

Keen, Shelley

From: Keen, Shelley
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2007 10:16 AM
To: 'Leslie May'
Cc: Merritt, Allen; 'Bittner'; 'Carol Kingston'; 'Gary/Dani'; 'Jock Slavin'; 'Leslie'; 'lhawkins@ida.net'; 'Tommy Thompson'; 'Kathy Gliksmann'
Subject: RE: Clarification

Ms. Shumate,

Allen Merritt asked me to respond to your questions about his preliminary order on the Williams Lake applications for amendment. My responses are based on my understanding of Allen Merritt's preliminary order.

I will also place this response in the water right files maintained by IDWR.

Measuring Devices – I have attached a document describing the types of measuring devices acceptable to IDWR. This information is also available in the Water Measurement section of IDWR's web site. Rather than specify what type of measuring device should be used, IDWR typically allows water right holders to select from a range of devices. This approach allows the right holder to account for a number of variables, including site characteristics, availability, technical ability, and budget. It is my understanding that IDWR will require installation of a permanent measuring device with a data logger capable of recording daily usage. It is not clear to me whether installation will be required now or when a water district is formed for the regulation of water rights in the area.

BLM Permit – The BLM has Permit 75-7638, which was issued in 1996 to authorize the diversion of up to 18 gallons per minute from a spring in the NESESE, Section 34, T20N, R21E, for use in 12 campsites. The application was advertised in The Recorder Herald on December 21 and 28, 1995. The application was not protested. IDWR has not yet completed the field examination needed to confirm the beneficial use, if any, established in accordance with the permit. While a continuous diversion of 18 gpm would result in a flow of nearly 26,000 gallons in a day, IDWR is required to issue water right licenses with an annual volume restriction equal to the amount of water actually put to beneficial use. While the volume is yet to be determined, a reasonable guess would be a about 50 gallons per day per campsite, or about 600 gallons a day.

Annual Volume for Williams Lake Recreational Water & Sewer District – Allen Merritt recommended an annual diversion volume of 42.2 acre-feet for the spring right. A rate of 0.21 cfs would produce about 135,000 gallons per day. However, 42.2 acre-feet is about 38,000 gallons per day. The difference results from the fact that homes are not using water constantly around the clock.

Number of Homes Authorized – As drafted, the preliminary order does not specify a number of homes that the Williams Lake Recreational Water & Sewer District will be authorized to serve with water diverted under Right 75-7589. Instead, the preliminary order limits the volume of water that can be used to the amount that IDWR believes is already being beneficially used in Williams Lake Recreational Water & Sewer District. Additional homes could be added to the system, but the 42.2 acre-foot volume could not be exceeded.

Sincerely,

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