



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

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor

GARY SPACKMAN, Director

January 2, 2015

To: Distribution List

Re: Castle Creek Water District 57-C

Dear Interested Parties:

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) seeks your help for improved management of Castle Creek water. Improvements in this regard will provide better certainty and efficiencies for all users, regardless of their priority dates.

IDWR is charged with striking the right balance between protecting senior water and assisting with maximum economic development of the water resources of the state. Improving management tools for the Castle Creek system will help water users protect their rights and achieve maximum beneficial use under their rights.

At this time, it is not possible for the Watermaster to physically regulate Castle Creek water rights. Adjustable, lockable diversion works and measuring devices are needed to verify water rights are being diverted and used under the priority system. These improvements would also provide a credible basis to determine if more water is available for new rights at particular times of the year (off-stream storage filled during the winter, for example).

IDWR would like to work with you to develop and implement a plan along these lines. Your annual water district meeting early next month will be a good chance to discuss this and decide what to do. Unfortunately, I cannot attend your meeting since I will be having a similar discussion at the Weiser River Water District at the same time. However, other experienced IDWR staff from this office will attend your meeting.

I look forward to visiting with you about this after the 2015 water district meetings are over and we have a chance to focus on details for building a stronger water district for your community. Thank you for your interest in Castle Creek.

Sincerely,

Steve Lester
Interim Western Region Manager

Enclosure: Distribution List

Cc: Charles Honsinger, Honsinger Law (per request)