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WATER RESOURCES  
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1998 Reynolds Creek District 57R Journal

May 3 1998

The two spots of snow (one at the head of Wilson and the other at the head of Little Handtrigger) are gone this evening. Richards' Grandpa George Brandau always said when those drifts were gone there would be about a month of water left. That "rule of thumb" has held fairly true all the while I've been watermaster.

May 6 1998

10:00 PM Elias Jaca called to ask what .8 Ft, .9 Ft, and 1.0 Ft through his 9 inch Parshall flume measures in inches. I gave him the information in both inches and CFS.

9 inches x .8 = 2.18 CFS 109"  
" " x .9 = 2.61 CFS 130"  
" " x 1.0 = 3.07 CFS 153"

Also - Jerry Hoagland talked to Dave Shaw (Ringert too?) about having someone come out and measure ditch and/or headwork capacities for 57-R users interested in filing for "high flow or floodwater rights" doing so sometime this next week. Personally, I've been using as much water as we can get through our 18" pipe and finished getting over our place for the first time (April 20 to May 6). Rich pulled the boards in the waste gate to clean out the sand today.

June 20, 1998

10:15 PM listened to message on our answering machine from Tom Benson. He wants me to go on. I told him that since tomorrow was Sunday, Fathers Day and we had committed to two family gatherings, I would go out Monday, June 22, 1998. The creek has been dropping really fast this past week and no water has been going past Hiway 78 for three or four days now. Everyone is either haying and/or building dam.

June 22, 1998

Monday - it rained hard while I was up the creek Tom Hook only has water on the bench.  
Tony Richard only has one head of water, out of Ram ditch  
Jerry H. only has little out of Community ditch at trees.  
Elias is haying on west side  
Mike Henderson is shut off to hay  
Rich Brandau has 18 siphon tubes on new seeding, haying nest

June 23, 1998

Tuesday - the creek was up and muddy and it rained hard again for a few hours. At 6:30 AM I called Don Eason at Junayo Ranch and told him that they need to shut down to 100 inches of water. I gave them today to get their water adjusted around the way they want it before I go up tomorrow to fine tune it. At 6:45 AM I left a message with Forrest Stimpson, RID ditch rider that I would be turning all the water out of their lateral today. About 8:30 AM Rex Evans

called back from Junayo to clarify what I'd told Don about the reservoir. I reiterated that whatever the live water at the head of Macks and Cottle Creeks measures needs to be tunned directly out of the reservoir into the creek (not diverted back out onto their fields). They have complete control over the use of their stored waters - but - it won't be "credited" back to live stream flow unless Owen puts in weirs to measure it back into the stream and can keep a steady flow of waste water over those weirs (per on site determination with Cindy Hodges IDWR, Connie, Rex, Owen etc. in 1995 or 1996). Then about 9:00 AM I called Tom Benson and told him they need to tighten up their West Reynolds lateral diversion dam as there is quite a bit of water going past it.

June 24, 1998

Wednesday - we got about .75 inch of rain in this area. Roads are a quagmire.

June 25, 1998

Thursday - rained good again from 6:30 to 7:30 AM. I called Forrest Stimpson/RID and told him there was water going to the river last night (and all day yesterday) and that I could put some back into the RID lateral if he wanted me to, and they could use it until there is no water going past the hiway again. He called back and said "Great"! He needs about 200 inches which is about 3.75 inches x 7 feet over their cipolletti weir.

Richard Brandau shut off his water entirely today. It rained (poured like a monsoon) this afternoon for about 2 hours. The creek is up and muddy again.

June 26, 1998

Creek is still up and I estimate about 500 to 1000 inches of water is going to the river.

June 28, 1998

Hot - about 80 degrees today. I put boards in RID waste gate to keep water up to .3"x7'

There is still water going past the hiway to the river.

June 29, 1998

Rich Brandau put water in his east ditch Caldwell field, est. about 60-80 inches.

July 1, 1998

Rich Brandau put water back in west ditch, had finished 1st cutting hay. It's been 90 to 95 degrees the last couple of days. The creek is holding fairly steady for this time of year and it isn't mossaing up yet like it usually does.

Three girls from DEQ sampled water at Henry Brandaus at Hiway 78 and at Rich Brandaus just above his house and below his diversion today. They took "bug samples" only which they said was 2 or 3 inches of water and "rock scrapings" in a

quant jar which was then filled to top with alcohol. They measured the flow of water (I showed them the ARS average flow charts for Reynolds Creek which show that flows vary to the extreme both ways). They used "Rosgen Scale" to rate stream, bank, cover, sinuosity and gradient as it is supposed to be a 303d listed stream. They said they had done the upper reach of Hardtrigger Creek too. When I asked what their monitoring schedule was, they stated that this was the first time that Reynolds Creek had been tested, and that depending on what the tests showed (good bug rating??) it would be on a five year schedule. I asked for (and recieved from DEQ) a copy of their monitoring sheets and results thereof. It is in my personal files.

