



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

CLEARWATER REGION

3316 16th Street
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

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

August 21, 2007

Mr. Randy Eller, Resource Manager
Empire Lumber Company
DbA Kamiah Mills
PO Box 638
Kamiah, ID 83536

*Entered on
Computer
db*

RECEIVED

AUG 30 2007

IDWR/North

Dear Mr. Eller:

RE: Application for Approval of Water Appropriation

Idaho Fish and Game has reviewed your cover letter and draft application on behalf of Empire Lumber Company for a water right to withdraw a total of 4.5 cfs groundwater from a well in Weippe. The water will be used for commercial purposes (irrigating log decks and dust control) and, if needed, for fire protection. Based on your cover letter, the total instantaneous withdrawal will be needed only in case of a fire emergency; unspecified lesser volumes would be needed for routine commercial purposes.

IDFG believes that, based on the proposed location and amount of withdrawal, your proposed development is unlikely to have significant impacts on fish, wildlife or habitat. We have no objection to the proposed withdrawal. However, we urge you to use water conservation measures wherever practical to minimize demand and long-term impacts on the aquifer shared with the City of Weippe and many other users.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Ray Hennekey at this office if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Dave Cadwallader
Clearwater Regional Supervisor

CG/rh/cs

c: Kerby Cole
Keith Franklin, IDWR CDA
Cindy Robertson
Tracey Trent

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage