

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 27, 2025
To: Transfer #87653, Friedman Memorial Airport Authority file
From: Jim Bitzenburg (9/12/2024) & Corey Skinner (4/27/2025)
Re: Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information Submitted

Application for transfer proposes to change the place of use (POU) of, the points of diversion (POD) of, and add PODs to two ground water irrigation rights and four Big Wood River irrigation rights with a combined flow rate of 4.34 cfs. Currently, the rights irrigate 136.0 acres located approximately 1.5 to 2.5 miles north and 0.8 to 1.8 miles west of the intersection of State Highway 75 and Gannett Road in Bellevue. Post transfer, the 136.0 acre POU will irrigate land located approximately 0 to 1.3 mile south and 0.3 mile east to 0.9 mile west of Bellevue. The PODs will change from four wells and two Big Wood River diversions located within and near the current POU, to four existing wells, three existing Big Wood River diversions, and a new POD from the Big Wood River, which will be a well drilled near the river. The proposed PODs are all located within the proposed POU.

Consent agreements allowing water rights to be transferred off of and on to the properties were signed by all parties involved in the water right ownership changes leading up to this transfer and are included in the transfer documents.

IDWR staff ran a Stream Depletion Analysis on the proposed well near the Big Wood River to determine if it met the 50% depletion in the original source (Big Wood River) and it did, as did the consultant's analysis, so it appears that the proposed well is sufficiently connected to the river.

This transfer is a companion to transfers 87657, 87658, 87659, and 87660, which propose moving rights and portions of rights from land south of Bellevue to land north of Bellevue and moving other rights from the land north of Bellevue back to the south.

The transfer is in Water District 37, so Watermaster comments were solicited and the Watermaster had no comments regarding the application. The transfer and companion transfers were advertised, and protests were filed. However, the protests have been resolved &/or withdrawn so final processing can continue.

- **Authority to File:**

The Department's database indicates that the transfer water rights are owned by the applicant, Friedman Memorial Airport Authority. The application was signed by Martha Burke, the chairman of the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority. Documentation confirming this is included in the application material.

- **Water Right Validity:**

The water rights were decreed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication, and recent, ample irrigation is evident at the current POU, so forfeiture is likely not an issue.

- **Injury to Other Water Rights:**

None anticipated or foreseen.

- **Enlargement of Use:**

None anticipated.

- **Local Public Interest:**

No issues anticipated.

- **Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources:**
Proposed use is recognized as a beneficial use of water.
- **Effect on the Economy of the Local Area:**
None Anticipated
- **Effect of the Agricultural Base of the Area:**
None Anticipated

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.