

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS
TWIN FALLS CO., IDAHO
FILED

IN RE SRBA)
CASE NO. 39576)
_____)

PARTIAL DECREE FOR

**Federal Reserved Water Rights 78-11961
Rapid Wild and Scenic River (including West
Fork)**

1. Name and address of owner: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, on behalf of the
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
550 W. Fort Street, MSC033
Boise, ID 83724

2. Source of water: Rapid River and West Fork Rapid River

3. Quantity of right: a. When the stream flow at the Rapid River quantification site as defined in Section 3.d. below ("Rapid River gage") is less than 625 cfs, the United States is entitled to the following flows:

Period of Use	Discharge (cfs)	Period of Use	Discharge (cfs)
January 1-15	73	July 1-15	281
January 16-31	73	July 16-31	175
February 1-15	66	August 1-15	160
February 16-28(29)	63	August 16-31	136
March 1-15	75	September 1-15	124
March 16-31	99	September 16-30	118
April 1-15	109	October 1-15	108
April 16-30	160	October 16-31	97
May 1-15	249	November 1-15	87
May 16-31	403	November 16-30	88
June 1-15	524	December 1-15	73
June 16-30	432	December 16-31	78

b. When the stream flow at the Rapid River gage is greater than or equal to 625 cfs (as adjusted by upstream junior depletions, including depletions from water rights enjoying the subordination provided in this right), the United States is entitled to all flows, up to 2,160 cfs.

c. This water right does not prohibit the appropriation, diversion and use of water within the Rapid River basin upstream from the ending point of the Rapid Wild and Scenic River at the National Forest Boundary when the stream flow at the Rapid River gage exceeds the flow amount in Section 3.a. and is less than 625 cfs.

d. The quantification site for the flows identified above is the USDA Forest Service gage located in NE1/4NE1/4, Sec. 12, T23N, R1W, Boise Meridian; Latitude N 45° 21' 7.1", Longitude W 116° 23' 49.5".

e. This water right precludes any diversion of water out of the watershed of the Rapid Wild River Basin upstream from the ending point of the Rapid Wild and Scenic River at the National Forest boundary as described below, except for transfers of points of diversion from above the ending point to below the ending point.

4. Priority date:

December 31, 1975.

5. Point of diversion:

There is no diversion associated with this instream flow water right. The legal description of the beginning and ending points of the instream flow water right are as follows:

Main Stem Rapid River:

Beginning point: Headwaters of the main stem Rapid River -- NE1/4SW1/4, Sec. 31, T21N, R1W, Boise Meridian; Latitude N 45° 06' 49.0", Longitude W 116° 30' 23.2".

Ending point: National Forest boundary -- NE1/4NE1/4, Sec. 12, T23N, R1W, Boise Meridian; Latitude N 45° 21' 14.0", Longitude W 116° 23' 31.8".

West Fork Rapid River:

Beginning point: Wilderness boundary -- NW1/4SW1/4, Sec. 1, T22N, R2W, Boise Meridian; Latitude N 45° 16' 19.1", Longitude W 116° 32' 1.4".

Ending point: Confluence with the main stem Rapid River – SW1/4NE1/4, Sec. 26, T23N, R1W, Boise Meridian; Latitude N 45° 18' 25.0", Longitude W 116° 25' 8.4".

6. Purpose of use:

To fulfill the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Pub.L. 90-542, 82 Stat. 906, Oct. 2, 1968 (codified as amended at 16 U.S.C. §§ 1271, et seq.), and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Act, Pub.L. 94-199, 89 Stat. 1117, Dec. 31, 1975 (codified as amended at 16 U.S.C. §§ 460gg-469gg-13).

7. Period of use:

01-01 to 12-31.

8. Place of use:

This instream flow water right is used throughout the designated Rapid Wild and Scenic River (including West Fork) from the beginning points to the ending points as identified above.

9. Annual volume of consumptive use:

This instream flow water right is non-consumptive (other than evaporation and evapotranspiration which may take place within the designated segment).

