

IDWR FIELD EXAMINATION OF CFPRBA WATER RIGHT CLAIM

Claim Identification Number: 97-7124, 97-7955

Date of Examination: 04/09/2025

Time of Examination: On site approximately 10:10 AM PST

IDWR Field Staff: Michael Thompson, Dean Garwood

Point of Contact: James Lea (property owner/claimant)

Examination Location: 319 Lower Lakeshore Rd, Priest Lake, ID

Purpose of Visit: Examine claimed point of diversion, diversion works, and places of use.

Weather: Sunny, cool

Report Prepared By: Michael Thompson

Field Examination Notes:

- Point of diversion appears to be a well, not a spring as licensed in 97-7124. James Lea concurred with this determination.
 - o Well house contains plumbing, pressure tanks, well pump shut-off, and lighting. It did not appear as if it were designed to hold water (cistern) and to claimant's knowledge it has never been flooded.
 - o There are three homes being served by this well, two on the Kalispell Bay Cabin LLC property (339 Lower Lakeshore Drive) and one on the Lea property (319 Lower Lakeshore Drive)
- 97-7124 was originally licensed for two homes, there are now three homes being served by the well.
- The spring on the Lea property forms a small pool and then runs downhill into Priest Lake crossing over the corner of the Kalispell Bay Cabin LLC property where the Houghtons have created a small decorative pass-through to keep the spring runoff from eroding the beach but they do not use any of the spring water, according to James Lea. The only diversion from the spring is a small cistern and pump that is used to water the lawn on the Lea property.

Additional notes:

- 04/21/2025 - Spoke to Janis Houghton on the phone and she confirmed they do not use the spring. She thinks it is strange that 97-7124 was licensed as a spring as she is of the opinion it is very clearly a well.



Photo 1

Left to right: Boat house, yellow Kalispell Bay Cabin LLC house, cream Kalispell Bay Cabin LLC house, Lea log home.



Photo 2

Left to right: Kailspell Bay Cabin LLC cream house, yellow well house, spring runoff, Lea log home