

94-7289

August 21, 2015

Idaho Department of Water Resources  
7600 Mineral Drive  
Suite 100  
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83815

RECEIVED  
AUG 24 2015  
IDWR/NORTHERN

Attn: Keith Franklin

Keith:

We are writing to inform you of an incident involving our neighbor Knona LaDell. Ms. LaDell owns the cabin above us and had a well drilled on July 3, 2008 on the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 32 T47N R3W.

In early June of this year, we began experiencing difficulty with our community well which was drilled on July 16, 1972 under the name of Roy Thomas. The location of the well is in the same proximity as Ms. LaDell's well listed above.

There are (6) properties serviced by our community well and after examining all of these properties for possible leaks, we assumed our low water table was due to drought conditions and decided to drill our well deeper to remedy the problem.

In mid-July, the well driller had already pulled the pump and was on site to drill the well to a deeper depth when Ms. LaDell stopped by to check her cabin. We advised her of the situation and that she may not have immediate access out of her cabin because of the well drilling equipment. Shortly after this discussion, she came rushing down the hill to report water was gushing out of her cabin and she did not know how to shut it off. I immediately shut her water off which had apparently been running for quite some time as evidenced by all of the mold and damage to much of the floor structure.

We learned that day she had not drained the water in her cabin over the winter because someone had told her she could leave her water on if she kept heat on to prevent the pipes from freezing and bursting. Her only source of heat was propane which she left on but did not make provisions to have the propane tank refilled on a regular basis over the winter months, so the propane tank was empty. Also the terrain is so steep; I doubt a delivery truck could make it to her cabin in the winter months.

I quickly assessed the massive leak in her system had depleted our water table aquifer. Once her system was shut off, our community well was able to somewhat recoup after several days. It is still not performing at its normal rate but hopefully with enough moisture over this next winter, it will be able to recharge.

This situation has caused a great deal of angst among all of us utilizing the community well not to mention a depletion of almost \$1,000.00 from our community well savings account. We have all exercised extreme care in using only a minimal amount of water each day. Also many of the homes have been unable to do any type of irrigation outside of their cabins to maintain some type of fire barrier during these tremendously dry conditions. Although the community well and the 4,500 gallons of stored water wouldn't be enough to fight a major forest fire, it would hopefully give us some time to safely escape. It is such a tragedy that roughly 13,000 gallons per day have been wasted because of a homeowner's inattentiveness.

We wanted to bring this to your attention because in our opinion this was an inexcusable misuse of the ever precious commodity of valuable water and should this happen again we want it on record so that we may seek the assistance of IDWR in dealing with future issues.



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cc: Bob & Pat Anderson  
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