



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

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Governor Brad Little

Director Mathew Weaver

April 17, 2026

STEVEN N MYERS, DEBRA R MYERS
530 REED LN
BERN ID 83220

SUBJECT: Bear River Basin Adjudication (BRBA) Claim No. 11-7583

Dear Claimants,

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) is reviewing claims filed in the BRBA. Your claim 11-7583 is for irrigation from unnamed springs near Bern, ID. The claim includes two affidavits describing the historical use.

Both affidavits by Arlo Kunz and John R. Kunz describe irrigation. Arlo's affidavit describes the water used for a garden and potato patch. John's affidavit describes the water used for the garden and later alfalfa. The affidavits does not detail the location or size of the water use. Vaguely describing a garden or potato patch does not explain the historical use in detail, and it is unclear whether the garden was a small domestic garden or as large as the 18.1 acres claimed. In addition, John's affidavit describes the use changing to alfalfa "later", with no further detail provided. It is not known if the alfalfa use was at the same location or for the same number of original acres.

I attempted to view historic aerial images in the 1950's to support irrigation use over the claimed area. However, the aerial imagery does not provide adequate resolution to assist in my review. Once adequate imagery is available in the 1960's and 1970's, irrigation use is visible. However, the irrigated land is also covered by the issuance of license 11-7594 with a 1961 priority date. Aerial imagery cannot differentiate between land irrigated by the license and the unnamed springs. Because of this, my aerial imagery cannot be used to support the affidavits.

BRBA claim 11-7583 does not provide enough evidence to support the claimed irrigation use. The department will recommend the claim as disallowed unless further evidence is provided. If additional documentation is submitted during the remaining claim evaluation timeframe, the department will reevaluate your claim.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. My telephone number is (208) 701-7201 and my email is christopher.holmes@idwr.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

Christopher Holmes
Water Resources Supervisor

Enclosure: Copy of BRBA Claim 11-7583