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STATE OF IDAHO
Outfitters & Guides Board

MEETING AT THE NATURES CONSERVANCY ON SILVER CREEK

May 27, 1982

Present: Guy Bonnevier, Manager of the Conservancy, Tim Crawford, Terry Ring (Silver Creek Outfitter), Ron Fudge (Sun Valley Fly Fishing), Bill Mason (The Snug Co.), and many of their guides. Probably there were 20 people present. So far as I could tell, there were no representatives from Rocky Mountain Fly Shop (Allen & Anderson).

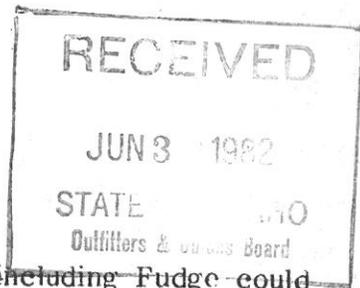
The discussion centered on the concern everyone (Conservancy, outfitters, guides, and public) has for recreational fishing on Silver Creek. No other streams were mentioned in the discussion.

Bonnevier started by telling everyone who I was and that he was tired of everyone putting the full responsibility for commercial outfitter pressure and resource capacity on his shoulders. He was reacting to: (1) He felt he had been asked to determine capacity on Silver Creek when the Board contacted him about whether Ron Fudge should be licensed. He (not knowing what "capacity" is) had written in favor of Fudge's license, then received lots of local criticism both from outfitters and public. (2) Fudge had been recommended to Guy as a responsible potential outfitter, and Guy had been asked to write in his favor by one of the Conservancy's own advisory council members (Tim Crawford). So Guy was beginning to feel like the middle man in a difficult situation. (3) Many people fishing Silver creek (from all over the country) have been criticizing him, vocally and in letter, for allowing too much fishing of all kinds (commercial and other) on the Conservancy.

What he was saying was that he is tired of bearing this burden alone.

I told him that we were not trying to get him or anyone else to make our decisions for us, but that the Board is charged with responsibility to the resource, the members of the public the outfitters serve, the existing outfitters who are already there, the members of the general public who would like to use the resource without outfitter assistance, etc., and to make intelligent and rational decisions we need input from as many sources as possible including Fish and Game, land managers, local public and private organizations, etc., and that on the basis of all this information we can collect, we make our decision. With respect to Mr. Fudge's operation, there weren't enough negative indicators to justify denial of his request to fish Silver creek, especially based on the proposed scope of his operation.

I further indicated that it was becoming abundantly clear with all the discussion that we had probably reached a point where there should be no new outfitters



licensed on Silver creek. This everyone readily agreed to.

There was much discussion about whether existing outfitters including Fudge could voluntarily limit their activities on Silver creek to the extent that it would not be overfished and appear crowded. They could not come up with a set of criteria which would define overcrowding by existing outfitters, but did all readily agree to self-imposed limits on their operations which would avoid putting too much pressure on the resource.

I pointed out that the licenses were issued for only one year and that though we would not approach this lightly, if it became clear that we had made a mistake in licensing too many outfitters for the resource to bear, resulting in a situation where the trusting client was being totally cheated, etc., that we could and would at that point do something to either reduce the number of outfitters or otherwise reduce the pressure. They received this with some measure of understanding as to our intent and obligation and this, I think, helped to ensure their continued interest in a self-imposed limitation program.

Ron Fudge indicated that he himself did not like to fish Silver creek because of the pressure, that he tried to talk his clients out of fishing there, and that he did not intend to escalate his program above that which was proposed to Guy and to the Board. So he said he would gladly go along with the voluntary system. He did indicate, however, that some of his guides liked to fish Silver creek and would no doubt be there. He kept referring to what they had done in the "past" until someone reminded him that he had only recently been licensed!

That pretty much ended the formal discussion, but there was a great deal of informal discussion which followed, most of which was my defense of Board policies and actions in the past with regard to Bill Mason and Tim Crawford. There was a great deal of criticism of apparent "arbitrary" and "capricious" decisions in the past. Of Board members individually saying one thing and the Board acting in a different manner. Of a general "vagueness" in Board policy and their inability to identify reasons behind decisions. Most of these criticisms I had no problem with. I mostly listened and let them ramble and rave on.

However, I do believe the whole process was very productive and worthwhile. We ended up understanding each other better, and the problems the Board has were generally understood and appreciated. We parted on good terms and I do believe our time together was very educational and informative and mutually profitable. I was glad to duck and run, though, at about 9:30 p.m. as their supply of beer began to dwindle and their was a lull in the barrage of questions.