



IDAHO FISH & GAME

MAGIC VALLEY REGION
868 East Main Street
P.O. Box 428
Jerome, Idaho 83338-0428

November 29, 2004

Dirk Kempthorne / Governor
Steven M. Huffaker / Director

State of Idaho
Department of Water Resources
1341 Fillmore Street
Suite 200
Twin Falls, ID 83301-3380

RECEIVED

DEC 02 2004

Department of Water Resources
Southern Region

Re: Application for Permit No. 37-21339 – Peter Bowler

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the application for permit from Peter Bowler (Applicant) for 0.13 cfs of water for domestic and aesthetic purposes from an unnamed spring in Gooding County. It is our understanding the Applicant intends to use 0.4 cfs for domestic purposes and 0.9 cfs for a 0.034 AF pond. Based on measurements taken by the Applicant, the proposed diversions will capture the entire spring flow.

We recommend against issuance of a permit that includes diversion of water for an aesthetic pond. The size and depth of the proposed pond (30 feet long x 20 feet wide x 2-3 feet deep) suggest flushes of aquatic vegetation and subsequent dissolved oxygen sags and increased water temperatures are expected. From a cumulative perspective, we are concerned that the temperature of return flows will exacerbate water quality issues in the Snake River. Further, the Applicant states the pond will help sustain a "birch grove and other riparian habitat" as it drains to the Snake River. Maintaining a 0.9 cfs flow in the existing stream channel will serve the same purpose.

Issuance of the domestic portion of this application (0.4 cfs) should have minimal negative impacts on riparian and aquatic resources assuming the remaining spring flow (0.9 cfs) remains in the existing stream channel.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. If you have any questions please contact Mike McDonald, Environmental Staff Biologist, at this office.

Sincerely,

David Parrish
Magic Valley Regional Supervisor

Cc: Peter Bowler (Applicant)
IDFG (NRPB)
ECc: IDFG (R4 staff)