



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

PANHANDLE REGION

2885 West Kathleen Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

C.L. "Butch" Otter/Governor

Cal Groen/Director

July 14, 2010

Mr. Keith Franklin
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Northern Region
7600 Mineral Drive, Ste 100
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Dear Keith:

REFERENCE: DRECHSEL: 94-7575

We have reviewed the above-named application by James Drechsel to divert 0.03 cfs from the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River for irrigation (4/1 through 10/31).

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River is managed by IDFG as a quality westslope cutthroat trout fishery and it is very popular with anglers. The North Fork is an important component of westslope cutthroat trout habitat range-wide. Several research and restoration projects have been and are currently being conducted on the North Fork and the Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene Rivers. Idaho and neighboring states (MT/WA/OR) have recently fended off a listing of westslope cutthroat under the Endangered Species Act by demonstrating that healthy populations and habitat exist in places like the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, and that the appropriate state regulatory mechanisms are in place to protect them.

We are concerned that the cumulative effects of property owners applying for diversions may be harmful to this economically and ecologically important fishery. There is a minimum stream flow on the Coeur d'Alene River (WR 94-7341) of 413.0 cfs from July 1 to October 31, and 1018.0 cfs from November 1 through June 30. The applicant should be made aware that their diversion cannot negatively impact the established minimum flow in the Coeur d'Alene River.

Because water right diversions allow water users to manipulate streams, we recommend this permit be conditioned to require no disturbance to the stream channel. If pumps are used, they should be adequately screened to prevent entrainment and /or impingement of juvenile trout (we recommend ≤ 0.25 " mesh, with approach velocity of ≤ 0.5 feet per second).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Corsi", written over a horizontal line.

Charles E. "Chip" Corsi
Regional Supervisor

CEC:MTB

C: Sharon Kiefer, IDFG Boise
USFWS, Spokane

File: IDWR Drechsel 94-7575

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage