



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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WD 63 2002 file

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

May 31, 2002

Lee Sisco, Watermaster
Water District 63
6616 Overland Road
Boise, Idaho 83709

VIA FAX

Re: USBR Rentals for Flow Augmentation

Dear Lee:

You have asked for confirmation that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is authorized to rent its stored water in Anderson Ranch and Lucky Peak Reservoirs through the Water District 63 Rental Pool for purposes of flow augmentation. It is my understanding from discussions with you and Jerry Gregg that the USBR proposes to rent up to 40,000 acre feet of the storage licensed for irrigation and power purposes held in the inactive portion of Anderson Ranch Reservoir and up to 20,000 acre feet of the storage in Lucky Peak Reservoir authorized for fish maintenance flows.

As you know, Section 42-1763B, Idaho Code, as amended this year, allows the USBR to use stored water for the purpose of flow augmentation provided, among other requirements, that the water is rented through the Idaho Water Resource Board's water bank or one of the local rental pools authorized by the Board. Thus, it is necessary to put the USBR stored water, including the Lucky Peak water even though it is already designated for fish maintenance flows, through the rental pool. The water in the inactive space of Anderson Ranch can be rented because it is included in the volume licensed for irrigation and power uses in License No. 63-03614. An approved rental through the Water District 63 rental pool changes the purpose of use to flow augmentation in accordance with Sections 42-1763B and 42-1764, Idaho Code. The rentals are subject to the adopted procedures for operation of the Water District 63 rental pool.

Jerry Gregg indicated that he would coordinate with representatives of Idaho Department of Fish and Game to prevent unnecessary impacts to local fisheries from the rental and release of the stored water.

Please give me a call if you have additional questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman C. Young', is written over the typed name.

Norman C. Young
Administrator

Water Management Division

c: Jerry Gregg, USBR, Tim Luke, IDWR
Bob Martin, IDFG