



State of Idaho

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

322 East Front Street • P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 287-4800 • Fax: (208) 287-6700 • Website: [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN  
Director

October 9, 2013

Ron Shurtleff  
Watermaster, Water District 65  
102 North Main St  
Payette, ID 83661

Re: Your Correspondence Dated October 2, 2013 – Seven Mile Slough River Accounting

Dear Ron,

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR or Department) received your correspondence referenced above in which you suggest the Payette River water right accounting model be updated to account for reach gain on the Seven Mile Slough.

Your request seems both reasonable and appropriate. I discussed your request with Liz Cresto who advised me that she had already been discussing this idea with you. It is my understanding that staff supports your request and has already made plans to initiate work on your request this coming winter. Liz will work directly with you on the Seven Mile Slough accounting updates.

Please contact me directly at 208-287-4959 if you have further questions or concerns regarding this or any other water district matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Luke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Luke  
Water Compliance Bureau

C: Liz Cresto and Nick Miller, IDWR  
John Westra, IDWR Western Region Manager

**Payette River Basin, State of Idaho**  
**State Water District No. 65**

102 North Main Street  
Payette, Idaho 83661

Watermaster  
Ron Shurtleff

RECEIVED

OCT 03 2013

DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER RESOURCES  
Phone 208-642-1485  
Fax 208-642-1042

E-mail, waterdist65@srvinet.com

October 2, 2013

Mr. Tim Luke  
Idaho Department of Water Resources  
322 East Front Street  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0098

Re: Payette River Accounting, specifically the Seven Mile Slough

*Tim*  
Dear Mr. Luke,

During the past several years the Water District No. 65 has installed measuring and monitoring devices on four additional canals which divert from the Seven Mile Slough. As we gain additional real time data, it is becoming apparent that we are capable of diverting more water from the slough, than we put in at the head and middle slough. This is possible because there is a significant amount of return flow which re-enters the slough from upstream diversions from the slough.

At present we are treating the slough much like a canal. Whereas; we account for water diverted into the slough and for water returning back to the river, while the thirteen diversions from the slough are set up to balance, thus, the system lacks the ability to account for reach gain.

In a continued effort to perfect our accounting system, I have proposed to my advisory board, that we should make special effort to achieve real time monitoring on the remaining six diversions from the Seven Mile Slough. In addition, I would like to suggest to the Department of Water Resources that the accounting model might be redesigned and set up to account for reach gain within the Seven Mile Slough.

I realize this is a very brief explanation of the conditions on this subject. If you would like to learn more about the reasoning behind my suggestion, I would enjoy sharing in more detail, what I believe might be a more equitable accounting method. Thank you for your attention to this subject.

Sincerely,

*Ron Shurtleff*  
Ron Shurtleff