

March 12, 2018

Orin Ferrell, GMD5  
Board Member/LEMONS Committee Member

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Big Bend GMD #5

After attending the GMD5 Board meeting on March 8, I wanted to thank those individuals who are trying to arrive at a solution to the impairment.

I do agree that the "line is drawn to a point of a very small, if any, influence on the stream. Additionally, we can't overlook the Cheney Lake Watershed or the Byron Walker Wildlife area.

I would strongly like to suggest that cuts come from appropriations, not usage. The playing field has been made unlevel by those who refused to conserve. By making cuts in appropriation, those who have conserved already know how to manage cuts. Those users who didn't conserve will be forced to face cuts and manage water more efficiently, thus leveling the field. The state also indicated that our permits were not "use it or lose it". Let's hold them to that.

What I would like for you to consider is how closely everything being discussed now matches what was in the Rattlesnake Creek Management Program signed in 1998. Granted, none of the voluntary objectives were met, but the alternative action, starting on page 20, is outlined. We understand that the severity of those actions needs to change as has already begun with end gun removal. This agreement also suggests augmentation on page 17, as is being discussed now, and addresses the Mystery River on page 22. This agreement was signed by everyone and even the boundary lines were agreed upon by all parties. Does there need to be changes in this agreement some 20 years later? Absolutely, but I don't think we need to reinvent the wheel.

Respectfully,



Steve Maechtlen

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