

January 7, 1932

Re: DISTRICT NO. 36-C

Hon. C. M. HATCH,
Victor,
Idaho

My dear Mr. Hatch:

As the time approaches for election of Watermasters, I am thinking of your situation and wondering just what we ought to do with reference to the matter.

I have what seems to be a definite understanding with the State Engineer of Wyoming with reference to the handling of the interstate waters, which will relieve the situation in that respect, and I am hoping the good Lord will intervene to avoid any controversy with the lower river users next year. But, of course, that is only temporary, and last year's situation will, naturally, recur. As I have heretofore advised you, my inclination is to consolidate rather than segregate districts, and the experience of this Department has been that the segregation of a watershed has resulted in confusion and controversy and additional expense to the water users, though I realize that your situation is rather an unusual one.

However, my judgment is, that in consideration of the negotiations pending with reference to storage and other matters, the best interests of everybody concerned would be conserved by leaving the situation just as it is. Under the Decree it would make no difference whether you had a separate district and a watermaster of your own or whether you were included in District No. 36. In any or either event, if a controversy arose the court would instruct the Watermaster to distribute the water under the Decree and the net result would be the same. However, I want to accommodate the water users of your District and to conform to their wishes as far as possible, so, before sending out notices as to the election of a Watermaster, I wish you would canvass the situation thoroughly among your people and advise me as to their reaction with reference to the matter.

With kindest personal regards to you all, I am

Very truly yours,

Commissioner of Reclamation

RWF/mt

February 11, 1932

Hon. C. BEN RESS,
Governor
Boise, Idaho

Dear Governor:

For several years past a group of farmers on Fall River, in the upper Snake River valley, have sought the right to use some small lakes in Wyoming just south of the National Park boundary, for storage purposes, to supplement the shortage in their water supply, but permit for such use has been persistently refused by the State Engineer of Wyoming on the ground that reciprocal relations with reference to inter-state waters between the States of Wyoming and Idaho have not been established.

We have a Statute with reference to reciprocal use of water between the two states, as follows:

"Sec. 5603. The department of reclamation shall, under the laws of this state, allow the appropriation of water in this state for beneficial use in the state of Wyoming only when, under the laws of the latter, water may be lawfully diverted therein for beneficial use in the state of Idaho. Upon any stream flowing across the state boundary a right of appropriation, having the point of diversion and the place of use in the state of Wyoming and recognized by the laws of that state, shall have the same force and effect as if the point of diversion and the place of use were in this state: Provided, That the laws of that state give like force and effect to similar rights acquired in this state."

We have been unable to find that Wyoming has enacted legislation similar in purport to the provisions of the above section, so it would seem that if anyone was at fault in the matter it was the State of Wyoming, and not Idaho.

Hon. C. Ben Ross

-2-

2/11/32

These lakes lie at a high altitude, in a remote section of the State of Wyoming where there is no agricultural land available for cultivation and their use for storage to supplement Idaho water rights would in nowise interfere with prior rights or deplete the water supply of Wyoming.

I have exhausted my efforts in an attempt to induce the State Engineer of Wyoming to grant permits for storage in these lakes, and now suggest that you take the matter up with the Governor of Wyoming in an endeavor to persuade him to use his influence to induce the State Engineer to reverse his former decision with reference to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner of Reclamation

RWF/mt

September 17, 1932

36-C *min*
Mr. WILLIAM TAYLOR,
Driggs,
I d a h o

My dear Mr. Taylor:

After leaving Driggs the other day I met up with Mr. Smith, the Engineer for the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, and he promised me to make investigations as to storage possibilities on GREAT TETON CREEK, TRAIL CREEK and other streams in the Teton Basin, which I am sure he will do in a satisfactory manner.

Both General Martin and I enjoyed our brief visit to the Basin and appreciate the information furnished us.

With kindest regards to you all, I am

Very truly yours,

Commissioner of Reclamation

RWF/mt

cc - C. M. Hatch, Victor, Idaho

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Idaho Falls, Idaho
November 30, 1932

R. W. Faris, Commissioner of Reclamation

Boise, Idaho

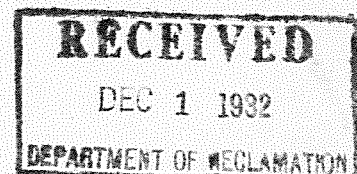
Dear Mr. Faris:-

There has been received a communication from the Chief Engineer of the Bureau of Reclamation, requesting that the two small reservoirs on the Teton River, which might be utilized to overcome the irrigation shortages in the vicinity of the State Line, be investigated if at all possible. These possible reservoir sites are the ones which Mr. Frank Martin made reference to in his negotiations with the State of Wyoming.

