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April 19, 2005

Dear Water Users and Canal Managers,

The Rental Pool Committee, Water District #1, and the Bureau of Reclamation met April 14, 2005 to discuss procedures and make recommendations to the Committee of Nine concerning distribution of the 2005 rental pool supply. The two main issues discussed were how to distribute the 5,000 acre-feet described in Rule 5.2 and how to proportion the remaining 50,000 acre-feet if applications exceeded the total supply for spaceholders within priority (2) described in Rule 5.1. These recommendations will be presented to the Committee of Nine at their meeting to be held on April 28, 2005 for approval of how to distribute the 2005 rental supply to applicants. Water users are encouraged to contact their Committee of Nine representative prior to the April 28, 2005 meeting if they have any concerns regarding the recommendations or distribution of the 2005 rentals. Following is a short discussion and listing of the two recommendations to be presented to the Committee:

Issue #1

Rule 5.2 reads, "Because of the number of small users and the attendant regulation costs, those seeking to rent less than 100 acre-feet of storage will be approved in the same order in which their rental applications are received by the Watermaster so long as the total amount of these requests do not exceed 5,000 acre-feet of storage." Clarification was needed as to whether this supply would only be available to small diversions exceeding their storage allocation at the end of the season, or would be available to all applicants without restriction on a first-come, first served basis.

Recommendation #1

The 5,000 acre-feet described in Rule 5.2 is available to all applicants applying for less than 100 acre-feet without restriction and will be approved in the same order they are received until the total 5,000 acre-feet has been rented. Additionally, 2,500 acre-feet shall be set aside from the 50,000 acre-feet supply described in Rules 3.8 and 5.1 to be used only for small diversions exceeding their storage allocation at the end of the season due to attendant regulation costs or the after-the-fact accounting process.

Issue #2

The rental pool rules do not outline how to divide up the 50,000 acre-feet supply (47,500 acre-feet if *Recommendation #1* is passed) when applications within the same priority described in Rule 5.1 exceed the total supply. Last year, the 50,000 acre-feet supply was divided by the total 208,028 acre-feet of applications resulting in every applicant receiving 24% of their requested amount. However, the 2005 rules were changed giving a preference to spaceholders with unfilled space. It is not expected that the 50,000 acre-feet supply will be sufficient to fill all the unfilled space for the 2005 applicants. Also, multiplying the total percentage of rental available to each individual amount applied may have led to inflated requests by the applicants. Therefore, should the percentage of approved rental be based on the amount of space applied or the amount of the applicant's unfilled space when filling requests in Priority (2)?

Recommendation #2

If the rental pool supply is less than the total applicants' unfilled space, the approved rentals shall be portioned based on the percentage of unfilled space of all the applicants in Priority (2) of Rule 5.1, up to the amount requested for each applicant.

For example, if the total amount requested is 432,458 acre-feet, the unfilled space of all rental applications is only 87,719 acre-feet, and the rental supply is 50,000 acre-feet, the approved rental for each applicant in Priority (2) will be 57% of their unfilled space, unless they have applied for a lesser amount. If the total unfilled space of all applicants is less than 50,000 acre-feet, the unfilled space would be filled 100% according to Priority (2), and the remainder would be distributed according to the percentage of the total amount applied and amount remaining to applicants within Priority (3).

If you have any comments or opinions concerning these recommendations, please contact the Committee of Nine member representing your area prior to April 28, 2005. Rental applications will be approved based on approval (or modification) of these recommendations by the Committee of Nine for the 2005 Rental Pool Procedures.

COMMITTEE OF NINE - 2005

River Reach	Name	Contact Information
Snake River below Blackfoot	Albert Lockwood	825-5002 825-5001 Fax 280-6446 Cell
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Snake River – Shelley to Blackfoot	Don Hale	785-4525 680-4525 Cell halefarms@msn.com
Snake River below Blackfoot	Charles Coiner	423-4015 423-9089 FAX 731-4015 Cell ccoiner@pmt.org
Great Feeder Canals	Claude Storer	523-1999 523-1868 FAX diamond1@onewest.net
Snake River – Lorenzo to Shelley	Paul Berggren	785-4547 523-2664 FAX
Snake River abv Lorenzo	Dale Rockwood	522-4913
Snake River below Blackfoot	Leonard Beck	678-0290 678-0290 FAX lmbfarms@yahoo.com
Henrys Fork & Teton	Leland Clark	652-3305 edcarol@fretel.com

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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES**Water Report Comments – 4/19/2005**

Canal Managers are reminded to call the Water District office at 525-7171 to give at least 24-hours advance notice before turning on their canals (or any other significant changes to their diversions throughout the irrigations season) to insure adequate reservoir releases and prevent the Snake River from going dry.

The American Falls non-Winter-Water-Savings space has received 1,334,370 AF (88%) of new fill through April 18, 2005 added to its 2% of 2004 carryover. It currently needs 143,776 AF of additional accrual to fill to 100%. The Jackson-1906 storage right currently needs 19,304 AF of additional fill before the Jackson-1913 (Twin Falls and North Side Canals) space begins to accrue new storage.

Last year, the American Falls storage right accrued 35,130 AF of additional storage between April 19th and the day of maximum accrual (June 18th). The Jackson storage rights accrued an additional 140,474 AF of new accrual April 19th through June 18th last year. However, different weather patterns and diversions may result in significantly different amounts of accrual to reservoir storage accounts than seen last year. You can track the 2005 accrual (AF STORED) to the American Falls storage right (Reservoir Priority #9) and Jackson rights (Reservoir Priorities #1 and #4) on our webpage www.waterdistrict1.com under PRIORITIES updated every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons.

The Rental Pool Committee met on April 14, 2005 and prepared recommendations for the Committee of Nine on how to divide up the 2005 rental supply among rental pool applicants. Please see the attached discussion concerning their recommendations. The Committee of Nine will discuss these issues and perhaps vote on these recommendations at their next meeting to be held at 10:00 AM on April 28, 2005 at the Pocatello Airport.

