

To Whom It May Concern:
Re: water in units 33 and 34

The Howe valley, (Little Lost River) has had farmers in it since 1879. They didn't file any water rights then because they never considered someone trying to take their water!

Any action taken against us might be legal, but it isn't right.

The world population is increasing. I'm sure that you have heard that by 2050 the farmers will need to produce more food than has been produced all through history. So you want to hassle an agricultural area?

If you are truly concerned about making more water available in the springs along the middle Snake River, you need to do something about putting more water in the aquifer.

Before 1910, the springs didn't flow as much as they have in more recent years. Around that time, water started being diverted from the Upper Snake River to canals. The farmers flood irrigated, putting the water back into the soil. As the years went by, they started to use the water more "efficiently" moving to hand lines, then wheel lines and center pivots.

The only trouble is, as they became more "efficient", they quit charging the aquifer. If you want to increase flow at springs along the Snake; in high water years, like 2011, you ought to put water in the canals before irrigation season starts, and keep putting it there after irrigation is done. If you could find a no longer used gravel pit or two to fill, so more water could be put in the ground that would be great!

Districts 33 and 34 don't get much precipitation. It would be logical to assume in high rainfall years, water might fill the aquifer so much that a little trickles into the Snake River aquifer. However, in a normal year, especially in a low water year, there isn't enough water in the aquifer to go anywhere.

We are at a higher elevation than the Snake River Aquifer, we never take water from it. As I said, in a high water year, we **might** contribute to it, but if you are going to hit us for that, how about going to all the areas that do likewise, viz. the Birch Creek drainage and the entire Little Lost and Big Lost drainages?

Sincerely,



Don O. Callister