
MEMORANDUM

TO: JEFF PEPPERSACK
FROM: LIZ ROBBINS
SUBJECT: BIG WOOD TRANSFERS
DATE: 9/3/2004
CC: BILL GRAHAM

I have reviewed the transfer application numbers 69269, 69272, and 69308 in terms of how the transfer would affect the existing minimum instream flow in the Big Wood River Between Ketchum and Hailey. All three applications currently divert water from the Purdum Slough. The Purdum Slough is considered an unregulated side channel of the Big Wood River. Historically the slough carried substantial amounts of water (up to 250cfs). In the late 1970's these flows declined to below 10cfs and the USGS stopped measuring water in the slough. The USGS gage on the Big Wood at Hailey only measures the water in the Big Wood and does not make any adjustments for the water in the Purdum Slough.

Transfer #69269 proposes changing both the place of use and the point of diversion. The transfer asks to change the point of diversion from Purdum #25 Head Gate to the head of the Purdum Slough. If the transfer goes through head gates would have to be installed at the head. Essentially this would change the Purdum Slough from an unregulated side channel of the Big Wood River to a diversion. This would change how the side channel is managed and would allow for stream channel alterations without a permit. Therefore it is not recommended to approve the transfer.

Transfers #69272 and #69308 move the point of diversion and the place of use further upstream along the Big Wood River. The point of diversion would change from the Purdum Slough to a side channel further upstream in the Big Wood River. Because the transfer is for the small amount the small amount of water (0.06 cfs) and does not increase the amount of water to be diverted it should not have an impact on the existing minimum instream flows in the Big Wood. We do not object to the transfer.