



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

SALMON REGION

99 Highway 93 North

P.O. Box 1336

Salmon, Idaho 83467

October 1, 2008

C.L. "Butch" Otter/Governor

Cal Groen/Director

Lyle Swank

Idaho Department of Water Resources

900 N. Skyline Dr., Suite A

Idaho Falls, ID 83402-1718

Re: Water Right Application No. 75-7588 (Gattung)

Dear Lyle,

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) staff has reviewed the application from Bill Gattung to withdraw 1.3 cfs of water from Gattung Slough a tributary to Williams Creek near Salmon, Idaho to irrigate 65 acres. Gattung Slough is an artificial source of water consisting of commingled water from Williams Creek and seepage from the Rainbow Ditch. It is the position of IDFG that Williams Creek is flow limited and from a biological perspective, the stream is already over-appropriated for irrigation use. Juvenile Chinook salmon likely use the lower portion of this tributary to the Salmon River as thermal refuge. IDFG would like to reconnect this tributary to the mainstem Salmon River and this appropriation would further compromise this effort.

It is IDFG's intention to continue to work cooperatively with Idaho Department of Water Resources and individual Williams Creek water users to protect fisheries resources and the interests of irrigators. Any additional water allocation would limit opportunity to improve in-stream habitat for fish and would further suppress the expression of life histories for resident and anadromous fish residing and rearing in the Williams Creek drainage.

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

RECEIVED

OCT 06 2008

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Lukens".

James R. Lukens
Regional Supervisor

cc: Walt Poole
Dane Cook
Bob Foster
Bill Gattung

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage