



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Western Region, 2735 Airport Way, Boise, Idaho 83705-5082

PHONE: (208) 334-2190 FAX: (208) 334-2348 [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor  
DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR., Director

February 25, 2008

ALLEN SUTTON  
PO BOX 26  
OLA ID 83657

VAUGHN SPIKER  
PO BOX 74  
OLA ID 83657

Re: Measuring Devices for Your Ditches

Dear Gentlemen:

This letter is to remind you about the problems we had last year measuring flows in your respective ditches near Ola. Both ditches had submerged weirs that could not provide accurate data for the Watermaster to properly distribute water.

Using Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) equipment, I was able to get a good measurement for the west side ditch ("Vaughn") last August. However, I was not successful in doing that for the east side ditch ("Allen") due to overgrown vegetation. While it can be helpful to sometimes make a department measurement, that is not an acceptable substitute for accurate and accessible measuring devices permanently in place for the Watermaster to do his job. Additionally, controllable and measurable diversion works are required under Section 42-701, *Idaho Code*.

I think the Watermaster had a chance to discuss this with you since my field visit last August. The purpose of my letter is to remind you that acceptable measuring devices must be installed in those two ditches for this irrigation season. I have enclosed a copy of the University of Idaho "Water Measurement" booklet for your use. Although the diagrams in the publication about how to build a measuring device are not the best, the booklet might provide you with some help to select the best type of devices for your respective ditches.

Additional technical assistance might be available from the following sources:

- US Dept. of Agriculture office in Emmett (NRCS staff)
- Kimberly Research & Extension Center, Kimberly, 208-423-4691, [www.kimberly.uidaho.edu](http://www.kimberly.uidaho.edu)

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- Ron Shurtleff, Payette River Watermaster, Payette, 208-642-4465 (examples of good measuring devices for ditches like yours?)
- IDWR Water Distribution Section, Boise, 208-287-4800 (references about purchasing devices?).

**Please make sure you have acceptable measuring devices in place for this irrigation season. Your help in this regard will avoid IDWR regulatory actions to assure that the Watermaster has the necessary tools to distribute available water pursuant to Idaho law.**

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for your water district.

Sincerely,



Steve Lester  
Water Rights Supervisor

Enclosure: Water Measurement Booklet

CC: Watermaster Eric Herr (w/o enclosure)