

Marti L. Bridges
 Water Policy Director
 Idaho Rivers United
 PO Box 633
 Boise, ID 83701

May 19, 1998

208-343-7481

RECEIVED

MAY 19 1998

Department of Water Resources

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MAY 28 1998

Department of Water Resources

BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT
 OF WATER RESOURCES OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

IN THE MATTER OF
 APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO
 APPROPRIATE WATER,
 RIGHT NO. 02-07474, IN THE NAME OF
 THE STATE OF IDAHO

PROTEST AND PETITION TO
 INTERVENE

Idaho Rivers United is an Idaho non-profit corporation representing 1600 members in improving river and stream management in keeping with public interest and public trust considerations. Idaho Rivers United members use and enjoy the Snake River and its tributaries for recreational boating, fishing, wildlife viewing, hunting, photography and contemplative recreational use. Our members have worked hard to protect and enhance the biological viability of the Snake River and its tributaries throughout the basin. Idaho Rivers United has a direct and substantial interest in the above proceedings in that many of our members could be negatively impacted by the proposed appropriation of water for groundwater recharge.

Idaho Rivers United is concerned that new appropriations of water from the Snake River will adversely impact the river itself by impairing the recreational experience, cause adverse impacts to resident fish and wildlife habitat, reduce instream flows, reduce flood flows which contribute to stream health and function, raising water temperatures (through irrigation runoff) and further impairing water quality. The issuance of this water right may cause irretrievable impacts to the ground and surface waters of the Snake River, adversely impact the family farming tradition and is not in the public interest.

In summary, we believe that approval of this water right application is not in the "local public interest" under IC 42-203A(5); is contrary to the conservation

of water resources within the State of Idaho under IC-42-203A(5); may adversely impact the family farming tradition and is speculative in nature.

Idaho Rivers United requests that a hearing be scheduled to consider the public impacts that this proposed water right may have. We recommend denial of the water right application until such hearing occurs. Laird Lucas of the Land and Water Fund is designated counsel for Idaho Rivers United. Mr. Lucas should be served with all correspondence related to this matter, as well as the protestant.

Dated May 19, 1998

Marti L. Bridges

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Water Policy Director

copies mailed to:

Karl Dreher, Director
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

Clarence Parr, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board
1301 N. Orchard
Boise, ID 83706

Laird Lucas
Land and Water Fund of the Rockies
PO Box 1612
Boise, ID 83701

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