

Water Master Report WD61D 2019

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JAN 21 2020

WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

May 7th

Both reservoirs are filled. With more water entering.

May 9th

- Trail Reservoir receiving 15cfs.
- Creek receiving 16cfs.

May 14th

- Trail Reservoir receiving 13cfs.
- Morrow Reservoir receiving 8.4cfs.
- Creek receiving 11.5.

May 15th

Receive keys from Rusty Trail for diversion gate.

- Trail Reservoir receiving 10cfs.

May 21st

- Trails Reservoir 17cfs.
- Morrow Reservoir receiving 2.7cfs.
- Creek receiving 11cfs.

June 5th

Ride around with Rob and Steve from IDWR. Review Williams diversion and measuring devices. Discuss with Paul building a weir at King Hill Rd.

- Trail Reservoir receiving 2.8cfs.
- Morrow Reservoir receiving 1cfs.
- Creek receiving 3cfs.

June 6th

Pearson Farm and Ranch shut off pump for the season (04/10/19-06/06/19).

Due to budgeting restraints users should be billed the minimum assessment. Reservoir users received their entire volume of storage and should be assessed accordingly.

Wilder Jones

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To whom it may concern:

I accepted the nomination of Water Master for Water District 61D in April 2019. However, despite the immediate appointment I did not begin my duties until May 5th upon my arrival home from the University of Montana. The users of WD61D were exceptionally helpful with historical information, anecdotal observations, and personal experience. IDWR employee Rob Whitney was tremendously helpful teaching and explaining Water Master duties. The district experienced an incredibly robust water year, and I received no complaints from users, a leaner water year will present future difficulties.

Measuring Devices:

Having accurate measuring devices is paramount for any Water Master to distribute water and assess water users. There are several individual users with flow meters that accurately measure water. One Cipolletti weir is located on Little Canyon Creek below the Trail Diversion Dam, unfortunately there are several details of this weir that skew the discharge reading. Additionally, the compound weir located along the diversion canal for the Blair Trail Reservoir has several faults. Despite the flaws and inaccuracy of these weirs they can be used to roughly estimate water discharge, they do not accurately quantify discharge. The Herron Ditch diversion canal that diverts water to Morrow Reservoir also has a weir located in pipe below the head gate, several flaws skew this discharge reading as well. There has been a conversation about building a weir next to King Hill Rd. on the Herron Ditch for convenience due to difficulty of accessing the Morrow Reservoir diversion. The Pearson Farms and Ranch flow meter does not accurately measure water, and needs replaced. The Anderson Farm will need a weir or flow meter if the operator wants to use creek water. IDWR has been persistent in requiring water users to have accurate and accessible measuring devices. I am not one for administering threats, however, it

has been discussed amongst IDWR, that if measuring devices are not installed your water will not be delivered in the future.

Concerns:

As I have come to understand it, being the water master of 61D is not easy. It is not my intention to initiate an investigation, but rather to disseminate information and extinguish any fallacies surrounding water use. I pass no judgment and cannot remedy these suspicions or infringements, below are concerns/complaints I heard from water users.

The 24hr. Rule: It has been brought to my attention that the check dam in Little Canyon Creek for the old Viner property may be in violation of the “24hr. Rule”.

According to IDWR: “The volume of water provided under the 24-hour fill allowance is calculated by multiplying the diversion rate by a 24-hour time period.”

(<https://idwr.idaho.gov/files/water-rights/20130418-Utilization-of-the-24-Hour-Fill-Allowance-for-Impoundments.pdf>)

This check dam was built by the previous owners and may or may not be storing more water than the diversion right allows. Calculating the volume of stored water will be the responsibility of IDWR.

The Diversion as Storage: Whether water can be intentionally stored behind the diversion dam at Trail Reservoir diversion for downstream creek users remains unresolved. Historical accounts and previous water master experiences do not suffice for answering this question. The reservoir users have adamantly explained for one reason or another that water cannot be stored behind the diversion dam. IDWR has been irresponsive on this issue. In my opinion no water should be stored behind the diversion until IDWR passes judgement.

These two concerns were repeated to me multiple times by several water users over the course of the 2019 season. As stated above, this is not intended to be accusatory or prosecutive, I hope these concerns and questions can be resolved and stored on record for future reference.

I would like to officially thank the WD61D users and IDWR for the education and opportunity to serve as water master.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilder Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "W".

Wilder Jones