

**WATER DISTRICT #32-D
PO BOX 33
DUBOIS, ID 83423**

July 21, 1998

**Ted Sorenson
Birch Creek Ranches
5203 South 11th East
Idaho Falls, ID 83404**

RE: WATER MEASUREMENTS IN POWER CHANNEL

Dear Mr. Sorenson:

In response to your letter dated July 15, 1998, concerning water measurements made July 14, 1998, I will respond as follows.

As to 1) Yes I was taking measurements of the waters of Birch Creek in a B.L.M. stock crossing on the feeder ditch which delivers waters to the Birch Creek water users. I did not however take measurements the 14th as you have charged. 2) Yes these measurements were made for the purpose of determining bed losses. The irrigators are spending money each year to seek out and record stream bed losses of the waters of Birch Creek and the feeder ditch should be no exception. 3) I have the authority as the watermaster to measure the waters of Birch Creek until it has been diverted to the last individual water user. If this is such a problem to you , why didn't you confront myself and Bob Erickson of the U.S.G.S. last year when we were measuring water in the feeder ditch at a B.L.M. stock crossing near the fish screen, at the time you drove up and visited with me? 4) You will receive a copy of the measurements as you always have in the past. 5) I am surprised by you offering to put a weir in at the penstock, as I can remember you're argument that there was no way to measure the water under the conditions which existed in 1987 or 1988. You're purpose at that time was to not have a weir at this point. You were required to have a measuring device at the point of diversion above the hydro pond and one at the penstock. My thoughts are that if you have found a way to accurately measure water now, that you install weirs at both locations and then we will know what your losses are in the feeder ditch. I personally doubt the accuracy of a weir as I know weirs because you don't have a free fall of water with an Air Napp. On all my watermaster recommendations forms in each of your proposed transfer applications I suggested that proper - approved measuring devices be installed to properly measure all losses in the stream reaches where water will be transported by transfer. I would see no point in only monitoring losses in certain reaches of the lined stream.

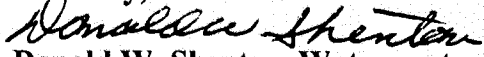
As to the installation of the weir at the penstock, I would not endorse this without approval from the I.D.W.R. as to whether it is an approved measuring device and would accurately measure water at any time a reading was needed. I would not be in favor of a self designed curve of some sort without scrutiny from all sides with water concerns.

As to the diverting of water from the channel to install a measuring device, I would caution you not to do this without proper approval of the irrigators. They are fuming over the tests of last fall when they had pumps to sprinklers operating without water. Then when the stream was dewatered this spring leaving these pumps dry again, they were especially upset.

As to measurements not being good on the 13th , I'm glad you enlightened me, as we showed that there was no loss. We must of measured on one of those surges as it didn't make sense to not have loss with the miles of channel, with willows, trees, cat tails, moss and other dewatering creatures. I'm sure that the heat of the day also had some evaporation losses along with leakage in the liner. With you're known facts of a no good measurement on the 13th , we will consider the measurements not taken.

I would hope to hear from you in the near future with information on weirs to monitor the total reach of the feeder channel.

Sincerely,


Donald W. Shenton, Watermaster
District #32-D

cc: I.D.W.R.
Birch Creek Water Users