



IDAHO FISH AND GAME

2750 Kathleen Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

Dirk Kempthorne/Governor
Steven Huffaker/Director

November 2, 2004

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

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Computer
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Via email to Bob Haynes:

REFERENCE: 98-7838; Mary Berges

We have reviewed the above named application to withdraw 0.07 acre-feet from an unnamed spring for wildlife storage from January 1 to December 31.

We have no objection to issuing the 0.07 acre-feet for storage; however, we recommend against permitting construction of a pond on the stream. Small perennial and intermittent streams serve many important biological functions that deserve protection. An in-stream impoundment may contribute to elevated stream temperatures, impede migrations of amphibians and have other potentially adverse impacts on water quality and stream function. We recommend that the applicant should be required either to withdraw water from the spring on an as-needed basis or install storage off-stream.

The application indicates that an eight foot dam would be constructed. A dam at this height will create a fish barrier; therefore, if IDWR does permit an in-stream impoundment, the applicants should be made aware that any structure intended to impound water must be designed, installed and maintained to allow fish passage per Idaho Code 36-906. No dam designs, including fish passage structure(s), were provided with the enclosed material; consequently we are unable to comment on fish passage design.

Finally, if the applicant intends to use the storage pond for fish they should be informed that a permit is required prior to stocking private ponds with fish. In addition, unless the fish to be stocked are delivered by a commercial hatchery (required for trout), the applicant must acquire a fish transport permit to bring fish to the pond. Both permits are available from Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Mary Terra-Berns
Environmental Staff Biologist

C: IDFG NRPB, Boise; File