

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
1630 Third Avenue South, Payette, ID 83661-2999
Telephone: 208-642-4402 FAX: 208-642-4322

July 27, 2004

Deborah Gibson
Administrative Assistant
Idaho Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098

Dear Ms. Gibson:

I am writing in support of an "Extension of Time Request to Submit Proof of Beneficial Use" being submitted by Jon Trail and Mary Trail, LLC (permit no. 67-14419).

Jon Trail and Mary Trail, LLC is cooperating with this office to restore wetlands on a parcel of land in northern Payette County through a Wetland Reserve Program permanent easement. They have been prevented from proceeding due to delays by NRCS in closing title to the easement, completion of a detailed soil survey, and development of final engineering for the project. These delays have been entirely beyond their control, and have caused completion of the project to take much longer than was originally anticipated.

NRCS recently completed closing of the easement and engineering for the project, and we are now in the process of locating contractors to complete work for the planned restoration. This project will have considerable benefits to wildlife and water quality in a 303-d listed segment of the Snake River. A favorable decision by your office to allow this extension would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding this project or require more information, I would be happy to cooperate. You may contact my office in Payette at (208)642-4402, extension 3. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Raymond", written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL A. RAYMOND
District Conservationist