

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 20, 2026
To: Transfer 90512
From: Christian Stewart
Re: Review & Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information

This transfer proposes to change the point of diversion, place of use, nature of use, and season of use for a 0.7 acre portion of water right 22-7143. The proposed use is for evaporation losses from a wildlife storage pond.

Authority to File: Thomas and Lexie Hill are the owners of record for water right 22-7143. Thomas and Lexie Hill have contracted with Rocky Mountain Water Exchange LLC to sell a portion of right 22-7143 to Benjamin and Haile McCollum. The application was signed by Benjamin and Haile McCollum and Thomas and Lexie Hill.

Water Right Validity: Water right 22-7143 was decreed in the SRBA on 10/28/2009 and has been recently included in many approved transfers in 2026. The use history of right 22-7143 has been well documented. No forfeiture issues identified.

Injury to Other Water Rights: This transfer proposes to move a small amount of groundwater to a wildlife storage pond located in Teton Valley. There are no groundwater wells located near the wildlife pond. Groundwater in Teton Valley is hydrologically connected to the Teton River. It is unlikely that this transfer will have significant impacts on groundwater or surface water resources in the area. No injury issues identified.

Enlargement of Use: No increase in diversion rate or volume is proposed. The applicant stated that the portion of water right 22-7143 being transferred was previously used to irrigate alfalfa. However, further investigation revealed that barley has been the crop planted for many years. The precipitation deficit for irrigated spring grain according to ETIDWR is 1.56 af/yr at the Driggs station. The proposed surface area of the pond is 0.8 acres. The precipitation deficit for open water-shallow systems is approximately 1.4 af/yr. The total volume available for the nature-of-use conversion of 0.7 irrigated acres is 1.1 af. The total evaporation of a 0.8 acre pond in this area is estimated to be 1.1 af. The surface area of the pond will be limited to 0.8 acres. This transfer is being combined with application for permit 22-14712, which authorizes initial fill of the pond. No enlargement issues identified.

Local Public interest: No issues identified.

Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources: No issues identified.

Effect on Agricultural Base of the Local Area: The transfer proposes to change the nature of use for 0.7 irrigated acres. 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.