

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 24, 2011
To: Transfer 75469 File
From: Corey Skinner
Re: Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information Submitted

Transfer proposes converting a 0.01 cfs and 0.7 acre portion of an existing groundwater irrigation right (71-7169) to aesthetic use to make up for evaporative loss from a proposed pond project (covered under companion application for permit 71-10923) located approximately 18.5 miles south and 5.9 miles east of Stanley. The area involved with the application is part of water district 170 and part of sub district 71. Note that the application identifies the volume after the transfer as 2.2 afa. This is an approximate reflection of the diversion volume allowance (3 afa) for the area times the 0.7 acres being dried up (note application indicates 0.72 acres being dried up). The evaporation from the pond would be considered a consumptive use of water. Changes in use from irrigation to consumptive use are based on the precipitation deficit values for the crops that were grown on the land being transferred from. There was no crop history data included with the transfer. However, examination of the licensing exam report for right 71-7169 indicates that the area being transferred from consisted of pasture. In addition the report mentions that the particular area consisted of pasture with sagebrush and was the last of the pastures to be irrigated. Therefore it seems reasonable to base the conversion on "low management" grass pasture. The U of I Evapotranspiration and Consumptive Irrigation Water Requirements for Idaho website indicates that an acre of "low management" grass pasture in the Stanley area has a precipitation deficit value of 286 mm per season which would equate to 0.94 afa per acre. Using 0.94 afa per acre, 0.7 acres would yield a total volume of 0.66 afa.

- **Authority to File:**

The applicants are listed as the current owner of the rights involved with the transfer. A copy of a signed power of attorney authorizing Charles G. Brockway to sign on behalf of the applicants has been included with the application.

- **Water Right Validity:**

The right involved with the transfer was licensed in October of 2008.

- **Injury to Other Water Rights:**

None anticipated

- **Enlargement of Use:**

None anticipated. Conversion from irrigation to consumptive aesthetic use will result in a net decrease in the allowable annual diversion volume.

- **Local Public Interest:**

This application provides mitigation for application for permit 71-10923. Note that application for permit 71-10923 has already been protested by the Idaho Department of Fish & Game. In addition, letters of concern have been already received by the United States Department of Interior Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Ranger.

- **Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources:**

Proposed uses are recognized as beneficial uses of water.