

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION)
FOR TRANSFER NO. 76213 IN THE)
NAME OF BRACKETT RANCHES)
)
_____)

**PRELIMINARY ORDER REJECTING
APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER**

This matter having come before the Department of Water Resources (Department) as a result of an application to transfer water rights, the Department finds, concludes, and orders as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On December 31, 2009, Brackett Ranches applied to the Department for authorization to change the place of use of water right 47-12060 in Twin Falls County. The transfer application was designated as transfer no. 76213 by the Department.

2. On February 4, 2010, the Department mailed Brackett Ranches a letter indicating that there was no proof of ownership provided indicating that the applicant (Brackett Ranches) owned portions of the proposed place of use. It also appeared that some of the proposed place of use included Bureau of Land Management lands. The letter asked for information to be provided that shows that Brackett Ranches has legal authority and/or permission to change the place of use of water right 47-12060 to the previously mentioned lands.

3. On December 6, 2010, the Department mailed Brackett Ranches another letter indicating that there was no proof of ownership provided indicating that the applicant (Brackett Ranches) owned portions of the proposed place of use. The letter asked for information to be provided that shows that Brackett Ranches has legal authority and/or permission to change the place of use of water right 47-12060 to the previously mentioned lands.

4. On February 9, 2011, the Department mailed Brackett Ranches another letter indicating that there was no proof of ownership provided indicating that the applicant (Brackett Ranches) owned portions of the proposed place of use. The letter asked for information to be provided that shows that Brackett Ranches has legal authority and/or permission to change the place of use of water right 47-12060 to the previously mentioned lands. In the letter, the Department informed Brackett Ranches that if they did not respond to the request within 14 days, the Department would reject their transfer application.

5. The Department has not received a response from Brackett Ranches to the request for additional information and/or modification of transfer application no. 76213.

6. Idaho Code §42-222 says, in pertinent part:

The director of the department of water resources shall examine all the evidence and available information and shall approve the change in whole, or in part, or upon conditions, provided no other water rights are injured thereby, the change does not constitute an enlargement in use of the original right, the change is consistent with the conservation of water resources within the state of Idaho and is in the local public interest as defined in section 42-202B, Idaho Code, the change will not adversely affect the local economy of the watershed or local area within which the source of water for the proposed use originates, in the case where the place of use is outside of the watershed or local area where the source of water originates, and the new use is a beneficial use, which in the case of a municipal provider shall be satisfied if the water right is necessary to serve reasonably anticipated future needs as provided in this chapter. The director may consider consumptive use, as defined in section 42-202B, Idaho Code, as a factor in determining whether a proposed change would constitute an enlargement in use of the original water right.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Without the additional information requested from Brackett Ranches, the Department cannot ascertain that the applicant has the authority to file the application.
2. The Department should reject transfer application no. 76213.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that transfer application no. 76213 in the name of Brackett Ranches is **REJECTED** without prejudice.

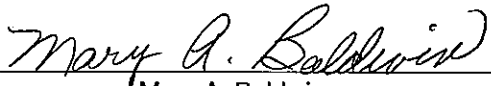
Dated this 28th day of February, 2011.


ALLEN MERRITT
Southern Region Manager

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that on the 4th day of March, 2011 a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Preliminary Order Rejecting Application for Transfer No. 76213 was forwarded with all required charges prepared, by Regular U.S. Mail, to the parties listed:

BRACKETT RANCHES LTD
261 DEVIL CREEK ROAD
CASTLEFORD ID 83321



Mary A. Baldwin
Administrative Assistant I

EXPLANATORY INFORMATION TO ACCOMPANY A PRELIMINARY ORDER

(To be used in connection with actions when a hearing was **not** held)

(Required by Rule of Procedure 730.02)

The accompanying order or approved document is a "**Preliminary Order**" issued by the department pursuant to section 67-5243, Idaho Code. **It can and will become a final order without further action of the Department of Water Resources ("department") unless a party petitions for reconsideration, files an exception and brief, or requests a hearing as further described below:**

PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

Any party may file a petition for reconsideration of a preliminary order with the department within fourteen (14) days of the service date of this order. **Note: the petition must be received by the department within this fourteen (14) day period.** The department will act on a petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of its receipt, or the petition will be considered denied by operation of law. See Section 67-5243(3) Idaho Code.

EXCEPTIONS AND BRIEFS

Within fourteen (14) days after: (a) the service date of a preliminary order, (b) the service date of a denial of a petition for reconsideration from this preliminary order, or (c) the failure within twenty-one (21) days to grant or deny a petition for reconsideration from this preliminary order, any party may in writing support or take exceptions to any part of a preliminary order and may file briefs in support of the party's position on any issue in the proceeding with the Director. Otherwise, this preliminary order will become a final order of the agency.

REQUEST FOR HEARING

Unless a right to a hearing before the Department or the Water Resource Board is otherwise provided by statute, any person aggrieved by any final decision, determination, order or action of the Director of the Department and who has not previously been afforded an opportunity for a hearing on the matter may request a hearing pursuant to section 42-1701A(3), Idaho Code. A written petition contesting the action of the Director and requesting a hearing shall be filed within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the denial or conditional approval.

ORAL ARGUMENT

If the Director grants a petition to review the preliminary order, the Director shall allow all parties an opportunity to file briefs in support of or taking exceptions to the preliminary order and may schedule oral argument in the matter before issuing a final order. If oral arguments are to be heard, the Director will within a reasonable time period notify each party of the place, date and hour for the argument of the case. Unless the Director orders otherwise, all oral arguments will be heard in Boise, Idaho.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

All exceptions, briefs, requests for oral argument and any other matters filed with the Director in connection with the preliminary order shall be served on all other parties to the proceedings in accordance with IDAPA Rules 37.01.01302 and 37.01.01303 (Rules of Procedure 302 and 303).

FINAL ORDER

The Director will issue a final order within fifty-six (56) days of receipt of the written briefs, oral argument or response to briefs, whichever is later, unless waived by the parties or for good cause shown. The Director may remand the matter for further evidentiary hearings if further factual development of the record is necessary before issuing a final order. The department will serve a copy of the final order on all parties of record.

Section 67-5246(5), Idaho Code, provides as follows:

Unless a different date is stated in a final order, the order is effective fourteen (14) days after its service date if a party has not filed a petition for reconsideration. If a party has filed a petition for reconsideration with the agency head, the final order becomes effective when:

- (a) The petition for reconsideration is disposed of; or
- (b) The petition is deemed denied because the agency head did not dispose of the petition within twenty-one (21) days.

APPEAL OF FINAL ORDER TO DISTRICT COURT

Pursuant to sections 67-5270 and 67-5272, Idaho Code, if this preliminary order becomes final, any party aggrieved by the final order or orders previously issued in this case may appeal the final order and all previously issued orders in this case to district court by filing a petition in the district court of the county in which:

- i. A hearing was held,
- ii. The final agency action was taken,
- iii. The party seeking review of the order resides, or
- iv. The real property or personal property that was the subject of the agency action is located.

The appeal must be filed within twenty-eight (28) days of this preliminary order becoming final. See section 67-5273, Idaho Code. The filing of an appeal to district court does not itself stay the effectiveness or enforcement of the order under appeal.