



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

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Michelle Halls, Commissioner
Blue Mountain Distribution System
PO Box 21
Monticello UT 84535

Dear Michelle:

I spoke with Mark Page recently about your activities as commissioner on South Creek. Mark informed me there are times when you make a trip as a commissioner to visit the diversions on the system but do not read or record the amount of water being diverted.

One of the most important functions of the water commissioner position is to make a measurement and a record of the flows being diverted at each diversion in the system on a regular basis through the entire irrigation season or at least as long as there is enough water to distribute. The measurements you record are the basis for the report that must be submitted to the State Engineer each year concerning the distribution of water in your distribution system.

The annual commissioner's report is sometimes the only proof available that you did your job as commissioner and that the water was distributed according to the water rights on record. Commissioner reports have sometimes been used in lawsuits as evidence of how the water was distributed. The courts generally have accepted the commissioner reports as the most accurate record available. If no record is made, it is much more difficult and sometimes impossible to defend the way that water was distributed.

Also, without taking a measurement reading it is very difficult to accurately determine if the water is being properly distributed at each diversion. Therefore, I am requesting that you make a measurement reading at each diversion on each distribution trip and make a record of the amount of water being delivered at each diversion. During this time of year when the high runoff is occurring, you should be making two or three trips a week to make sure that the diversions are changed if necessary as the stream flow changes. This is especially important this year when the runoff period will be very short and yet for some water users this will be their only opportunity to get any water.

Please let us know if you need forms for recording your measurement readings at each diversion and we will send you some. If you have any other questions concerning this letter or concerning your responsibilities as water commissioner, please contact me at (801)538-7380 or Mark Page at (435)637-1303.

Sincerely,

Lee H. Sim, P.E.
Assistant State Engineer
for Adjudication and Distribution

cc: Mark Page