



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Director

10/24/2013

BOB TURIK
HAGERMAN NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY
3059-D NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY ROAD
HAGERMAN ID 83332

RE: Request to Modify Water Flow Measurement Interval

Dear Mr. Turik:

After reviewing your request to reduce the measurement frequency at the Hagerman National Fish Hatchery, IDWR agrees that a reduction in the measurement frequency from weekly to monthly is acceptable with a few qualifications as described below.

First, although the spring flow seems to vary gradually, there are times of the year and situations where the diversions are adjusted abruptly. Examples include adjustments to the Brailsford ditch, or adjustments to bypass some of the flow from the springs into the streams. When these adjustments are made, it is important to measure the flows and document the changes at all stations where flow rate is affected.

Second, as you noted in your letter, an increased monitoring frequency could be required if the flows appear to be varying from the normal flow patterns. An increase in frequency could also be required if it is determined that additional measurements are otherwise necessary to deliver water rights in priority.

Third, Cindy Yenter noted after her field visit that at certain times of the year, some flows are measured and appear to be reported as diverted, when in fact the flows are bypassed back into the stream without any beneficial use occurring. For example, at the time of Ms. Yenter's visit, Riley Creek was being allowed to bypass the facility, but flows were still being measured over the weir and likely will be reported to Water District 36A. This practice has the potential to create a misleading record of total water use at the hatchery. At the same time, this record of total natural flows is critical for IDWR monitoring purposes. I think we have an opportunity to begin to distinguish between diverted and non-diverted flow records, creating both a complete record of natural flow and an accurate record of beneficial use at the facility.

Also, note that the spring flows are used by IDWR for modeling purposes related to resource planning. I have visited with Rick Raymondi, Chief of the IDWR Technical Services Bureau, and he is interested in visiting with you to investigate the potential for automating some of the data collection at the hatchery. Targeted automation (data logging) could help further reduce the measuring effort on your part and simultaneously maintain higher resolution data for IDWR modeling. Mr. Raymondi or his staff may be contacting you to discuss your interest in this.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Miller', is written over a white background.

Nick Miller
Water Distribution Section Manager, IDWR

Cc:
Frank Irwin – Watermaster, WD36A
Rick Raymondi –Chief, IDWR Technical Services Bureau
IDWR Southern Region