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WATER DISTRICT 55B – JORDAN CREEK

Watermaster Report - 2025 Irrigation Season

by: Jes Erling

Below is a summary of watermaster services and operational activities conducted in Water District 55B during the 2025 irrigation season.

May 2025:

- Toured WD55B to inspect and inventory as many diversions as possible. Focused on mid and lower valley diversions from creeks and tributaries where water was determined to be more prevalent in drier summer months.

- Utilized the Survey123 and Field Maps applications which allowed inventory of WD55B diversions with the use of a smartphone (works without cell service). A specific survey and field map were created by IDWR to include all WD55B administered diversions and associated water right information for each diversion. Survey123 was used to record diversion information such as the type of diversion, diversion structure, measurement devices, pump/motor information, estimated or measured flow rates, etc. Field Maps showed the point of diversion location(s) and water right information at each diversion such as the authorized flow rate for each associated water right.

- Meetings with lower valley water users on Jordan Creek and Big Boulder Creek to inspect diversion systems, measurement devices, and discuss irrigation and operational schedules.

June 2025:

- Continued inventories of WD55B diversions using Survey123 and Field Maps.

  WD55B Estimated Flow Rates: (6-17-25 and 6-18-25)

  - Jordan Creek – 9.0 to 10.0 cfs
  - Williams Creek – 3.5 to 4.0 cfs
  - Pole Bridge Creek – 3.0 cfs
  - Rail Creek – 1.5 cfs
  - West Creek – 1.5 cfs
  - Iron Man Creek – 1.0 cfs
  - Old Man Creek – 0.5 cfs
  - Lone Tree Creek – 1.0 cfs
  - Howl Creek – 2.5 cfs
  - South Mountain Creek – 3.0 to 4.0 cfs

- Coyote Creek – DRY Upstream
- Flint Creek – 2.0 to 2.5 cfs
- Deer Creek – DRY
- North Boulder Creek – 2.0 cfs
- Meadow Creek – 1.5 cfs

- Conducted flow measurement in Jordan Creek on June 24, 2025, to get a baseline flow rate. Measurement of Jordan Creek (100 yards upstream of the Jordan Creek bridge) = **47.26 cfs.**

- Conducted flow measurement in Big Boulder Creek on June 24, 2025, to get a baseline flow rate. Measurement of Big Boulder Creek (100 yards upstream from the confluence with Jordan Creek) = **19.37 cfs.**

- Estimated flow in upper Jordan Creek on June 24, 2025. Estimated flow of Jordan Creek (above the Big Boulder Creek confluence) = **12.0 to 14.0 cfs.**

July 2025:

- Conducted flow measurement in Jordan Creek on July 21, 2025, to get a baseline flow rate. Measurement of Jordan Creek (100 yards upstream of the Jordan Creek bridge) = **19.14 cfs.**

- Estimated flow in Big Boulder Creek on July 21, 2025. Estimated flow in Big Boulder Creek (upstream of confluence with Jordan Creek) = **9.0 to 10.0 cfs.**

- Estimated flow in upper Jordan Creek on July 21, 2025. Estimated flow in Jordan Creek (above the Big Boulder Creek confluence) = **6.0 to 7.0 cfs.**

- **July 23, 2025: Gusman Livestock - 1st Water Call (Priority Date 4/15/1872)**

  > Determined Williams Creek, Big Boulder Creek, and associated tributaries (Rail Creek, West Creek, Glass Gulch Creek, and Pole Bridge Creek) are the primary contributors to summer flows in Jordan Creek. The selected creeks were determined to have enough water available this time of year (through measurements, observations, and water user testimony) to curtail active irrigation use to satisfy the water-call downstream by Gusman Livestock.

  > Created a list of administered irrigation water rights for Jordan Creek, Big Boulder Creek, Williams Creek, and associated tributaries in order of priority. Contacted water right owners upstream of Gusman Livestock with a water right priority date junior to 4/15/1872 within the creeks above and gave notice to curtail water use per delivery call by a senior water right user downstream.

> Initiated delivery of water to Gusman Livestock by curtailing junior water right users located upstream of the Gusman Livestock diversion in order of water right priority (within the creeks above), starting with water right 55-4086 with a priority date of 4/15/1970 (see 2025 curtailment chart below).

> Field visits confirmed water users that were notified to curtail were shut off or were already shut off (some due to no water availability during this time).

> After junior users were curtailed, water levels in Jordan Creek increased within the day, and Gusman Livestock was as able to satisfy the water call.

> Notified Gusman Livestock to inform me when the delivered water was no longer needed in order to turn back on junior users in order of senior priority.

> **Note:** Craig Brasher's water rights were not in use and no diversion occurred in 2025 under those water rights.

> **Note:** LU Ranching and Mike Hanley both have junior water rights however, both points of diversion are located downstream of the Gusman Livestock diversion and therefore, were not curtailed in 2025.

