7-20-2004

The Water Rights Transfer Tool: a Tool for Evaluating the Impacts to River Reaches due to Water Rights Transfers

Cosgrove, Johnson

Follow this and additional works at: http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/ucowrconfs_2004
This is the abstract of a presentation given on Tuesday, 20 July 2004, in session 16 of the UCOWR conference.

Recommended Citation
http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/ucowrconfs_2004/77

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Conference Proceedings at OpenSIUC. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2004 by an authorized administrator of OpenSIUC. For more information, please contact opensiuc@lib.siu.edu.
ABSTRACT

The Water Rights Transfer Tool: A Tool for Evaluating the Impacts to River Reaches due to Water Rights Transfers
D.M. Cosgrove and G.S. Johnson
University of Idaho

New ground water appropriations in most locations in southern Idaho are closed, creating an increased need for transfers of ground water rights among users. It is recognized, however, that a transfer in the pumping location results in changes in depletion effects on springs and the Snake River. In some areas, surface water depletion will be increased and water users and aquatic species habitat will be adversely impacted. Recognizing the need to identify and mitigate impacts, the Idaho Department of Water Resources contracted the University of Idaho/Idaho Water Resources Research Institute to develop a tool for evaluating the impacts to surface water resources due to transfers of points of diversion of ground water rights. The tool is based on response function theory, with response functions generated using the calibrated eastern Snake River Plain aquifer model and was implemented with a user interface in Microsoft EXCEL. The Transfer Tool is currently being used by the IDWR to evaluate the impacts of water rights transfers and, where necessary, to develop mitigation strategies for increased impacts due to transfers. With use of the Water Rights Transfer Tool, Idaho is actively engaging hydrologic science in the management of ground- and surface-water resources.

Contact information:

D.M. Cosgrove
Biological and Agricultural Engineering Dept.
University of Idaho
1776 Science Center Drive
Suite 305
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
cosgrove@if.uidaho.edu
208-282-7914

G.S. Johnson
Dept. of Geological Sciences
University of Idaho
1776 Science Center Drive
Suite 305
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
johnson@if.uidaho.edu
208-282-7914