



**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

UPPER SNAKE REGION  
4279 Commerce Circle  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor  
Virgil Moore / Director

October 23, 2017

Michael J Sale, Ph.D.  
Senior Technical Advisor  
Low Impact Hydropower Institute

Dear Mr. Sale:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game was asked to provide a letter testifying to the effects of flow releases below Island Park Dam in relation to the trout population downstream.

It is our belief that flow releases as currently managed, provide a balance between the recreational trout fishery and the needs to meet flood control, irrigation demands, and hydropower production. It is our understanding that certification from the Low Impact Hydropower Institute is being sought, and that one of the criteria for the certification is that flows downstream of the Island Park hydropower project are appropriately protective of the fishery there.

The demonstration called for in the standard is that healthy trout populations are being maintained below the dam. It is difficult to state flows from the Island Park Dam are not providing for a robust trout population - our trout densities fluctuate between 1,500 and over 5,000 trout per mile. It is also clear that if flows were managed for one single element mentioned above, it could have effects on all the other ramifications the dam is managed for. In essence, a different flow scenario below the dam could produce higher density trout populations in some years, but doing so would make it impossible to meet other management needs the dam provides. In summary, flows from Island Park Dam currently allow for a healthy trout population downstream of the dam.

If you have additional questions, please contact Dan Garren, Regional Fisheries Manager for the Upper Snake Region at 208-525-7290.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E White". The signature is written in a cursive style.

James E White  
Regional Supervisor

JEW:DAG:jms

*Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage*