

# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Pacific Northwest Region

1150 North Curtis Road

Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

October 7, 1994

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

PN-1000

Honorable Mike Sullivan  
Governor of Wyoming  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Governor Sullivan:

In follow-up to our recent exchange of letters and a subsequent letter from the Wyoming State Engineer, I met with Jeff Fassett, his staff, and personnel from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department on Tuesday, October 4, in Cheyenne to bring some understanding to the annual operations and accounting for Wyoming's storage in Palisades Reservoir.

Following are the agreements reached during that meeting:

1. The Bureau of Reclamation will replace the water that was deducted from the Wyoming Palisades Reservoir storage account following the 1994 spring operation. We will take the necessary actions with the Idaho Water District No. 1 Watermaster to insure that Wyoming has its full 33,000 acre-feet of storage water (less any appropriate evaporation or seepage charges) available for 1994-1995 operations.
2. During the low flow periods of each year, October through March, the Bureau of Reclamation will maintain 280 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the Snake River below Jackson Lake Dam or an amount equal to the inflow to Jackson Lake Reservoir, whichever is more, when storage in Jackson Lake Reservoir is above elevation 6760.95 feet (approximately 647,000 acre-feet) at the beginning of the storage season.
3. During the low flow periods of each year, October through March, the Bureau of Reclamation will maintain 280 cfs in the Snake River below Jackson Lake Dam or an amount equal to the inflow to Jackson Lake Reservoir, whichever is less, when storage in Jackson Lake Reservoir is below elevation 6760.95 feet (approximately 647,000 acre-feet) at the beginning of the storage season. If the State of Wyoming wishes the flow level to be maintained at 280 cfs, the Bureau of Reclamation will do so, but the difference between the inflow to the reservoir and the 280 cfs release level will be provided from the Wyoming storage water account.
4. Bureau of Reclamation water operations people will meet twice each year with water operations people from the State of Wyoming (the State Engineer's Office and the Game & Fish Department) and other interested parties to discuss flows in the Snake River below Jackson Lake Dam. Release schedules, probabilities for refill, desirable flow levels in the river, potential use of

storage water to maintain a selected flow level, etc. will all be detailed so that the State of Wyoming can make its decisions on the use of its storage space during the low flow periods of that year. These bi-annual coordination meetings will take place in March and September of each year at a mutually agreeable location.


Our meeting of last Tuesday was very successful and serves as the first of these bi-annual coordinations. We agreed upon a 1994-1995 low-flow-period operation, which includes the release of 280 cfs for that period unless streamflows drop off unexpectedly. If such were to happen, consultation with the Wyoming State Engineer and Game and Fish Department will be reinitiated before changes are made or storage allocations are determined.

5. The Bureau of Reclamation will continue to conduct its May public meetings in Jackson to plan the summer releases of Jackson Lake Reservoir irrigation storage water that fit best with multiple uses of the Snake River - irrigation, flood control, instream flows, fishing, rafting, sight-seeing, other recreation, etc.

Governor Sullivan, I apologize for any misunderstandings that may have resulted from the 1994 spring operation of Jackson Lake Reservoir and the accounting for minimum fishery flows in the Snake River. The Bureau of Reclamation pledges its cooperation to work with you and your people in the successful future operation of the system to meet your desired uses of Wyoming's storage space.

If you have any questions on these agreements or if I can be of further help, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,

  
John W. Keys, III  
Regional Director

cc: Gordon W. Fassett, Wyoming State Engineer  
Commissioner of Reclamation  
Idaho Water District No. 1 Watermaster  
Director, Idaho Water Resources Department

bc: USBR Snake River Area Manager  
USBR Burley Field Office  
PN-3000, PN-3100, PN-6000, PN-6408, PN-1010