

MEMORANDUM

To: Files 74-745

From: Cynthia Bridge Clark

Date: August 30, 2005

Re: Lease/Rental of Water Rights to the State Water Supply Bank

The Department of Water Resources Planning Division initiated an agreement with Robert Bonuccelli to lease irrigation water for instream flow use on the Lemhi River under the Columbia River Basin Water Transaction Program. According to department staff, the intent of the program is to enhance tributary flows for flow augmentation.

An application was filed with the Water Supply Bank (bank) to lease water associated with the irrigation of 112 acres from water right 74-745 from March 15 to November 15, 2005. A companion rental application was filed in the name of the Idaho Water Resource Board to rent the same right for instream flow use under the Federal Reserve Wild and Scenic River water right no. 75-13316. The right identifies a beneficial use of "Wild and Scenic River" on the Salmon River. The rental application was filed to ensure that the water associated with the right remains in the Lemhi River rather than being diverted by the holders of junior water rights.

The application proposes a change in nature of use from irrigation to instream flow. To avoid enlargement of the rights, the volume available for rent was limited to the consumptive use. Evidence of historical beneficial use was not required for the determination of the consumptive volume for the short-term rental lease/rental. The consumptive use recognized in the rental was determined using METRIC to evaluate the losses due to evapotranspiration (effective precipitation may also have been subtracted). Bill Graham worked with department staff in the GIS section to compile the estimate. The consumptive use using METRIC is 238 acre-feet. Calculating the consumptive use based on the number of acres leased times the standard consumptive irrigation requirement (2.5 afa per acre) is 280 acre-feet. The diversion rate is also a consideration given that the new use will require continuous flow. The continuous flow rate is limited to 0.57 cfs (total consumptive volume/(1.984 x 246 days)).

The right numbers and corresponding portions leased/rented are listed below:

<u>Right No.</u>	<u>Acres (ac)</u>	<u>Diversion Rate (cubic ft per sec., cfs)</u>	<u>Consumptive Diversion Volume (acre-feet, af)</u>
74-745	112 ac	3.36 cfs	238 af

Rental of the rights is for consumptive use only and is limited to the consumptive use diversion volume of 238 afa, or a continuous diversion rate 0.57 cfs for use from March 15, 2005 to November 15, 2005.

Acceptance in the bank was based on preliminary recommendation issued for the right in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA). The payment rate was negotiated between the water right owner and the department's planning division in conjunction with the Columbia River Basin Water Transaction Program.

\$3272/y₁ = \$29.21/acre
Bonucelli

Lemhi River Lease Potential - Water Right 74-745



△ Point of Diversion

Stephenson Irrigated Fields 112 acres

