

ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMORANDUM

Miscellaneous Memo No. 16

To: Regional Offices
Water Allocation Bureau
Adjudication Bureau

From: Gary Spackman 

Re: **CROP CONSUMPTIVE USE DATA FOR WATER RIGHT REVIEW**

Date: February 11, 2008

A University of Idaho report entitled, *Evapotranspiration and Consumptive Irrigation Water Requirements for Idaho*, dated September, 2006 was prepared by Richard G. Allen and Clarence W. Robison under contract with IDWR. The report indicates that “[t]he ET and net irrigation water requirement calculations are intended for use in design and management of irrigation systems, for water rights management and consumptive water rights transfers and for hydrologic studies.” The data in the report includes water consumption estimates for agricultural crops, a number of native plant systems, and open water systems. Data from the report is available online at the following:

<http://www.kimberly.uidaho.edu/ETIdaho/>

In the past, IDWR has used crop water use data developed as part of the University of Idaho report entitled, *Estimating Consumptive Irrigation Requirements for Crops in Idaho*, dated August, 1983, prepared by R.G. Allen and C.E. Brockway for water right analysis. Data from the 1983 report has been used to support water right transfer applications to change nature of use and water right permit applications requiring mitigation to compensate for potential injury. The 1983 data has also been used in the estimation of irrigation diversion requirements for adjudication claim and water right permit application review. The 1983 data has also been used for review of mitigation plans associated with water right delivery calls under conjunctive management rules, consent agreements associated with water right violations, and other analyses related to water use or water measurement.

The 2006 report indicates that “[t]hese ET calculations supersede calculations previously made for Idaho by Allen and Brockway (1983).” IDWR will no longer accept or prepare new water use estimates (for water right analysis) based on the 1983 Allen and Brockway data.

This memo does not preclude use of other reasonable water use data if used appropriately or if designated as acceptable by statute or other IDWR rule or policy.