

74-W



**State of Idaho**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1301 North Orchard Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098  
Phone: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866

DIRK KEMPTHORNE  
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER  
DIRECTOR

May 12, 2000

Rick Sager  
Water District 74  
RR 1 Box 52-A  
Salmon, ID 83467

Re: Regulation of Water Diversions in Water District 74

Dear Mr. Sager:

Your role as watermaster has increased importance this year because of the lower than normal stream flows in the Lemhi Basin. Snowpack measurements indicate that stream flows in the basin will be similar to those experienced in 1990, 1992, and 1994, the most recent dry years. The snowpack indicates that the runoff for this irrigation season will be about 50 to 60 percent of normal. Of course, stream flows and water demands will depend on the weather conditions that actually occur during the remainder of the spring and summer.

Particular attention is needed to ensure that waters of Idaho are used in accordance with valid water rights by regulating water diversions such that amounts diverted do not exceed the amounts authorized by valid water rights and that senior water rights are respected to prevent economic injury. Additionally, consideration of anadromous fish species in the Columbia River Basin makes it imperative that water diversions and uses be carefully managed and documented to demonstrate compliance with valid rights established under state law.

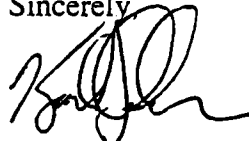
I ask that you take all appropriate actions throughout the irrigation season to ensure that rights are properly delivered and to keep an accurate record of all diversions within your district for which you are responsible. I have instructed staff in the Department of Water Resources Water Distribution Section to schedule a meeting with you as soon as possible to assist in evaluating the distribution and record keeping procedures and to evaluate the adequacy of measuring devices and control works in your district. If it is determined that improvements are needed, the Department will assist you and the water users to make the needed changes. Mr. Bob Foster of the Department's Salmon office will be in contact with you in the near future to schedule a meeting.

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I recognize that your term of service does not usually commence until you are called upon by one or more water users and that the budget adopted at the annual meeting of your water district may be a constraint to providing the additional services that are needed this year. This matter will be reviewed with you and addressed during the meeting with the Department's staff.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Please call Bob Foster at (208)756-6644 if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely



Karl J. Dreher  
Director

copy to: Bob Foster, IDWR Salmon Office  
Tim Luke, IDWR Water Distribution Section

Copy of Letter also sent to:

John Tracy, WD 74C  
Richard Moll, WD 74Q & Z  
Bob Thomas, WD 74U  
Rich Sager, WD 74  
Dan P Smith, WD 74 W  
Rockie L Walker, WD 74A  
LaMar Cockrell, WD 74B  
Steve Crofoot, WD 74G

District No	Last Name	First Name	Initial	District Name	Status	Address	City	State	Zip Code
74	Sager	Rick		Lemhi River	Current	RR 1 Box 52-A	Salmon	ID	83467-
74-A	Walker	Rockie	L	Geertsen Creek	Current	RR1 Box 76A	Salmon	ID	83467-
74-B	Cockrell	LaMar		Kirtley Creek	Current	Rt 1 Box 9	Salmon	ID	83467
74-C	Tracy	John		Bohannan Creek	Current	Rt 1 Box 2	Salmon	ID	83467
74-G	Crofoot	Steve		Sandy Creek	Current	Rt 1 Box 38	Salmon	ID	83647
74-Q	Moll	Richard		Mill Creek	Current	PO Box 153	Leadore	ID	83464
74-U	Thomas	Bob		Andrews and Slough Ditch	Current	Rt 1 Box 94	Salmon	ID	83467
74-W	Smith	Dan	P	Texas, Hawley, Timber, Junction, Bull, Jake and Canyon Creeks	Current	PO Box 22	Leadore	ID	83464
74-Z	Moll	Richard		Big Eight Mile and Lee Creeks	Current	PO Box 153	Leadore	ID	83464