

Grass Widow Farm  
Del and BernaDeane Blackburn  
32020 South Bella Vista RD  
Worley, ID 83876

RECEIVED  
JAN 06 2004  
IDWR/North

Idaho Department of Water Resources  
Northern Region  
1910 Northwest Blvd.  
Coeur d' Alene, Idaho 83815

Subject: Water Rights:

As property owners next to a proposed development on Section 25, Township 47 North, Range 4 W.B.M., Kootenai County, Idaho, near Conklin Park Road and Bella Vista we would like clarification concerning water rights of a ephemeral spring on the property.

The spring in question is on a parcel at the corner of Conklin Park Road and Bella Vista. This spring is piped under Conklin Park Road to the old farm house on the Bernard Hickman estate for which we are now responsible. This spring is the only water source for the farmstead, as drilling wells in this area has not proven successful. Although nobody is living in the old house at the present time, we do pay taxes on it as a home site. We are planning on uncapping the pipe at the house this summer for a source of livestock water and are considering renovating the house as a rental. The spring water supply was a "gentlemen's agreement" between Claude Hickman and Bernard Hickman (brothers) established about 50 years ago. About 15 years ago a letter was served to the Idaho Department of Water Resources in Boise with an appropriate response establishing the spring water usage on the homestead. We feel that the spring water right is ours based on Idaho State Constitution "first is use first in right" principle and would appreciate forms necessary to update this claim. Thank you for your time.

Del Blackburn

