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WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

*Response in
letter dated 5/22/95.*

October 31, 1994

Mr. David Tuthill Jr. *DTJ*
Manager, Western Region Office
2735 Airport Way
Boise, Idaho 83705-5082

RE: Location of weir at Upper End of Sinker Creek.

Dear Sir:

Around July 18, when the last storage water from the Hulet Reservoir was running out, the creek flow at the weir above the reservoir measured less than 1 CFS, with the same amount being delivered below. Immediately after the reservoir was declared dry and the water turned through, we received a substantial increase in flow below the reservoir. Thinking that the increase was mostly due to "bank storage" below the high water lines, I waited a couple of weeks before taking any measurements to allow this to settle. By August 3, I measured the weir both coming in and going out of the reservoir and they were .3 CFS and 1.4 CFS respectively. On August 10 I measured again. The weir above the reservoir was completely dry, with only a small puddle of water in the weir pond. The lower weir at the outlet of the reservoir was measuring .98 CFS and there was a small additional amount of water leaking into the canal below the canal weir.

I contacted our water master, Mary Blackstock and requested she make measurements to document this. She came on August 17 and measured .72 on the lower weir with a continued dry measurement at the weir above the reservoir.

The point of all this is one I have stated many times before, the need to relocate the measuring weir above the reservoir to a point farther up the creek, above where the large sandbars exist that are caused by slowing water when the reservoir is full. The measurement difference is at least 1 CFS when the creek is low. Though this might not seem like a lot of water, and indeed isn't in good years, I have found that every drop has been precious since this drought began 8 years ago.

There is a good spot to install a measuring device approximately 250 yards upstream from the current placement. This is in an area of bedrock where the creek has not changed channels for many years. A road could be built easily to the current location and I would agree to help with that road building if the department and the reservoir owner would agree to move the measuring device.

Please consider this a formal complaint. I would like to resolve this with negotiations in the form of face-to-face meetings with

all parties concerned rather than an exchange of time-consuming letters through the mail which have yet to settle anything in this water district. Please respond as soon as possible so that this matter can be resolved before the start of next water season. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Nettleton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Paul Nettleton
Joyce Livestock Co.
Murphy, ID 83650