

Big Lost River Irrigation District
Board of Directors
Mackay, ID 83251

February 18, 1988

Dear Rita, *Y Directors*

After much consideration, I have decided to declare 425 acres of land irrigated through the Moore Canal. Realizing that this is somewhat less than I have previously declared, I feel that I owe the Board some explanation. Perhaps I have overestimated in the past, and also some years when water is plentiful we get more water delivered.

Let me try to explain our irrigation system a little. In 1987 I irrigated 1125 acres--the reason I use "I" so much is because I don't want to confuse you with "our" or "us", realizing that there are several of us involved in this system and I desire to explain my part. I have $3\frac{1}{2}$ wells on Don's farm and 60% of one well on Hermans farm that is delivered through our own private ditch. This water is all decreed to my land, and is approximately 1050" of water. In addition I purchased some water from Michael Aikele and some from Gerald Stewart, which is another 200 inches that came through the private ditch. If we give that 1250 inches a 15% shrink we have 1060 inches of delivered water.

The water that I have rights to delivery from the Moore Canal is; 80" from Kirby Jensen well; 150" from Leo Jensen well; 180" from my 60% share of the Reynolds well, besides, I purchased about 500" from Richard Reynolds and Craig Stewart for part of the year. This adds up to 910 inches, and if we shrink that 30% we have delivered about 637 inches of water. Now if we add that to the 1060 inches of water I receive through the private ditch we have about 1700" of delivered water, divided by 1125 acres of irrigated land equals about 1.5 " per acre.

I don't have any idea how we used that much water, but that's my problem. Perhaps I need to work something out with my partners.

Anyway, if you divide that, you see the 637 inches of water from the Moore Canal irrigated 425 acres.

I should also make note that Bruce Soelberg has 700" of water, Bret Aikele has 120", Steven Aikele has 460", for a total of 1280" less shrink, that delivers to us from the Moore Canal. In addition, Don and Herman have 3 wells that are delivered to the flat through the private ditch about 700" less shrink.

As to the status of my water rights: The Department of Water Resources has taken no action on water permits, licences, etc., for quite some time. Now that the Swan Falls agreement has been made final perhaps we will get some decisions and action from them on our applications. The one well that needs 'application for transfer' is the well I ahve purchased from Kirby Jensen. In talking with Ron Carlson, he suggested we change the agreement between Kirby and myself in a way he thought would be more acceptable to the Department. So I am working on this. I will need a one year pumping agreement from the district for this well for 1988. It should be on a more permanant basis after this year.

As to my 50% share in Leo Jensen-Craig Stewart well: The way the application was made with the Department is to deliver the water through a private ditch through Leo's place to what we call the Lava ditch, another private ditch, and then trade the water with ourselves to get it to the land it is to be made pertinent to. The last 2 or 3 years I have exchanged this with the District to have it delivered to the end of the Moore Canal. This has been somewhat unsatisfactory and I plan to fix up Leo's ditch and go under the U.C. bypass canal to bring this into accordance with the water application for this year and hereafter.

In the past I ahve purchased the water from Richard Reynolds well. He does not want to sell the well, but seems to be willing to sell the water on a year by year basis. I would like to be able to continue to do this. This turned into a problem with the ditch rider and consequently the district in 1987. Perhaps the Board needs to amke a decision as to allowing or disallowing this action. This looks to me to be beneficial to everyone because it gets me some reasonably priced

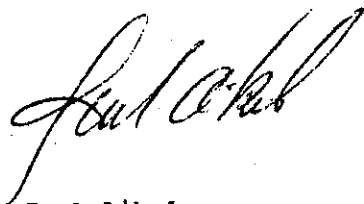
water, allows Rick to use his well, which gives him a constant clean stream of water for his sprinklers, and relieves the district of the responsibility of delivering water that additional $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or whatever it is to get it to him, and keeping a constant flow to him.

This is very lengthy, but I hope it helps to clear up some of the misunderstandings that have had in the past. Irrigation is a real pain, but if we are to farm in this area it is something we must work with. I have no desire to harm anyone else's water rights. I do want adequate water for our farm. We try to be efficient, we plant crops early to try to utilize the Spring moisture and cut down the late season irrigation.

It would be beneficial if the ditch rider could have some radio communication and maybe they need to be paid a little better wage to help assure having some good help for the job. I hope that you continue to press for better measuring devices on the headings.

I appreciate your service as office manager, board of directors, water master, outside crew, etc., and realize the importance you each are to us as irrigators. I appreciate your being conservative in your operation, but if a little more money would make for a more efficient and harmonious operation, I would encourage that also.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Juel Aikele".

Juel Aikele