



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR
June 24, 2014

Mr. Ford Elsaesser
Chairman, Lakes Commission
1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Dear Ford,

I want to thank you and the Lakes Commission for your continuing work in carrying out the mandates on water quality and water quantity assigned the Commission. I appreciate your diligent service to our state.

I wish to ensure the Lakes Commission that I too am deeply concerned about the potential for federal government agencies to adversely alter summer and fall water levels on Lake Pend Oreille. I want to stress that I intend to use all available means to protect the sovereign rights of our state to make sure that Lake Pend Oreille is first and foremost managed in accordance with the needs and interests of Idahoans.

Idaho has been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bonneville Power Administration to reach an agreement on this September's lake level management. Kokanee spawning and Clark Fork Delta restoration habitat work scheduled for this year are some of the numerous factors, along with recreation needs and the priorities of local citizens, that factor into lake level management. We have an agreement to maintain full pool until September 15th this year. The lake elevation will be at least 2061 feet through the third weekend in September and 2060.5 feet by the end of that month. The lake level will be held steady during the fourth weekend of September to accommodate the Head of the Pend Oreille Regatta.

Regarding the recent discussions on amending the Columbia River Treaty with Canada, Idaho has been prominently at the table with the region's other states and sovereign tribes from the very beginning. As a result, the draft treaty recommendation recently submitted to the U.S. State Department calls for no changes to current management operations at Lake Pend Oreille.

I commit to remaining vigilant to any threats to summer and fall lake levels. The Commission's regional leadership and perspective are critical in this process and I look forward to working together with you to protect Idaho's best interests.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

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

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

CLO/sg