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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

CLEARWATER REGION

3316 16th Street
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

July 25, 2006

James E. Risch/Governor
Steven M. Huffaker/Director

Mr. Greg Taylor
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Northern Region
1910 Northwest Blvd, S 210
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

*See on computer
do 7/26/06*

Dear Greg:

REFERENCE: #85-7575 McCORMICK WATER RIGHT APPLICATION

Subsequent to comments we submitted in January regarding the above-named water right application for 0.08 cfs and/or 10 AFA for storage for irrigation and livestock from an unnamed tributary to Jack's Creek (attached), we received additional correspondence indicating you had requested additional information from the applicants Richard J. and/or Leslie R. McCormick, and had advised them to contact IDFG regarding their request. On July 10, Mr. McCormick delivered a copy of his application to the Region 2 IDFG office and discussed the point of diversion/source of water with Ray Hennekey, Region 2 staff biologist.

According to Mr. McCormick, the source of the water is a spring located in an ephemeral draw (the unnamed tributary) that may carry surface water to Jack's Creek during periods of high runoff. As we understand it, the applicant plans not to divert water from the tributary to Jack's Creek, but to divert water from a spring in the ephemeral draw for storage in an existing permitted pond. Based on the additional information from our discussion with the applicant and a review of a map of the area, we believe that it is unlikely that the proposed withdrawal from the spring will reduce flows in Jack's Creek below those needed to support fish and other aquatic species and to support riparian habitat. We have no objection to the proposed withdrawal.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

for 
Cal Groen
Clearwater Regional Supervisor

CG/rh/ss

Attachment

c: Richard McCormick
Walt Poole
Cindy Robertson
Tracey Trent

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