

THE STATE OF UTAH

OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER

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SALT LAKE CITY

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REL: BEAVER & SHINGLE CREEKS-SUMMIT COUNTY UTAH

Memorandum for Office Study only, by Reid Jerman

To what river, or rivers, are Beaver and Shingle creeks, Summit county, tributaries? The head waters of Beaver creek rise in a number of tributaries on the south slope of the divide between Beaver creek and Weber river drainage in the vicinity of Castle peak. These tributaries flow southwesterly until they reach Beaver creek proper, its direction being northwesterly for approximately 10 miles to the mouth of Beaver canyon a short distance east of Kamas, Summit county. From Kamas, the creek swings into a more northerly direction and enters into Weber river approximately five miles northwest of Kamas, a short distance southwest of Oakley. There is no question but that Beaver creek is a tributary of Weber river; the question being, is Shingle creek a tributary of Beaver creek. If so, it is in turn tributary to Weber river. If not a tributary of Beaver creek, it must be a tributary of Provo river. Shingle creek, having a drainage area of approximately 13 square miles, rises from the summit of Uintah mountain in a number of small lakes at an altitude of approximately 10,800 ft. It flows southwesterly, paralleling the tributaries of Beaver creek on the west and Boulder creek, a tributary of Provo river, on the east. At its mouth, which is a short distance northeast from a point where the Kamas-Provo river highway crosses the fan in the mouth of Shingle creek, which has been formed by earth, rock and boulders washed from said creek, the stream flows onto the top of said fan and it appears at one time that it continued southwesterly until it reached the foot of the mountain which forms the divide between Beaver creek and Provo river. The stream thence turned northwest and became part of Beaver creek. It is very apparent, from an examination on the ground, that for many years the water has flowed both into Beaver creek and into the Provo river. In more recent years, the Kamas people went up the creek, near its mouth, and diverted the water more directly into Beaver creek by ditch shown on the attached sketch as "Kamas ditch" below Murdock headgate. Shortly after this, Murdock interests constructed a concrete headgate across Shingle creek at or near the head of the Kamas ditch. This headgate diverts water in ditch marked on sketch as "Murdock ditch". Said ditch has carried large volumes of water which cut the ditch very deeply and to date, makes it appear as the main channel below the weir.

Since the time of my earliest connection with the distribution of the waters of the Weber river, it has always been the practice of the Murdock interests, in the spring when the Provo river was low and the Weber high, to call on the Weber river Commissioner for water to be diverted from Shingle creek into the Provo river to supply the rights set forth in Applications in this office. The Commissioner would then turn this water to the Provo river where it would remain

until such time as the supply on the Weber river system, and Beaver creek, was insufficient to supply the Weber (Beaver creek) users.

Shingle creek has always been considered, by this office, as being a tributary to Beaver creek and for this reason, the Provo Reservoir Company and Timpanogos Irrigation Company were made party Defendants in the suit adjudicating the waters of the Weber river system and these companies filed claims for rights as shown by Application Nos. 944 and 944-a.

To further show that Shingle creek has always been considered a tributary to Weber river by the water users from Provo river living in Heber valley and also in Utah valley, I wish to refer to the records made in this office in connection with filings, to appropriate water from said creek to be used in Heber and Utah county valleys:-

APP. NO. 943: Timpanogos Irrigation Company - Filed 1906 - Water to be diverted from Shingle creek,- branch of the Weber river.

APP. NO. 944: Timpanogos Irrigation Company - Filed 1906 - Water to be diverted from Shingle creek,- branch of Weber river.

APP. NO. 944-a: Timpanogos Irrigation Company - Filed 1906. To appropriate 7500 ac. ft. of water to be taken from Weber river. 500 ac. ft. will be from Shingle creek,- branch of Weber river; 2500 ac. ft. to be taken from Beaver creek,- branch of the Weber river.

APP. NO. 3386: Joseph R. Murdock - Filed 1910. Intended to divert said water in the first instance from Shingle creek,- tributary of Weber river.

APP. NO. 3387: Joseph R. Murdock - Filed 1910. Intended to divert said water in the first instance from Shingle creek,- tributary of Weber river.

From the above, it would appear conclusive that the applicants above referred to, from 1906 to and including 1910, at least, considered Shingle creek a tributary of the Weber river system. If this be true, during the period above mentioned, I see no reason why it should not, as of this date, be considered a tributary.

U.S. Geological Survey topographic map - Coalville quadrangle sheet shows, as above outlined, the water contributing to the Provo river, also the Beaver creek supply. Attached hereto, is a sketch map showing the relative locations of Beaver creek and Provo river with reference to Shingle creek.

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