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Bob Sutter —

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WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

Western Region File for
WD65 —

December 28, 1994

SRAO-6410
WTR-4.10

Mr. Scott L. Campbell
Elam & Burke
PO Box 1539
Boise ID 83701

Subject: Review of Flood Control Rule Curves for Cascade and Deadwood Reservoirs

Dear Mr. Campbell:

The Bureau of Reclamation operates Cascade and Deadwood reservoirs for multiple purposes. The flood control operating criteria provide for the protection of the dam structures and also minimize the risk of substantial flood damage to downstream property in the Payette basin. In the Payette basin substantial flood control benefits are achieved with minimum risk to irrigation water supplies.

Flood control in the Payette basin is informal and based on an administrative decision by Reclamation. The decision resulted from the recognized opportunity to provide flood control protection to the basin and to benefit the irrigation districts by allowing allocation of operation and maintenance expenses to flood control.

Since 1974, when the rule curves were adopted, through 1994 operation of the reservoirs for flood control has prevented an estimated \$16,840,000 in flood damage. Operation of Cascade and Deadwood for flood control resulted in a substantial reduction in the operation and maintenance expenses charged to the irrigation districts. At Cascade Reservoir the cost allocation charged to the irrigation districts was reduced from the initial rate of 49.3% to the current level of 16.3%. At Deadwood Reservoir the irrigator's cost share has been similarly reduced from 34.7% to 8.5%. Allocation of costs to flood control will save Payette irrigators approximately \$140,000 in 1995 alone. In upcoming years with substantial maintenance work programmed at Cascade reservoir the annual cost savings will be in excess of \$200,000.

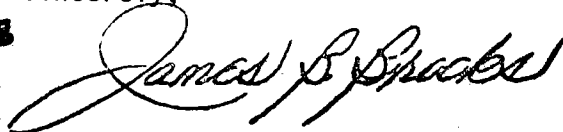
The flood control rule curves for Cascade and Deadwood reservoirs were last revised in 1974.

As indicated in my letter of August 1, 1994 Reclamation has agreed to review the flood control rule curves utilizing an additional 20 years of hydrologic data available as well as updated procedures for developing the flood control rule curves.

The review process was initiated several months ago by staff of the River and Reservoir Operations group at the Pacific Northwest Regional Office. The new flood control rule curves will be completed by April 1, 1995. Staff will be available to meet with the waterusers, explain the review process, and receive input concerning flood control on the Payette River. A meeting will be scheduled in early March for this purpose.

Sincerely,

ACTING



Jerrold D. Gregg
Area Manager

bc: Regional Director
PN-1000

Mr. Dan Yribar
PN-6410

Watermaster
Water District 65

Manager
Black Canyon Irrigation District

Manager
Emmett Irrigation District

Mr. Dave Tuthill
Idaho Department of Water Resources