

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 11, 2024
To: Transfer 87581
From: Scott Stosich
Re: Review & Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information

The purpose of this transfer is to convert a portion of irrigation for water right 22-4089 to wildlife storage. The wildlife storage area will consist of two wetlands features, with a total surface area of 33.6 acres, and will hold a volume of 62.8 af. In order to cover the volume needed to fill and maintain these ponds, a total of 48.1 acres will be retired from irrigation. The ownership of the water right is also being updated.

Authority to File:

The applicant is the new owner of the property at the current place of use and point of diversion according to conveyance documents provided (ownership will be updated).

Water Right Validity:

The right included in this transfer was decreed in the SRBA in 2008. Review of 2013, 2017 and 2021 aerial photography shows growing vegetation on the place of use. Forfeiture is not an issue.

Injury to Other Water Rights:

Other rights do not appear to be injured by the proposed change. Neither the points of diversion or total quantity authorized to be diverted will change as a result of the transfer. The amount of wildlife storage being added to the authorized uses will be covered by a reduction of total irrigated acres. The transfer was advertised and was protested. As part of the settlement of the protest, the transfer was amended to add an annual fill volume and update the volume needed to cover evaporation loss. The watermaster for water district 01 was contacted and did not oppose the approval of the transfer.

Enlargement of Use:

The proposed change does not appear to result in enlargement because neither the rate, volume or irrigated acres will increase as a result of the transfer. There are no overlapping water rights.

Local Public interest:

No issues identified.

Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources:

No issues identified.

Review of the application finds there is no clear inconsistency with criteria set forth in Section 42-222 Idaho Code preventing processing of this application.