

October 26, 2002

Ron Carlson, Manager
Eastern Regional Office
Idaho Department of Water Resources
900 N. Skyline Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Dear Mr. Carlson,

Water District 73 encompasses approximately 839 square miles of the Pahsimeroi River basin in east-central Idaho. The District is an instrument "of the state of Idaho for the purpose of performing the essential governmental function of distribution of water among appropriators under the laws of the state of Idaho." The immense area served by the District, combined with our sparse population, creates the need for close communication between all who are active in the area.

Over the last few years, agencies and interest groups have been demonstrating interest in a number of projects including habitat restoration, water conservation, stream reconnections, water leasing and potential conservation easements. Although we acknowledge that these entities, including local, state and federal folks, all intent on "improving" the Valley, we feel that the Water District has the most to offer in the way of expertise in the area and the largest investment in the improvements as this valley is our home. We have witnessed on many occasions, various entities working on the same project at the same time, albeit with conflicting goals. This type of situation causes great amounts of confusion for our small community and tends to be counter-productive for all concerned.

Water District 73, in an effort to foster better communication between our water users and the various outside parties interested in the Pahsimeroi Basin, encourages your agency to contact the District anytime a new proposal is slated for our area. District members will be pleased to hear new plans, will likely offer comments that should be considered before attempting to implement a new project and can assist you in contacting the correct parties who will likely be involved in your project. Please understand, the Water District supports and encourages improving the resource while at the same time allowing our agricultural community to stay in operation. By working together, we can all quickly reap the benefits of improved communication and cooperation.

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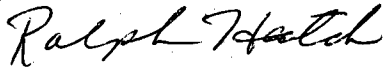
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Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

We eagerly look forward to hearing from your agency the next time there is a new project proposed inside Water District 73. A list of the Water District board of directors, their titles, addresses and phone numbers is attached for your convenience.

Sincerely,
WATER DISTRICT 73

Ralph Hatch, President



cc: Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project
Custer Soil and Water Conservation District
Bonneville Power Administration
NOAA Fisheries
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Office of Species Conservation
Idaho State Representatives
Idaho Congressional Delegation

Pahsimeroi Water District #73

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