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WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

Watermaster's Annual Report

Water District 55B – Jordan Creek and Tributaries, Within Idaho

Watermaster: Justin Shearer

From March 23, 2023 – March 18, 2024

In Water District 55B's second season Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) offered their services again to continue to establish the district. As a result, the water users re-elected Water Resource agent Justin Shearer (me) from IDWR's western regional office as their watermaster for the 2023 season.

The adopted budget for WD 55B for the 2023 fiscal year was set at \$2,000 with owners of water rights for irrigation and mining purposes being assessed at a \$50 per owner flat fee. Following the meeting in March, I worked to mail out assessments and set up a bank account for the Water District with US Bank. Assessments for the year were paid at roughly 50% with some assessments being returned by mail as undeliverable, or temporarily away, while some were simply not received. Efforts should be made to update contact information so that assessments can be properly delivered to the water right holder.

This season, an emphasis was put on getting approved measuring devices installed for those senior users anticipating making a call for water when necessary, during the later stages of the irrigation season. Several senior users in the valley notified me of their completion of installing approved measuring devices. 2023 could be summed up as an overall good year for water in the Jordan Creek area as there was little concern for water supply through the end of July.

At the start of August, I began to field calls from and stayed in touch with several of the water users who kept me informed of the current water situation as the flow in Jordan Creek began to diminish. Gusman Livestock informed me on August 1 that water was getting low and a call for water may need to be made at some point soon. A line of communication was maintained with Teo Mastrejuan. On August 8, Jared Adamson of IDWR accompanied me to Jordan Valley to inspect the Gusman Livestock diversion and their newly installed measuring devices. We observed that Gusman was diverting 3.9 cfs at the time, but that more water was available if it could be diverted to their intake. Additionally, during this August 8 visit, we inspected Thomas Gluch's diversion and observed no measuring device and no easy way to measure his rate of diversion. We also travelled to and observed flows at the confluence of Boulder Creek and Jordan Creek. In town, we ran into Josh Bruce and conversed with him about the current water situation. Bruce offered to let us take measurements at his diversions in future to be of any help

that he could. Forest Fretwell of Gusman Livestock informed me that a call for water would be coming soon.

In the following days, I explained to Teo Mastrejuan what we observed at their diversion and suggested that improvements be made to increase the water availability at their point of intake for their pumps. In doing so, I explained that for a call for water to be made, all water available to them at their point of diversion should be utilized. Over the following week, Teo Mastrejuan informed me that they had made improvements to their diversion and were able to pump close to 7 cfs. Additional phone conversations in the following days with Teo detailed water levels dropping dramatically overnight; likely due to someone upstream turning their diversion on that had been shut off.

On August 15, Jared Adamson and I made another visit out to Jordan Valley to take measurements of the flows in Jordan Creek above and below the Gusman diversion to determine water available should a call for water be made. Measurements were taken just downstream of Tommy Gluch's diversion as well as just downstream of Gusman's diversion. We observed Gusman's pumps as running but the measuring device installed was not providing reliable data due to insufficient flow within the pipes. However, based on the in-stream measurements we made that day it was deduced that roughly 1 cfs was being pumped at Gusman's diversion and 6 cfs was going by their diversion and continuing downstream. I once again informed Teo Mastrejuan of Gusman Livestock that a call for water could not be justified when water available to them is not being fully utilized; to which he was understanding. Ultimately, a formal call for water was not made by Gusman Livestock.

Throughout the remaining month of August, I made efforts to contact various users to determine who was diverting and how much. Updated contact information for users is needed for such efforts to be useful. Additionally, continued inventory of diversions in the upper reaches of the basin are needed to determine how water is being used upstream of the valley. As the season moved into the month of September, I did not receive any more calls from users in the district and my efforts towards the district tapered off.

AFFADAVIT OF WATERMASTER

As the appointed watermaster of water district no. 55b – Jordan Creek, I hereby certify that the information contained in this report is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

X 

Watermaster signature