

VERNON RAVENSCROFT

**1328-B Shoestring Road
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January 7, 2001

Norman Young
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Courtesy of Lee Peterson
FAX # 886-2451

RE: Pending Complaint Letter from Attorney John Runft in Behalf of Koyle and Ravenscroft Hydro Projects

Dear Norm:

Friday, January 5, 2001, Mr. Bill Arkoosh and I met with Watermaster Lee Peterson. We discussed the winter water administration on the Big and Little Wood River systems. Mr. Arkoosh owns and operates an independent hydro project that is located on the Little Wood River between Gooding and Shoshone.

Our meeting was productive, both from the standpoint of improving technical knowledge of the existing winter water rights and from the standpoint of cooperative actions that can be taken to avoid conflict and/or to resolve conflicts that will from time to time arise.

Because of the productive nature of this meeting, I respectfully petition that you place the referenced letter "on hold" pending further cooperative local action to resolve the problems identified in that letter. I make this request with the understanding that you will be kept fully informed of our progress and that you or a designated representative will, as needed, be asked to participate in the deliberations.

I asked Watermaster Peterson for two areas of specific action:

1. A list of all existing winter water rights which can be provided to active winter water users. The list should include Big Wood from Magic Reservoir to Snake River and Little Wood from Carey to the confluence with Big Wood.
2. The development of a written policy to govern the resolution of future conflicts. It is my position that any significant conflict is worthy of a specific review (conference or hearing) followed by a written decision which can then be reviewed, accepted, or appealed by any participant. Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) should participate in any such hearing.

In our Friday (1/5/01) meeting we briefly discussed potential conflict between diversions for recharge purposes versus downstream hydro uses. You may remember that I was active in the original recharge legislation. The recharge versus hydro conflict was the subject of considerable study. The final legislation included language which protected all prior hydro rights. It is my

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memory that Idaho Power testified that in the Big Wood instance they could justify the use of 277 cfs of "above Canyon water" in order to fully use their hydro water rights for the hydro diversions which they make in the Malad Canyon.

Future conflict between recharge and hydro could be avoided by a written policy which stated that recharge in the Wood River drainage would be authorized only when the Big Wood flow exceeded a specific volume at Gauging Station 13152500. This gauge is situated approximately three river miles above the Canyon. If my memory of 277 cfs is correct, then the existing Thorp and Justice ditch diversion rights and known bed losses would place the suggested flow somewhere above 300 cfs.

I appreciate the opportunity to work with you. This letter has been coordinated with John Koyle. Sorry that business obligations make it impossible for me to be at today's (1/8/01) annual meeting.

Sincerely,


Vernon Ravenscroft

cc: Bill Arkoosh
John Koyle
Lee Peterson
John Runft