

I am willing to be spokes person
for the Antelope group protest

Jennie Marie Smith

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Director Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region
900 North Skyline Drive Suite.A
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

June 21, 2004

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Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

Concerning Application for Permit #34-13838 (see attached description)

We, the undersigned, protest the application to use this described water right for recreation and recreational storage from 10/16 to 4/03. The criteria for our protest are as follows:

As per section 42-203A(5) of Idaho Code

(a) Using this water for recreational storage with no provision for lining the storage facility with an impenetrable membrane may reduce the quantity of water under existing rights. Even with a lined facility this may be the case as it would be holding water that is normally free flowing from Cherry Creek which feeds into Antelope Creek which feeds into the Big Lost River. Stored water will be held from that whole aquifer. What happens to these ponds during the summer and how are they not to be used for recreation in the summer? Since the application is for recreational use and storage during the winter only the storage facilities need to be made so that they do not interfere with the natural flow of Cherry Creek or of any irrigation structures such as ditches during the irrigation season. The winter recreation storage and use must be separate from creeks, ditches and sub irrigated land so that they can be completely dried up and cut off from agricultural irrigation flows during the summer.

(c) This application is made for speculative purposes i.e. to enhance the resale retail real estate value of a working ranch to be subdivided for speculative investment as second home development.

(e) and (g) This application is in conflict with local public interest and will adversely affect the local economy of the watershed. Antelope Valley Ranch is an historic cattle ranching operation. It is surrounded by other operating cattle ranches. To remove water from its historic use for irrigation and change it to recreational use will disturb the economy of Antelope Creek and would conflict with the public's interest in keeping the area open for wild life habitat and historic agriculture use. It has been shown numerous times in various states that ranching operations do not coexist well with recreational subdivisions. Ranching is the dominant force in the local economy. Recreational development will cause conflict and difficulties for the driving economic force of Antelope Valley which is ranching.

(f) This application is contrary to conservation of water resources. Recreational use is not a conservation use. The recreational storage facilities will not be lined. Water, very precious to the local agricultural economy, will be wasted by this application. It will not be put to beneficial use.

Thank you

~~Sincerely,~~

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<i>Preston Bell</i>	Preston Bell	Rt.1 Box 5 Darlington
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