

## Robertson, Jean

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**From:** Merritt, Allen  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 24, 2008 11:48 AM  
**To:** 'steve@83350.org'; 'Maria Young'; 'tara\_hagen@blm.gov'  
**Cc:** Robertson, Jean; Skaggs, Pam  
**Subject:** RE: BLM land irrigated by KECO system

**Attachments:** YandY.jpg



YandY.jpg (533 KB)

Folks,

Attached is a map I have created to show what I understand to be the lands that are irrigated by the KECO well system that are owned by BLM. As you may know there are currently approximately 60 to 70 water rights associated with the KECO system and IDWR has several pending water right transfers on this same system and is considering another to straighten out the system and the ownership that is being changed to Western Mortgage & Realty Company. The rights associated with the KECO system are currently recorded in the names of various people or entities (Young & Young Partnership; S & R Investments; various Young family members; etc). I now understand after talking to Steve Young and Tara Hagen that there is a pending agreement that grants use of BLM land but one sticking point is that BLM requires that water right(s) for the BLM land be in the name of BLM.

This is similar to the situation on the Mainline Farm area once operated by Youngs (Now owned by Western Mortgage) where BLM was specifically assigned a portion of a water right for the land owned by BLM irrigated by the Mainline system. Please refer to water right 36-16041 in the name of BLM.

There may be several approaches to identifying a water right or right(s) for the BLM property and getting them in BLM's name through the transfer processes pending. Although it is not my decision I would suggest that not all 60 to 70 rights be split but rather one or a small set be split and associated with the BLM lands. I am willing to work with the parties to accomplish this goal but I will ultimately need written agreement between the parties (BLM and Western Mortgage) to proceed.

I hope to hear from BLM and Western Mortgage as to how to proceed soon. Call if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Allen Merritt

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

From: Maria Young [mailto:myoung@83350.org]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2008 11:12 AM  
To: Robertson, Jean  
Cc: Steven D. Young  
Subject: BLM

Last August when Western Mortgage became the landowner BLM had begun the land tenure "sale process" for the USDI parcels that you listed. There was a moratorium placed on all permit and tenure sale(s) processing due to the pending IDWR water call at the time Youngs gave an assingment to Western and I don't know where it now stands as I am out of the correspondance loop. I do know that it was outlined in the plan to take three years for the ownership transfer and the tenure sale docs were on hold pending the IDWR determination to submit docs for EIS approval and beginning the bidding process for third

party contractors. The permit was 34483, and the water transfer is the one referred to as sitting on "Fred's" desk since 2002.

Tara Hagen at the Shoshone office could probably help you with this, though the actual sale docs came from Lori Armstrong. This is their contact info:

Tara Hagen

or

Lori Armstrong

BLM Shoshone Field Office

400 West F St

Shoshone, ID 83350-5284

(208) 732-7200

# BLM lands irrigated by KECO system

