

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 21, 2025
To: Transfer 89932
From: Christian Stewart
Re: Review & Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information

This transfer proposes to change points of diversion, place of use, nature of use, and season of use for an irrigation right. The proposed use is municipal to be used for the City of Blackfoot's municipal service system.

Authority to File: The owners-of-record for water right 27-12332 are Kirstie and Evan Steel, who have entered into an option agreement through Rocky Mountain Water Exchange LLC to sell the water right to the City of Blackfoot. The application was signed by Marc Carroll, mayor of the City of Blackfoot (the applicant), which owns the proposed points of diversion and has legal authority to distribute water to its existing municipal water system.

Water Right Validity: Right 27-12332 is a split from 35-7443 as authorized by Transfer 85706, where 16.4 irrigated acres were consolidated into 8.9 authorized irrigated acres. Right 35-7443 was decreed by the SRBA court in 2002. Right 35-7443 was used for irrigation in 2020 and the acres eventually split into 27-12332 were leased to the Water Supply Bank in 2021. Right 27-12332 was most recently included in approved transfer 85706 on 04/28/2022. No forfeiture issues identified.

Injury to Other Water Rights: The application was not protested. The proposed change will authorize more water to be withdrawn from the existing City of Blackfoot wells. The transfer proposes to move groundwater within the ESPA. ETRAN V3.4 modeling of the transfer demonstrates no injury according to department standards for transfers on the ESPA. This is the case regardless if the transfer is evaluated from the historical diversion location or from the currently authorized point of diversion location. No injury issues identified.

Enlargement of Use: The newly split off right 27-12332 has never been used for irrigation at the new place of use authorized by Transfer 85706. Transfer 85706 consolidated the 16.4 acres into 8.9 acres, which historically irrigated spring grain, having a consumptive use of 1.98 acre feet per acre at the Kettle Butte ETIDWR station. This allows 17.6 acre-feet to be changed to a municipal nature of use.

Local Public interest: No issues identified.

Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources: No issues identified.

Effect on Agricultural Base of the Local Area: No significant effects to the agricultural base of the local area are anticipated from this proposed conversion of irrigated acres to municipal use.

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.