



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Ted Stewart  
Executive Director

Timothy H. Provan  
Division Director

1596 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-3195  
801-538-4700  
801-538-4709 (Fax)

March 24, 1993

RECEIVED

MAR 29 1993

WATER RIGHTS  
SALT LAKE

Mr. Roland Robison, Regional Director  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Upper Colorado Regional Office  
P.O. Box 11568  
125 South State Street, Room 6103  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84147-0568

Subject: Interim Operating Agreement for Jordanelle Reservoir

Dear Roland:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the March 15 meeting relative to developing an interim operating agreement for Jordanelle Reservoir. I am writing to alert you to several issues the Division feels must be addressed prior to and during the development of an interim operating agreement for 1993 and subsequent years. I also point out several concepts the Division feels must be included in the longer-term interim operating agreement.

The draft MOU developed for 1993 interim operation of Jordanelle Reservoir should not be implemented until as yet unfulfilled mitigation requirements of the Provo River minimum streamflow agreement are either completed or committed to. The Division does not believe it is appropriate to further extend the Deer Creek-Strawberry Exchange to cover the operation of Jordanelle Reservoir without meeting these concerns. The Division is and has been willing to work with Reclamation and others to resolve this problem. To that end, we recommend the following potential mitigation options for consideration.

1. Provide a minimum streamflow of 20 cfs in Provo River from Murdock diversion to Olmsted powerplant return. Streamflows will be about 8 cfs during the latter part of the summer without augmentation.
2. Provide minimum streamflows in Provo River from Columbia Lane to Utah Lake. This would benefit brown trout in the lower portion of the river. This water could also benefit June sucker spawning adults and June sucker fry in the lower Provo River near Utah Lake.
3. Oxygenate releases from Deer Creek Reservoir to alleviate low dissolved oxygen conditions in Provo River. This situation



Mr. Roland Robison, Regional Director  
March 24, 1993  
Page 2

historically has occurred in late summer when Deer Creek Reservoir stratifies. Monitoring by Reclamation has indicated that low dissolved oxygen conditions can extend for more than one mile downstream.

There must also be an agreement on instream flows in Provo River between Jordanelle Reservoir and Deer Creek Reservoir during the non-irrigation season, even during the interim period. This is necessary to protect fishery, wetland and riparian resources. The 1979 EIS stipulates 125 cfs as a minimum once Jordanelle Reservoir is operational.

The following concerns must be addressed in both the 1993 and the longer-term Interim Operating Agreements.

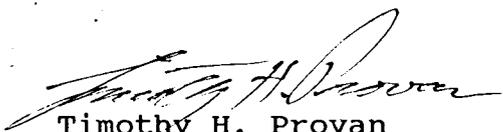
1. The effects of upstream (Jordanelle Reservoir) system storage on Utah Lake elevations, water quality, and fish populations should be evaluated. Recent studies of the June sucker in Utah Lake suggest that the only recent recruitment of young June sucker to the adult life stage occurred during the high water years at Utah Lake during the early to mid 1980s. Low lake levels may be a factor limiting recruitment of June sucker, and must be considered.
2. There may be advantages to storing water in Jordanelle Reservoir during runoff, such as releasing that water to Utah Lake during the summer months. In 1992, extreme low flow conditions in the lower Provo River led to the death of June sucker and many other fishes. Augmented releases from Jordanelle Reservoir to Utah Lake for delivery of system storage water to Utah Lake could alleviate that situation in 1993 and future years, and should be considered in the development of an Operating Agreement.
3. The Division has agreed to manage Jordanelle Reservoir as a sport fishery. In that regard, we are very interested in working with Reclamation and others involved to help predict how much water may be stored in Jordanelle Reservoir at certain times in the next few years, so the Division can begin planning for hatchery production needs (coldwater species) and other stocking needs (smallmouth bass).
4. For the past decade, the Division has served on a multi-agency Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) investigating water quality issues at Jordanelle Reservoir and the Provo River drainage. The findings and recommendations of the TAC should be considered while developing an operating agreement.

Mr. Roland Robison, Regional Director  
March 24, 1993  
Page 3

5. The effects of the interim operating agreement on other supplies in the area should be evaluated, such as Utah Lake and Strawberry Reservoir. As pointed out in the October 22, 1992 letter to Don Christiansen, of which Reclamation received a copy, the Central Utah Project interconnects many water supplies. Those supplies are valuable to many users, and the decisions on one system may affect users on another system. These relationships must be explored.

Roland, although I am concerned about several issues which need swift attention, I am overall supportive of the need to develop an operating agreement for Jordanelle Reservoir. I have appointed Mark Holden to represent the Division on the planning team that was formed during the March 15 meeting. You may contact him to resolve the concerns identified in this letter. The Division is committed to work cooperatively with the other agencies and interests involved with the Central Utah Project. By openly identifying issues, I hope to constructively assist the development of the operating agreements for Jordanelle Reservoir.

Sincerely,



Timothy H. Provan  
Director

cc: USBR, Utah Projects Office  
Central Utah Water Conservancy District  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
State Engineer, Utah Division of Water Rights