



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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R. KEITH HIGGINSON
DIRECTOR

January 17, 1995

Mr. Jerrold Gregg
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Central Snake Projects Office
214 Broadway
Boise, ID 83706

RECEIVED

JAN 18 1995

RE: Flow Regulation at Black Canyon Dam

Department of Water Resources

Dear Jerry:

During recent years there have been many discussions regarding the improvement of irrigation efficiency within the Payette River drainage basin. The purpose of this letter is to request investigation and implementation of system modification which would enable Black Canyon Reservoir to be used as a flow regulation reservoir.

As you are aware, one problem with the timing of delivery of storage water from Cascade Reservoir, Deadwood Reservoir and Big Payette Lake is the long distance from these storage sites to the points of delivery within the Payette River Basin. If a rainstorm occurs on an unregulated reach such as the South Fork of the Payette River, the increased river flow will arrive at Black Canyon at the same time as stored flows that have been released from upstream reservoirs. Black Canyon Reservoir ~~must~~ presently ~~must~~ remain full throughout the irrigation season to deliver adequate flows to the Black Canyon Irrigation District canal. Consequently, the reservoir cannot serve as a regulating reservoir and excess flows arriving at Black Canyon are spilled downstream and are often undiverted.

If Black Canyon Reservoir is converted to a regulating reservoir, the Watermaster would be able to capture and make beneficial use of rainstorm flows by decreasing upstream storage releases by the amount of water captured. In addition, regulation capability would provide the watermaster with the option of improving the accuracy of the amount of water delivered past Black Canyon Dam from upstream reservoirs.

Jerrold Gregg

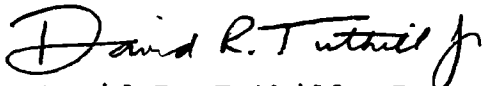
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One suggestion for adding regulation capability at Black Canyon Dam is to raise the height of the dam by a foot or two. If this can be done without adversely impacting the stability of the structure, recreational values, etc., there could be a distinct increase in water management efficiency.

Please consider this letter to be a formal request from the Idaho Department of Water Resources to study the feasibility of adding regulation capability at Black Canyon Dam.

Sincerely,



David R. Tuthill, Jr., P.E.
Manager, Western Regional Office

cc: Roy Orr, BCID
Roy Maxwell, EID
Helen Bivins, Watermaster, WD 65
Bob Henggeler, Chairman, WD 65
Norm Young, State Office