



SPF WATER
ENGINEERING

May 31, 2011

RECEIVED

JUN 02 2011

WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

John Westra
IDWR Western Region Office
2735 Airport Way
Boise, ID 83705

Re: Contested Application for Permit 67-15030

Dear Mr. Westra,

On behalf of Tom and Norma Grossen, this letter provides additional information as requested in your letter dated February 15, 2011 in relation to the above-referenced application for permit.

We understand that there are significant portions of the irrigation season when water is typically not available to junior-priority appropriations, usually beginning in late June. However, the records indicate that water is typically available earlier in the irrigation season, as evidenced by Watermaster records and historic USGS stream discharge records.

The application, 67-15030, proposes to supplement water provided by licensed water right 67-7866, which does not provide a full standard allotment of 0.02 cfs per acre. The application seeks a diversion rate of 1.79 cfs. When combined with 67-7866, the two rights combined could provide up to 3.0 cfs for irrigation of the 150 acres. Both application and license are very junior priority and the applicant fully understands that water supply will be limited and curtailed should typically occur early in the season.

Only one other water right on the Little Weiser River holds a more junior priority than 67-7866, which is the 40-cfs water right owned by Little Weiser Irrigation District (LWID) for storage in C. Ben Ross reservoir with a priority date of October 17, 1991. This right and the more senior right used for filling C. Ben Ross are diverted at an upstream location, and therefore, even without watermaster control, it will be impossible for 67-15030 to reduce the quantity of water available to LWID for filling C. Ben Ross reservoir.

You asked if the proposed appropriation will reduce the quantity of water available for existing senior natural flow rights. To answer this question, I have reviewed historic river flow records available for the old USGS gauges and Watermaster records. USGS records indicate that river flows typically peak in mid to late May and decline significantly in late June. A copy of daily statistics are included for two gauging stations, numbers 13260500 and 13261000, both of which were located above the diversion to C. Ben Ross reservoir. Mean daily flows exceed 400 cfs for much of May.

The spreadsheets provided with your earlier letter list water rights from Little Weiser River with priority dates from June 1, 1873 through April 15, 1991. These rights total 178.98 cfs. Including the junior LWID 67-15030 right for 40 cfs, the total appropriation is 218.98 cfs. The USGS mean daily discharge records indicate this quantity is typically available from mid-April through mid to late June. In fact, USGS statistical records for the 25th percentile daily mean flows indicate discharge exceeds 219 cfs from early May through early June. Further, these discharges do not account for return flows which are expected to provide additional water available to diversions in the lower part of the Little Weiser River system. Discharge records clearly indicate that water is available for this proposed appropriation. The water supply is sufficient during the early part of the irrigation season, but is generally not sufficient to meet this new appropriation throughout the irrigation season. This should not be a surprise, as Mr. Grossen anticipates diverting this right only early in the season when water is available and when all senior priority diversions are being met.

We understand that Water District 67A has had difficulties with water distribution. Your letter indicated particular difficulties in the late 1980s and early 1990s during period of drought. This problem was likely compounded by inadequate measuring devices, which continued to be a problem in 2000 as evidenced by Lori Graves' internal memorandum dated January 23, 2001. If the Grays Ditch measuring device is inadequate, please let us know so that the situation can be remedied. However, if inadequate measurement equipment continues to be a widespread problem on the Little Weiser River, that should not be a cause to deny this application.

I have reviewed the Water District 67A records which are available on the department's web site. These date from 1994 through 2007. Unfortunately, the records provide very limited information regarding priority cuts for the various diversions. The records do vaguely, but not clearly, indicate that the watermaster is typically called on to make deliveries in late June or early July. Please refer to the following:

- 2003 Watermaster Log which appears to indicate that curtailment may have started on July 5.
- 2004 Chronology of Events appears to indicate that curtailment may have started in May, and that the reservoir was filling slower this year than it had in the prior year. It is not clear when curtailment actually began and which priority cuts were made.
- 2005 Water Master Sequence of Events indicates C. Ben Ross reservoir was still spilling on June 22, and that there was plenty of water in the river on June 14. It is not clear when curtailments began.
- 2006 WM Sequence of Events which indicates curtailment may have begun on July 4 or July 10.

Regarding the capacity of Grays Ditch, I understand that Tom Grossen has performed maintenance on the ditch. However, based on my telephone conversation with him today, there

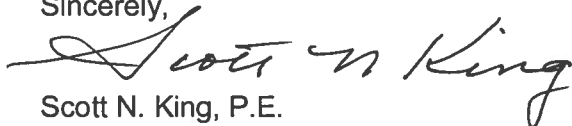
has been insufficient demand in the ditch so far this year to run the system at capacity. As soon as demand is sufficient, he will have the appropriate measurements made and reported to you.

As mentioned above, the Grays Ditch diverts at a location downstream of the C. Ben Ross fill ditch. Therefore, it is impossible that diversions under this application could impact reservoir fill.

