

From: DWR80::DTUTHILL 21-SEP-1994 14:58:58.00
To: DWR01::KHIGGINS, DWR01::SUTTER, DTUTHILL
CC:
Subj: Payette Water Delivery

Per a request from Keith Higginson this morning, I returned a call to Don York, ditch rider for the Noble Canal Company (WD 65). Don stated that he had been shorted on water for the previous six days, and the Watermaster had been unresponsive to his request for additional water. He stated that he had been unable to attend a meeting last week where valley representatives had decided to drastically reduce the flow over Black Canyon Dam in order to determine the extent of return flows during September.

After discussing this matter with the Watermaster, Helen Bivins, I learned additional information which sheds different light on this issue. She stated that one of the important provisions of the decision to reduce the flows over Black Canyon Dam was the offer by Farmers Cooperative Ditch Company to spill a portion of its water into the Noble canal if flows in the Noble system were inadequate. This was the safety mechanism which had been established to ensure protection of the lower diversions. She stated that on the night of last week's meeting of valley representatives, the Noble Canal Company Board met and agreed to the reduction in flows. She also stated that Don York had not been willing to accept the proffered substitute flows, preferring to complain that water district operations had shorted his company of needed water.

Throughout this summer we have been advised of a feud between ditch riders on the Payette system, and this latest complaint seems to be a manifestation of this disharmony to a large extent. The problem seems resolvable if a strong watermaster is selected for the coming year.

One added note. This situation prompted the use of Black Canyon Reservoir as a flow regulating reservoir. Normally the reservoir must be maintained full to deliver needed flows into the BCID canal. Now BCID is drawing only about half of their maximum diversion. Therefore, the top foot of the reservoir will be used to provide immediate response to delivery shortages, shortening the 28 hour delay of Cascade Reservoir water deliveries to the valley. This morning some of this storage water was released, to provide early response to the watermaster order which had been increased to 275 cfs.

A copy of this memo will be placed in the WD 65 file as documentation of this situation.

Dave

WATERMASTER POSITION AVAILABLE

A Watermaster position is available for the Payette River Basin in southwestern Idaho. Responsibilities include supervision of water distribution for the 3,240 square mile basin, and executive management of an office which includes four large water delivery companies. Considerable knowledge of water resource management and use; water measurement techniques; Idaho water right law; computerized accounting techniques; personnel management; and financial management for a \$.5M annual budget are required. The Watermaster will be representing the Payette River basin in local, state and regional forums and must be able to communicate effectively both orally and via correspondence. Applicants with extensive experience and/or education in water management, hydrology, civil or agricultural engineering are preferred. For consideration, please send a resume and salary requirements no later than November 10, 1994 to the Watermaster Selection Committee, ATTN: Bob Henggeler, 6633 Whitley Drive, Fruitland, ID 83619.