

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 02, 2025

To: Transfer 89743

From: Christian Stewart

Re: Review & Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information

This transfer proposes to interconnect the distribution system for three groundwater irrigation rights by adding 2 points of diversion to each right, authorizing 3 points of diversion between the three rights.

Authority to File: Marlowe Goble is the owner of record for water rights 32-10151, 32-10152, and 32-10153. There is a quit-claim deed from Marlowe Goble conveying the three water rights to Medicine Lodge Holdings, LLC, of whom Carl Taylor is the manager per the Idaho Secretary of State.

Water Right Validity: The three rights were decreed by the SRBA court in Oct. 2000. Flood irrigation berms can be seen at the place of use in 2023 imagery. The ground appears green in 2009 and 2011 and 2015. The ground appears dry in 2013 and 2021. METRIC ET data and imagery between 2015-2023 do not provide a clear picture of whether irrigation occurred at the place of use or not. The ground appears greener than the surrounding hillsides in 2023. Carl Taylor indicated that the land was leased out by Marlow Goble before Carl bought the property to cultivate hay. Carl mentioned the previous farmer cultivated varying amounts of hay depending on fuel prices. Carl says that the surface water from other rights flows into the ditches for flood irrigation, and the groundwater wells are set up near the ditch network to pump when the surface rights are curtailed. Carl mentioned that the well associated with right 32-10153 is actively used to flood irrigate pasture and is connected to a sprinkler system to the yard of the house. No forfeiture issues identified.

Injury to Other Water Rights: There are two domestic wells near the points of diversion. All three authorized groundwater diversions are within a 1.6 mile reach in the valley bottom of Medicine Lodge Creek canyon, so each well is likely connected to the same groundwater source. No injury issues identified.

Enlargement of Use: Rights 32-10151, 32-10152, 32-2070 and 32-53 are limited to a combined 6.9 cfs and 208.8 acres. Water right 32-10151 is stacked at the place of use by rights 32-2070 and 32-53 from Medicine Lodge Creek. Right 32-10151 is good for 0.5 cfs and 95.9 acres within a combined 208.8 acres. This gives right 32-10151 a diversion rate of 0.005 cfs/acre. Water right 32-10152 is stacked at the place of use with right 32-53. Right 32-10152 has a rate of 0.4 cfs and 26 acres within the combined 208.8 acres, a diversion rate of 0.015 cfs/acre. Water right 32-10153 is stacked with right 32-2084 and has a combined 48.6-acre place of use and a combined diversion rate of 1.66 cfs. Right 32-10153 is good for 0.015 cfs/acre. In an interconnected system with different rights providing different diversion rates to distinct places of use, measurement at the field headgates for each place of use may be necessary to track the diversion rate and volume from the interconnected system being applied to each water right's place of use. No enlargement issues identified.

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.