

Marsh Creek Water District

% Don G. Gunderson
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Board Members: Jeff Chatburn / Pat McCammon / George Kelley
Gwen Montgomery

December 28, 2005

FAX COVER SHEET

Fax Number: 1-208-287-6700

Send To: **The Department of Idaho
Water Resources**

Attn: Karl J. Dreher,
Director
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720

Attention: Karl J. Dreher

Subject Ref: Creation of a water District in the Oakley Valley Area
In Administrative Basin

Number of Sheets Sent: **2**

Remarks:

Thank you;

Don G. Gunderson,
Watermaster 45F
Marsh Creek Water District

Fax sent (@) _____

**BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER REASOURCES
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO**

Written comments on:

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED WATER DISTRICT:

Of December 15, 2005 in Burley, ID


Marsh Creek Water District 45F surface irrigation is a unique water district in its self. The watershed takes in all tributaries off the north side of the Albion Mountain Range, which starts out at 9,267 feet elevation and its lower basin of the Albion Valley is at 4500 feet. The Albion Basin is surrounded on the west side with the Declo Hills and the east side with the Contrell Mountains, all their drainages going to the main channel streams of the Howell Creek, Land Creek and Marsh Creek. The Albion Basin also sets on two faults (uplifting) on both the west (Declo Hills) and east sides of the (Contrell Mountain) ranges. The water district 45F ends at the North End of Marsh Creek at the Anderson Slip Located on the Main 6S-Ranch, which is at the East side of Declo valley at a elevation of 4,100 ft Marsh Creek at this point on through to the Snake River is another sub-district within the current water district in 45. The overall area of Water District 45F, takes in an estimated total of 150 sq. miles.

The major land uses in the area include rangeland, agriculture, and recreation. Agriculture produce is limited due to higher elevations and the proximity to the mountains but does include alfalfa, wheat, beans, potatoes and dairy. This is primarily handled through our surface water irrigation and few wells that replaced areas that were irrigated with surface waters. This basin is very short on live stream irrigation therefore, leaving each year individuals that due have rights, without water.

Under the Stocks VS Woods the Albion Marsh Creek Water District earliest rights stand at April 1, 1873 and what we call High Water is any right that falls in with a date of 1892. These rights may or may not get water only when we have a good spring run off. Usually to help build good water storage in the ground some water right users will call for water and irrigate in off-season to build a water table.

I to would like The Idaho Department of Water Resources to consider making The Albion Marsh Creek Water District a separate water district from the consideration of being combined with the Oakley Water District 140. I believe after the complete over view that Mr. Earl Warthen and the Albion Mayor elect, Mr. Don Bowden submits will open up a complete new picture for Water District 45F

Respectively submitted,


Don G. Gunderson
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