

## **NRD hearing on pooling, transfer rule changes Monday**

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Thursday, 09 February 2012 19:03 - Last Updated Thursday, 09 February 2012 19:05

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**By Russ Pankonin**

### **The Imperial Republican**

Patrons in the Upper Republican Natural Resources (URNRD) will get to offer their input on several proposed rules changes during a public hearing next Monday, Feb. 13, at the district's headquarters in Imperial, beginning at 1 p.m.

The major changes being proposed apply to pooling and transfer rules.

A summary of the proposed changes are as follows:

#### Pooling

- Any tract being added to a pooling contract must have positive allocation remaining. Otherwise it cannot be added.
- Tracts with positive allocation remaining will be allowed to be added to an existing pool, as long as the overall pool average remains positive.

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- Parties pooling water together must have a common interest or ownership in the tracts being pooled. A lease for the ground would be considered a common interest.
  
- No pooling contracts can extend more than one township or floating township, which encompasses a six-square mile area.
  
- In the event the tracts of two pooling contracts are being combined into one pooling contract, the contract with the most acres shall be considered the existing contract.

### Transfers

- The amount of carryforward that can be transferred is limited to three years of annual allocation. Under the present allocation of 13 inches, that equals 39 inches.
  
- Board approval of a transfer must be received prior to changing the point of withdrawal or use of water.
  
- No limitations of carryforward will be imposed on the transfer of certified acres within a tract of ground where the point of withdrawal does not change.
  
- The board shall require offsets and shall limit transfers to historical consumptive use.
  
- Transfers shall be offset, by decertifying sufficient irrigated acres, so that any transfer does not increase stream flow depletions or results in an increase in pumping above the historical use.

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Questions?

The proposed rule changes can be found on the URNRD's home page of their website: [www.urnrd.org](http://www.urnrd.org). It's at the bottom of the "What's Up at the Upper Republican" section.

Managers at the NRD asked anyone with questions on the new rules to call them at the Imperial office, 308-882-5173.