



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

September 7, 2010

Brian Kelly
Idaho Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1387 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 368
Boise, ID 83709

Dear Brian,

It has come to my attention that there has been some controversy over motorized recreation and the 15-Year Comprehensive Conservation Plan on Lake Lowell and the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge).

I was raised in Canyon County. I know there has been cooperative, multiple-use management of the reservoir since the project was completed in 1909. Prior to construction of the reservoir the project was either dry or a mud-hole much of the year. If the current use of the manmade lake, which includes a multitude of recreation activities, has produced such a high-quality wildlife refuge, then it makes sense for those activities to continue.

Although the project now is a designated wildlife refuge, wildlife and recreation have co-existed wonderfully throughout the life of the project. Irrigators own the water rights and they are highly supportive of recreation. Many Idahoans enjoy recreating on Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) projects, including Lake Lowell. Refuge managers and the U.S. Department of Interior should follow the lead of irrigators and BOR who want to work cooperatively with recreation groups rather than threaten activities that enhance Idaho's high quality of life.

To arbitrarily select motorized recreation or other public uses of this project created by the hands of man is unfair both to public user groups and the irrigators and the BOR that designed, built, paid for, managed and financially maintained the project over the last century. There are plenty of naturally occurring areas which U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have already designated for wildlife protection where recreation groups are banned.

Federal agencies continually limit the ability of Idahoans to access and recreate on public land. Let's not take away one more area that Idahoans utilize for recreation activities to serve the interests of a small group of protectionists. I look forward to your timely and positive consideration of this matter.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter".

CLO/sg

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

cc: Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge