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DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
EASTERN REGION

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

SALMON REGION
99 Highway 93 North
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Brad Little / Governor
Jim Fredericks / Director

May 18, 2026

IDWR Eastern Region,
ATTN: Christina Henman, Administrative Assistant
900 N Skyline Ste. A
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Richard and Holly Natelson
1538 Lemhi Road
Salmon, ID 83467

IDFG Headquarters
ATTN: Tom Bassista, Technical Services Bureau
Program Coordinator-Aquatics
600 South Walnut
P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707

IDWR Salmon Field Office
ATTN: David Graybill, Upper Salmon
Watermaster
102 South Warpath
Salmon, ID 83467

RE: Notice of Protest-Application for Transfer No. 90405 (Water Right Numbers 74-16708 and 74-14983) Sandy Creek, tributary to the Lemhi River

Dear Christina, Tom, David, Richard, and Holly:

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has reviewed the above-referenced Application for Transfer No. 90405 submitted by Richard and Holly Natelson (Applicants). The Applicants seek to combine the POU of the new water right application 74-16708 and the existing water right 74-14983, for a total of 0.97 cfs and 73.7 acres from March 15th through November 15th. Resulting in 14.3 acres, changing legal description.

IDFG's mission encompasses the assessment of potential water appropriation effects on public interest fish and wildlife resources. IDFG is specifically concerned that the proposed water diversion project may affect stream flow, resident, and ESA-listed fish species by diminishing or altering the water supply, and adversely impacting aquatic and riparian habitat in Lemhi River Drainage.

IDFG is filing this protest per Idaho Code § 42-203A (4) to offer the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) technical assistance with decision-making and recommendations to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on public interest resources (Idaho Code § 42-203A(5)(e); IDAPA 37.03.08.45.01.e.ii).

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. Please initiate the Interagency Billing for the applicable protest fee of \$25.00. When processing these documents, please use the following LUMA coding:

Agency	260
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Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

Project	2601180600000
Org Cost Center	3400
Program	260B799
Appropriation	FGAA
Fund	16000
Location	260801

Please send the billing documents to IDFG Headquarters, Attention: Tom Bassista, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707, or by email at thomas.bassista@idfg.idaho.gov . If information becomes available to alleviate concerns about potential adverse fishery, wetlands, and stream flow effects, IDFG may amend or remove this protest. For questions and to arrange informal follow-up discussions, please contact the Region's Technical Assistance Manager, Jeff Richards, at jeff.richards@idfg.idaho.gov or 208-756-2271.

Sincerely,

 Ryan Hilton
 Regional Supervisor

TC: jr

CC: Ann Yribar (Deputy Attorney General)
 Tom Bassista (IDFG-Boise)
 Greg Schoby (IDFG-Salmon)
 Paddy Murphy (IDFG-Salmon)
 John Loffredo (IDWRTP-Salmon)

IAB requested 5/26/26-CD- B000001