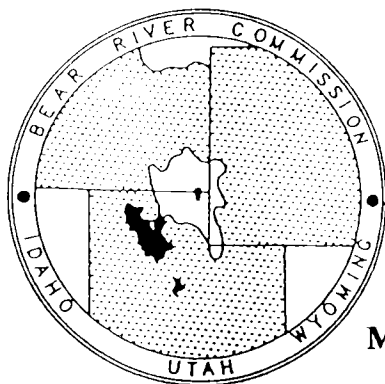


BEAR RIVER COMMISSION

106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, UT 84010-6232
(801) 524-6320

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MAR 20 1995

MEMORANDUM BR95-18

Department of Water Resources

TO: All Commission Members

FROM: Jack A. Barnett, Engineer-Manager

SUBJECT: FILLING OF RESERVOIRS AND BEAR LAKE

DATE: March 16, 1995

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ENGINEER-MANAGER

Jack A. Barnett
Suite 101
106 West 500 South
Bountiful, UT 84010

It has been requested that I give the Commission periodic updates on the status of the level of Bear Lake and the filling of upstream reservoirs. Recent storms, with precipitation in the form of rain at the lower elevations, have brought the streamflow forecast for the Bear River to nearly 100%. These warm storms, however, have melted the low elevation snow and have brought about some early runoff. It is reported that the inflow to Bear Lake through the Rainbow Canal is over 600 cfs and the inflow is rising. Bear Lake reached a low elevation last fall on September 29 of 5906.40. It was reported this week that the lake is at an elevation of 5907.65; a rise of 1.25 feet over approximately six months.

You may recall that upstream of Bear Lake, Wyoming determined to transfer, temporarily, enough storage to all reservoirs except Woodruff Narrows, to allow them to fill this year when the Compact is controlling storage with respect to the restrictions placed on storage as Bear Lake is below an equivalent elevation of 5911. With respect to upstream reservoirs, except Woodruff Narrows, it appears that most will be able to fill fairly early. The report is that Sulphur Creek Reservoir is receiving about 45 cfs of inflow from Sulphur Creek and it is about 3,000 acre-feet short of being filled.

With respect to Woodruff Narrows Reservoir, it is estimated that there is about 300 cfs in the Bear River discharging to the reservoir at this time. There are about 23,000 acre-feet of water in the reservoir today and, as you may recall from a previous memorandum, the storage on the reservoir this season, or until Bear Lake reaches an equivalent elevation of 5911, is

Memorandum BR95-18

Page Two

restricted to 30,219 acre-feet. Hence, there is approximately 7,000 acre-feet of storage yet to be allowed. Currently, the reservoir is filling at about 600 acre-feet per day, which means that the reservoir could, under current conditions, reach its maximum allowed storage in about 12 days. Consideration is being given to some type of filling criteria.

np

cc: Technical Advisory Committee
River Commissioners
Carly Burton