



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

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State Engineer

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RECEIVED

MAR 11 2003

WATER RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

March 6, 2003

Richard Mountain
P.O. Box 172
Ft. Duchesne, UT 84026

RE: River Commissioner Duties

Dear Mr. Mountain:

The current Duchesne/Strawberry River Commissioner is John Swasey, appointed by the Utah State Engineer and an employee of the Utah Division of Water Rights. The Duchesne Strawberry River Commissioner has the duty to distribute the waters of the Duchesne and Strawberry Rivers and their tributaries, with the exception of the Uinta and Lakefork Rivers.

He distributes the water to the various canals and ditches according to priority and flow rate associated with each water right. During years that a distribution order (Eighth Judicial District for Duchesne County, State of Utah) is in place, the flow rate is determined by the number of acres under the water right and a duty (cfs /acre) for the particular period of time and area/zone on the river. There are delivery schedules for each zone of the river which are part of the order. Attached is a copy of the 2002 Distribution Order.

The commissioner is not responsible to divide waters between water users sharing a ditch or canal, only to divide the waters from the natural stream. Whether the canal or ditch delivers water to Indian or non-Indian lands, he does not divide the water between users on ditches or canals.

I trust that this will provide you with the information you have requested.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Leake, P.E.
Regional Engineer

Attachment/2002 Distribution Order