

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 19, 2025

From: Jake Nebeker

Re: Evaluation of Transfer 89643

The purpose of this transfer is to change the point of diversion for water right 75-4487B to an existing ditch closer to the applicant's property. The proposed point of diversion is already used to deliver other water rights held by the applicant, including water right 75-4487D.

Authority to File:

The applicant is the Ronald and Laurie Morey Family Trust, who is the current water right owner of record. Both Ronald and Laurie Morey signed the transfer. Lemhi County parcel data shows the applicant as the owner of the current place of use. The applicant has the authority to make the change.

Water Right Validity:

The water rights included in this transfer were decreed in the SRBA in 2008. The application states that these rights have not undergone a period of five or more consecutive years of non-use. Review of 2023, 2021 and 2019 aerial photography shows growing vegetation on the current place of use. It appears that the rights included in this transfer is valid based on evidence available to the department.

Injury to Other Water Rights:

The applicant has submitted a letter relinquishing a point of diversion from water right 75-4487D, located at T26N R21E Sec 1 SENW. The relinquishment of this point of diversion in combination with this transfer will adequately eliminate one mile of ditch from the previous point of diversion for water right 75-4487B, by reducing the conveyance losses in the previous delivery system. Because the last mile of the previous ditch system will no longer be used, the other water users in the ditch should not be impacted by the move. The applicant is the last user on the current ditch. By removing water right 75-4487B and 75-4487D from the ditch, it will reduce total conveyance losses by more than 25%.

Other water rights do not appear to be injured by the proposed change. The point of diversion is simply moving downstream a short distance to a different headgate. The quantity authorized to be diverted will not change as a result of the transfer. The water master was notified and did not provide a comment. The transfer was advertised without protest.

Enlargement of Use:

The proposed change does not appear to result in enlargement because neither rate nor volume nor irrigated acreage will increase as a result of the transfer.

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.