10. Other provisions necessary for definition or administration of this water right:

a. This is a federal reserved water right based on the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Pub.L. 90-542, 82 Stat. 906, Oct. 2, 1968 (codified as amended at 16 U.S.C. §§ 1271, et seq.), and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Act, Pub.L. 94-199, 89 Stat. 1117, Dec. 31, 1975 (codified as amended at 16 U.S.C. §§ 460gg-469gg-13).

b. This Partial Decree is entered pursuant to that Stipulation among the United States, the State of Idaho and other objectors effective September 1, 2003 (the "Stipulation"), and pursuant to that Stipulation this water right is subordinated to the following water rights and uses that are junior to this federal reserved water right and that have points of diversion or impoundment and places of use within the Rapid River Basin upstream from the ending point, as identified in element 5 above:

(1) All water right claims filed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) as of the effective date of the Stipulation to the extent ultimately decreed in the SRBA.

(2) All applications for permit and permits with proof of beneficial use due after November 19, 1987, on file with IDWR as of the effective date of the Stipulation, to the extent such applications for permit or permits are ultimately licensed; and all water right licenses with proof of beneficial use due after November 19, 1987, on file with IDWR as of the effective date of the Stipulation.

(3) All domestic uses, which for purposes of this Partial Decree shall be defined as set forth at I.C. § 42-111(1)(a) & (b) to mean the use of water for homes, organization camps, public campgrounds, livestock and for any other purpose in connection therewith, including irrigation of up to one-half acre of land, if the total use is not in excess of thirteen-thousand (13,000) gallons per day or any other uses, if the total does not exceed a diversion rate of four one-hundredths (0.04) cubic feet per second and a diversion volume of twenty-five hundred (2,500) gallons per day, provided that this domestic use subordination is limited and defined by I.C. 42-111(2), so that the subordination shall not and does not apply to multiple ownership subdivisions, mobile home parks, or commercial or business establishments, unless the use meets the diversion rate and volume limitations set forth in I.C. 42-111(1)(b) (0.04 cfs/2,500 gpd), and by I.C. 42-111(3), so that the subordination shall not and does not apply to multiple water rights for domestic uses which satisfy a single combined water use that would not itself come within the above definition of domestic use.

(4) All de minimus stockwater uses, which for the purposes this Partial Decree shall be defined as set forth at I.C. § 42-1401A(11) to mean the use of water solely for livestock or wildlife where the total diversion is not in excess of thirteen-thousand (13,000) gallons per day. This de minimus stockwater use subordination is limited and defined by I.C. § 42-111(3), so that the subordination shall not and does not apply to multiple water rights for stockwater uses which satisfy a single combined

water use that would not itself come within the above definition of stockwater use.

(5) (A) Water rights other than those described in paragraphs (3) and (4) above claimed or applied for after the effective date of the Stipulation with a total combined diversion of 10 cfs (including not more than 300 acres of irrigation with a maximum diversion rate of 0.02 cfs/acre. This subordinated amount does not include storage, other than incidental storage, which is defined as storage of not more than a 24 hour water supply for any beneficial use.

(B) Water rights of the United States, instream flow water rights, nonconsumptive water rights and replacement water rights shall not be deducted from the subordination amounts identified in this paragraph (5) for future rights. Nonconsumptive water rights mean all beneficial uses of water having these characteristics: i) the use involves no diversion from the designated reach of the Wild and Scenic River as identified in this Partial Decree; ii) all return flows from the use accrue to the Wild and Scenic reach; and iii) the use does not cause a depletion or a change in timing of the flow (other than incidental evaporation or seepage) as determined at the point(s) of return, whether or not the depletion or change in timing can be measured within the designated reach. Examples of such uses include: i) run-of-the-river hydroelectric facilities; ii) fish propagation uses; and iii) other similar uses. Replacement water rights means all irrigation appropriations issued for the same purpose of use and place of use covered by an existing water right with no increase in period of use, diversion rate, and, if applicable, volume of water. To be considered a replacement water right: i) no element of the new appropriation may exceed that of the original water right; ii) only the original or the replacement water right or part of each water right may be used at the same time; and iii) the replacement water right cannot be used when water would not be legally and physically available under the original water right.

c. The administrative provisions of paragraph 3 of the Stipulation are incorporated herein by reference.

d. These additional provisions contained in element 10 do not fall within the other elements listed above and are necessary to: (1) define the unique characteristics of these federal reserved water rights; and (2) describe the rights and uses to which these federal reserved water rights are subordinated in order to provide for proper administration of these water rights and other existing and future water rights.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED November 16, 2004.



JOHN M. MELANSON
Presiding Judge
Snake River Basin Adjudication