



July 13, 2010

Jeannie Robertson
IDWR Southern Region
1341 Fillmore St., Ste. 200
Twin Falls, ID 83301-3380

RECEIVED
JUL 14 2010
DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

Subject: ***Application for Permit
Application for Transfer Water Right 71-7078***

Dear Jeannie,

Enclosed on behalf of the USDI Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) are an Application for Permit and an Application for Transfer. The permit application proposes adding up to four new wells and diversion of additional ground water to help meet increased fish propagation needs at Sawtooth Fish Hatchery near Stanley. An accompanying transfer application seeks to add the proposed wells to the hatchery's existing ground water system authorized under water right 71-7078.

Sawtooth Fish Hatchery is currently supplied with fish propagation water by four wells numbered 1, 3, 6, and 7. A fifth well (Well No. 4) provides groundwater for irrigation and domestic purposes. The fish propagation well system is described further below.

- Well No. 1 originally produced 1200 gpm, but has lost production capacity over the past several years and is currently producing only 400 gpm. Rehabilitation efforts have not been successful at restoring productivity. USFWS proposes to drill a new well (Well 1A) this summer to replace or supplemental the supply from Well No. 1.
- Well No. 2 lost production capacity several years ago. Rehabilitation was not successful, and the well was abandoned. The production from Well No. 2 was replaced by constructing Wells 6 and 7.
- Well No. 3 is used during winter months for temperature control at the surface water intake. The well is still productive, but is approximately 30 years old. Failure of the well during subzero temperatures could result in freezing of the intake system and subsequent loss of the hatchery surface water supply. Such a loss could be catastrophic, so the USFWS is proposing a second well (Well 3A) at that location for redundancy purposes.
- Well No. 5 is a proposed well that will provide (1) redundancy for existing hatchery uses and (2) expanded supply for increased fish propagation purposes. It has a target capacity of 1,100 gpm. If Well No. 5 cannot produce the 1,100 gpm target capacity, an additional well (Well 5A) will be drilled as a supplement.

Given the importance of the Sawtooth Hatchery facility for the recovery of threatened and endangered fish stocks (sockeye salmon, chinook salmon, and steelhead), USFWS asks that the transfer and permit applications be expedited so that well drilling can occur during summer and early fall. As you know, the weather in the Stanley area is not suitable for well drilling and water system construction during winter months. Drilling and testing of the wells during the summer and fall of 2010 is necessary so that water system upgrades can be constructed during the spring and summer of 2011. This proposed schedule will maintain the viability of the Sawtooth Hatchery for anadromous fish production.

Check No. 5537 for \$940 is included for the filing fees; \$330 for the permit application and \$610 for the transfer application.

Please let me know if there are any questions. Thanks Jeannie.

Sincerely,



Lori Graves
Water Rights Specialist

Cc: Jim Burby – USFWS Division of Engineering (Portland)
Chris Starr – USFWS – LSRCP (Boise)
Gary Ball – USFWS Branch of Water Rights (Portland)
Brent Snider – IDF&G Sawtooth Hatchery (Stanley)
Tom Rogers – IDF&G (Boise)
Mort McMillen – McMillen, LLC

Enclosures