

RB 5/23/89

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Jackson Lake Res.

MAY 23 1989

PN 100

Ms. Jodi Brayton
Legislative Assistant
237 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-5001

Subject: Jackson Lake Dam Rehabilitation (Dam)

Dear Jodi:

In follow up to our discussion last week, I have prepared the following material to show the current status of our work on Jackson Lake Dam rehabilitation and the accompanying water agreements for the Snake River below the dam:

1. Major construction work on Jackson Lake Dam is complete, with only a couple of small clean-up contracts remaining to be accomplished during this summer. Restrictions on the amount of water than can be stored in Jackson Lake were lifted last fall.
2. Water is currently being stored in Jackson Lake, but the reservoir is not expected to fill to capacity during this year. Estimates are that storage will reach approximately 700,000 acre-feet (at elevation 6764 feet above m.s.l.) in the early summer before withdrawals for downstream use begin. The filling of the reservoir is being monitored closely during the initial refill. (Note: The reservoir was previously restricted to elevation 6745 feet above m.s.l., 285,000 acre-feet. The reservoir capacity is 847,000 acre-feet at elevation 6769 feet above m.s.l.)
3. Under provisions of the Snake River Compact of 1950, the State of Wyoming must provide 33,000 acre-feet of storage to replace future consumptive use water developments in Wyoming. The purpose of this storage is to protect Idaho water users from development in Wyoming. Accordingly, 33,000 acre-feet of storage has been held in Palisades Reservoir to accommodate the state.

In discussions with the Wyoming State Engineer's office, we have pursued the opportunity of the state purchasing that Palisades Reservoir storage space now and making use of it for ensuring minimum stream flows in the Snake River below Jackson Lake Dam. That storage space would be operated with other storage space and with current absolute minimum releases from Jackson Lake (100 cubic feet per second) to ensure a minimum flow of 200 to 280 cubic feet per second, depending upon the final decision on what that number should be.

The procedure for selling the State of Wyoming the 33,000 acre-feet of Palisades storage is underway. A basis of negotiation has been submitted to our Washington Office for approval. We expect completion of the process this year.

Jodi, I hope this information is helpful in developing material for Mr. Wallop's visit to northwestern Wyoming. If you need more information or if I can help more, give me a call.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. KEYS III

John W. Keys, III
Regional Director

bc: Commissioner, Attention: W-1530 (7641-MIB)
Project Superintendent, Burley ID
PN 400