Water Act Modernization
Misitry of Environment
Water Stewardship Division
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March 23, 2010

Re: Domestic Water License on an Irrigation Ditch

To Whom It May Concern:

It is to my dismay that I am writing to express my concern that the people responsible for water management (in my area) are not employing proper dispute mechanisms with the ever increasing demand for water rights.

Recently my husband and I have become aware of a domestic water liscense that was issued on the irrigation ditch running through our property. We understand that water rights are based on the date of license issueance. We have had rights on Onyx Creek since 1921 and the domestic license ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

We are concerend because at no time were we made aware of the issuance of a domestic license that directly affects our ability to ranch and make hay for our cattle. There should not be a domestic water license issued on a ditch used for irrigation. Irrigation ditches require water to be shut off from the creek from October 1 to March 31 to prevent flooding and freezing risks. With domestic water licenses also using the irrigation ditch this practice cannot take place as they must have water left on all year round.

We are also concerned with other users on the ditch using their irrigation licenses for domestic use and making water catchments off the irrigation ditch for personal use that inhibits the water supply for other users whom have held water licenses for longer. Domestic water licenses issued should take water directly from Onyx Creek, not the irrigation ditch.

We look forward to your reply in seeing that this issue is dealt with and that no further domestic water licenses are issued on an irrigation ditch.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

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