



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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SOUTHERN REGION

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Governor

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Director

August 6, 2002

David Ogren
Watermaster Water District 43-D
PO Box 194
Almo, ID 83312

Dave Sundberg
Watermaster Water District 43-B
PO Box 1
Malta, ID 83342

RE: William Jones 2002 use of 43-10356

Gentlemen:

Thank you for meeting with me on July 22nd at the Jones' diversion on Almo Creek. Thank you David for providing, via e-mail, the updated spreadsheet for your monitoring of the diversion (copy attached). As you know the meeting was called by me as a result of Mr. Sundberg's July 15th letter so that I might review in the field the physical aspects of the diversion. As you know Mr. Jones and his son were present during our field visit.

My take on the meeting was that all immediate issues appeared to be moot for the 2002 season. Diversion of Jones' during 2002 season was mostly during time when Raft River was dry in the reach at the confluence of Almo Creek. Diversion has ceased.

From my field visit and review of the spreadsheet I find or conclude that:

- On 7/22 no water was being pump by Jones. It was reported that no water had been pumped since around 7/7. It was stated by Mr. Jones that they were off for the remainder of the 2002 season.
- Almo Creek in the reach of the Jones diversion is not normally connected directly to Almo Creek's near Almo. It is more correct to say that the lower reach of Almo Creek derives its water, if any, from seeps from meadow land above which the upper reach of Almo Creek sinks. Only during high water are the Almo Creek reaches connected by surface flows.
- Jones diversion consists of an earthen dam filling the entire cross-section of the lower reach of Almo Creek which then directs all flow (except seepage under the dam) into the ditch flowing eastly to the Jones property. No headgate or control works are evident at the diversion.
- There has been constructed a 3' cipolletti weir above the earthen dam above the backwater to measure the flow to the ditch. The measurements of this weir are noted on Ogren's spreadsheet. (On 7/22 there was approximately 0.05' of head over the weir which indicates a small flow of 0.11 cfs into the ditch; however, the water sank before making it to the point where water would flow back into the creek.)
- There has been constructed another 3' cipolletti weir near the outfall of the ditch to Jones property where it dumps back into Almo Creek above the concrete check

dam in the creek at the site of the Jones' pump. The measurements of this weir are also noted on Ogren's spreadsheet.

- The pump has an automatic pressure shut-off switch.

- The bed of Almo Creek between the earthen diversion dam and the concrete check dam at the pump has been used as a storage pond. The pump diverts from this storage pond.

- It is evident from Ogren's record and statements of Mr. Jones that the pump has been routinely cycled and not continuously operated. For example the pond described above has been allowed to fill; then the pump turned on and while water was being placed in the pond from the ditch the diversion from the pond by the pump exceeded inflow and the storage volume was reduced until the pond emptied resulting in the pump losing pressure and automatically shutting off. This cycle was then repeated.

- The capacity of the pump as operated has been less than the recommended rate of flow for right 43-10356.

- The field that had been irrigated in 2002 is trapezoidal in shape. The northern edge is approximately 1880 feet long and the southern edge is approximately 1120 feet long. The width of the field is approximately 800 feet. The area being irrigated is approximately 28 acres. In squaring the field up some of the acres irrigated have recently been taken from brush but other acres under 43-10356 are not irrigated. This change appears to be no net increase in irrigated acres.

- According to Sundberg Raft River has been dry at the road crossing above Almo Creek since 5/17. According to Ogren Raft River has been dry at road crossing above Almo Creek since at least 6/3 or earlier.

- On 7/22 I observed Raft River was dry at the road crossing above Almo Creek and at the road crossing above the narrows.

- Any call for this water by any person on Raft River since June 2002 would likely have been futile.

In reviewing the 7/15 Sundberg letter and the more recent 7/25 Sundberg letter the issues raised appear more appropriately to be issues that should be considered by the SRBA court in their objection process to right 43-10356 or subsequent administrative hearing to pending transfer 69665.

If you have questions please feel free to contact this office.

Respectfully,



Allen Merritt, PE
Southern Region Manager

Attachment

CC: Tim Luke – IDWR Water Management
William Jones

Roger Ling
Roscoe Ward

date	measurement diversion re-diversion	re-diversion	cfs	consumption	miner's inches	alotment 43-10356	*+ / -	birds	gpm ea	cfs	installed temp weir @ re-diversion
5/20/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
5/21/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
5/22/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
5/23/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
5/24/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
5/25/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
5/26/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
5/27/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
5/28/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
5/29/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
5/30/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
5/31/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
6/1/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
6/2/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
6/3/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
6/4/2002			0.56	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
6/5/2002	0.26		1.33	0.45	22.50	0.56	-0.11				
6/6/2002	0.15		0.59	0.59	29.30	0.56	0.03				
6/7/2002	0.14		0.52	0.52	26.00	0.56	-0.04				
6/8/2002	0.14		0.52	0.52	26.00	0.56	-0.04				
6/9/2002	0.13		0.47	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56				
6/10/2002	0.12		0.42	0.42	21.00	0.56	-0.14				
6/11/2002	0.12		0.42	0.34	17.20	0.56	-0.22	36	4.3	0.34	
6/12/2002	0.09		0.27	0.32	15.77	0.56	-0.24	33	4.3	0.32	
6/13/2002	0.10		0.32	0.29	14.33	0.56	-0.27	30	4.3	0.29	
6/14/2002	0.11	0.11	0.32	0.27	13.38	0.56	-0.29	28	4.3	0.27	installed weir @ diversion
6/15/2002	0.08	0.08	0.22	0.27	13.38	0.56	-0.29	28	4.3	0.27	
6/16/2002	0.08	0.08	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
6/17/2002	0.08	0.08	0.22	0.45	22.46	0.56	-0.11	47	4.3	0.45	
6/18/2002	0.07	0.07	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
6/19/2002	0.08	0.08	0.22	0.43	21.50	0.56	-0.13	45	4.3	0.43	
6/20/2002	0.07	0.07	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
6/21/2002	0.08	0.08	0.22	0.43	21.50	0.56	-0.13	45	4.3	0.43	
6/22/2002	0.07	0.07	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
6/23/2002	0.08	0.08	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
6/24/2002	0.07	0.07	0.17	0.41	20.54	0.56	-0.15	43	4.3	0.41	
6/25/2002	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.40	20.07	0.56	-0.16	42	4.3	0.40	
6/26/2002	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.36	18.16	0.56	-0.20	38	4.3	0.36	
6/27/2002	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
6/28/2002	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.32	16.24	0.56	-0.24	34	4.3	0.32	
6/29/2002	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
6/30/2002	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
7/1/2002	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
7/2/2002	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
7/3/2002	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
7/4/2002	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
7/5/2002	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.56	-0.56	0	4.3	0.00	not pumping
7/6/2002	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.32	15.77	0.56	-0.24	33	4.3	0.32	
			16.95	14.30	715.09	26.88	-12.58				
							26.88				