



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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June 8, 1998

Bob Fotheringham
Utah Division of Water Rights
1780 North Research Parkway # 104
Logan, UT 84341

Dear Bob:

I enjoyed visiting with you and other staff members last month to inspect the old USGS gaging station on Clear Creek in Utah. During that visit I believe we agreed that this site could not be equipped with a recording device without a significant amount of rehabilitation work. I believe we agreed that neither state would pursue such work in the near future.

I think both you and I also had concerns about using the slide-in wooden weir at the diversion structure below the old gage. Specifically, the sediment island upstream of the weir appears to pose problems with the weir pool and approach velocities. The condition of the weir itself may also be a concern. I think there is also general agreement that establishing some method of measuring Clear Creek flows at or near the old gage site is important in order to be consistent with the Johnson decree. You mentioned that flows have traditionally been determined by measuring the Idaho weir and adding all of the upstream diversions.

As an alternative to rehabilitating the former USGS gage site, using the wooden weir below the old site, or relying on the traditional method of summing the Idaho weir with the Utah diversions, we discussed the possibility of rating the creek at a cross-section immediately above the Dave Sundberg diversion, next to the Scofield house. I feel this section may be suitable for the following reasons:

- 1) the former bridge abutment provides a good control section for current metering,
- 2) measuring at this site would reduce the need to measure the Sundberg diversion and the two diversions at the wooden weir in order to determine the total stream flow,
- 3) a staff gage can be installed on the bridge abutment,
- 4) metering can be done from a bridge plank that is placed across the abutment, which may be safer than wading the stream at other points.

We also discussed that a rating at this section might be completed over a fairly narrow range of flows, perhaps from about 12 cfs to 30 cfs. This would insure a rating for the flows that are of concern in the decree, i.e.; the 17 and 20 cfs rates which determine when water is split between the two states. However, it may be advantageous for users in both states if a rating is developed for a broader range of flows.

I would like to propose that representatives from both states work this summer towards developing a rating on Clear Creek for the location described above. IDWR is willing to provide one field agent to conduct or assist in current meter measurements at the site. Given the level of trust and concerns about authority to enter private lands, a Utah representative will need to be involved at all times. IDWR is also willing to prepare an initial rating table using these measurements, again, with the cooperation of your agency. The number of measurements made this year may depend on our respective schedules as well as stream flow conditions. I would suggest that we try to make four to five measurements this year.

I understand that there will be a meeting between representatives of Idaho and Utah on June 18. Perhaps this matter can be discussed in greater detail at that time. I would be happy to talk with you prior to the meeting on June 18. You may contact me at 208-327-7864, or e-mail me at tluke@idwr.state.us.id.

Sincerely,



Tim Luke

cc: Dave Sundberg, Watermaster, Upper Raft River
Norm Young, IDWR
Allen Merrit, IDWR
Lee Sim, Utah Water Rights Division