

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LEMHI IRRIGATION DISTRICT, MODEL WATERSHED PROJECT, WATER DISTRICT 74, IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, AND IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WHEREAS, Idaho's Model Watershed Project was established in 1992 as part of the regional effort to rebuild Columbia River Basin salmon runs and includes the Lemhi River, Pahsimeroi River and East Fork of the Salmon River watersheds; WHEREAS, the Model Watershed Project's objective is to maintain, enhance and restore anadromous and resident fish habitat, while achieving a balance between resource protection and resource use on a watershed management basis; AND WHEREAS, the signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") desire to implement the Model Watershed Project's objective in the lower Lemhi River by working with water users to address potential low flow periods and thus facilitate migration of listed salmon and steelhead of all life stages;

NOW THEREFORE, the signatories to this MOU agree as follows:

(1) In addition to the approximately 35 cfs of natural river flows that is expected from runoff during June 2000, the water users of Water District 74 will voluntarily bypass water that they would otherwise be entitled to divert, in order to provide the following flows during the year 2000 irrigation season in the lower Lemhi River, from the L6 diversion downstream to the River's mouth: (a) 35 cfs for a fish flush, as called for by Model Watershed Project and Idaho Department of Fish and Game, to aid upstream passage of adult salmon to spawning grounds during July through mid-September; and (b) 10 cfs of in-channel and bypass flows from willing landowners (included within, and not in addition to, the 35 cfs in June and any fish flushes in July through mid-September) to aid out-migration of juvenile salmon and other listed juvenile fish throughout the irrigation season;

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING -

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(2) Model Watershed Project and Idaho Department of Fish and Game will coordinate to accomplish the following tasks during the year 2000 irrigation season: (a) monitor adult Chinook salmon in the Salmon River near the mouth of and/or in the Lemhi River in order to determine when it is necessary to call for fish flushes during July through mid-September to facilitate upstream migration to spawning areas; (b) monitor out-migration of juvenile salmon and other listed juvenile fish near Hayden Creek and near the mouth of the Lemhi River in order to further understand when fish migration occurs; (c) submit weekly status reports to the signatories of this MOU and to the Boise Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service; and (d) obtain funds to accomplish these tasks;

(3) Idaho Department of Water Resources and Water District 74 will coordinate to accomplish the following tasks during the year 2000 irrigation season: (a) administer water diversions from the lower Lemhi River consistent with this agreement; and (b) process applications for well(s) and water transfers;

(4) The signatories to this MOU will investigate the following options, including any necessary legislation, for a longer-term solution for achieving flows in the lower Lemhi River: (a) transferring, as needed, up to 13 cfs from the Salmon River by pumping water into the L-6 ditch of the Lemhi irrigation system; (b) drilling wells to provide up to 5 cfs at the L-6 diversion on the Lemhi River; (c) converting flood irrigation systems of willing landowners below L6 to sprinkler systems and dedicating water saved to the lower Lemhi River; and (d) converting up to 17 cfs of diversionary rights to augment flows in the lower Lemhi River.

Lemhi Irrigation District *date*

Model Watershed Project *date*

Water District 74 *date*

Idaho Department of Water Resources *date*

Idaho Department of Fish and Game *date*