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Department of Water Resources

BIG LOST RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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December 4, 2002

Idaho Department of Water Resources
Attn: Tim Luke

This letter is in regard to Wildhorse Partners LLC permit #34-07597 and #34-07581
There seems to be very little compliance with the conditions of the permit.

The problems start at the point of diversion where a measuring device and lockable headgate are to be in place prior to filling the pond. At the point of diversion, the creek is backed up to the extent it creates a pond in the channel.

The overflow from the pond exits and goes into a second pond, upon filling this area part of this water returns to the creek by flowing across a large grassy area to the creek. This water according to the permit is to be measured and return to the creek to know the consumption of the pond. Approximately one third of the water does not go to the creek but runs out on a meadow and is basically being used for winter irrigation.

The permit is for 1 CFS of water not the approximate 12 CFS being diverted now with almost no return to the creek. This 11 CFS, if stored in the Mackay Reservoir would amount to 830 acre feet of irrigation water.

With the extreme drought conditions, this misuse of water greatly affects our ability to store water in the Mackay Reservoir.

The Big Lost River Irrigation District would like to see IDWR enforce the conditions of this permit and also inspection of the other ponds on Warm Springs and Parson's Creek for compliance with their permits would also be requested.

With Warm Springs and Parson's Creek being our only source of water to fill the Mackay Reservoir in the winter this water could prove to be very valuable to our irrigators in the upcoming irrigation season.

Sincerely



Bob Shaffer, General Manager