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AUG 19 2008

DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

SALMON REGION

August 18, 2008

C.L. "Butch" Otter/Governor

Cal Groen/Director

99 Highway 93 North

P.O. Box 1336

Salmon, Idaho 83467

Allen Merritt

Idaho Department of Water Resources

1341 Fillmore Street, Suite 200

Twin Falls, Idaho 83301-3380

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AUG 19 2008

DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

Re: Water Right Application No. 71-10921 (Ketchum-Long Island, LLC)

Dear Allen,

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) staff has reviewed the application from Ketchum-Long Island LLC to convert 1.21 cfs of surface water from an existing Salmon River water right (71-62A) to a nonconsumptive use and change the point of diversion. The new point of diversion would be located near Smiley Creek Ranch and the water used to supply a 1.5 acre pond. Outflow would be discharged back into the Salmon River.

It is the Department's intention to continue to work cooperatively with IDWR and individual Salmon River water users to protect fisheries resources and the interests of irrigators. The Department has some concerns with this application. We would like the pump to be screened in accordance with criteria available at the IDFG screen shop. Pond discharge will be warmer than the Salmon River, which will negatively impact salmonid habitat. We request that native vegetation adjacent to pond banks and outlet be maintained and enhanced to minimize this warming influence. Evapo-transpiration will occur in the pond, reducing return flows. Reducing pond surface area by increasing depth (maintaining volume) would both reduce evaporative losses and reduce discharge temperatures. We would also remind Ketchum-Long Island, LLC that no fish can be released into the pond until a permit is acquired from IDFG and that the inlet is screened to prevent fish entrainment (we also recommend that the outlet be screened to prevent loss of private fish) as per Idaho Code 36-706.

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

Sincerely,

James R. Lukens
Regional Supervisor

cc: Walt Poole
Merritt Horsmon
Ketchum-Long Island LLC
Bob Foster

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage