



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR.  
Director

August 16, 2007

William White, Secretary  
Catherine Creek Water District #57B  
18138 Oreana Loop RD  
Oreana ID 83650

**RE: Letter of 8/13/07—Delivery/Curtailments on Catherine Creek and Tributaries  
Attached letter—E. Brand**

Dear Mr. White:

This letter is in response to your letter of 8/13/07 and to affirm our telephone conversation on 8/14/07. Your letter discussed watermaster delivery calls for downstream senior rights and curtailment of junior rights on the Pickett Creek tributary. Historically, the creek water visibly disappears in the creek bed for approximately 2 miles, and then surfaces as springs downstream in the creek. A senior water right (Cox/Murdock /Thomas) picks up the water at the spring location. This is considered a valid call for water as the water does reach the senior water right diversion. Junior priority water rights should be curtailed as done recently by the watermaster.

Although wateruser self regulation is encouraged, internal notification/agreement conflicts between waterusers as described in the Brands letter play no part in the function of the water district. A water district is under the supervision of our agency and functions to distribute water under the prior appropriation doctrine—plain and simple, ref. Title 42-Chapter 6, Idaho Code. The charges for watermaster services protested in the attached Brands letter seem reasonable and fair. Watermasters must be compensated for their services.

I appreciate you and Mr. Hipwell's many years of work in the operation of the water district. Every year in the Oreana area is a water short challenge. Feel free to contact my staff or me any time you may need assistance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Westra".

John Westra, Manager  
Western Region

Cc: R. Hipwell, Watermaster.