To the extent that downstream diversions could be reduced, there are several reasons why this should not occur. First, USGS records indicate that river flows tend to drop fairly quickly on this system. Therefore, I expect that this diversion, and many others, would be curtailed fairly quickly over the period of a just a few days. Second, I agree that with inadequate watermaster control, it is possible that junior upstream diversions have the potential to injure senior downstream diversions. However, this situation is the exact reason why water districts employ watermasters. It is the watermasters' responsibility to curtail junior-priority diversions to provide water to senior-priority rights. This diversion will be no different from other junior-priority diversions from the Little Weiser River. Diversions to the reservoir have priority over this application. Provided that diversions are appropriately managed and curtailed under their respective water rights and priorities, there is no evidence to suggest that the calling date for storage water will be impacted in any way, either earlier or later. All other senior-priority diversions from the river should be filled before filling this appropriation. Until and unless other new appropriations are approved, this will be the very first right to be curtailed, thereby keeping rights held by all other right holders completely fulfilled.

I hope this letter provides the information you are seeking. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Scott N. King, P.E.
Supervising Engineer

Cc: Tom and Norma Grossen

SPF file number: 630.0010



USGS Home
Contact USGS
Search USGS

National Water Information System: Web Interface

[USGS Water Resources](#)

Data Category: Geographic Area:

[News](#) updated April, 2011

USGS Surface-Water Daily Statistics for Idaho

[Idaho Water Science Center Home Page](#)

NEW [Real-time text and e-mail alerts are now available. Subscribe here.](#)

The statistics generated from this site are based on approved daily-mean data and may not match those published by the USGS in official publications. The user is responsible for assessment and use of statistics from this site. For more details on why the statistics may not match, [click here](#).

USGS 13261000 LITTLE WEISER RIVER NR INDIAN VALLEY ID

Available data for this site

Adams County, Idaho
Hydrologic Unit Code 17050124
Latitude 44°29'35", Longitude 116°23'53" NAD83
Drainage area 81.9 square miles
Gage datum 3,250 feet above NGVD29

Output formats

[HTML table of all data](#)
[Tab-separated data](#)
[Reselect output format](#)

00060, Discharge, cubic feet per second,											
Day of month	Mean of daily mean values for each day for 36 - 38 years of record in, cfs (Calculation Period 1919-10-01 -> 1971-10-01)										
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
1	46	70	79	159	295	374	117	23	12	12	19
2	44	76	76	164	283	379	109	22	12	13	22
3	39	92	69	166	284	376	104	21	11	14	22
4	38	96	68	171	298	367	96	21	11	13	23
5	40	91	69	194	303	373	90	20	11	13	22
6	47	92	71	207	308	363	84	19	11	13	21
7	50	80	70	204	325	358	78	18	12	13	21
8	44	81	77	205	343	351	72	18	12	13	21
9	43	75	82	201	354	346	68	18	11	16	23
10	40	84	80	211	365	327	63	17	11	16	23
11	37	74	76	209	361	317	60	17	11	17	23
12	40	73	79	211	371	303	56	16	11	21	27
13	53	78	85	220	376	288	52	16	11	20	23
14	54	73	82	239	371	276	50	15	13	23	22
15	54	63	78	242	373	275	47	15	13	20	23
16	56	64	77	249	380	261	45	14	12	21	23
17	62	65	84	263	393	246	42	14	11	17	32
18	80	74	89	269	394	235	40	14	12	16	36
19	67	77	93	272	410	230	38	14	12	16	45
20	62	85	96	278	407	217	37	14	12	16	47
21	69	80	98	270	400	208	34	14	12	16	40
22	63	74	100	270	395	198	33	13	12	17	36
23	63	85	106	263	400	189	32	13	11	20	36
24	65	91	111	261	411	184	30	13	11	21	47
25	55	95	119	253	405	170	29	12	11	19	45
26	56	106	124	257	410	163	28	13	12	19	43
27	62	95	129	264	410	153	27	12	12	19	44
28	61	83	136	275	397	145	26	12	12	19	43
29	76	95	141	275	384	136	26	12	13	19	49
30	67		147	275	377	127	25	12	13	21	56
31	66		148		380		24	12		20	



USGS Home
Contact USGS
Search USGS

National Water Information System: Web Interface

USGS Water Resources

Data Category: Geographic Area:

News updated April, 2011

USGS Surface-Water Daily Statistics for Idaho

[Idaho Water Science Center Home Page](#)

NEW Real-time text and e-mail alerts are now available. [Subscribe here.](#)

The statistics generated from this site are based on approved daily-mean data and may not match those published by the USGS in official publications. The user is responsible for assessment and use of statistics from this site. For more details on why the statistics may not match, [click here](#).