> **Note:** Morgan Ranches LLC and Morgan Properties LTD have changed ownership of applicable water rights to **Indian Meadows Ranch LLC***. However, Morgan Ranches LLC still retains ownership of three (3) water rights; 55-2125 on Combination Creek, 55-4039 on Iron Mine Creek, and 55-4037 on Rail Creek. Morgan Ranches water right 55-4037 was recently split in 2025 and resulted in new water right 55-14062, which is now owned by Indian Meadows Ranch LLC. Both water rights are still diverted on Rail Creek and have the same priority date. No change to the total acres or total rate between the two split rights.

**** The name "Morgan Ranches" will continue to be used throughout this report in lieu of the ownership change to Indian Meadows Ranch, LLC. However, the name change has been updated to Indian Meadows Ranch for applicable water rights on the 2025 Curtailment Chart below and in internal WD55B documents stored by IDWR.***

Water Right #	Priority Date	Source List	Tributary List	Water Use List	Owner List	Max Diversion Rate (cfs)	NOTES:
55-4063	4/6/1867	WILLIAMS CREEK	JORDAN CREEK	IRRIGATION	BERRETT, DALE L; THE TESTAMENTARY FAMILY BYPASS TRUST	2.82	X - SENIOR WR
55-10218	4/15/1871	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	06 LIVESTOCK	5.36	X - SENIOR WR
55-4046	4/15/1872	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	GUSMAN LIVESTOCK CO	16.0	WATER CALL
55-4090	4/15/1873	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	BRASHER, CRAIG	3.13	X - No Irrigation in 2025
55-10085	4/15/1874	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	HANLEY , LINDA; HANLEY IV, MICHAEL F	0.3	NOTE: Downstream of Gusman Livestock
55-10337	4/15/1879	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	L U RANCHING CO INC	1.27	NOTE: Downstream of Gusman Livestock
55-4017	2/1/1882	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC	3.96	CURTAILED
55-13966	2/1/1882	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	BRUCE RANCH LLC	0.54	CURTAILED
55-4018	11/6/1882	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	BRUCE, ROBERT C	4.46	CURTAILED
55-4061	4/15/1884	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	GLUCH, ANITA L; GLUCH, THOMAS R	1.17	CURTAILED
55-4036	6/1/1884	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC	5.6	CURTAILED
55-4034	6/1/1884	GLASS GULCH CREEK	JORDAN CREEK	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC	0.23	CURTAILED
55-4028	6/1/1884	BIG BOULDER CREEK	JORDAN CREEK	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	BOULDER CREEK RANCH LLC	1.67	CURTAILED
55-4029	6/1/1884	DUCK CREEK, JORDAN CREEK	JORDAN CREEK, OWYHEE	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	BOULDER CREEK RANCH LLC	0.59	CURTAILED
55-13658	4/15/1886	BIG BOULDER CREEK, MAMM	BIG BOULDER CREEK, JORD	IRRIGATION	3N INVESTMENTS LLC	3.74	CURTAILED
55-4089	4/15/1890	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	BRASHER, CRAIG	1.77	X - No Irrigation in 2025
55-4092	7/25/1891	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	BRASHER, CRAIG	1.32	X - No Irrigation in 2025
55-4088	4/15/1902	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	BRASHER, CRAIG	0.43	X - No Irrigation in 2025
55-10086	4/15/1902	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	HANLEY , LINDA; HANLEY IV, MICHAEL F	2	NOTE: Downstream of Gusman Livestock
55-4033A	8/15/1903	WILLIAMS CREEK	JORDAN CREEK	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC	1.17	CURTAILED (Not Being Used)
55-2001	5/22/1905	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	HANLEY , LINDA; HANLEY IV, MICHAEL F	0.56	NOTE: Downstream of Gusman Livestock
55-4087	4/15/1916	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	BRASHER, CRAIG	0.93	X - No Irrigation in 2025
55-4032	4/15/1916	POLE BRIDGE CREEK	WILLIAMS CREEK	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC	0.37	CURTAILED (No Water Available)
55-4033B	10/17/1916	WILLIAMS CREEK	JORDAN CREEK	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC	0.3	CURTAILED (Not Being Used)
55-4071	4/15/1928	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER	L U RANCHING CO INC	0.7	NOTE: Downstream of Gusman Livestock
55-10258	07/14/47	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	MINING	ANDRUS, CHARLES; ANDRUS JR, LARRY G; ANDRUS SR, LARRY G	0.68	CURTAILED (Minimal Use)
55-4037	4/15/1948	RAIL CREEK	JORDAN CREEK	IRRIGATION FROM STORAGE,	MORGAN RANCHES LLC C/O DAVID RUTAN	0.88	CURTAILED (No Water Available)
55-14062	4/15/1948	RAIL CREEK	JORDAN CREEK	IRRIGATION FROM STORAGE,	INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC	0.08	CURTAILED (No Water Available)
55-2141	4/3/1950	WILLIAMS CREEK	JORDAN CREEK	IRRIGATION	YTURRASPE, DANIEL J; YTURRASPE, LUIS C; YTURRASPE, VICTOR J	0.18	CURTAILED
55-2150	9/25/1963	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	BRUCE, ROBERT C	0.52	CURTAILED
55-2161	5/22/1967	WEST CREEK	WILLIAMS CREEK	IRRIGATION	BERRETT, DALE L; THE TESTAMENTARY FAMILY BYPASS TRUST	2.4	CURTAILED (Little to No Water Available)
55-4086	4/15/1970	JORDAN CREEK	OWYHEE RIVER	IRRIGATION	BRASHER, CRAIG	0.2	X - No Irrigation in 2025

