IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
SALMON REGION
99 Highway 93 North
P.O. Box 1336
Salmon, Idaho 83467

January 6, 2009

C.L. "Butch" Otter/Governor
Cal Groen/Director

RECEIVED
MAR 13 2009
DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

Lyle Swank
Idaho Department of Water Resources
900 N. Skyline Dr., Suite A
Idaho Falls, ID 83402-1718

Re: Water Right Application No. 72-16772 (Bullock)

Dear Lyle,

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) staff has reviewed the application from Travis and Brenda Bullock for 0.78 cfs of groundwater to heat a residence, two green houses, maintain a fish pond, and irrigate 36 acres near the city of Challis. The well (drilled in 2008) is 260 feet and the applicant intends to pump from this well. This ground water withdrawal will not negatively impact fish or aquatic resources and we do not oppose permit issuance.

IDFG has concerns regarding the management of area ponds and would like the applicant to be of these concerns. Most flat waters in the upper Salmon River drainage experience vegetative growth during summer, and it can be excessive in man-made ponds. It is likely that the pond will experience seasonal algal and aquatic vegetation growth that may prove difficult to manage. IDFG is concerned that use of chemicals to control unwanted growth can have undesirable consequences to both aquatic and terrestrial species. It is likely that many wildlife species will be attracted to the lake and if inappropriate use of herbicides occurs there may be direct damage to these resources and to downstream resources if chemicals escape the pond. Also, the applicant needs to be aware that if they plan to stock fish in the pond, they will need to secure a permit from IDFG prior to stocking. There will be guidelines included in the permit to protect both ESA listed and native salmonids from disease and genetic hybridization risks.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this application and provide comments.

Sincerely,

James R. Lukens

James R. Lukens
Regional Supervisor

cc: Walt Poole
Travis and Brenda Bullock
Eric Crawford
Bob Foster