

WD 37 File



State of Idaho

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1301 North Orchard Street, Boise, ID 83706 - P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0098  
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DIRK KEMPTHORNE  
Governor

KARL J. DREHER  
Director

January 30, 2004

Kevin Lakey  
Water District 37 & 37M  
PO Box  
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Lakey:

Your letter dated January 16, 2004, to Karl Dreher inquiring about procedures to obtain a stream channel alteration permit has been referred to me for response. In your letter you specifically refer to stream channel work on Silver Creek in Blaine County.

In response to your inquiry, please find enclosed for your reference the following letters related to watermaster duties and stream channel alteration activity:

- Letter dated September 24, 2002 to state watermasters from Tim Luke
- Letter dated September 17, 2002 to Lee Peterson from Karl J. Dreher
- Letter dated September 6, 2002 to Craig Hobdey from Norman C. Young

The guidance directs watermasters to refrain from authorizing, organizing or performing construction work involving the channels of natural watercourses, since the primary duty of a watermaster is to distribute water to those entitled to its use by measuring the water and regulating diversions and controlling works. Typical applicants seeking to alter stream channels or to work in associated wetlands include flood control districts, irrigation districts, canal companies or water right holders in a water district. The water right holders who divert water in Water Districts 37 and 37M who seek alterations or long-term stream channel maintenance might want to consider forming or affiliating with one of the typical districts described above or creating an association who could serve as an applicant for permits to do stream channel work.

Applicants seeking approval for work in a stream channel or in associated wetlands may submit a Joint Application For Permit to:

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U.S. Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Field Office  
304 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 140  
Boise, ID 83702-9998

and to

Idaho Department of Water Resources  
Southern Regional Office  
1341 Fillmore St., Suite 200  
Twin Falls, ID 83301-3380

If you have further questions regarding work in streams or wetlands, please contact Greg Martinez with the COE at (208) 345-2154 or Terry Blau with Water Resources at (208) 736-3033.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Glen Saxton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "L." being small and the last name "Saxton" being larger and more prominent.

L. GLEN SAXTON, P.E.  
Administrator  
Water Management Division

Encl: 3

c: Ervin Ballou - IDWR  
Terry Blau - IDWR  
Tim Luke - IDWR