

Print

Options for Providing Water Flows in Lower Lemhi River

Flows required to meet MOU conditions during irrigation season:

- 35 cfs during late May and June.
- 35 cfs as needed during July and August
- 10 cfs as a minimum during pre-smolt and smolt outmigration (April to late May and July to November).

1. Transfer as needed up to 13 cfs from the Salmon River by pumping into the Lemhi irrigation system (L-6 and L-7 ditches).
2. Drill well to provide up to 5 cfs at L-6 diversion on Lemhi River.
3. Purchase water rights to provide up to 17 cfs from willing sellers at, or upstream from, the L-6 diversion, and dedicate flow through water bank to the lower Lemhi River.
4. On a willing landowner basis convert flood irrigation systems at or below L-6 diversion to sprinkler irrigation and dedicate water saved to lower Lemhi River.

Estimated project costs: 35 cfs at \$25,000 per cfs = \$875,000

Note: because of groundwater recharge into the Lemhi River above the L-6 diversion, sprinklers or groundwater pumping is not recommended. Below the L-6 diversion groundwater pumping or sprinklers can be used to enhance river flow.

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	5-22	# of pages	2
To	<i>Skip</i>	From	<i>Bob Foster</i>		
Co./Dept.	<i>Coastal</i>	Co.	<i>Salmon</i>		
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #		Fax #			

Draft

Lemhi River – Memorandum of Understanding
Between

Idaho Water District 74, Lemhi Model Watershed, Idaho Department of Water
Resources, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and National Marine Fisheries Service

Effective Period: May 2000 through October 2000

Purpose:

To establish water flow in the Lemhi River from L-6 diversion downstream to river mouth. Adequate River flow is needed to provide for migration of listed chinook salmon and steelhead, of all life stages.

Objective:

Provide 35 cfs for migration of adult chinook during late May and June. During July and August provide up to 35 cfs as needed to allow adults upstream passage to spawning grounds. Provide 10 cfs for pre-smolt and smolt outmigration during all times and to prevent mortalities of stranded adult salmon between fish flushes.

Tasks:

1. Daily monitoring of chinook adults in the Salmon River near the mouth of Lemhi and/or in the Lemhi River. Call for water flushes as needed during July and August to allow adults to migrate upstream to spawning areas.
2. Daily monitoring of water temperatures in the lower Lemhi and Salmon River. Maintain temperatures in the lower Lemhi of 65 degrees Fahrenheit or less, or 2 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than Salmon River.
3. Monitor pre-smolt and smolt outmigration near Hayden Creek and near mouth of Lemhi River. Increase river flows as needed to keep fish mortalities below 10 percent.

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