

ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMORANDUM

TO: Regions and Water Allocation Bureau

FROM: Norman C. Young *NCH*

DATE: February 1, 1989

Permit Processing No. 11

RE: Field examinations for CRP land

A large number of acres in Idaho have been selected for inclusion in the conservation reserve program (CRP). Some of the CRP lands were developed under outstanding permits. Proof may have already been filed on a permit, but the department did not examine the system while it was operating.

If at all possible, an examination should be conducted on CRP lands, even if the system is no longer operating. If the department field examines the beneficial use at the present time, however, the examiner may not be able to measure the actual flow rate and the system operation may also be difficult to define. Nevertheless, if we wait for ten years, the new system that is installed may be substantially different than the system that was originally developed.

Whenever possible, we should attempt to examine CRP lands covered by an existing permit. Measurement of flow is not required in connection with CRP lands if the flow cannot be measured. The flow rate must, however, be estimated from secondary sources of information. The land owner should be able to gather information regarding pump size, pumping depth, and the physical configuration of the system that would cause substantial head losses. A definition of the irrigated land must also be reconstructed from aerial photographs or other sources of information. Although the field examination for CRP lands may not be as exact as other field examinations, it will probably better represent the extent of beneficial use during the permit period than a future examination for a new system. Completion of the field exam also changes the status of the water right to a perfected status, not requiring further processing by the department in the future.