

Living Waters Ranch / Firtsfruits Foundation

Christopher W. James, President

P O Box 1190, Challis, ID 83226; 208-879-2729

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September 24, 2011

Cherie Palmer, Sr.WRA
IDWR, Water Allocation Bureau
P O Box 322
Boise, ID 83720-0098

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2011

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

RE: Explanation of Water Usage at Living Waters Ranch

Dear Cherie,

Thank you for your kindly assistance with our water rights.

There is real value in satellite shots for mapping of water rights and evaluating usage. Nevertheless in some circumstances an in-person survey can shed light on the particular issues. My staff and I welcome you to a visit to our ranch to see the land and the precious water that brings life to the soil.

I am not sure when the picture for your analysis was shot from the satellite. The date that the map was created was 3/7/2011, but I would not be surprised that the satellite shot was taken considerably earlier. That is not point. The point has to do with the difficulty we have had to meet all the requirements for the Large Soil Absorption System LSAS with the DEQ and what we have had to do to stay in compliance with the IDWR requirements to maintain water rights. My understanding is that the regulations for the LSAS were made considerably stiffer during our early application period. Over the last number of years we would sprinkle areas for a week or so every couple of years which could not for the time being be completed with underground disposal system and ground landscaping. My understanding is that by doing so, we would maintain our water rights.

FYI I have enclosed a letter I recently sent to Steve Adams with District 7 asking for permission to put in just the lateral infiltrators underground so we could put in 26 - 4' x 8' raised beds for a production garden to prepare for tougher times and provide fresher vegetables for our guests. We plan to install an irrigation system and grow grass between the raised beds. Additionally, I have enclosed a larger map of our grounds coloring the irrigated sections with a green marker.

This afternoon I drove my ATV on the road up above the strip between the county road and our shaded roadway. I was amazed at the number of trees that we have planted and currently irrigate.(Drip systems are needed for our rainfall is about 6"/year.) Starting at the left side of the

map and moving east to the right we've planted 5 spruces about 4 years ago. From Sawtooth Motel to our small Mechanical Building we have 12 spruces as much as 25' high. In addition to drip irrigation for the trees, we have popup sprinkler heads. From the Mechanical Building to the Manager's Entrance with our lone garage on the north side of the road we have 13 more trees, both spruce and aspen. From the Manager's Entrance we have 9 trees until our Main Entrance. That is our sparsest section. From the Main Entrance to even with our mini-lodge we have 34 aspen, fruit, and spruce trees.

There are at least 5 areas where we believe we have lived up to the letter of the law for irrigating at least every couple of years. They are: 1. the strip along the county road; 2. the area from our Manager's Entrance to our Main Entrance. This includes the grounds around the Ranch House, the garden, and the proposed Phase 1 drainfield; 3. the area above and around our large Celebration Hall and 2 mini-lodges; 4. The existing Phase 2 drainfield and the proposed additions, likely 72-106C; and 5. the rectangular parcel to the south of the creek where we currently have our composting area which we water regularly, likely 72-4174C.

Hopefully, these letters and map will clarify our situation. I am sure you will treat us fairly. Thank you.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher James".

Christopher James, President of LWR, Trustee of Firstfruits

Enclosures: Letter to Steve Adams, Water Usage Map of LWR, Application for Withdrawal for Permit #72-16875

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September 23, 2011

Steve Adams, Senior EHS
District Seven Health Dept.
1301 Main Street
Salmon, ID 83467-3316

RE: Request for Installing Infiltrators Phase 1 Redundant Drainfield for LWR's LSAS

Dear Steve,

LWR/FF is requesting that we are given approval to install the infiltrators for the 3,000 gal/day Phase 1 Redundant Drainfield prior to receiving approval on the full upgrade to the proposed 11,000 gal/day Large Soil Absorb System LSAS. For 6 or 7 years this triangular $\frac{3}{4}$ acre piece has remained fallow without water waiting for approval for the full upgrade. One half of our entrance to our finely landscaped facility has not been irrigated with the exception of intermittent sprinklings to keep our water rights current. It is an eyesore to the beauty of our facility. What we are asking is that we can install only the infiltrators underground. Then we can finish the triangular $\frac{3}{4}$ acre piece with 26 – 4'x8' raised garden beds, grass, and a permanent sprinkler system. Our plan is to grow most of our own vegetables over the summer months while canning some for winter operation.

FYI, I am enclosing a map showing our facility north of the creek with the proposed upgrade to the 11,000 gal/day LSAS. Additionally, I am enclosing a number of pertinent letters, list of submittals, schematics, and estimates of costs for the project:

Item	Date	Description	From	To
Letter	9/30/03	LWR Subsurface Disposal System	DEQ	Dist 7
Sketch	12/08/03	Schematic of LSAS	HEDCO	DEQ
Letter	12/19/03	LWR Subsurface Disposal System	DEQ	Dist 7
Letter	5/07/04	Check List for LSAS	HEDCO	DEQ
Letter	7/14/04	Level 1 N-P Evaluation	HEDCO	JUB
Letter	7/14/04	LWR - LSAS	HEDCO	DEQ
Letter	7/30/04	Time Extension for LSAS	DEQ	HEDCO
Letter	10/01/04	List of Submittals Sent	HEDCO	DEQ
Letter	4/12/05	Schematic & Cost Estimates	Worst	LWR
Letter	9/06/07	Waiver Request for LSAS	LWR	DEQ
Letter	9/12/07	Waiver Request for LSAS	DEQ	LWR
Letter	4/23/08	Proof of Ownership $\frac{3}{4}$ Acre	LWR	DEQ

May you and the Agency be a blessing.

Yours Truly,

Christopher James, President of LWR, Trustee of Firstfruits

