

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 7, 2025

To: Transfer 90104

From: Christian Stewart

Re: Review & Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information

This transfer proposes to change the place of use, point of diversion, period of use, and nature of use for a 5-acres portion of water right 22-7143. The transfer proposes to use an existing well to divert groundwater for irrigation storage. Water will be pumped from this storage pond to irrigate a 16-acre property in combination with water right 22-13449. Water right 22-13449 has a priority date of April 2, 1897.

Authority to File:

Thomas and Lexie Hill are the current owners of 22-7143 per IDWR record. Thomas and Lexie Hill entered into a purchase agreement with Rocky Mountain Water Exchange LLC (RMWE) for a 20-acre portion of right 22-7143. The Tayson and Faith Rockefeller Family Trust have entered into a purchase agreement to buy a five-acre portion of right 22-7143 from RMWE upon transfer approval. The applicant provided copies of the two purchase agreements. Tayson and Faith Rockefeller signed the application.

Water Right Validity:

The SRBA court decreed right 22-7143 on 10/28/2009. Cultivated crops can be seen at the place of use in aerial imagery. The place of use appears to be irrigated by a pivot. No forfeiture issues identified.

Injury to Other Water Rights:

The proposed point of diversion is approximately 9 miles south of the existing point of diversion. There is no evidence that the proposed point of diversion would pump from a different groundwater source than the current point of diversion. There are several single-home domestic wells from within a half mile of the proposed point of diversion. There are no other groundwater rights in close proximity to the proposed point of diversion. This transfer was advertised and there were no protests. Currently, the points of diversion are not within a water district that regulates ground water. No injury issues identified.

Enlargement of Use:

Water rights 22-7143, 22-7144, 22-7145, and 22-7146 share the same point of diversion and are limited to a combined diversion rate of 6.70 cfs. This limit was reduced to 6.63 cfs to account for a 0.07 cfs reduction. Water right 22-7144 was included in this transfer as an associated right to update the diversion rate condition. Water rights 22-7145 and 22-7146 do not include the 6.70 cfs combined limit in their conditions and were therefore not included as associated rights in this transfer.

The split portion of water right 22-7143 (22-14685) will share a 16-acre place of use with water right 22-13449. Both rights are limited to the irrigation of a combined total of 16.0 acres. Water right 22-13449 was included in this transfer as an associated water right to add a condition limiting the total irrigation under rights 22-14685 and 22-13449 to 16 acres.

The growing season precipitation deficit at the Tetonia Experiment ET station (1994-2021) for Alfalfa-Less Frequent Cuttings, is 575 mm. For 5 acres, this is a consumptive volume of 1.89 af/ac or 9.5 af total. This transfer does not result in an increased acreage, diversion rate, or volume.

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.