



State of Idaho DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1301 North Orchard Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098
Phone: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER
DIRECTOR

May 12, 2000

Rick Sager
Water District 74
RR 1 Box 52-A
Salmon, ID 83467

Re: Regulation of Water Diversions in Water District 74

Dear Mr. Sager:

Your role as watermaster has increased importance this year because of the lower than normal stream flows in the Lemhi Basin. Snowpack measurements indicate that stream flows in the basin will be similar to those experienced in 1990, 1992, and 1994, the most recent dry years. The snowpack indicates that the runoff for this irrigation season will be about 50 to 60 percent of normal. Of course, stream flows and water demands will depend on the weather conditions that actually occur during the remainder of the spring and summer.

Particular attention is needed to ensure that waters of Idaho are used in accordance with valid water rights by regulating water diversions such that amounts diverted do not exceed the amounts authorized by valid water rights and that senior water rights are respected to prevent economic injury. Additionally, consideration of anadromous fish species in the Columbia River Basin makes it imperative that water diversions and uses be carefully managed and documented to demonstrate compliance with valid rights established under state law.

I ask that you take all appropriate actions throughout the irrigation season to ensure that rights are properly delivered and to keep an accurate record of all diversions within your district for which you are responsible. I have instructed staff in the Department of Water Resources Water Distribution Section to schedule a meeting with you as soon as possible to assist in evaluating the distribution and record keeping procedures and to evaluate the adequacy of measuring devices and control works in your district. If it is determined that improvements are needed, the Department will assist you and the water users to make the needed changes. Mr. Bob Foster of the Department's Salmon office will be in contact with you in the near future to schedule a meeting.

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	6-5	# of pages	2
To	SKIP FYI	From	Bob Foster		
Co./Dept.	EASTERN	Co.	SALMON		
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #		Fax #			

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I recognize that your term of service does not usually commence until you are called upon by one or more water users and that the budget adopted at the annual meeting of your water district may be a constraint to providing the additional services that are needed this year. This matter will be reviewed with you and addressed during the meeting with the Department's staff.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Please call Bob Foster at (208)756-6644 if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely



Karl J. Dreher
Director

copy to: Bob Foster, IDWR Salmon Office
Tim Luke, IDWR Water Distribution Section

Copy of Letter also sent to:

John Tracy, WD 74C
Richard Moll, WD 74Q & Z -
Bob Thomas, WD 74U
Rich Sager, WD 74
Dan P Smith, WD 74 W
Rockie L Walker, WD 74A
LaMar Cockrell, WD 74B
Steve Crofoot, WD 74G