



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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File

PHILIP E. BATT
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER
DIRECTOR

March 16, 1998

Box Canyon Dairy
ATTN: Scott
PO Box 140
Wendell, ID
83355

Dear Scott;

This letter is being written per your request regarding a proposed heifer operation that you plan to develop. You stated that there will be around 1500 heifers in the 400-800 lb range. Our figures show that 400-lb animals drink from 3.7 to 6.1 gallons per day, while 800-lb animals drink from 6.3 to 10.6 gallons per day. Sec. 42-111 of the Idaho Code allows up to 13,000 gallons of groundwater per day to be diverted from domestic and stockwatering purposes without a water right. So up to 1226 800-lb animals could be watered without a water right on a hot summer day. Up to 3513 400-lb animals could be watered on a cold winter day. When we spoke, I used the average use of 7.9 gpd per animal, but my supervisor informed me that this is not correct. To meet the limits of 42-111, water use on any given day cannot exceed 13,000 gallons; a lower use on some days does not allow a greater use on other days. With so many variables (herd structure, air temperature, etc.), it is not possible to give an exact limit on the number of animals that can be watered without a specific water right; your proposed facility appears to fall into the exempt category, however. A drilling permit is required if you decide to drill another well for the proposed use, but such permits are available at any time for a fee of \$75.

Regards,

James E. Stanton
Sr. Water Resource Agent