

2025 Annual Watermaster Report

Idaho Water District 11- Bear River

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DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
EASTERN REGION



*West Fork Canal Gauge – Dingle, Idaho
Picture credit Josh Hanks*

Report Date February 3, 2026
Report by Joshua Hanks
Bear River Watermaster

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- Watermaster Affidavit
- Income and Expense Reports
- Budget Report

Section 1 – Season Summary & Comments

Data within this report has been provided by the Idaho Department of Water Resources, PacifiCorp and Bear River Watermaster records.

Bear Lake Water Supply - Season Summary

10-1-24	Bear Lake Beginning Elevation: 5,917.60 ft (70% full)
11-22-24	Bear Lake Low Elevation: 5,917.27 ft (69% full)
5-27-25	Bear Lake High Elevation: 5,919.37 ft (79% full)
5-26-25	Outlet Canal Opened for Irrigation
7-06-25	Outlet Canal Maximum Release: 1,325 cfs Total Net Bear Lake Storage Release 176,000 acre-feet
9-30-25	Bear Lake Ending Elevation: 5,915.09 ft (58% full)

PacifiCorp Summary of Water Year 2025 - Provided by Connely Baldwin

Bear Lake began the water year at 5,917.60 feet, quite close to the March 31st target of 5,918.0. Hence, Bear River inflow was bypassed through the Bear Lake Outlet Canal until November 6, 2024 when, due to worsening hydrologic conditions, the Bear Lake Outlet Canal was shut, and Bear Lake refill began. Bear Lake reached 5,918.47 feet by March 31st. High runoff operations were not necessary at Bear Lake in the spring.

The Rainbow Inlet Canal flows were average from October through February however from March through July they were only 50% of normal despite near-normal snow water equivalent accumulation.

The Bear Lake Irrigation Storage Allocation for 2025 was 245,000 acre-feet. The peak water level of Bear Lake was 5,919.37 feet on May 27th about 2 weeks earlier than usual and storage releases began soon after. Precipitation was exceedingly poor from April through September with a brief respite in August with above-normal precipitation in the lower division. As for temperatures, June and September were much warmer than normal maximum temperatures. Minimum temperatures were above normal much longer, February through September. Some irrigation companies became concerned about exceeding their individual Bear Lake storage water contract limitation and watched their diversion rates carefully. As a whole, 176,000 acre-feet of Bear Lake storage water (60,000 acre-feet more than usual) was used for irrigation but there was no need to worry about exceeding the overall allocation.

The Bear Lake net runoff for the whole water year was only 18% of normal at 56,800 acre-feet. As you may recall, Bear Lake net runoff is the computed total runoff from Bear River including all and Bear Lake direct inflows less evaporation. Bear Lake ended the water year at 5,915.09 feet, a 4.3-foot decrease from the spring maximum elevation, one foot larger than the usual 3.3-foot drop.

Water Delivery Cost

114,037.43 (24 Hour CFS) delivered for irrigation
(central and lower division - including natural flow and storage flow)
561,297 (24 Hour CFS) delivered for power generation.
Oct 2, 2024 – Sept 31, 2025

Total delivered for the 2025 season 670,690.20 (24 Hour CFS) with \$105,000 total expenses.

Cost per 24 Hour CFS = \$0.156

(Cost of Bear River irrigation delivery and PacifiCorp power flows combined)

Austin Moses

We are deeply saddened to share that our former treasurer, Austin Moses, passed away on September 15, 2025, due to complications from cancer. Many within our water district had the privilege of knowing Austin, whose cheerful attitude and warm smile brightened every meeting. He served as our treasurer with great reliability and dedication. We include this note in our annual report to honor Austin's memory and recognize his valuable contributions to our organization.

Watermaster Comments for the 2025 Season

This season was a bit challenging due to low natural flows that started almost immediately. It was an interesting year and a bit surprising. In January and February, the estimates for runoff and natural flows, were reported as potentially an average to above average year. But then the estimates changed pretty quickly to a much lower than average year and that is what ended up happening. The rainbow canal never really saw any large flows going into the lake and we were in regulation for the Central division starting very early. I do appreciate the users in the Central division working with me to distribute the available water all season. In the Lower division we started reporting on flows and releasing the accounting report early as well, thankfully users were able to manage usage and with some much-needed precipitation received later in the summer we were able to pull through without needing to turn off any users.

2026 Irrigation Season Potential

The outlook for the upcoming irrigation season is looking bleak. The main positive news is that at the printing of this report the soil moisture percentage in our basin is greater the 100% of normal in most areas. However, the snow that we were

hoping for has not come yet. Some reports predict that we could receive higher than usual snow and precipitation in early February. We will have a full storage allocation for the Lower Division due to the lake elevation being above 5914.70 ft. We will need natural flow runoff to balance what is normally used to irrigate. I am expecting a challenging irrigation season.

Meters, Telemetry System and Bear River Basin Website

Last season I was planning to add telemetry at the Cutler reservoir pump station that belongs to West Cache Irrigation, I will work on that again this season. It will be very helpful to get the data from their pump station added to the Bear River Basin website. This has been an ongoing project, but due to flow meter issues and other technical challenges it has not happened yet. West Cache Irrigation has also installed a new full pipe flow meter at their Cornish pump station. I will move the telemetry station that has not been in use from the main canal to the pump station and get that flow value published again on the Bear River website.

