



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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WESTERN REGION
May 21, 2007

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR.
Interim Director

Scott Reinecker
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
3101 S Powerline RD
Nampa ID 83686

RE: Application for Permit #63-32185, Idaho F&G Commission; 4/19/07 Letter

Dear Mr. Reinecker:

This letter is in response to the 4/19/07 letter received from Director Groen regarding the processing of Application for Permit #63-32185. Hopefully, this will address questions and clarify the application status.

Applications for new appropriations of ground water in the Boise River basin have been held by our agency since 1996. There continues to be legitimate concerns about the adequacy—both quantity and quality of existing ground water supplies. Land use changes through development have resulted in declines of ground water levels in some areas of the basin. Compounding this is the fact that a new consumptive use of ground water tributary to the Boise and Snake Rivers indirectly reduces natural stream flows. These rivers serve as a natural source and conveyance for augmented storage water utilized for endangered fish flows. Reduced natural flow requires additional storage augmentation.

In the past, our agency received a number of Boise basin ground water applications proposing sources that were not tributary to the Boise River. Tributary sources included Payette & Snake Rivers—particularly in the Melba, Parma, and Kuna areas. Processing these applications was shifting the basin boundaries at random. This presented possible injury to senior ground water rights and potential permit holders (applications held). Since 2005, our agency has not processed applications where the ground water source is listed as tributary to other sources in the Boise basin.

If your agency desires to provide a plan to mitigate the consumptive use, our office will be glad to consider application processing options. However based on the current status, the application will continue to be held in priority order; your agency will be contacted if there is a change in policies.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at the Western Regional Office, phone 334-2190.

Sincerely,

John Westra
Manager, Western Region.

cc: D. Shaw, ERO