USGS 13260500 LITTLE WEISER R BL MILL CR NR INDIAN VALLEY ID

Available data for this site

Adams County, Idaho
Hydrologic Unit Code 17050124
Latitude 44°29'17", Longitude 116°22'56" NAD27
Drainage area 80.3 square miles
Gage datum 3,280 feet above NGVD29

Output formats

[HTML table of all data](#)

[Tab-separated data](#)

[Reselect output format](#)

00060, Discharge, cubic feet per second,												
Day of month	Mean of daily mean values for each day for 1 - 3 years of record in, cfs (Calculation Period 1922-10-01 -> 1982-09)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	60	39	172	169	424	336	203	32	15	12	17	
2	57	39	178	157	465	325	182	32	14	12	17	
3	55	35	166	149	462	320	176	31	14	13	16	
4	54	25	157	137	413	309	166	29	14	12	16	
5	46	20	145	130	371	293	152	28	14	12	16	
6	40	24	133	126	357	278	142	27	14	12	15	
7	28	35	126	117	350	263	147	27	14	24	15	
8	43	33	120	110	331	287	127	26	13	22	14	
9	50	35	117	108	311	287	115	25	13	14	13	
10	43	32	117	108	299	274	105	25	13	21	13	
11	44	47	136	238	284	285	99	24	13	35	14	
12	46	50	131	244	280	321	92	24	14	18	29	
13	46	48	127	225	288	330	86	23	15	16	59	
14	45	236	144	223	324	342	83	22	13	15	45	
15	43	441	148	206	357	364	76	21	13	14	32	
16	40	547	158	196	357	359	72	20	13	13	106	
17	43	451	141	192	369	358	71	19	13	13	78	
18	44	359	134	197	400	343	67	19	12	13	54	
19	40	455	126	217	386	333	63	19	13	13	39	
20	39	435	130	249	398	320	58	22	21	13	36	
21	39	489	129	249	408	301	54	19	14	16	55	
22	39	455	124	248	419	295	52	17	13	12	167	
23	38	330	118	283	435	276	48	16	13	12	125	
24	55	270	114	340	441	251	41	16	13	12	175	
25	52	234	137	343	493	249	39	16	14	12	117	
26	54	204	180	345	565	234	36	15	20	14	82	
27	54	180	161	362	517	224	34	15	15	14	70	
28	47	163	157	370	452	226	34	14	17	15	55	
29	44		158	374	402	202	33	15	17	20	40	
30	40		151	383	374	186	30	15	16	16	45	
31	40		148		358		33	15		16		



USGS Home
Contact USGS
Search USGS

National Water Information System: Web Interface

[USGS Water Resources](#)

Data Category: Geographic Area:

News updated April, 2011

USGS Surface-Water Daily Statistics for Idaho

[Idaho Water Science Center Home Page](#)

NEW [Real-time text and e-mail alerts are now available. Subscribe here.](#)

The statistics generated from this site are based on approved daily-mean data and may not match those published by the USGS in official publications. The user is responsible for assessment and use of statistics from this site. For more details on why the statistics may not match, [click here](#).

USGS 13261000 LITTLE WEISER RIVER NR INDIAN VALLEY ID

Available data for this site Time-series:

Adams County, Idaho
Hydrologic Unit Code 17050124
Latitude 44°29'35", Longitude 116°23'53" NAD83
Drainage area 81.9 square miles
Gage datum 3,250 feet above NGVD29

Output formats

[HTML table of all data](#)
[Tab-separated data](#)
[Reselect output format](#)

00060, Discharge, cubic feet per second,											
Day of month	25 th percentile of daily mean values for each day for 36 - 38 years of record in, cfs (Calculation Period 1919-10-01										
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	No
1	17	22	37	94	195	277	69	17	9.4	9.9	
2	17	21	35	104	192	260	66	17	9.3	10	
3	15	20	36	112	184	264	62	17	8.9	10	
4	15	22	34	111	203	253	60	16	9.1	10	
5	16	23	35	117	216	265	56	14	9.0	10	
6	17	26	35	125	217	256	53	14	9.0	10	
7	16	32	36	123	235	239	50	14	8.5	10	
8	16	30	37	111	238	220	47	14	8.0	10	
9	17	34	41	119	264	220	46	13	8.0	10	
10	17	34	43	126	269	210	41	14	8.1	10	
11	17	34	40	133	265	207	39	12	8.2	11	
12	16	32	44	142	241	191	38	12	8.6	11	
13	17	29	43	142	233	179	36	12	8.4	11	
14	18	28	43	151	222	172	34	12	8.3	12	
15	18	30	43	160	224	163	33	12	8.9	12	
16	18	29	45	147	243	157	31	12	8.5	12	
17	18	30	52	155	233	145	29	11	8.4	12	
18	18	34	53	158	250	143	28	11	8.8	11	
19	17	30	56	146	248	133	27	10	8.9	11	
20	17	32	53	150	280	129	26	11	9.0	11	
21	18	34	54	154	282	112	25	10	9.0	11	
22	18	36	60	150	280	109	24	10	8.9	11	
23	18	39	65	153	303	106	23	10	8.9	11	
24	18	36	63	149	288	103	22	9.9	8.9	11	
25	18	35	70	150	315	99	22	9.9	9.0	10	
26	17	35	69	154	312	92	20	10	8.8	11	
27	18	36	73	165	318	86	20	9.9	8.8	12	
28	17	36	77	166	306	83	18	9.4	8.8	12	
29	18	26	79	172	281	79	18	9.5	9.3	12	
30	20		82	172	277	72	17	9.9	10	12	
31	20		80		285		18	9.3		12	