Will you kindly determine from Mr. Martin the exact location of these sites and advise me as soon as possible. Would suggest that you send me a map with the locations indicated. Thanking you for this favor, I am,

Sincerely yours

F. F. Smith
F. F. Smith



December 9, 1932

INTER-STATE WATERS
36-1
Mr. F. F. SMITH,
Engineer, U. S. B. R.,
Idaho Falls, Idaho

My dear Mr. Smith:

Your letter with reference to investigation of reservoir sites in the Teton Basin was received during the absence of General Martin and reply has been delayed pending his return. As far as I can find out he had reference to two small sites on Teton Creek some five or six miles northeast of Driggs, Idaho, and a site on Trail Creek just above the mouth of Game Creek some three or four miles southeast of Victor, Idaho. I have no map showing the exact location of these sites, but Mr. Hatch, at Victor, could point out the proposed site on Trail Creek, and Mr. William Taylor, of Driggs, or R. G. Meikle, Watermaster, at Teton, could locate the proposed Teton Creek site. I very much fear, however, that weather conditions will preclude any further investigations in that area this fall.

I am sorry that on account of General Martin's absence I was unable to furnish you this information sooner.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Commissioner of Reclamation

RWF/mt

Victor Ida.
Dec. 17/32.

Stat Commissioner of public works-;
Boise Ida.

My dear sir--;

It has been proposed by our representatives
Mr. Hatch and Mr. Hynes lso other here that steep
be taken for the promotion of a reservoir for irrigation
in the Victor district.

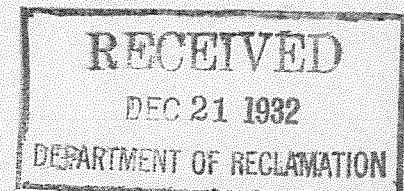
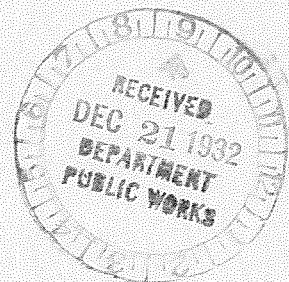
A very favorable sight was surveyed by U S sur-
veys ten days ago at the junction of Moss creek and
Trail creeks lowcated in the N₂ S₂ E 19 Town ship 4
46E 3N.

Would you kindly advise me where the figures
of this survey can be obtained, as we would like to
know how much water this sight will impound.

This information will be appreciated by us all here
as we realize a life line must be thrown out to save us.

Yours very truly

John D. Chaff



December 28, 1932

36-C
Hon. C. M. HATCH,
Victor,
Idaho

Dear Mr. Hatch:

We have a letter from someone whose signature we are unable to decipher, with reference to surveys made by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation for reservoirs on MOOS CREEK and TRAIL CREEK.

I was advised by Director Mead when I was in Salt Lake attending the Irrigation Conference, that the maps and estimates of cost on the various reservoir sites surveyed last summer would not be available until sometime next spring, but the Chief Engineer of the Department advised me that in case of urgency advance information might be secured upon request.

If there is anything particularly urgent with reference to these sites and you will so advise me, I will see what can be done toward getting the desired information.

Hoping you had a merry Christmas and wishing you a happy and prosperous new year, I am

Very truly yours,

Commissioner of Reclamation

RWF/mt

Inv.

December 31, 1932

36-c

Mr. F. F. SMITH,
Engineer, U. S. B. R.,
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Dear Mr. Smith:

I have understood that in your investigations as to possible storage sites on the upper Snake River you discovered a rather promising site on the North Fork in the vicinity of Shotgun Creek. I have no information as to any storage possibilities in that vicinity, and as I like to keep posted as to such matters, if it is consistent with the rules and regulations of your Department I would greatly appreciate a tracing or blueprint of the site.

I asked Doctor Mead, when I saw him in Salt Lake at the Irrigation Conference, when the results of the surveys made during the past season would be available and he advised me that not before sometime next spring. In a later conversation with Mr. Debler he suggested that if there was any feature that we were particularly interested in that we might get advance information with reference to it.

I will appreciate any information that you can furnish with reference to this matter.

Trusting that you had a merry Christmas and wishing you a happy and prosperous new year, I am

Very truly yours,

Commissioner of Reclamation

RWF/mt