

AUG 31 2001

MEMORANDUM

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To: Larry Turk, HOVE
Jim Huebner, HOVE
Dave Wood, Acting Chief, SEUG Resource Management

From: Acting Superintendent, HOVE

Subject: Reporting Water Use for HOVE (Colorado Portion) Water Rights

I have set up a field trip with Jeff Hughes of the NPS Water Resources Division out of Ft. Collins, CO and two Hovenweep staff members (Huebner and Turk) and (hopefully) one RM-SEUG staff member. The purpose of this field trip will be to locate and report on 12 springs located in the Colorado portion of the monument. The NPS needs to report annually to the State of Colorado water usage of the subject springs (see attached email).

Jeff will meet everyone at 0830 on Tuesday, September 11 at Goodman Point. Plan on being out most of the day.

I have left voicemail messages with both Craig Hauke and Charlie Schelz in the hopes that one of them can also meet at Goodman Point to join the group.

If you have any questions, you can leave me a voicemail message at ARCH at 435-719-2220, or you may contact Jeff Hughes at 970-225-3527.

James W. Webster

CC: Shelz, Hauke, Butt-Arce, B. Rodgers

Craig Hauke suggested that I contact you about coordinating a trip to Hovenweep NM to locate and measure spring discharge at various springs within the Colorado portion of the monument. This is related to reporting water use for the water rights decree we have at HOVE.

If you are not familiar with the water rights decree for HOVE and the NPS commitment to provide the State with an annual water use report, I will provide you with a very brief history.

On July 31, 1997, the Water Judge for Colorado Water Division 7 signed a decree that acknowledged federal reserved water rights for a variety of park-related purposes for 12 springs in the Colorado portions of HOVE. These springs are:

Holly House Spring
Horseshoe House Spring #1
Horseshoe House Spring #2
Horseshoe House Spring #3
Horseshoe House Spring #4
Hackberry House Spring #1
Hackberry House Spring #2
Hackberry House Spring #3
Hackberry House Spring #4
Hackberry House Spring #5
Goodman Point Spring
Cutthroat Castle Spring

Our water right is for 0.01 cubic feet per second for each of these springs.

Staff members of the Colorado Division of Water Resources in Durango and Cortez, CO have had discussions over the years with staff from my office (Water Resources Division) about reporting our water use for our water rights. It seems that all other water users in Water Division 7 fill out a water use form each year so that the Water Division Engineers can keep a relatively accurate account of how much water is being used within their area of responsibility. They wanted us to do the same for our water right.

We did not see the need for this since we had in situ uses and we (the vegetation and native peoples) have essentially been using the water for time immemorial, but they wanted to see something on paper. We turned in one version in the fall of 1999, but they did not like that version.

On October 31, 2000, I traveled to Cortez, CO to

Cut
HAKC
Holly
Goodman

meet with the State people and Marilyn Colyer of MEVE and Palma Wilson, then Superintendent of HOVE to discuss how to revise the water use report. We agreed to try a different version. This agreement is memorialized in a December 15, 2000 letter to the State that the Superintendent of HOVE received a copy of. Please let me know if this is not in your files.

MEVE turned in an annual report after this meeting and the State people liked this version. They now would like something similar for HOVE for this year.

What I wish to do is find these springs, gather the necessary information from them, and turn in a report to the State. I would like to have someone from the park or Moab (or both preferably) accompany me and learn what to do so that park personnel will take this task over in future years. The amount of data that needs to be collected is not great (discharge measurements [if possible], a brief description of vegetation and the areal extent it occupies, any other remarks) and one person should be able to collect it all in one day. Two days max.

I also need to show these springs to a guy from the State who has requested a trip to visit the sites.

So, there it is. To summarize this email message: I would like to schedule a trip to HOVE to collect water rights information at several springs and would like to have someone (or two) from the park help me find them and also to have this person(s) learn enough to accomplish this task on a yearly basis.

I would appreciate it if you could help me. Please contact me at the number listed below or by email at your convenience.

Thanks!

Jeff

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