



# News Release

WD 65

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Release 95-57

### LOWER PAYETTE RIVER FLOWS TO BE HELPED BY DONATION OF AGENCIES' STORAGE WATER

#### For Immediate Release

Boise, Idaho - Sept. 22, 1995

#### For Media Information:

Mark Limbaugh - 642-4465

Water levels in the Payette River downstream from Black Canyon Dam will stay at higher levels this fall, a boost to fishery development, thanks to the joint effort of five irrigation organizations and the Bureau of Reclamation, state water officials said today.

The six organizations have donated approximately 6,000 acre feet of water presently stored in Cascade and Deadwood Reservoirs, which can be released into the river. That's enough water to supply an additional 100 CFS flow in the river for a month. The extra water will be used to help keep river flows below Black Canyon dam at a minimum of 500 cubic feet per second.

Historically, this time of year the river flows below Black Canyon Dam can begin to drop to less than 500 CFS due to a sharply reduced need to supply water downstream for irrigation. Last year in late September the flow below Black Canyon fell at one point to about 230 CFS. The flows typically do not recover until later in the fall when rain and snow boost the natural flow levels of the river.

The decision to provide the flow augmentation water came following a series of informal meetings between the organizations and the Idaho Department of Water Resources, which oversees water distribution activities around the state.

-more-more-

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From: DWR01::SHOWE 21-SEP-1995 16:31:18.92  
To: @hydro:[showe]tuth.dis  
CC:  
Subj:

Dave:

I chose seven days at random and calculated evaporation at Cascade Reservoir using the old method of using the Parma evapotranspiration value. These calculated values are summarize below with the values computed in the accounting program using the newly installed pan at Cascade Reservoir. In 1995 the pan was installed on June 12; the old method was used for calculating evaporation prior to this date.

Cascade Pan Evaporation  
(cfs)

Parma Evapotranspiration  
(cfs)

June 23	191	182	
July 7	213	204	
July 28	227	219	
Aug 10	175	177	
Aug 26	159	154	
Sept 5	143	145	
Sept 17	99	99	
	<u>1207</u>	<u>1180</u>	= 2.2% less

Please let me know if there is any other information you would like for the meeting on Monday evening or our meeting on Wednesday with the users on the Smith Ditch.

Sheryl

From: DWR06:"wdist65@primenet.com" 20-SEP-1995 11:10:44.29  
To: dtuthill@idwr.state.id.us  
CC:  
Subj: Re: News Release

Dave:  
To answer your question regarding the Companies' efforts to provide a 500 cfs flow at Emmett, the following amounts were donated:

Bureau of Reclamation	5,000 acre feet
Black Canyon Irrigation District	300 acre feet
Farmer's Co-op Irrigation Company	300 acre feet
Lower Payette Ditch	300 acre feet
Noble Ditch Co.	300 acre feet

I would suggest we talk in general terms as to amounts donated, and the fact that BCID specifically requested that their "transport water" be donated (?). If you have questions, call me back.  
Mark

>I tried to return your call, but the line was busy. I've been wanting to try  
>generating a message to you over the internet anyway. The time is now 11:09 am  
>Tue, and I am curious as to how long it will take for the message to reach you.  
>  
>Also, I have a question for you, Mark. Do we want to generate the news release  
>that we discussed? If so, which irrigation companies have thrown some water  
>into the pool for the fish?  
>  
>Dave  
>  
>