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Saveway Market

Fax

To: State of Idaho Water Resources From: Ernest Richard Dishong
Fax: 208-525-7177 Pages: 1 OF
Phone: _____ Date: 5/2/12
Re: Water Rights Application CC: _____

☐ Urgent ☒ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

• Comments

Please add the enclosed letter to our file
for your consideration in our water rights
application.

Thank you,

Janine Lynne Dishong

208-865-2234

To whom It may concern:

We recently applied for water rights on our property located at 8 Elk Ridge Rd, North Fork, ID 83466. We recently received a letter regarding "the public interest has many facets, including the effects of a proposed water use on aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife resources." We would like to respond as follows:

It is exactly this reason, protecting habitat and aquatic life, that we have applied for water rights for our property. Let me explain. Under Idaho Law, we as landowners are required to control noxious weeds on our property (Idaho law chapter 24, Title 2, 22-2407). My husband and I have tried diligently over the past 5 years to control the abundant and well-established noxious weeds on our property (inc. field bind weed, knapweed and Canadian thistle). We are VERY concerned about using herbicides and fertilizers on our property as our property is in very close proximity to the Salmon River and water and contaminants drain from our property and into the Salmon River. We have exhausted every "natural" effort to control the weeds without any luck at all. To exasperate the problem, our land is located at the base of a very large drainage in which heavy amounts of noxious weed seeds and heavy sediment flow during rainstorms and spring runoff from the large mountain behind our property (combination of private land and BLM). We have been told by experts (inc. ID extension office) that the only way to effectively control the weeds is by the rehabilitation of our property and establishing healthy vegetation that will inhibit the propagation of the noxious weeds. Without healthy vegetation the only way to control the noxious weeds problem is through the use of herbicides and fertilizers. It has proven impossible to rehabilitate our property without the use of water. The weeds are too well established, the ground too poor and dry to rehabilitate without additional water. While large amounts of herbicides temporarily stop weed infestation, the herbicides only provide temporary relief in the weed cycle. Without the use of water and thus the ability to rehabilitate the ground with healthy vegetation, we cannot break the cycle of noxious weed growth. It simply delays growth until the next dry season. We loath to use large amounts of herbicides (which, at best provide only temporary relief) when, with a minimal amount of water, we can rehabilitate our property with healthy vegetation and will be able to break the noxious weed cycle without the continued use of herbicides and fertilizers.

Furthermore, once our property is weed free and healthy vegetation is established (with a minimal amount of water) it will act as a filter in catching large, untold amounts of noxious weed seeds and sediment that currently flow unabated across our property and into the Salmon River. These seeds eventually wash downriver contaminating wildlife habitat. Herbicides used to control them ultimately end up in the Salmon River.

As we are very conscience of our future water usage, we will implement the following water conservation methods: The pasture will be planted in a low water usage grass and supplemented with native grasses. The steep hillsides (which contribute a lot of sediment as it is eroding) will be covered with a high grade weed cloth to help contain water in the ground and eliminate the need for herbicides. Low water, drought resistant junipers will be planted on the hillsides to minimize further erosion. In addition, the orchard ground will be covered in a high grade weed cloth and the trees will be on a drip system to minimize water usage. The area around the house will be landscaped in xeroscape and

drought resistant bushes and trees will be on a drip system. Bird houses will also be provided in the orchard to provide a safe nesting habitat for Idaho's native songbirds.

By granting us water rights, we will be able to rehabilitate our property so we can stop the cycle of noxious weed growth and the subsequent use of herbicides in order to comply with Idaho's noxious weed laws. Our property will also serve as a filter to slow down the vast amount of silt and noxious weed seeds currently flowing through our property and into the Salmon River. We feel the benefits of diverting a relative small amount of water will far outweigh any negative effects our water usage may have. Our rehabilitated property may also serve as an example to others in the community that noxious weeds can be controlled without the use of herbicides and fertilizers.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.


Rick and Lynne Dishong