

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Wasatch-Cache
National
Forest

8236 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138
(801) 524-5030

Reply to: 2540

Date: June 1, 1993

Mr. Leroy W. Hooten, Director
Salt Lake City Corporation
Department of Public Utilities
1530 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115

Dear Mr. Hooten:

This letter is to keep you informed of our actions regarding water rights in Mill Creek, Big Cottonwood, and Little Cottonwood Canyons.

We were surprised when we saw the legal notification that Salt Lake City Corporation had applied to the State Engineer to change the points of diversion and place of use of water as made evident by the Morse Decree. We have filed a protest with the State Engineer and asked for a hearing.

We know we have worked with the City for many years through water supply permits and agreements that were based on the premise that the "city owns and/or controls certain water within said canyons". There has been debate regarding that premise and, from our perspective, that premise has become even more unclear given the recent filing of change applications by the city.

Of course, we will continue to work with the city of Salt Lake on issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

/s/ Susan Giannettino
SUSAN GIANNETTINO
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

"We [Wasatch-Cache National Forest Service] were surprised when we saw the legal notification that Salt Lake City Corporation had applied to the State Engineer to change the points of diversion and place of use of water as made evident by the Morse Decree."

Surprisingly, SLC can transfer water up the canyons, but others can't because the watershed, habitat, recreation, water quality, and quantity would be impaired.