

State of Idaho
Department of Water Resources
Transfer of Water Right(s)
RECOMMENDATION FORM

RECEIVED
JUN 18 2014
DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

Transfer Application No.: 79330

Water Right No(s): 36-2055

Transfer Applicant's Name:

NORTH SNAKE G.W.D.
152 E MAIN ST
JEROME, ID 83338

MAGIC VALLEY G.W.D.
PO BOX 430
PAUL, ID 83347

SOUTHWEST IRRIGATION DIST.
137 W 13TH ST
BURLEY, ID 83318

Watermaster's Recommendation:

- a) _____ I do not oppose approval of this application.
- b) _____ I do not oppose approval of this application if it is conditioned as follows:
- c) ✓ _____ I oppose approval of this application for the following reasons:
See Attachment
- d) _____ Additional comments:

Dated this 18th day of June, 2014

Water District No. 36-A



Watermaster's Signature

Frank Erwin

Printed Name

RECEIVED

JUN 18 2014

DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

State of Idaho
Department of Water Resources
Application for Transfer
RECOMMENDATION FORM

Transfer Application No.: 79330

Applicant's Name: North Snake Groundwater District, Magic Valley Groundwater District, Southwest Irrigation District on behalf of the owner, State of Idaho, Department of Fish & Game

Recommendation:

c. ✓ I oppose approval of this application for the following reasons:

- (1) As written, it will be impossible for the Water Master to administer this water right to any POU other than the Rangen facility. Only one POD is described, yet dozens of POUs are listed without any descriptions of the associated mitigation plans, the quantity of water to be delivered, the delivery structures, the PODs or whether the beneficial uses will be consumptive or non-consumptive. On that basis alone, the application is incomplete and should be denied. It is inappropriate for the Applicant to designate the entire service area surrounding Water District 36A as POUs. Once water leaves the Rangen facility, it becomes part of the waters of the State (Billingsley Creek) and will be administered for use by other downstream water right holders. No information has been provided for the Water Master to determine how much water entering Billingsley Creek will be available for rediversion without calculating seepage and evaporative losses. The applicant cannot expect the Water Master to somehow hold water in reserve for mitigation purposes that may or may not be needed in the future. Therefore, all references to POUs and mitigation to POUs in Water District 36A other than Rangen must be removed from this application.
- (2) Because no mitigation plan has been approved for shortages in other portions of Water District 36A, the boundary for mitigation purposes in this application must be limited to only the Rangen facility.
- (3) Water right 36-7249 listed in part 5.(e) of the application is not diverted from Tucker Springs.
- (4) The "Thousand Springs Water Supply Settlement Framework" document, and all references to it, must be removed from the transfer application because:
 - a) The document is neither part of nor essential to the transfer.
 - b) Water District 36A water right owners have not approved the document.
 - c) The actions described in the document may or may not stop the decline of spring flows.
 - d) The actions described in the document have not been implemented.