



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

September 14, 2004

Jerry D. Olds
State Engineer
Utah Division of Water Rights
PO Box 146300
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6480

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2004
Department of Water Resources
Southern Region

Re: Request for Water Right Information

Dear Mr. Olds,

The Idaho Department of Water Resources ("IDWR") and Idaho State Water District No. 43-B, Upper Raft River and tributaries, wish to request that the Utah Division of Water Rights ("UDWR") prepare a map or provide IDWR with the necessary GIS data to display the place of use of irrigation water rights in the following areas:

- Raft River drainage in Utah, including Junction Creek
- George and Johnson Creek drainages in Utah
- Clear Creek and Rice Creek drainages in Utah
- One Mile Creek Drainage in Utah
- All other streams or sources in Utah tributary to the Raft River.

Due to some questions from water users on Goose Creek in Idaho, IDWR also wishes to request a separate map or GIS data to display all irrigation water rights in the Goose Creek drainage of Utah. Maps or GIS data should cover all irrigation water right places of use and points of diversion within the above drainages from all water sources.

Given the complexity associated with preparing custom maps and displaying water right information on such maps, IDWR believes it may be more efficient if UDWR simply provides the necessary GIS and water right computer data files directly to IDWR. This may save UDWR the time and difficulty of preparing customized maps and provides IDWR the ability to prepare its own custom maps and display or query the water right data as necessary. The GIS and water right data that IDWR would like to obtain include:

- Aerial photo or satellite image base coverage including projection information (IDWR already has some satellite images and scanned quads for the areas in question)
- PLS Township, Range and Section coverage (IDWR has most of the PLS data for these areas)
- Water right place of use shapes for irrigation including projection information
- Tabular data for water right place of use, showing number of acres per quarter-quarter section

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- Tabular water right data including water right number, owners, point of diversion descriptions, priority date, water use (irrigation and uses incidental to irrigation), rate of flow, volume and total acres (limit to rights with status of perfected or approved; application types of water right, changes and exchanges; and include status and application type descriptions in tabular data).

IDWR would like to obtain the requested data prior to November 1, 2004, so that maps and water right information can be prepared and shared with the Idaho water districts prior to their district meetings, which will be held in February of 2005.

Please note for reference that I have enclosed a letter from Idaho Water District 43-B that asks IDWR to request water right place of use maps and data from UDWR. This request was discussed informally at a meeting held earlier this year in Malta, Idaho between representatives of the water district, IDWR, and Bob Fotheringham, UDWR Regional Manager from Logan.

You may contact Tim Luke or Michael Ciscell at 208-327-7900 to discuss the most suitable options for providing the data or maps that IDWR is interested in obtaining. We look forward to continuing our cooperative efforts with UDWR and working with you on this request.

Sincerely,



Tim Luke
Manager, Water Distribution Section

Enclosure: Letter from Nolan Branch, Water District 43-B Advisory Committee Chair, dated February 18, 2004.

Cc: ✓ Allen Merritt, IDWR Southern Region Manager
Bob Fotheringham, UDWR Regional Manager, Logan
Lee Sim, UDWR Assistant Engineer
Nolan Branch, Water District 43-B Advisory Committee
Rich Neff, Water District 43-B Watermaster
Mike Ciscell, IDWR

Raft River 43-B Water District
Committee Chairman
Nolan Branch
1823 S. 2830 E
Malta Idaho 83342

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Department of Water Resources

February, 18 2004

Tim Luke
Idaho Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Tim,

Thank you for attending our last meeting. As discussed we are asking that I.D.W.R send a request to U.D.W.R for an irrigation aerial map of the Lind Utah, Yost Utah, Standrod Utah, and Clear Creek Utah areas. We would also request that water rights be overlaid on these maps. If possible could they separate these water rights using cross marks, one way for all rights 1938 and earlier and the other way for the rights 1939 and later. We believe this date important. The Clear Creek Decree was penned in 1938 and the Raft River/Jobe Adams Decree was penned in 1928. Both Decrees were made in District Courts of The United States, and are bases of the water rights in these valleys. In the 1928 decree it states that the water arising in the Raft River Mountains having its primary sources in certain springs near Lind, Utah and near Moulton, Idaho, meandering through the southern part of Cassia County, Idaho and the northern part of Box Elder county, Utah That those creeks in Box Elder county, Utah, known as Basin Creek, Mohogany Creek, Johnson Creek, George Creek, and Oliver Creek... are the tributaries to Raft River and the waters of said creeks together with the waters of various and divers springs near and along said Cassia Creek and Raft River contribute furnish and supply the waters of and are tributary to, and are in truth and in fact a part of said Raft River. (District Court Of The United States , Decree # 992, Section XIV)

The contention that has arisen among the Raft River water users stems back to the idea that the waters mentioned in these decrees are a part of the Raft River Valley. We believe that if we can receive some information from Utah, as they agreed to in our last meeting, it would help the committee explain to the water right holders what is happening in the Lind, Yost, Standrod, Clear Creek areas.

We are happy with the progress we made in the last meeting with U.D.W.R. and hope to have a working relationship with them in the future.

Sincerely, Nolan Branch