<u>July 24, 2025</u>: Meeting with Lower Valley Water Users / Measurement

- Met with Gusman Livestock and curtailed water users on Jordan Creek, Big Boulder Creek, and associated tributaries to discuss the curtailment process, duration of curtailment, current water needs, and the possibility of turning back on curtailed junior water users in order of senior priority.

- Conducted flow measurement in Jordan Creek to get a baseline flow rate. This was a rare opportunity to measure late July flows in Jordan Creek since all junior users upstream of the Gusman Livestock diversion have been curtailed and Gusman Livestock is diverting their full water right (16 cfs). Measurement downstream of the Jordan Creek bridge (100 yards downstream of Gluch diversion) = **13.25 cfs.**

  NOTE: Based on this measurement and Gusman Livestock's flow meter readings today (diverting **15.95 cfs**), there is an increase of approximately **2.70 cfs** that is entering Jordan Creek between this measurement location and the Gusman Livestock diversion (700 river yards downstream of this measurement location), which is indicative of a "gaining reach". Assume some of this increase is from water subbing back into the wetted channel from Gluch's check dam upstream.

<u>July 25, 2025</u>: Measurement / Turn on Junior Users

- Conducted flow measurement in Jordan Creek to determine how much water was available downstream to 06 Livestock when the Gusman Livestock was actively diverting their full water right today. Measurement taken 100 yards upstream of the 06 Livestock diversion = **4.90 cfs.**

  NOTE: Gusman Livestock was diverting **16.0 cfs** today based on flow meter readings. Measurement taken above 06 Livestock was **4.90 cfs**, which is the amount of water available to users downstream of the Gusman Livestock diversion (including LU Ranching and Hanley) and is sufficient to satisfy 06 Livestock's senior water right.

- Based on measurements and the Gusman Livestock water call satisfied, I notified the next most senior water right owner (Morgan Ranches) to turn on the smaller of two main pivots plus the mini pivot for the weekend to see how water levels at the Gusman Livestock pumps are affected.

- Notified the next most senior water right owner Bruce Ranch to turn on half of the irrigation system (the pump and motor half as it is adjustable) and see how water level at the Gusman Livestock pumps are affected.

- Water levels in Jordan Creek did drop some through the weekend after both users turned back on. Gusman Livestock was still able to pump the water they needed.

- Notified Morgan Ranches and Bruce Ranch to maintain current water use for the week and notify me of any changes were needed.

July 28, 2025: Morgan Ranches - 1st Water Call (Priority Date: 2/1/1882)

- Water call on Jordan Creek by Morgan Ranches, second most senior water right owner.

- Initiated delivery of water to Morgan Ranches by allowing the additional pivot to be turned on as requested (both main pivots and mini pivot are on).

- Notified Bruce Ranch of water call and that they would have to scale back or turn off irrigation if Gusman Livestock calls for water during this time. Gusman Livestock agreed to keep an eye on water levels at the pumps and notify me of any changes.

- Users Currently Diverting: Gusman Livestock (full), Morgan Ranches (full), Bruce Ranch (half), Gluch's diversion (off), Boulder Creek Ranch (off).

August 14, 2025: Gusman Livestock - 2nd Water Call

- Gusman Livestock called for water but only requested a few cfs to run the second pump for about a week. Gusman Livestock agreed to notify me when they finished pumping the delivered water in order to turn on junior water users in order of priority.

- Water levels in Jordan Creek dropped significantly over the past week according to lower valley users.

  > Gusman Livestock – currently diverting full (2 pipes)
  ~~> Craig Brasher – (no diversion in 2025)~~
  > Morgan Ranches – currently diverting 2 main pivots plus mini-pivot
  > Bruce Ranch – off
  > Tom Gluch – off
  > Boulder Creek Ranch – off

August 15, 2025: (Beaver Dam)

- Preparing to initiate delivery of water to Gusman Livestock by curtailing junior water rights upstream in order of priority (starting with Morgan Ranches) however, a beaver dam was discovered in Jordan Creek downstream of the Morgan Ranches diversion and upstream of the Bruce Ranch diversion.

