

Robertson, Jean

From: CSWCD [cswcd@custertel.net]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2009 11:45 AM
To: Troy.Saffle@deq.idaho.gov
Cc: Robertson, Jean
Subject: Fw: Mahoney Application for Permit...
Attachments: img-817101256.pdf; img-817101305.pdf; Item 12 of Application for Permit.doc; Water Appropriations Response to DEQ for Well Permit.doc

Troy,

This is a follow up to our phone conversation on the morning of July 17, 2009. I have forwarded the information attached by Jean Robertson in addition to an attachment that was provided with the request for permit and copied Jean on this e-mail as well.

As I explained, the USFS SNRA and IDFG have provided letters of support for this project. We respectfully request your response in favor of the project in order to proceed with the application. I have attached a response to the questions under Idaho Code 42-203A (5) for your consideration.

Please note that we will be increasing the permit to .15 instead of the .10 as per IDWR recommendations that we believe the water users will support. The water right number for the Elk Creek Application is 71-48 and is under Daniel Mahoney III. I will be working with Mr. Mahoney to get approval for this modification of the permit related to the .15 cfs.

Thank you so much for your assistance on this issue.

Karma

----- Original Message -----

From: Robertson, Jean
To: cswcd@custertel.net
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2009 10:27 AM
Subject: Mahoney Application for Permit...

Hi Karma,

Attached is a copy of the application which you may want to have amended to **0.15 cfs for irrigation**. (First amount under item #4.) Mr. Mahoney could cross out the other amount and put the new one, initial and date. Perhaps an accompanying email from him stating he wanted to amend the App for Permit would be appropriate too.

Then the second attachment is the requirements that need to be addressed in order to process permits in the Wild & Scenic Area. Please go through the items and address each one with some sort of comment, either already submitted, not applicable or something like that, along with comments from the DEQ, or they can email me something themselves if they want. This will speed up processing and we can get it to advertising soon. Call or email if you have any questions!

Thanks, Jeanie

8/17/2009

Water Appropriations Response to DEQ for Well Permit:

- ✚ **Potential to reduce the quality of water under existing water right:** This application is intended to improve water quality and water quantity in Elk Creek, as tributary to Valley Creek found in the SNRA. Valley Creek is known to provide spawning and rearing of anadromous fish species. The well will not affect water quality in the area.
- ✚ **Sufficiency of the water supply for the proposed application:** A pump test has been performed on behalf of the water users on the proposed well and found to be adequate for the purpose of irrigation of 5 acres. The anticipated usage is far less than the Elk Creek water right for the same acres.
- ✚ **Good faith of the applicant:** This applicant had demonstrated good faith by acting on the request of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and with the support of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to improve the flows in Elk Creek for fisheries purposes.
- ✚ **Adequacy of the applicant's financial resources:** This application and the project attached to the application to provide an alternative water source from the well permit requested is a project that has been approved for funding by Bonneville Power Administration and administered by the Custer Soil and Water District. The operation and management of the system, once installed, will be the responsibility of the water users under an agreement with the Mahoney family and the Custer SWCD.
- ✚ **Local public interest in the public water resource:** Solicitation for public comment was completed by the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and found to be acceptable for the public interest to close and rehabilitate the Elk Creek Diversion and use the well as an alternative source of water for the less than five acres covered under the Elk Creek water right.
- ✚ **Conservation of water resources in Idaho:** The current water right for the acreage being converted to the well is 1.6 cfs. The water right requested under the well permit is .15 cfs for storage (aesthetics and fire suppression) and .15 cfs for irrigation. This represents a reduction in water use for the same purpose of irrigation of approximately 5 acres.
- ✚ **Impacts to the economy of the local area or watershed:** The project will have no negative impacts on the economy. This project has positive impacts for the landowners requesting permit in the form of improved water management. The storage in the pond has been requested for the purpose of fire suppression should it be necessary near the homes or homes adjacent to the Mahoney ranch. This should be viewed as public benefit for the local area. Recreational impacts should be considered improved by the improvement of the local fisheries as a result of this project.