

**Luke, Tim**

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**From:** Young, Norm  
**Sent:** Friday, November 02, 2001 9:19 AM  
**To:** Wilson, Keith; Luke, Tim  
**Subject:** RE: Bear River Diversions

Keith: Thanks for the quick response to the request to look at these diversions. Sounds like the users will be cooperative. One concern from your email report: If 243 claims are not promptly filed with supporting information to show historic use, the diversions are to be curtailed. Even with 243 claims filed, the diversions must be kept to only when needed and to a very efficient use. Were you able to tell how much water was reaching the uses farthest down the ditches and laterals? That would seem to me to be the most important factor. We want the flow at the places the stock are watering to be just that amount actually needed at locations and for numbers of animals that have historically received water this time of year. Recharge is good, but it is not something we can promote in this case. If large amounts of return flows or spills are occurring, particularly in the West Fork Canal system or any others that return below the Rainbow heading, the diversions should be reduced. They may have to be increased if ice becomes a problem if cows remain in the area now being served.

Norm

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Wilson, Keith  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 01, 2001 6:35 PM  
**To:** Luke, Tim; Young, Norm  
**Subject:** Bear River Diversions

TO: TIM LUKE

11/01/2001

FROM: KEITH C. WILSON - EASTERN

RE: BLACK OTTER, WEST FORK, DINGLE, LAROCCO-KENT, NUFFER, CANALS - DITCHES

Today I visited with Pete Peterson & several of the canals and water users. The canal/ditch companies were advised to file, as soon as possible, the 243 claims with supporting documentation to establish that the post season for stock water is an historical use of the water. They were also advised that without the 243 Claims the diversions could be required to shut off anytime that the water was not being needed or efficiently used.

Prior to meeting Pete Peterson and I drove around and looked a several of the canals & ditches.

The topography of the area is very flat. According to Pete Peterson the canals/ditches require a large diversion rate in order to drive the water across the area & to keep the canals from freezing in the winter. In addition to the topography the canals & ditches also have problems with beavers.

The Black Otter was diverting  $\approx 22.5$  cfs through a 10 ft Parshall Flume. By the time the water had traveled  $\approx 4$  miles to the flume over the Rainbow Canal the flow was reduced to an estimated flow of 15-16 cfs. It is my opinion that the number of cattle grazing between the Parshall Flume and the flume over the Rainbow Canal, and any other diversions from the Black Otter, could not account for the reduction of flow. There was a distinct reduction in the water velocity between the Black Otter Parshall Flume and the Black Otter ditch after the flume over the Rainbow Canal.

It is my opinion that the diversion rates of the canals/ditches in the area do not appear to be excessive and that the practices are an efficient use of the water. Because of the flat topography of the area any water diverted could possibly help maintain the flow of the Bear River year round by maintaining a higher sub-water level.