- Put a hold on the curtailment and notified all lower valley water users of the situation and possibility that the dam was contributing to the sudden low flow conditions in Jordan Creek. Last week there was sufficient water for Gusman Livestock and Morgan Ranches to be fully on and Bruce Ranch was diverting half of full – *what changed*?

- Met with Morgan Ranches to tour the beaver dam. Beaver dam was impeding flow of Jordan Creek by pushing water out of the wetted channel into the dry floodplain on each side of the creek. The dry gravels in the floodplain have not been saturated since early spring. Water now has to re-saturate those dry gravels before it can move downstream via gravity. Water may sub back into the wetted channel after the dry gravel becomes saturated and may equalize the flow, but it is unclear as to how far downstream that occurs, how long it takes, or how much water is actually subbing back into the wetted channel versus what was originally pushed out of the channel.

- Notified water users downstream of the beaver dam who may be injured. Suggested they write a complaint letter to Idaho Fish and Game asking for the beaver dam to be removed on the grounds that they are unable to satisfy their irrigation water right(s) downstream due to the impedance of water by the beaver dam.

August 16, 2025: (Beaver Dam)

- Users coordinated efforts and removed the beaver dam from Jordan Creek. Flows in Jordan Creek rose significantly after the beaver dam removal and no curtailments were necessary. Gusman Livestock was able to satisfy their water demand and junior users were allowed to continue diverting as previously instructed.

- Unable to get flow measurements in Jordan Creek pre-beaver dam removal but was able to get a measurement post-beaver dam removal. Measurement location at transect below Jordan Creek bridge (100 yards downstream of Gluch). Measured Flow = **5.70 cfs**.

  NOTE: Gusman Livestock is diverting approximately 6.5 cfs today per flow meter readings, which is more than what was measured in Jordan Creek upstream (5.70 cfs). This supports evidence that water is subbing back into the wetted channel between this measurement location (100 yards below Gluch's diversion) and the Gusman Livestock diversion (700 river yards downstream).

- Visited the Gluch diversion and discovered a possible violation for diverting out of priority during the curtailment. Noted that power meter readings had increased since last site visit. Recorded new Idaho power meter readings to compare for future inspection to verify the suspected violation. Other evidence for a possible violation included green fields that were semi-saturated (wet to touch) during initial inspections.

August 19, 2025:

- Locked and red-tagged the Gluch diversion on Jordan Creek for diverting water out of priority while curtailed as evidenced by comparing Idaho Power records collected at the pump station on different occasions. Simple system with no other obvious power draws.

- A violation notice was mailed to Mr. Gluch on August 26, 2025. No additional violations.

August 22, 2025: Gusman Livestock - 3rd Water Call

- Gusman Livestock called for water but requested only a few cfs to run the second pump for about a week. Gusman Livestock will notify me when delivered water is no longer needed so junior users can be turned back on in order of senior priority.

- Notified Morgan Ranches to turn off all 3 pivots. All 3 pivots were shut off by the afternoon. Bruce Ranches, Boulder Creek Ranch, and Gluch are currently off.

- The next day (**August 23**) Gusman Livestock notified me that there was sufficient water available in Jordan Creek at their pump station. Gusman Livestock water call was met.

August 25, 2025: Morgan Ranches - 2nd Water Call

- Morgan Ranches called for water from Jordan Creek and requested to turn on one of the main pivots (big pivot only).

- Notified Gusman Livestock of the water call. Requested Gusman inform me of any changes in water level at the pumps. Gusman Livestock agreed to notify me if water levels decrease at the pump station.

- Notified Morgan Ranches to turn on requested pivot.

- Water levels at Gusman Livestock pumps remained steady throughout the day.

- Morgan Ranches water call was satisfied.

Water Users Currently Diverting in Order of Priority (8-25-25):
> Gusman Livestock – currently diverting both pipes
~~> Craig Brasher – (no diversion in 2025)~~
> Morgan Ranches – currently diverting large pivot
> Bruce Ranch – off
> Tom Gluch – off
> Boulder Creek Ranch – off

August 28, 2025: Gusman Livestock Request

- Gusman Livestock sent notification that they are done pumping on their second pipe. Notified Morgan Ranches, Bruce Ranch, Gluch, and Boulder Creek Ranch to resume irrigation use as needed.

- NO ADDITIONAL WATER CALLS FOR 2025 SEASON.

Watermaster tracked hours and milage in WD55B during the 2025 season.

→ **2025 Watermaster Hours/Miles:**

- **336.0 Hours**
- **2,675 Miles**

Jes Erling 2-27-2026

Date:

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