

Cooper, Jeff

From: Keen, Shelley
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2007 8:24 AM
To: Cooper, Jeff
Cc: Harris, Jeff; Van Dyke, Nick; Marshall, Aaron; Padilla, Cherie; Skaggs, Pam; Grimm, Angie; Franklin, Keith; Maxey, Shaun; Goodwin, Chad; Davis, Eric
Subject: RE: Volume for Wildlife Use

Jeff,

This discussion may be useful to some other new agents, so I'm routing my response to them too.

It seemed to me that we had addressed your question about wildlife volumes years ago, so I looked through my old notes. What I found is that before 1996 we used 0.1 AF as the annual volume for a wildlife right because we could not imagine a situation where there would be so many wildlife that they would use more than that.

I found a note dated July 18, 1996, that provides different direction. It says, "Wildlife volume recommendations for licensing shall be recommended as equal but not additive to the recommended stockwater volume unless the wildlife volume has been specifically quantified. In the event stockwater is not identified or recommended as a use, actual wildlife volume needs to be quantified and verified."

In other words, we won't necessarily just assume that the wildlife use is only 0.1 AF. However, quantifying the wildlife use is likely to be difficult. I think we can assume that except for ungulates -- elk, deer, pronghorns, wild horses -- wildlife don't use much water. Your best bet might be to get BLM to estimate the number of ungulates that might use the trough in a day and then equate them to range cattle, which average about 12 gallons a day (probably more in the summer and less in the winter). If the total comes to less than 0.1 AF annually, round up to the tenth.

If someone can suggest a better method, I think we should consider it. The bottom line is that the volumes are so small they're probably not worth a lot of effort, but we should base our recommendation on reasonable assumptions when hard data is not available.

Hopefully, the troughs are on float switches. If the diversion runs continuously, we have a question of whether the water is being beneficially used.

Call or email if you want to discuss it some more.

Shelley

-----Original Message-----

From: Cooper, Jeff
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2007 12:15 PM
To: Keen, Shelley
Subject: Volume for Wildlife Use

Shelley,

Kelly and I have been working on a draft license (45-7342) for the BLM for a developed spring used for stockwater and wildlife. We were wondering what you would recommend to put for the annual diversion volume for the wildlife component at a year round diversion rate of 0.01 cfs. We have located a similar older license (47-8263) that gave an annual volume of 0.1 AF at the same flow rate, though we don't know how this was determined. Any assistance would be much appreciated.

-Jeff