



- United States Department of the Interior

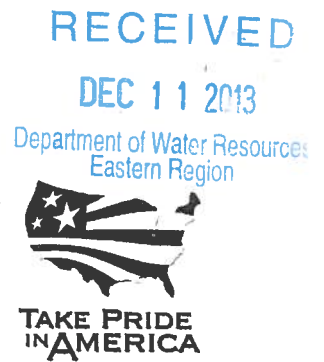
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

CAMAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

2150 E. 2350 N.

HAMER, ID 83425

Telephone (208) 662-5423 FAX (208) 662-5525



December 10, 2013

James Joyner
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers – Idaho Falls
900 N. Skyline Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83402-1718

RE: Proposed re-route of Beaver Creek by Blaine Larsen Farms.

Dear Mr. Joyner:

In late October, Scott Clausen who was representing Blaine Larsen Farms, met with me at my office to discuss plans to re-route a portion of Beaver Creek just north of the Camas National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) boundary. At that meeting Mr. Clausen disclosed plans to convert land that they own from sagebrush/grassland to production agriculture, which includes new center pivot irrigation systems. The plan also included the re-route of the Beaver Creek channel so the proposed pivot would not have to travel through the channel. The installation of center pivots will also require the transfer a water rights to this particular tract of land.

Camas NWR has concerns with the re-route of the natural channel known as Beaver Creek because the project will have direct impacts to water entering Camas NWR. Runoff of farms chemicals and increased sedimentation will negatively impact wildlife habitat both on Camas NWR and Mud Lake Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

We request that U.S. Army Corp of Engineers provide us any information about this project and seek our comments as soon as possible so that we can assess the potential impacts to the wildlife resources we are entrusted to protect.

If you have questions or concerns about this request, please refer them to me at (208) 662-5423.

Sincerely,

Brian Wehausen
Refuge Manager

Cc: Gary Ball – (Region 1 Water Rights Specialist)
Tracy Casselman - (SE Idaho Project Leader)
James Cefelo - (Idaho Department of Water Resources)
Tom Bassista - (Environmental Staff Biologist)
Blaine Larsen - (BLF Land, LLC)