



United States Department of the Interior
IDAHO FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICE

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MAY 12 2009

Jeff Peppersack, Chief
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Water Allocation Bureau
322 East Front Street, P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

MAY 15 2009

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Subject: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service support for J.R. Simplot Revocable Trust's
Petition for Reconsideration of the Idaho Department of Water Resources
Denial of the Extension of Permit No 51-7346 (6205.4018)

Dear Mr. Peppersack:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is writing in support of the J. R. Simplot Revocable Trust's Petition for Reconsideration of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Denial of the Extension of Permit No. 51-7346 that authorizes the diversion of surface water from the Bruneau River. The USFWS has participated as part of an inter-agency Bruneau Hot Springsnail (BHSS) Coordination Committee to develop and implement thermal water conservation projects in the Bruneau area the past several years.

Recovery of the BHSS is dependent upon conserving the remaining thermal springs and outflows along the Bruneau River that provides its necessary habitat. Over the past several years, the USFWS, working cooperatively with other agencies and interested parties, has invested in voluntary water conservation projects that have already resulted in significant thermal groundwater savings. The J.R. Simplot Revocable Trust's proposed diversion of Bruneau River surface water would substitute the use of thermal groundwater that would otherwise be pumped, and would provide additional thermal groundwater savings for BHSS conservation efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of the petition for reconsideration for Permit Number 51-7346.

Sincerely,

Jeffery L. Foss, State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office