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Excerpted pages of the
“Report on Upper Snake River Storage
Investigations – Volume I – Snake River Above
Idaho Falls,” by E.B. Debler, Hydraulic
Engineer & J.R. Riter, Associate Engineer of the
U.S. Department of the Interior,
Bureau of Reclamation
(June 1935)

.. SNAKE RIVER

Report by Dehler & Riter, June 1935 on Upper Snake River Investigations.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

REPORT ON
UPPER SNAKE RIVER STORAGE
INVESTIGATIONS

VOLUME I

SNAKE RIVER ABOVE IDAHO FALLS

By

E. B. DEBLER - HYDRAULIC ENGINEER

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JUNE 1935.

JUL 29 '35 12224

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In May 1933 the American Falls reservoir district obtained an order from the State Commissioner of Reclamation requiring the watermaster to charge all diversions made by the Gooding project against the storage owned by that project in the American Falls reservoir.

In 1933, the American Falls reservoir district No. 2, comprising the Gooding Project, filed suit in the Federal Court against the American Falls Reservoir District, the Secretary of the Interior, the State Commissioner of Reclamation, and the Watermaster to obtain a summary decree for 1700 second-feet of natural flow of Snake River. In March 1935 the judge handed down a preliminary opinion denying the summary decree. In his remarks the judge stated that on the evidence submitted, the right of 8,000 second feet granted to the United States was for storage purposes only and that the Gooding Project has no natural flow right for direct diversion from Snake River.

The Gooding Project can no doubt establish a natural flow right, with a priority ahead of any new reservoirs that will be constructed on the Upper Snake River. Whether or not the natural flow right for the Gooding Project is senior or junior to the American Falls storage right then becomes immaterial for the purpose of this study, which is to determine the surplus water for contemplated future storage developments.

"Geology and Water Resources of the Snake River Plains," (copy of report is on file in the office of the Geological Survey at Idaho Falls, Idaho), show a ground water loss from Snake River areas above Milner as follows:

Region	Average annual loss	
	:	Acre Feet
Henrys Fork Valley	:	698,000
S Snake River, Heise to Blackfoot	:	922,000
Minidoka	:	240,000
Twin Falls North Side	:	600,000
Total	:	2,460,000

In addition to the above losses the return flow from the Twin Falls (south side) Project, and the Gooding Project is lost to the Snake River Valley insofar as use above Milner Dam is concerned, and to a considerable degree that of proposed Minidoka North Side Pumping extension may be lost also.

Possible savings by elimination of winter diversions (By Mr. Crandall)

Mr. Lynn Crandall, District Engineer, U. S. Geological Survey and watermaster of Snake River District No. 36, has prepared the following discussion on the possibility of saving water by the elimination of winter diversions from Snake River for stock and domestic purposes.

"The situation relating to winter use of water on Snake River is different in the section below American Falls Reservoir from what it is in the section above that point due to the fact that there is some return flow to the reservoir from upstream use while any winter use below the Reservoir is a total loss as far as irrigation is concerned.