

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 29, 2026
To: Transfer 90196
From: Christian Stewart
Re: Review & Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information

This transfer proposes to change the point of diversion for an irrigation right. The proposed point of diversion is a groundwater sump on the banks of the Salmon River. The pumping from the well would divert Salmon Water by pumping groundwater hydraulically connected to the Salmon River.

Authority to File: The application was signed by Steve and Cheryl Besso, trustees of the Steve and Cheryl Besso Family Trust and the owners of record for water right 75-14327. The location of the proposed point of diversion and the place of use are owned by Steve and Cheryl Besso Family Trust according to Lemhi County parcel data.

Water Right Validity: Water right 75-14327 was decreed in the SRBA on 11/17/2008. The place of use appears irrigated in recent aerial imagery. The applicant provided photos of the portable pod sprinkler system used to irrigate the property. No forfeiture issues identified.

Injury to Other Water Rights: The application was not protested and the watermaster did not provide comment. The existing point of diversion for water right 75-14327 is the S15 Fife Ditch, a shared ditch on the Salmon River located approximately 1.4 miles upstream of the place of use. Excluding water rights for fish passage, 27 water rights are diverted at the Fife Ditch for a total of 5.13 cfs. All of the water rights on the Fife Ditch share the 5/11/1893 priority date. This transfer proposes to remove 0.12 cfs from the Fife Ditch. It is not anticipated that removing this relatively small rate of diversion from the ditch will significantly change the conveyance losses the ditch experiences or otherwise injure other water users on the ditch.

The applicant provided a streamflow depletion analysis and found that that 77.6% of the volume pumped at the groundwater sump is ultimately depleted from the Salmon River within a 24 period. This exceeds the departments threshold and does not constitute a transfer of source.

Enlargement of Use: The diversion rate, irrigated acres, and volume are not changing. The place of use is not changing and there are no changes made that would unstack water rights. No enlargement issues identified.

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.

