

BEFORE THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

IN THE MATTER OF WATER RIGHT)
NO. 34-228A, 34-306C, 34-856G and 34-14835)
FOR IRRIGATION)
)

RECEIVED

SEP 10 2025

DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
EASTERN REGION

COMES NOW, Debbie Ellwein, and provides the following comments and evidence in this matter:

1. I am familiar with the property located in Section 16, 17, 20 and 21 Township 6 North, Range 26 East, B.M. This property is located east of Darlington, Idaho. The irrigation water for this farm is diverted out of the Big Lost River approximately 1 mile downriver of Mackay, Idaho and is conveyed down the Burnett Ditch 13 miles to the headgate for this farm.
2. I have owned an interest and managed the said property from 2013 to the current time and have knowledge of the irrigation system and crops that were irrigated during that time.
3. The irrigation management of this property has evolved over the past two decades from flood irrigation, to pressurized irrigation systems, to pivot irrigation systems. Better management of the water resource from the Big Lost River Water District has extended the volume of water that can be utilized on this farm. As the irrigation management improved, so did the ability to utilize the available water and apply the water for a longer duration of the irrigation season.
4. Flood irrigation was utilized in the early 2000s.
5. Pressurized irrigation systems were installed which allowed the full acres to be irrigated in the spring and provided water longer in the season on the farm.
6. Pivot irrigation systems were installed and provide a more efficient and easier method of irrigation. However, due to the allocated shrink associated with the river and canal delivery systems in the valley, it was not cost effective to operate all of the installed pivots through the whole irrigation season.
7. During the spring runoff periods, the full acre amounts were irrigated under water rights 34-228A, 34-306C, 34-856G and 34-14835 until the spring runoff dropped off.
8. Big Lost River water rights with priority dates in 1884 (34-228A and 34-856G) are considered above average water rights but will still regularly be cut in August and September of each year. Big Lost River water right with a priority date of 1887 (34-360C) is good but typically will be cut in July and August of each year. Big Lost River water right with a priority date of 1894 (34-14835) is good but typically will be cut in July and August of each year.

9. Typical Big Lost River Irrigation District expected water shrink is 60% for water conveyed through the Big Lost River and an additional 70% water shrink of water delivered through the Districts canals.
10. The full 163 acres under water right 34-228A, 34-306C, 34-856G and 34-14835 have been fully utilized when the water is available.

DATED this 09/09/25 _____


Debbie Ellwein (Sep 9, 2025 17:34:44 MDT)

Debbie Ellwein