

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 25, 2025
To: Transfer 89897
From: Michael Holliday
Re: Review & Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information

This transfer proposes to change the point of diversion, place of use and nature of use of a one-acre portion of water right 35-14923. The applicant seeks to change the nature of use to municipal because the well, which currently provides water to a hotel, is owned by the City of Island Park.

Parent right 35-14923 has a combined rate limit with 3 other rights that share points of diversion. The 3 rights were brought into the transfer as associated rights in order to update the combined rate condition.

Authority to File:

IDWR records show Brian and Jessica Rowland as current owners of right 35-14923, and Bingham County parcel data confirm their ownership of the property at the current place of use. The applicant owns most of the proposed municipal service area, and the proposed point of diversion is owned by the City of Island Park. The mayor signed the application on behalf of the city, and Kirk Barker signed for Island Park Hospitality. Authority to sign was confirmed. Purchase and sale agreements between the applicant, Rocky Mountain Water Exchange, and the Rowlands are in place should the transfer be approved.

Water Right Validity:

Right 35-14923 was decreed in the SRBA in 2002. A quick review of aerial imagery shows regular irrigation of the current place of use through 2021. Forfeiture is not an issue.

Injury to Other Water Rights:

The proposed point of diversion is not within the ESPA. The application included a hydrologic analysis using ESPAM 2.2 and the Jenkins method to determine impacts to the ESPA river reaches and the Henry's Fork near Island Park. Based on the analysis, impacts to the ESPA river reaches are less than 2 af per trimester, and ground water pumped at the proposed point of diversion will cause minimal impacts to the Henry's Fork. However, the transfer application was advertised and was protested by Fremont Madison Irrigation District (FMID) because a mitigation plan had not been finalized to address impacts to the fill of Island Park Reservoir. On November 14, FMID withdrew its protest because the applicant secured adequate storage water to resolve the injury concerns.

Enlargement of Use:

Authorized rate will not increase as a result of the transfer. Annual volume will be reduced to the historical consumptive use in order to prevent enlargement.

Local Public interest:

No issues have been identified.

Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources:

No issues have been 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.