

From: [Howe, Bob](#)
To: [Schwed, Tara](#)
Subject: Fw: Clarification and Additional Guidance-Re: Additional Information Requested- SRBA Late Claims 55-14052 through 55-14057
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:07:17 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[Outlook-3jwqy4ph.png](#)

Hi Tara,

Could you please add the preceding email correspondence to the entire suite of Indian Meadows Ranch claims in Basin 55. Thank you!

Best Regards,
Bob Howe

 IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
Bob Howe | Water Resource Agent, Sr.
322 E Front St, Boise, ID 83702
PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0098
(208) 287-4954 | www.idwr.idaho.gov

From: jennifer@trautcreek.com <jennifer@trautcreek.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 7:53 AM
To: Howe, Bob <Bob.Howe@idwr.idaho.gov>
Subject: RE: Clarification and Additional Guidance-Re: Additional Information Requested- SRBA Late Claims 55-14052 through 55-14057

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Good Morning Bob,

Thank you so much for your assistance in this matter. We would like you to submit the documentation that you found using the Homestead Act land patent dated November 2, 1932 as basis for our priority dates for 55-14053 and 55-14056. At this time, we aren't able to find any additional information supporting a different priority date for 55-14054 and would like you to submit the supporting documentation you're able to locate for it.

I'll be mailing the request for withdrawal of claims form today to the Idaho Water Adjudications

at the specified address.

Thanks again for your patience and assistance in helping us navigate this process.

Jennifer Trautman
Indian Meadows Ranch, LLC
Cell (208) 867-5995
jennifer@trautcreek.com

From: Howe, Bob <Bob.Howe@idwr.idaho.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 11:21 AM
To: jennifer@trautcreek.com
Subject: Re: Clarification and Additional Guidance-Re: Additional Information Requested- SRBA Late Claims 55-14052 through 55-14057

Good morning Jennifer,

After we spoke, I spent the rest of the day and this morning searching through the BLM GLO records website and although, as I mentioned in our previous call, I could find no documentation supporting the 1882 priority date claimed. However, I was able to find a Homestead Act land patent dated November 2, 1932, which describes the place of use for claims 55-14053 and 55-14056. That said, with out evidence predating that document I could recommend a November 2, 1932, priority date for claims 55-14053 and 55-14056.

I did see a Desert Land Act land patent dated 1929, which describes the place of use for claim 55-14054, but these documents had different requirements from the 1862 Homestead Act and additional evidence might help it hold up under scrutiny or protest. If you can find anything more substantial for that claim it would be very useful.

Finally, I have attached the claim withdrawal form to this email. If you would like to withdraw any or all claims 55-14052, 55-14055, and 55-14057 please complete the form and submit it to the SRBA court, as listed on the form. If/when the form is submitted please email and notify me. As I mentioned in our call all three of these claims may be disallowed, as the first is a claim for a decreed right and the other two claims are for pond sources (stockwater storage use) developed after the SRBA adjudication was closed.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and attention on these matters.

Best Regards,

Bob Howe



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From: jennifer@trautcreek.com <jennifer@trautcreek.com>

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:09 AM

To: Howe, Bob <Bob.Howe@idwr.idaho.gov>

Subject: RE: Clarification and Additional Guidance-Re: Additional Information Requested- SRBA Late Claims 55-14052 through 55-14057

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Good Morning Bob,

I'm working on these today and will use the resources you sent. Thank you. Jennifer

From: Howe, Bob <Bob.Howe@idwr.idaho.gov>

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 10:19 AM

To: jennifer@trautcreek.com

Subject: Clarification and Additional Guidance-Re: Additional Information Requested- SRBA Late Claims 55-14052 through 55-14057

Good Morning Jennifer,

Thank you for calling and discussing your claims with me this morning. I hope that conversation provided you some clarification.

Hopefully we can clear up any grey areas here as well.

Regarding your response to item(s):

1. You are correct, as the right was already decreed through the adjudication process and your stockwater use on the property began after the adjudication, the claim should be withdrawn and an application for permit for instream stockwater may be filed. Please note, the adjudication process includes two weeks of advertisement in newspapers as public notice of claims made before they are recommended and later decreed.

2. Yes, claims 55-14055 & 55-14057 are for stockwater storage use which are first evident in aerial imagery after the adjudication of the SRBA. If you are unable to provide evidence of the priority date claimed for the development of each pond, then a recommendation of the claim would be based on the historic aerial imagery which does not support a valid claim. Based on the information currently available they may be disallowed, or you can withdraw the claims and file an application for permit for stockwater storage. Alternately, if there has been ongoing instream use from a source other than the ponds you can amend your claims with the stream as the only source identifying an instream stockwater reach with beginning and end points along the stream channel described on the amended notice of claim and map. SRBA late claim amendments have to be presented as a motion to the court, similar to how the original claim was presented.

The other 3 claims require some evidence of priority, such as a land patent, grazing allotments, or livestock business records for the base property supporting the claimed priority date. I guess to provide further guidance as to what documentation may apply, I have to ask, **in the individual case for each claim, what documentation did you base the claimed priority date on? Where did you find that date? Then you can determine if** that documentation should as evidence of priority using the attached the evidence of priority pamphlet as guidance. You can search for land patents using the BLM GLO records document search at [Search - BLM GLO Records](#) .

I am definitely willing to schedule a meeting with you to assist you in any way I can. I only ask that for that meeting you either submit in advance or have on hand the evidence of priority you have found for your claims. When you are ready to schedule a meeting, please call me to schedule a time and date and I will reserve us a meeting room at the State Office.

