



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522-5200
<http://www.id.blm.gov/offices/cottonwood>



In Reply Refer to:
6521 (420)

JUN 13 2008

RECEIVED
JUN 16 2008
IDWR/North

Chad Goodwin, Senior Water Resource Agent
Idaho Department of Water Resources, Northern Region
7600 Mineral Drive, Suite 100
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

RE: BLM Permit 82-7187

Dear Chad:

This letter is in regards to a request for additional information by Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and the licensing of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Permit #82-7187. A letter from IDWR dated May 14, 2008, identified that condition number three on Permit 82-7187 is not meeting requirements for a measuring device at the point of diversion. Your letter also stated that if we want to remove this condition we should request such and provide documentation for this request. This office is requesting that we would like this condition removed from the permit and the following is submitted.

The South Fork Clearwater River has been dredge mined in the past and the river has been channelized in the location of the side channels. Historically this low gradient river had more sinuosity and had side channels in the floodplain that were used for juvenile rearing habitat by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Side channels were constructed by the BLM in 1989 to provide improved juvenile fish rearing habitat. The culvert inlets have flood gates constructed (plywood) which can be used if needed to control side channel flows. During high flow conditions the South Fork Clearwater River overflows it banks and it would not be possible to measure flows at these times. Enclosed are two photos that were taken on May 19, 2008, which shows South Fork Clearwater River overbank flows in the vicinity of the side channels. The primary objectives for the side channels is to improve juvenile rearing habitat, maintain natural flows in side channels, and maintain a functional floodplain for the South Fork Clearwater River. It would not be efficient and practical to install and calibrate a measuring device for each side channel.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (208) 962-3688. Your assistance and cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig A. Johnson".

Craig A. Johnson
Fisheries Biologist

Enclosure

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