Fisher & Associates

Aquatic Resource Management & Enhancement
6640 Highway 200 East • Missoula, MT 59802
(406) 258-6800 • Fax (406) 258-6814

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DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

December 23, 2008

Craig Hobdey, Esquire
P.O. Box 176
125 5th Avenue West
Gooding, ID 83330

Re: Big Wood Canal Company Notice of Protest to [redacted]
and to Application for Water Right No. 37-22385

Dear Mr. Hobdey:

Thank you for your time on the phone yesterday. I am glad we spoke, I now feel I understand the reasons for your and your client's concerns. The method we have proposed to employ to divert the water is unconventional and the calculations set forth in the application are not immediately self apparent. Please allow me to explain.

First, the one inch (0.02 cfs) we propose to transfer will be used for irrigation. The pond, from which the water will be pumped, presently exists. It is fed by groundwater and, although we and IDWR feel its water is supplied by the river's shallow aquifer, it has no surface connection to the Big Wood River. It will be deepened and enlarged to accommodate the proposed withdrawal.

Second, the Idaho Department of Water Resources determined that some amount of water needed to be allocated to compensate for the water consumed by evaporation from the proposed pond. That amount was determined to be 0.10 of an inch because the pond will be 0.10 of an acre in surface area. IDWR presently equates pond evaporative losses on par with irrigation consumption. Mr. Rohe will be able to irrigate an additional 0.90 of an acre on his Gimlet property with the balance of the water transferred.

It may seem simple now but the above scenario was the result of numerous discussions with Mr. Kevin Lakey, the basin's Watermaster, and with IDWR's engineers. The need to compensate for all water lost or consumed was very important. I will be careful to not speak for them but, I think that we all feel that the present proposal meets the test of a proper transfer. It does not expand irrigated acreage and it addresses all potential injury to other water users.

Thank you for your concern. Hopefully you can encourage the Big Wood Canal Company's Board of Directors to remove their protest. Please feel to call me anytime on my personal cell phone at (406) 360-9893.

Sincerely,

Steve Fisher
Aquatic Biologist
Fisher & Associates

cc. Mr. Robert Rohe
Mr. Allen Merritt, IDWR Southern Region