

WD65 -

WATER DISTRICT NO. 65
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November 15, 1995

Mr. Jerrold Gregg, Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
Snake River Area Office
214 Broadway Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83702

Dear Jerry:

On November 14th, Rick Wells called our office concerning possible flood control releases from Cascade and Deadwood Reservoirs this month. Rick indicated that carryover levels of both reservoirs currently exceeded flood control target levels. He stated that current releases from these reservoirs needed to be increased to bypass inflows and maintain present levels. Rick then faxed us data showing the levels of Cascade and Deadwood Reservoirs, as well as the projected levels of carryover after fish flow augmentation water is released during the period of December 10 through February 28. This data also showed that, given the amount of carryover currently held in Cascade Reservoir, approximately 59,000 acre feet of stored inflow would be needed in Cascade to bring the post-fish flow release carryover up to the new flood control level of 500,000 acre feet.

After consulting with several of our constituents on this matter, we do not agree with the need to release stored water for flood control purposes on Cascade Reservoir at this time. The fact that the fish flow water is being held for release in about 25 days indicates that there is no urgency in deterring current increases in carryover levels. Any releases for flood control purposes would be releasing irrigation water, namely Black Canyon Irrigation District storage refill, simply for the purpose of safely maintaining fish flow water for a short period of time. Currently, the absence of snow at both high and low elevations indicates that any flood control release from Cascade Reservoir would be premature. It is our opinion that Cascade levels should show a minimum of 500,000 acre feet of carryover, after fish flow releases, before any flood control efforts are initiated.

Deadwood Reservoir, on the other hand, is currently storing above the flood control target level. With no fish flow release planned for this reservoir, flood control operations consistent with new curves agreed to by the District are in order at this time.

If, after reviewing these considerations, you remain convinced that flood control releases from Cascade Reservoir are necessary, we suggest that you meet with our Advisory Committee on this matter to further explain your position.

We thank you for the opportunity to advise you on these matters, for they directly affect the storage water vitally important to our Water District. Your willingness to include water user's concerns in the management of flood control operations on our reservoirs reflects your commitment to continued cooperation with our District and is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

Wilbur "Brick" Andrew, Chairman
Water District 65

Mark Limbaugh, Watermaster
Water District 65

cc: Dave Tuthill, Jr., IDWR
WD65 Advisory Committee
Rick Wells, Bureau of Reclamation
Roy Orr, Black Canyon Irrigation District