There are a few sites needing repairs or updates, those are mentioned in the individual diversions section that follows.

Section 2 - Individual Diversions Report

Note: The site numbers below are the Idaho Department of Water Site ID numbers.

#10043105 Miller Ditch

This sensor has failed and needs replacement. I have recommended to the user that we install a flume downstream, or possibly a non-contact velocity sensor.

#10043110 Rigby Pump

The magmeter did not work this season and needs to be repaired or replaced.

#10043120 Nuffer Canal

This area velocity sensor did not work for most of this season and may need to be relocated or replaced.

#10043140 Sorenson Ditch

This area velocity sensor also did not work this season and may need to be replaced.

#10043150 Ure North Hills Diversions

The flume was installed in the early summer of 2021. It is a metal ramp flume. However, it is always submerged and not reading when I visit the site. The flume may not work in this location, I will work with the user to find a solution.

#10043180 Smith/Lloyd Ditch

The flume at this location does not read correctly due to sediment and vegetation in the ditch downstream. The flume needs to be raised. I will work with the user to get the flume installed correctly.

#10043160 Hughes (Jensen Ditch)

The meter was washed out along with the culvert that had the head gate attached to it, the user has done some civil works to ensure the culvert has been re-installed and I will re-install the sensor this spring.

#10044010 Hughes Pump 1

Not used this season.

#10044020 Hughes Pump 2

Did not get used this season

#10044060 Dingle Canal

The AVFM sensor did well this season until the last couple of weeks. It was then giving zero flow data even though there was flow. It seems that the slime and growth on the sensor stops it from reading. I cleaned the sensor a couple times this season and it would work again for a few days. I am considering moving the sensor to the side wall to see if that helps with the issue. (same issue for 2025)

#10044070 Ream/Crockett Canal

I need to make a more permanent stilling well for this coming season. The new pressure sensor works very well.

#10044200 Black Otter

#10044450 Preston/Montpelier Canal

#10044450 Todd Lloyd Pump (Preston/Montpelier use)

#10044700 Keetch (Larocco-Kent) Pump

#10044714 Fern Keetch Pump

#10044800 Pugmire Pump

#10045800 West Fork Canal

Still using a water level sensor to calculate flow based on an old flow rating formula. It would be good to get a better reading at this location. It needs a sensor to measure velocity.

#10050400 Indian Creek (pumps direct from Bear Lake)

#10067831 Woolstenhume (Pacifcorp #3)

Has not been used for many seasons.

#10047305 Wayne Kunz Pump

#10067705 Hardcastle Pump

#10067725 - L Stevens (Rockin G Ranch)

#10067870 & 10067874 Woolstenhume #1, #2 (Pacificorp)

#10067834 Steven Kunz Pump

The meter is still broken and needs replacement.

**#10067855 Dean Kunz
Storage contract - Rhett Phelps Pump**

#10068205 Chris Christensen or Alleman Pump

#10072550 Eight Mile (Harris Pump 1)

The area velocity sensor at pearl creek is not working. I will work with the user to replace or add a flume. Pump flow meter is working fine.

#10072550 Eight Mile 2 (Harris Pump2)

Meter did not work this season. It seems that the vibration of the pipeline may have damaged the internal components of the meter. I will try to repair the meter this spring.

#10074805 Bear Meadows

This site does not have a working flow meter on the pump.

#11-00449/11-00531C Soda Golf Transfer

The parshall flume is in need of maintenance and cleaning.

#10078905 Soda Golf Pump

Was able to add a battery pack part way through the season. The meter seemed to work fine after that.

#10079600 Last Chance Canal

The rated section at the tunnel had trouble tracking the correct flow this season. I used the flow reading from their new sensor that was put into the canal after the steel flume section. Will see about updating the formula used on the rated section to track better with the new sensor.

#10079800 Bench B Canal

Flume needs to be cleaned out.

#10080105 Gentile Valley Canal

#10080355 Wheeler Pump

The battery at the telemetry needs to be checked.

#10080385 Matthews Pump (Wanlass Pump)

#10081650 & 10082550 Skabelund Pumps

Flow meter was replaced. I purchased an output cable for the meter and will get the data back on the website this coming season.

#10083505 Mussler (Fox) Pump

The entire station and mast were ripped from the ground this season. The mast and datalogger/telemetry need to be re-installed and tested.

#10086950 Smith/Bosen Ditch

#10089820 Boyack Pump

#10089880 Upper Riverdale

No usage, cannot find a water right to go with this diversion.

#1089881 Read Lane Subdivision

The users were very helpful this season and reported their use every week by texting me the meter total.

#10089850 Nelson Ditch

Sensor is starting to fail. The display unit that reads the sensor is also in poor condition. I will recommend to the users that they replace the sensor.

#10089950 Riverdale Irrigation Canal

The flume stilling well rusted out this past season and it is not repairable. I have bought a new sensor to install in a PVC well that I installed at the entrance to the flume.

