

APR 16 2025

By

Deputy Clerk

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

In Re SRBA

Case No. 39576

) Subcase No.: 00-92021-69
) (Interim Administration)
)
) ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR ORDER
) OF INTERIM ADMINISTRATION OF
) WATER RIGHTS THAT DIVERT FROM
) CROOKED RIVER IN BASIN 69
)

I.

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

1. The Court previously entered partial decrees for water rights that divert from Crooked River in Basin 69 in the Snake River Basin Adjudication.
2. Crooked River Ranches, LLC holds a water right that diverts from Crooked River in Basin 69. On December 20, 2024, Crooked River Ranches, LLC filed a Motion for Interim Administration. The Motion seeks interim administration of water rights that divert Crooked River in Basin 69 pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1417.
3. The Motion alleges the Idaho Department of Water Resources has not established a water district in Basin 69 for surface water in the Crooked River drainage at this time. As a result, the Motion requests that the Court enter an order authorizing interim administration of water rights that divert from Crooked River in Basin 69 in accordance with the Court's partial decrees for the 2025 irrigation season. Counsel for Crooked River Ranches, LLC stated to the Court that Crooked River Ranches, LLC will petition the Idaho Department of Water Resources to create a water district for all or a portion of Basin 69 for the 2026 irrigation season.
4. A hearing on the Motion was held before the Court on April 15, 2025. No objections were filed in response to the Motion for Interim Administration. As a result, the Motion is unopposed.

II.

LEGAL STANDARD

1. Idaho Code § 42-1417 permits the district court to authorize interim administration of water rights and provides, in part, as follows:

- (1) The district court may permit the distribution of water pursuant to chapter 6, title 42, Idaho Code:
 - (a) in accordance with the director's report or as modified by the court's order;
 - (b) in accordance with applicable partial decree(s) for water rights acquired under state law;
 - (c) in accordance with applicable partial decree(s) for water right established under federal law.
- (2) The district court may enter the order only:
 - (a) upon motion by a party;
 - (b) after notice by the moving party by mail to the director and each claimant from the water system or portion thereof that could reasonably be determined be adversely affected by entry of the order; and
 - (c) upon a determination by the court, after hearing , that the interim administration of water rights in accordance with the report, or as the report is modified by the court's order, and in accordance with any partial decree(s), is reasonably necessary to protect senior water rights.

Idaho Code § 42-1417(1) & (2).

2. Idaho Code § 42-1417 therefore requires the district court to make the following determination: (1) a party filed a motion for interim administration, (2) the moving party served by mail each claimant that could reasonably be determined to be adversely affected, (3) interim administration is reasonably necessary to protect senior water rights, and (4) the water rights should be administered in accordance with the partial decrees.

III.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Court having heard the Motion for Interim Administration will grant the Motion on the basis it is unopposed. In so granting the unopposed Motion, the Court makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. Crooked River Ranches, LLC has satisfied the notice and service requirements of Idaho Code § 42-1417 by serving the Motion on those claimants / water users in Basin 69 reasonably determined to be adversely affected by the entry of the requested order.

2. Interim administration of water rights that divert from Crooked River in Basin 69 in accordance with the Court's partial decrees during the 2025 irrigation season is reasonably necessary to efficiently administer water rights and to protect senior water rights.

IV.

ORDER

THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING ARE HEREBY ORDERED:

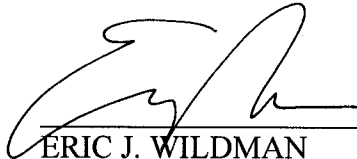
1. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1417, the Motion for Order of Interim Administration is granted on the basis it is unopposed.

2. The Court authorizes the Idaho Department of Water Resources to conduct the interim administration of water rights that divert from Crooked River in Basin 69 in accordance with the Court's partial decrees for the 2025 irrigation season pursuant to Chapter 6, Title 42, Idaho Code.

3. Counsel for Crooked River Ranches, LLC stated to the Court that Crooked River Ranches, LLC will petition the Idaho Department of Water Resources to create a water district for all or a portion of Basin 69 for the 2026 irrigation season. However, in the event that such a water district is not created in time for the 2026 irrigation season, nothing in this Order precludes Crooked River Ranches, LLC from filing a subsequent motion for interim administration for the 2026 irrigation season.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 4/16/25.


ERIC J. WILDMAN
Presiding Judge
Snake River Basin Adjudication

RULE 54(b) CERTIFICATE

With respect to the issues determined by the above judgment or order it is hereby CERTIFIED, in accordance with Rule 54(b), I.R.C.P., that the court has determined that there is no just reason for delay of the entry of a final judgment and that the court has and does hereby direct that the above judgment or order shall be a final judgment upon which execution may issue and an appeal may be taken as provided by the Idaho Appellate Rules.

DATED: April 16, 2025.



ERIC J. WILDMAN
Presiding Judge
Snake River Basin Adjudication