



State of Idaho

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1301 North Orchard Street, Statehouse Mail, Boise, Idaho 83720-9000

Phone: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866

WD 65

February 5, 1996

PHILIP E. BATT  
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER  
DIRECTOR

Mr. Tim Brewer  
Idaho Power Company  
P.O. Box 70  
Boise, Idaho 83707

Dear Mr. Brewer:

This letter will confirm discussions held by our staffs, the Bureau of Reclamation and Water District 65 on December 13, 1995 regarding the release of flow augmentation water from Cascade Reservoir. Previously, an agreement was made between the Bureau of Reclamation and Idaho Power Company to coordinate the release of salmon flow augmentation water from Cascade Reservoir. The agreement stated that the Bureau of Reclamation will release 145,000 acre-feet of Cascade storage at a rate of 1,000 cfs above minimum flow starting on or about December 10, 1995. The contents of Cascade Reservoir and continuing precipitation in the Cascade area subsequently required releases above minimum flow (200 cfs) for flood control. These flood releases were initiated on November 30, 1995. Recent discussions focused on how to account for releases from Cascade Reservoir to ensure Idaho Power receives the 145,000 acre-feet of water previously agreed upon. It was decided the following approach will be taken:

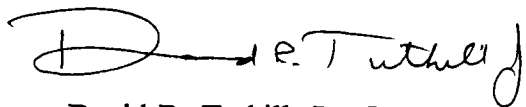
The Bureau of Reclamation will coordinate releases with a target of 500,000 acre-feet in Cascade Reservoir by the end of February 1996. It is understood this target may be reached prior to February 29, 1996.

The Bureau of Reclamation will use runoff forecasts from after January 1 and February 1, 1996 to determine if runoff will be sufficient to fill Cascade Reservoir in 1996. If the forecasts indicate there is a potential for Cascade Reservoir not to fill to capacity, a study will be initiated by the Idaho Department of Water Resources which will track the contents and releases from Cascade Reservoir had the flow augmentation water (145,000 acre-feet) been released prior to flood control releases. The study will track reservoir contents and releases through February 29, 1996. If on, or prior to, that date the observed contents in the reservoir are less than the contents as projected in the study on that date, it is agreed the 145,000 acre-feet has been released to Idaho Power Company. If the study indicates less water would be in Cascade Reservoir than the actual contents prior to that date, the difference would be water due Idaho Power Company.

It was also decided that irrigators will not bear the risk of a failure to refill due to the agreement between Idaho Power Company and Bureau of Reclamation to release the water beginning in December 1995. If Cascade Reservoir does not fill in 1996 as a result of this agreement, the Bureau of Reclamation will make up the failure to fill from non-irrigation space.

I appreciate the opportunity to work with you to resolve this issue. Please call me if you have any questions regarding this information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David R. Tuthill, Jr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

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

cc: Rick Wells, Bureau of Reclamation  
Mark Limbaugh, Water District 65  
Sheryl Howe, State Office