



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

SALMON REGION
99 Highway 93 North
P.O. Box 1336
Salmon, Idaho 83467

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

August 27, 2008

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

RECEIVED
AUG 28 2008

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

RECEIVED

SEP 02 2008

DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

Re: Water Right Application No. 72-16771 (Watson)

Dear Lyle,

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) staff has reviewed the application from Kent S. and Debra L. Watson for 1.60 cfs of groundwater to irrigate 71 acres near the city of Challis. The applicants intend to pump from a well (drilled in 1996) that is 650 feet deep and store in a one acre pond. This ground water withdrawal should not negatively impact fish or aquatic resources and we do not have significant concerns with the permit issuance.

However, we have some concerns with pond management and want the applicants to be aware of these concerns. Most ponds in our area experience vegetation growth in the summer and it can be excessive in some artificial ponds. It is likely that the pond will experience seasonal algal and macophytic vegetation growth that may prove difficult to manage. It has been our experience that chemical controls often result in undesirable consequences to both aquatic and terrestrial species downstream of treatment areas and in receiving waters. 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 also. Furthermore, the applicant needs to be aware that if they plan to stock fish into the pond, they will need to secure a permit from our Department prior to acquiring fish. We have adopted relatively strict guidelines in our stocking permits to protect both ESA listed and other native salmonids from disease and genetic hybridization risks.

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

Sincerely,

James R. Lukens
Regional Supervisor

cc: Walt Poole
Eric Crawford
Bob Foster
Kent S. and Debra L. Watson

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage