

March 2, 1988

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Boise, Idaho  
Attn: PN-733

Through: Project Construction Engineer, Jackson, Wyoming

From: Environmental Specialist, Jackson, Wyoming

Subject: Wyoming Game and Fish Department Draft Snake River Instream Flow Administrative Report

The subject report has been reviewed based on its limited scope and stated purpose of recommending instream flows for the Snake River cutthroat trout in the 4 mile section of the Snake River from Jackson Lake Dam to Pacific Creek during the time period from October 1 to March 31. Except as noted below, this report has been found to be technically correct and wholly adequate for the intended purpose.

Two editorial corrections should be made for the sake of clarification. The criteria for average depth presented in Table 1 on page 4 should be reported as "Top width x 0.01" or "Top width/100". The third sentence in the first paragraph on page 9 inadvertently states that a method exists to relate reduction in physical habitat with a loss of fish. This sentence should be changed to indicate that a method does not exist.

In responding to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department concerning this report, a brief analysis of the typical winter release schedule for Jackson Lake Dam would probably be helpful to decisionmakers in Wyoming. This analysis should indicate how often the recommended flows could be met and, based on the historical record, project the frequency of atypical events which would limit Reclamation's ability to provide the recommended flows. The analysis may lead to a better understanding of the relationship that exists between the instream flow recommendations and winter operational releases.

As suggested in the report, additional studies are needed to determine a more comprehensive management scheme for the river from the dam to Palisades Reservoir. Reclamation's demonstrated cooperative effort in this current study should continue and the needed additional studies should be encouraged.

While this report tends to support the general pattern of winter releases from Jackson Dam, caution should be exercised in attempting to interpret these findings in a broader context.

Noted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Acting Project Construction Engineer

bc: Project Superintendent, Burley, Idaho

DBauman: dk 3/1/88 Tue 3:14:32 8.26

Note: Signature copy posted 3/2/88.