

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 16, 2009
To: Water Right File 75-7588
From: scox
Re: Evaluation Memorandum

The potential to reduce the quantity of water under existing water rights: This application is for irrigation for 1.3 cfs for 65 acres out of the Gattung Slough tributary to the Salmon River. The primary water source is from the drainage from the mountains west pr the property. The applicant also gets water from Rainbow Farms Ditch and the water from Williams Creek. It all flows through the Gattung Slough and then back into the Salmon River.

The sufficiency of the water supply for the proposed appropriation: The applicant feels there is sufficient water for his needs. The applicant has been there for 30 years and there always seem to have enough water flowing.

The good faith nature of the application: This is an existing slough and the water has been already being used for years. The applicant is just trying to make everything legal.

The adequacy of the financial resources of the applicant: With everything being in place, there is not cost.

The local public interest in the public water resource: Comment letter from Idaho Fish & Game states that this water is from the Gattung Slough which is an artificial source of water consisting of commingled water from Williams Creek and seepage from the Rainbow Ditch. IDF&G feels that Williams Creeks flow is limited and that the stream is already over appropriated. They feel that juvenile Chinook salmon likely use the lower portion of this tributary to the Salmon River. IDF&G would like to reconnect this tributary to the mainstem of the Salmon River. If additional water is allocated them they feel it would limit the opportunity to improve instream habitat for fish and would further suppress the expression of life histories for resident and anadromous fish residing and rearing in the Williams Creek drainage. Id DEQ comment letter states they would like the applicant to manage the flood irrigation to ensure sediment is not transported into the Salmon River during irrigation season. IDEQ has no other concerns with this allocation.

IDWR Planning Department commented on this application, they state that the Gattung Slough is an artificial source of water fed by water from Williams Creek and the Salmon River. Williams Creek has been identified as a seasonally flow limited stream by IDF&G. Without further review investigation into the source of water, it is impossible to assess the impact on efforts to improve fish habitat in Williams Creek. IWRB holds a water right on the flow of this stream, so as a junior water right holder, when the minimum flow is not being met, the applicants water will be curtailed.

The conservation of water resources in Idaho: This is a beneficial use.

Impacts to the economy of the local area or watershed: None.