 18 by Mr. Petrich to respond with some of the topics discussed at our meeting. Potential storage units were established that support the commercial use. These storages total 0.86 af, just over the 24-hour rule. The report also included a letter from SMI Snow Makers President Joseph VanderKelen which stated an acre foot of water per acre can be utilized for annual usage. The system is in place to cover an area greater than 32 acres on the resort.

Much of the justification for the 32 af volume recommendation relies on the concept that snow making practices are made on a continuous basis, diminishing the need for storage. But the storage component of the use is an important one, and within the limits of reason to assume that the water could be stored before it was applied to beneficial use.

Based on additional information presented regarding the potential practices of snow making at a diversion rate of 0.34 cfs, 32 af could be achieved in a low snow year.