WD 74-2000

MEMORANDUM

To: File

From: Bob Foster

Date: September 22, 2000

Re: Lemhi Basin Inventory

A general inventory of diversions in the Lemhi River basin was made during the months of June and July 2000. The inventory was a general inventory of diversions for water management and distribution purposes. All diversions were plotted with global positioning units so maps can be generated showing diversion locations. This and other information collected will be used to compile an electronic database of inventoried diversions.

A total of five water districts were inventoried, these included four tributary streams, Bohannon Creek, WD-74C, Geertson Creek, WD-74A, Kirtley Creek, WD-74B, Sandy Creek, WD-74G, and the Lemhi River, WD-74. These inventories were completed with the assistance of the watermaster of the respective districts. In addition, inventories were completed for Water District 74-Q, Mill Creek, and Water District 74-Z, Big Eight-Mile and Lee Creeks. Tim Luke and Jane Tallman, IDWR Water Distribution Section, Boise, conducted these latter inventories. Separate summaries of these districts are attached to this memo. Skip Jones, IDWR Eastern Region, and I completed a review of diversions on Texas and Timber Creeks in Water District 74-W in the fall of 1999. Jane Tallman completed inventory of some tributary diversions in WD-74W with the watermaster in June of this year.

Based on my inventory and discussions with the watermasters, these districts are regulated annually, with most regulation occurring in the late summer months of July and August.

With the exception of two districts, Kirtley Creek WD-74B, and Sandy Creek, WD-74G, I found most of the diversions in the respective districts to have adequate headgates for watermaster control as well as adequate measuring devices. The watermasters all appear to be diligent in their inspection, measurement, and regulation of their respective diversions.

In the districts with minor problems we may want to contact individual waterusers to make the necessary repairs or replacement of headgates and measuring devices. In the

two districts with major problems an order from the department requiring headgates and/or measuring devices may be the only option.

Lemhi River WD-74

A total of eight-three diversions were inspected over a three-day period. I was accompanied by watermaster Rick Sager. Mr. Sager stated the Lemhi River is regulated in some capacity annually, with no regulation occurring below L-6 as it is a gaining reach of the river. All diversions have lockable control structures with less than ten needing repair or replacement. The diversions consist of rock or gravel berms or wing dams in the river channel. No diversions have measuring devices; all measuring is done by the watermaster utilizing flow meters with some rating curves having been developed over a period of years. Measuring devices may make the watermasters' job a bit easier, however Mr. Sager does a more than adequate job of regulation.

Geertson Creek WD-74A

A total of seventeen diversions were inspected. I was accompanied by watermaster Rockie Walker. Mr. Walker stated the creek is regulated annually. All but four headgates were adequate and lockable, with these four headgates needing total replacement. Measuring devices consist of two and three foot Cipolletti weirs. Most of these weirs were in need of minor maintenance such as new edges or resetting. Three weirs need to be replaced.

Kirtley Creek WD-74B

A total of six diversions were inspected. I was accompanied by watermaster Lamar Cockrell. Mr. Cockrell stated the creek was regulated in late summer with some rights being cut back but only shut completely off in extremely dry years. Four of the diversions had adequate, lockable headgates. Two diversions need to have the headgates replaced. Measuring devices consist of three-foot Cipolletti weirs. Of the six diversions four of the weirs would be acceptable with some maintenance, two need total replacement.

Bohannon Creek WD-74C

A total of twelve diversions were inspected. I was accompanied by watermaster John Tracy. Mr. Tracy stated the creek is regulated annually. All diversions had adequate headgates, being lockable for regulation purposes. The measuring devices consist of Cipoletti weirs of two and three foot dimensions, with some requiring minor maintenance such as resetting or new edges. Two diversions did not have measuring devices at the time of my inspection, one high water diversion that is shut off after spring run-off and one diversion where the weir was being replaced.

Sandy Creek WD-74G

A total of seven diversions were inspected. I was accompanied by watermaster Steve Crofoot. Mr. Crofoot stated the creek is regulated in most years. No diversions had control structures. The diversions consist of rock or gravel berms in the creek lined with plastic dam material. The measuring devices consist of rectangular weirs in two and three foot dimensions. All measuring devices require maintenance, with five of the seven needing total replacement. The absence of headgates make regulation difficult if not impossible. The condition of the measuring devices would make accurate delivery difficult as well.

Texas and Timber Creeks WD-74W

Inventories of diversions on these creeks were made in August and October of 1999. The review was initiated in response to a petition by a district user that requested IDWR order the installation of headgates and measuring devices. About 25 diversions were inspected with watermaster Dan Smith. All of these diversions were located on the main stem of Texas and Timber Creeks. Many of the headgates and measuring devices were either inadequate or in need of repair. IDWR issued an order late in 1999 that required installation of measuring devices and headgates for these diversions. IDWR received a complaint in July of this year that some diversions were not in compliance with the order. IDWR instructed the watermaster to regulate diversions that had either no measuring devices or inadequate measuring devices. No further complaints were received by IDWR upon these instructions. IDWR will meet with the watermaster this fall and re-evaluate the order with regard to head gate requirements. IDWR will also visit the watermaster in the off-season regarding diversions on streams tributary to Texas and Timber Creeks. Jane Tallman inventoried additional diversions this year on Little Timber Creek and Canyon Creek, both located within District 74-W. A separate summary of these diversions is attached to this memo. An inventory of Hawley Creek diversions was completed in 1996 in response to delivery problems or concerns. IDWR subsequently issued an order requiring measuring devices and headgates for Hawley Creek diversions. Some follow-up or review may be required for several of the Hawley Creek diversions.