



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

March 28, 2001

Rick Sager, Watermaster
Lemhi River WD # 74
RR 1 Box 52-A
Salmon, ID 83467

Re: Special Local Watermaster Workshop: Water Delivery and Potential Impacts on Fish

Dear Rick,

The Idaho Department of Water Resources and Idaho Department of Fish and Game are sponsoring a half-day workshop in Salmon on April 5th for all Lemhi and Salmon River area watermasters (all Water District Watermasters in Basins 72, 73, 74 and 75, including all tributary districts). A workshop agenda is attached. Please note the time and location of the workshop on the agenda. This is a required workshop for all watermasters in these basins.

This seminar will focus exclusively on issues related to water delivery and fish passage. Emphasis will be given toward discussing methods that may minimize impacts to fish and meet water delivery demands. This is a critical issue in your area this year due to the extreme low water supply conditions, which in conjunction with irrigation deliveries could potentially result in adverse impacts to endangered and non-endangered fish species. Any such impacts could result in Federal Government intervention or enforcement action. Additionally, there is potential that litigation could be initiated by private individuals or groups. Water users, water district watermasters and the State could be subject to enforcement actions or litigation. These issues extend to tributary streams and districts since Bull Trout have been listed as threatened species by the Federal Government and because the State desires to minimize all potential impacts to native and resident fish.

Your attendance and input at this workshop is very important to the State and the water users that you represent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman C. Young".

Norman C. Young
Administrator, Water Management Division