

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY WALLA WALLA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BLDG. 602, CITY-COUNTY AIRPORT
WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON 99362

NPWRE

2 February 1970

Honorable A. B. Curtis Mayor of Orofino Orofino, Idaho 83544

Dear Bert,

This is a supplement to my letter of 21 January 1970 giving my views on retention or disposal of public lands of the United States. In that letter I commented on my problems in obtaining public lands for our reservoir projects.

I thought it might be of interest to you to know something of the Federal expense involved in exchanging 7,621 acres of State land in the Dworshak Reservoir for BLM land. Under a 1964 formal agreement among the Corps, BLM, and the State, the Corps must bear the administrative cost of BLM in making the exchange. To date, we have reimbursed BLM \$208,000 and the actual land exchange still is, at least, six months from being completed. We expect another \$25,000 to be billed to the Corps by BLM before the exchange is consummated. This will amount to over \$30 per acre administrative cost to accomplish an exchange to obtain the land we need for the reservoir.

This does not seem reasonable, yet the Corps is without discretion in determining either the exchange procedure or the amount of administrative cost.

On the pending 5,000-acre exchange to establish a big game management area, BLM advises that it may cost the Corps \$150,000 to \$200,000 for administrative expense. This would be \$30 to \$40 per acre.

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NPWRE Honorable A. B. Curtis

Perhaps this information will shed a little more light on one of the many problems being considered by you.

Sincerely yours,

MAX K. TYSOR

Chief, Real Estate Division