

2015 Watermaster Report  
Water District 170  
Cindy Yenter, Watermaster

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DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES  
SOUTHERN REGION

**WD170 Field Activities, 2015**

- My appointment was effective June 1, 2015.
- Met with subdistrict watermasters. Conducted field training for new watermasters in WD71 and WD72D. Went on a short field tour with watermaster of WD72A. Met with watermaster of 72F and conducted some inventories of Salmon river diversions added to that district.
- Cooperated with NRCS/SWCD and the Transactions team to review new transactions projects in the Pahsimeroi. Reviewed water right transfers, participated in field tours, recommended or required measuring devices on pending projects.
- Conducted groundwater inventories, Pahsimeroi basin 73. Completed inventory and flow meter compliance investigation on approximately 30 of the 35 or so ground water diversions. Found only a handful of installed meters. Measuring devices on wells were ordered to be installed prior to the 2014 irrigation season.
- Following up on Pending NOV from 2011, conducted Big Creek and Patterson Creek inventories in B73. Visited about 20 diversion sites to confirm installations of headgates and measuring devices. Only half were found in compliance with the 2011 notice. In December 2015, NOVs were sent to 19 individuals using 10 separate diversions on these two tributaries. All those notified have contacted IDWR and we are working toward resolutions.
- Conducted other misc diversion inventories in B73 and on Salmon River in non-subdistrict areas.

**Upper Salmon River Basin Support (Basins 74 and 75)**

- Conducted field work and watermaster support in Lemhi tributaries not administered by WD74.
- Investigated complaints and initiated compliance actions in Basin 75 in the North Fork area.
- Attended a Transactions Technical Team Meeting.

**WD170 Goals and Plans, 2016**

- Get to know as many water users and subdistrict officials as possible.
- Prepare and send a flow meter reminder letter to B73 ground water users. Complete well inventories and move toward compliance.
- Follow up on responses to 2015 NOVs in Big and Patterson Creek drainages.
- Follow up on residual measurement compliance issues in subdistricts.
- Complete diversion inventories on all non-subdistrict diversions in WD170 and evaluate the level of measurement compliance. These diversions are also required to be measured and reported, but no data has been collected to date (Nick was focusing on subdistrict diversions). Contact all water users and move toward compliance
- Begin collecting data in non-subdistrict areas.
- Continue to work with and train subdistrict watermasters. My goal is not to take over or interfere in those local districts, but to become a resource for them. I have to have some level of knowledge of the subdistricts in order to accomplish that.
- Propose and organize a public meeting in Salmon to begin the process of adding basins 74 and 75 to Water District 170. IDWR does expect resistance to this proposal, especially in B75, but the expansion of WD170 to include these basins is mandated by the Wild and Scenic Rivers agreement, and it is necessary for proper administration of the entire Upper Salmon. To gain support we must start the dialogue.