



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Western Region • 2735 Airport Way • Boise, Idaho 83705-5082

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

Governor

4/8/2016

GARY SPACKMAN

Director

JOEL AND MARGARET CHAMBLISS
248 N. ELK LAKE RD
NEW MEADOWS ID 83654

RE: Priority date of water right 78-4003

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Chambliss:

I received your letter of April 5, 2016 regarding the priority date of water right 78-4003. I understand the importance of correctly recording the priority date on your water right. I have reviewed the information available to me and, unfortunately, the Department of Water Resources cannot change the priority date of your water right.

Your right was decreed by the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) Court in November 2007, and this department cannot change what the Court has decreed. Your one avenue to address the priority date would be to petition the SRBA Court to set aside that partial decree and consider evidence that a 1919 priority date is more appropriate for this right. You may want to consider speaking with an attorney for advice, but in my opinion, it is unlikely you would be successful with the court given the many opportunities you and previous owners have had to dispute the 1949 priority date and have not done so.

I wish I had better news for you and I welcome you to contact this office if you have further questions. I will place your letter and this response in the water right file for future reference.

Sincerely,

Nick Miller

Manager, IDWR Western Region