



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
SALMON REGION
99 Highway 93 North
Salmon, Idaho 83467

RECEIVED

JAN 09 2017

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

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

January 4, 2017

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

RE: Notice of Protest-Application for Permit No. 74-16060- (Unnamed Stream), tributary to the Lemhi River.

Dear Jean:

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has reviewed the above referenced Application for Permit submitted by Victoria Melton (Applicant), 10 Banta Drive, Salmon, ID 83467. The Applicant seeks to appropriate 0.06 cfs of public surface water from an unnamed stream that fills an excavated pond (aesthetic storage, from January 1 to December 31), which discharges into a channel tributary to the Lemhi River for the proposed irrigation of 2.0 acres from March 15 through November 15. Based on the application, this is an existing development, which does not have a water right. A small (1/2 HP) pump located just above the pond is utilized to irrigate both the Applicant's lawn and trees.

We are very familiar with water use and aquatic habitat conditions of Lemhi Drainage and spend considerable time and financial resources with many collaborative partners monitoring and improving anadromous and resident fish populations.

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. The Lemhi Drainage area incorporates known spawning and rearing streams for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Chinook Salmon, steelhead and bull

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

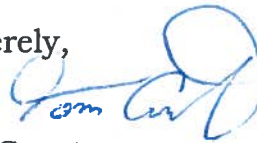
trout. The proposal submitted by the applicant may potentially affect these species by diminishing or altering the water supply in the Lemhi River Drainage.

In accordance with provisions of I.C. § 42-203A(4) IDFG understands that a formal protest is required to participate in the proposed water right 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 water right on these resources and assess how any adverse effects can be avoided, minimized or mitigated. IDFG 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 Environmental Staff Biologist, Jeff Richards 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)
Tom Bassista (IDFG-Idaho Falls)
Greg Schoby (IDFG-Salmon)
Cindy Yenter (IDWR-Salmon)
Dennis Mackey (USFWS-Boise)
Chad Fealko (NOAA-Fisheries-Salmon)
Chuck Mark (USFS-Salmon)
Steve Spencer (USFS-Emmett)
Fred Price (BLM-Boise)
Victoria Melton (Applicant)