

MARCH 30, 2001 LETTER TO INTERSTATE IRRIG. & RES. CO. - BOARD

Charlie Burgmeier; Laray Sadlier; Milton Beck; David Potter Sr.; Nila Wilde

re: Island Lake and Beaver Meadows Reservoirs

Dear Board Members

On February 20, 1998, we sent a letter addressed to Theron Wilde, President of the Interstate Irrigation and Reservoir Company concerning the release and use of storage water from Island Lake Reservoir and Beaver Meadows Reservoir. That letter requested your company's assistance to help the commissioner better regulate the stream flow of Burnt Fork Birch Creek by informing the commissioner when releases begin from the reservoirs, when changes in the releases are made, and when the reservoir gates are closed in the fall. The letter also instructed the commissioner to treat all stream flow as natural flow until he is informed by the reservoir companies that they have opened the reservoir gates and have started to release water.

Based on the concerns expressed during the last irrigation season and the discussion at the annual meeting this year, it appears this request did not adequately resolve the problems related to the use of water from these reservoirs. Adequate regulation of these reservoirs is very important to the proper distribution of water on Burnt Fork Birch Creek, therefore we are issuing the following instructions pertaining to the use of water from these two reservoirs which are effective immediately.

No water should be released for use by the reservoir company from either Island Lake Reservoir or Beaver Meadows Reservoir unless the releases are coordinated with the water commissioner. The water commissioner should accompany the representatives of the reservoir company when the reservoir headgates are initially opened and whenever any changes are made to the reservoir releases. If the commissioner does not accompany the company representatives when reservoir releases are made, all flows of Burnt Fork Birch Creek will be considered to be natural flow and the commissioner will distribute the water accordingly.

Without adequate measuring devices to determine the amount of water stored in each reservoir and the flow rate from each reservoir, it is not possible to accurately gauge the amount of storage water available in each reservoir, the flow rate from each reservoir, the flow rate the company should divert at its headgate, or how long the releases from the reservoir will last. Either measuring devices must be installed or some method must be devised to allow an equitable delivery of storage water.

In a conversation with Charlie Burgmeier on March 27th, he suggested that a measuring post be established on the stream just below the company's diversion. The stream level on the post would be noted before the reservoir headgates are opened. After the reservoir headgates are opened, the company's canal headgate will be adjusted to maintain the stream flow downstream of the company's diversion at the level noted before the reservoirs were opened. This appears to be a reasonable approach and we suggest that it be tried this year to see if it will work in actual practice. However, it may become apparent that some modification to the procedure is necessary, either during this year or for next year. Any changes must be coordinated with the commissioner and with Bob Leake in our Vernal regional office.

If you have any questions concerning these instructions, please contact me at (801)538-7380 or Bob Leake, Regional Engineer, at (435)781-5327.

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

cc: Bob Leake Ferran Johnson Jade Henderson John Yarborough