Any evidence of priority you want to submit electronically can be done through e-file by emailing the documents of each claim individually to file@idwr.idaho.gov and **use the "Claim 55-XXXXX" as the subject line**. Please CC me on the emails so I can make sure to keep on task for you. Thank you for your time and attention in these matters. Please note: If there is no evidence received for your claims within the next **30 days**, action may be taken to process the recommendations based on the current claim files.

Best Regards,

Bob Howe



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Bob Howe | Water Resource Agent, Sr.

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From: jennifer@trautcreek.com <jennifer@trautcreek.com>

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 8:46 AM

To: Howe, Bob <Bob.Howe@idwr.idaho.gov>

Subject: RE: CORRECTION-Basis of Claim Cited Incorrect-Re: Additional Information Requested- SRBA Late Claims 55-14052 through 55-14057

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Good Morning Bob,

Clarification regarding the email below.... See outlined in red.

Jennifer Trautman

Indian Meadows Ranch, LLC

Cell (208) 867-5995

jennifer@trautcreek.com

From: jennifer@trautcreek.com <jennifer@trautcreek.com>

Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 11:22 AM

To: 'Andy Waldera' <andy@sawtoothlaw.com>

Subject: FW: CORRECTION-Basis of Claim Cited Incorrect-Re: Additional Information Requested- SRBA Late Claims 55-14052 through 55-14057

From: Howe, Bob <Bob.Howe@idwr.idaho.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2025 8:52 AM

To: jennifer@trautcreek.com

Subject: CORRECTION-Basis of Claim Cited Incorrect-Re: Additional Information Requested- SRBA Late Claims 55-14052 through 55-14057

Hi Jennifer,

Please note the following correction. After reviewing claim 55-14053, although it cites right 55-10348 as the basis of the claim there is no overlap with the water right, as the claim source is a spring that sinks located in a different section than the decreed right. Therefore, you will need to provide evidence of priority for this claim, it should not be a part of an ownership change. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Bob Howe



From: Howe, Bob <Bob.Howe@idwr.idaho.gov>

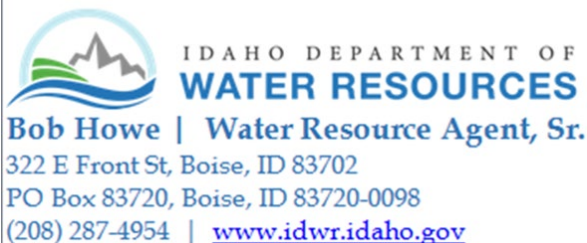
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 9:19 AM

To: jennifer@trautcreek.com <jennifer@trautcreek.com>

Subject: Fw: Additional Information Requested- SRBA Late Claims 55-14052 through 55-14057

Regards,

Bob Howe



From: Howe, Bob

Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 4:43 PM

To: tal@trautcreek.com <tal@trautcreek.com>

Subject: Additional Information Requested- SRBA Late Claims 55-14052 through 55-14057

Dear Claimant,

The Department received the Notices of Claim you submitted for Claims #55-14052, 55-14053, 55-14054, 55-14055, 55-14056, & 55-14057. We are currently reviewing the claims for recommendation. The recommendation process reviews information/documentation submitted by the claimant(s), available county records, and historical GIS aerial imagery for evidence supporting the validity of a claim. The completed review provides a recommendation to the court.

After reviewing your Notices of Claim, it appears that further information or clarification may be necessary. Based on the cursory review I have identified the following areas of concern in your claims.

1. In section 12 of your notices of claim 55-14052 & 55-14053 you stated Water Right 55-10348 as the basis of your claims. However, water right 55-10348 is a decreed right currently in the name of Robert C. Bruce of Jordan Valley, Or. In order for the right to be changed into the ownership of Indian Meadows Ranch LLC, a notice of ownership (see attached form) needs to be filled out and submitted to the address below my signature with a copy of the conveyance document(s) (such as a warranty deed), and the applicable fee payment of \$100 for the split of right 55-10348. 55-14052 To our knowledge Robert Bruce has never owned the private property that we now own. Our attorney Andy Waldera (Sawtooth Law) will assist us in the ownership transfer as Mr. Bruce recently passed and this will be a sensitive issue with his widow. He is currently preparing for trial and wouldn't be available until mid to late October.
If I understand correctly, we would withdraw this from the filing.

2. In section 13 of your notices of claim 55-14054, 55-14055, 55-14056, and 55-14057 you stated the basis of the claim as Beneficial Use, and in section 2 you request 11/06/1882 as your date of priority. However, no evidence of priority was submitted with any of the claims, and two of the claims 55-14055 & 55-14057 are for ponds, which first appear in aerial imagery c. 2004 & 2015, respectively. Please provide evidence of priority supporting your requested date identifying which claim document is associated with. **Please note:** ponds developed as late as currently supported by claim 55-14057 would require an application for permit to be filed, not a late claim. 55-14055 & 55-14057 per your research we would need to withdraw these from the filing and complete a new application.

These water rights are the ones that need the evidence of priority dates, correct?
55-14053, 55-14054, 55-14056,

Would you be available to meet with me and Tal sometime soon to assist us in this process? I do apologize for the delay; this request happens to hit us during our busiest time of the year as we've been haying and calving since June. I really appreciate your patience in this matter. Thank you.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns regarding the items above. If I am unavailable one of my team members should be able to assist you if you provide your claim #s. It is important that you respond to this request by mail or email **within the next 30 days**, in order to expedite your claim process. If you do not respond your claim may be recommended based on the information provided in your notice of claim. Thank you for your time and attention on these matters.

Best Regards,

Bob Howe



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