#10089955 Higley Pump

Needs a new battery or power supply of some type.

#10089960 Riverdale/Preston Pump

#10089970 Lucia Pump

#10090250 West Cache Canal

#10091120 Hodges Pump

#10091110 Johnson Pump (Bosen)

New meter was installed for this season and worked well.

#10091495 Holliday-Fuqua (was Griffin)

#10091455 Floyd Jensen Pump

#10091497 Christensen Pump

#10091499 Green Acres Pump

#10091460 Bear Grove LLC (S. Bobka Pump)

Need to replace battery and verify meter is still working

#10091503 Ingleton Lamont

Meter was not working for a portion of the season showing a zero flow even when the pump was on. I asked the water user to install the meter this season as shown in the manual.

#10091563 M Curry

The meter screen is hard to read. User says that he will try to get that fixed.

#10092755 Carol Whitney Pump

#10092650 Cub River Pumps

#10092900 West Cache Pumps (Cornish)

Need to move the telemetry station from the main canal down to the pump house where they have installed a new full pipe meter.

#10109375 West Cache 4 (Cutler)

Section 3 - Individual Diversions Flow Data

The data below is gathered from the Idaho Dept. of Water website. This data is collected throughout the water season by way of meters, flumes, dataloggers, and manual flow measurements by the Watermaster.

<u>Water District 11 Points of Diversion</u>	<u>Total 24 Hour CFS</u>
10043105 - MILLER CANAL	642.6
10043110 - RIGBY	19
10043120 - NUFFER CANAL	1,537
10043140 - TRANSTRUM (SORENSEN)	416
10043150 - URE NORTH HILLS	172.4
10043160 - WILLIAMSON (JENSEN)	652.3
10043180 - J SMITH (URE)	115.8
10044010 - HUGHES PUMP 1	0.00
10044020 - HUGHES PUMP 2	0.00
10044060 - DINGLE IRRIGATION CANAL	4,403
10044070 - REAM-CROCKETT CANAL	1,981
10044200 - BLACK OTTER CANAL	4,198
10044450 - PRESTON-MONTPELIER CANAL	6,137
10044700 - KEETCH (LAROCCO-KENT)	96
10044714 - FERN KEETCH	271.4
10044800 - J KEETCH (PUGMIRE)	120.4
10045800 - WESTFORK CANAL	10,023
10047305 - STEWART	0.00
10050400 - INDIAN CREEK LLC	60.2
10067705 - HARDCASTLE	10.2
10067725 - ROCKIN G RANCH	74.5
10067831 - CHARLES KUNZ	0.00
10067834 - S R KUNZ	3.20
10067855 - PACIFICORP 3 (D. Kunz)	0.00

10067870 - PACIFICORP 2 (P. Kunz)	17.1
10067874 - PACIFICORP 1 (P. Kunz 2)	25.1
10068205 - ALLEMAN	0.00
10068210 - ALAN PHELPS	27
10072550 - EIGHT MILE RANCH (HARRIS)	411.7
10072554 - EIGHT MILE 2 (HARRIS)	105
10074805 - BEAR R MEADOWS LLC	28.1
10076000 - SODA CREEK TRANSFER FLOW	152
10078905 - SODA GOLF	51.1
10079600 - LAST CHANCE CANAL	18,475
10079800 - BENCH 'B' CANAL	19,851
10080105 - GENTILE VALLEY CANAL	5,330
10080355 - WHEELER	201.9
10080385 - MATHEWS, B	134.3
10081650 - SKABELUND 1	0.00
10082550 - DAVID SKABELUND	0.00
10083505 - MUSSLER (FOX)	27
10086950 - SMITH-BOSEN CANAL	39.6
10086975 - TWIN LAKES PUMPS	0.00
10089820 - BOYACK	54.7
10089850 - NELSON CANAL	351.1
10089880 - UPPER RIVERDALE	0.00
10089881 - READ LANE SUBDIVISION	62
10089950 - RIVERDALE CANAL	1,145
10089955 - HIGLEY	0.00
10089960 - RIVERDALE-PRESTON PUMP	375
10089970 - T LUCHIA	12.8
10090250 - WEST CACHE CANAL	18,844
10091110 - B JOHNSON PUMP (Bosen)	129.5
10091120 - L BRYCE	0.00
10091455 - FLOYD JENSEN	35.7

10091460 - BEAR GROVE LLC	14.1
10091495 - HOLLIDAY-FUQUA (Griffin)	31.7
10091497 - CHRISTENSEN	0.00
10091499 - GREEN ACRES	9
10091503 - B LAMONT	89.4
10091563 - M CURRY	63.7
10092650 - CUB RIVER PUMPS	10,043
10092755 - C WHITNEY	0.00
10092900 - WEST CACHE NO.2 (UTAH)	1,593
10109375 - WEST CACHE NO.4 (UTAH)	730.6
Total Irrigation Delivery 24 Hour CFS =	109,393.20

Reported data for each of these sites is publicly available on the Idaho Department of Water Resources website. Login as a guest to view data.

<https://research.idwr.idaho.gov/apps/watermanagement/diversiondataapplication/>