

United States Department of the Interior BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Shoshone Field Office 400 West F Street Shoshone, Idaho 83352-5284 (208) 732-7200



In Reply Refer To: 2870/IDI-37518 (IDT030) **P**

December 12, 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL-7014 1200 0000 6879 0070

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Williams Meservy & Lothspeich, LLP Attn: Robert E. Williams PO Box 168 Jerome, ID 83338-0168

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Shoshone Field Office has received your letter dated November 12, 2014. In this letter you have requested the BLM review an agreement between fourteen Magic Valley area cities (Cities), Rangen Inc., Clear Springs Foods Co., and Idaho Power Co. and provide a response to you. The agreement proposes to deliver fifteen hundred acre feet (minus conveyance loss) of water to the Gooding Recharge Site located primarily on public lands. The primary purpose of this agreement is to facilitate aquifer recharge in order to evaluate the feasibility of the Gooding Recharge Site for larger recharge projects in the future. A secondary purpose of the agreement is that it will be the foundation of a mitigation plan allowing the Cites to avoid curtailment of their water rights through March 31, 2016.

The area you are refereeing to as the Gooding Recharge Site includes 51.5 acres of public land in Gooding County. The BLM has issued the City of Gooding two right-of-way grants that authorize the use of this area for the purposes of flood diversion (IDI-0-3306) and for aquifer recharge (IDI-37518). After reviewing the information you provided and the information provided by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality the BLM has determined that the one-time application of water as proposed is not substantially different from the current uses. The proposed project can proceed under the terms and conditions of the City of Gooding's existing authorizations.

Uses outside the terms and conditions of the right-of-way grants issued to the City of Gooding will require additional authorization, so please keep the BLM informed of any changes or newly proposed uses occurring on public lands. If you have any questions please contact Kasey Prestwich, Realty Specialist, at (208) 732-7204 or via email at <u>kprestwich@blm.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Codie Martin Field Manager

CC: City of Gooding Attn: Todd Bunn 308 5th Ave W. Gooding, ID 83330