



IDAHO FISH AND GAME

2750 Kathleen Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

Dirk Kempthorne/Governor
Steven Huffaker/Director

June 16, 2004

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

Via email to Diane Ball:

REFERENCE: Water Right Application - 96-9182 - VENN

We have reviewed the above named application to withdraw 0.02 cfs from Pend Orielle River for irrigation.

We have no specific objections to this request. However, water lines and pumps are an encroachment in lakes and rivers that can be detrimental to fish and fish habitat. The applicant should obtain necessary encroachment permits from Idaho Department of Lands before installing water lines and pumps in state waters.

If a line and pump are placed in the creek and excavation is necessary, we recommend that applicants be required to install the lines during low water when underwater excavation will be minimized. Dug materials should be sidecast to only one side and the bottom contour and substrate restored. The pump should be screened to prevent entrainment of fish; the maximum screen mesh size should be 0.25 inches. In addition, pump approach velocities should not exceed 0.5 ft/second to prevent losses of juvenile fish. It would be preferable to place pumps on land rather than in the water.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Mary Terra-Berns
Environmental Staff Biologist

C: IDFG NRPB, Boise; Chip Corsi, IDFG, Cd'A; File

File: IDWR WR 96-9182 VENN