July 2, 1998

There is still about 200 inches of water going past the last ditch diversion. It would be easy for them to get it all with just a bale or two in their dam.

John Westra called from IDWR and told me it is OK to go on at anytime with just one request, because of the way the papers are filed now.

July 8, 1998

Dan Muller called in PM and said they'd been up and built dam at West Reynolds diversion and took all the water that was in the creek, so he wants to meet me there at 9:30 AM tomorrow to regulate it.

July 9, 1998

Met Dan M. at diversion. Measured their weir at 9"x4' cipolletti = 8.62 CFS. Right now we should be at priority #20 which would leave them with 4.41 CFS which should measure 5.75"x4' through their weir. I adjusted to that about 10:30 AM.

Upper Creek users have pretty much shut down to hay. I figured what the lower users should have at #20 priority. At 3 PM I call Hendersons and left a message that all the water in the RID lateral was theirs and is being changed up to them, so he could throw a dam in the lateral and take all of it if he wanted to. Otherwise he is to call me and let me know how much he wants so I can send the rest down the creek. I also called Forrest Stimpson, RID, to tell him what and where the water in the RID lateral is. About 20" of Hendersons water is getting down to the first RID turnout down below the hiway.

July 12, 1998

At LaVar Youngs diversion I have the board in the waste gate and the weir pulled up so a steady head should go to the last ditch. That is where the next water rights are to be shut down, which will probably happen naturally until LaVar is down to his 1.00 CFS. I have a beaver helping me out - so I don't know how steady anything will be.

Rich Brandau built dam this PM and took his full 2.00 CFS head

July 13, 1998

Mike Henderwson called about 7:30 PM and wanted to know what had happened to his water at the RID lateral. The creek is going down and he hasn't built or tightened up his dam at all. On the phone he said that he wanted to continue to split his head of water between his two diversions. I then explained to him what the measurement would be across his weirs, to be able to split the water. I took a copy of his water rights and the cipolletti weir water measurements down to him about 9:30 PM. At that time he said that he would take all of his water at the horse pasture ditch for the "next few days" because he has some broken ribs. I told him that 3.5 inches of water over their 3 foot blade would fill their night.

July 14, 1998

Creek going, going, GONE! Mike fixed up his dame at the horse pasture and Rich built up and tightened dam at Henrys diversion.

July 21, 1998

I talked to Vicki Waitley at the Owyhee County Treasurers office today. When I went on as watermaster 6/22/98 I forgot to call the Treasurer to see who had NOT paid their 57R water bill. As of today, 7/21/98, those 57R users who have not paid are:

RID lateral: Heart Diamond / Jacobsons  
Blinda Lewis  
William Tincher  
Ed Frisbie

West Reynolds: Jerry Muller

The RID lateral is dry, but there is still water in the West Reynolds lateral and since Jerry Muller has not paid there should be only 4" over the 4' weir = 130" or 2.6 CFS

I called Muller to tell him he needed to pay his water bill. Everyone has their dams tightened up as much as possible with no water going over them. Brandau Farms (Henderson) and West Reynolds lateral have no "waste gates". There is water going through Rich Brandau waste gate and enough flow to maintain his head of water at this time. Everyone else is below their right with no more water available.

July 27, 1998

I called the Owyhee County Treasurers office, Vicki Waitley Deputy, again the morning. Jerry Muller still has not paid his 57R creek water bill for 1998 she said. So I went down to check on things. Jerry Benson was not getting any creek water to his place so I shut off the West Reynolds lateral. Then I drove down to tell Tom Benson and Dan Muller (West Reynolds officers) what I'd done and why. I

also called Jerry Hoagland to let him know, as he and Tom Benson are on the 57R advisory board.

Jerry Muller showed up at my house about 5 PM to see what had happened to his water. He said that he paid his water bill. So I told him to take his cancelled check to the County Treasurers office and show it to Vicki and have her call me if her records show that it is paid, or to call me if he pays it. Then I'll turn it back on.

Jerry Hoagland and I talked about a letter from the County Commissioners about the cost of 57R collections by the county versus running the funds through 57Rs own account.

July 28, 1998

At 8:48 AM I called the Owyhee Co. Treasurers office, Vicki Waitley. Gladys Muller had called her at 8:10 AM. Not only do they owe this years water bill, but neither has the 1997 bill been paid, for a total of \$234 plus. I asked Vick to call me when she received their payment and to make sure their check cleared the bank if they paid that way.

I left a message on Mullers answering machine that the best way to pay was by cash, cashiers check or money order. Otherwise I would need to wait until a check cleared the bank before turning their water back on. (Is that what happened last year???)

Vicki Waitley called me about 10AM and said Mullers had been in to their 57R water bill, both 1997 and 1998, in cash. They showed up at my place about 10:30 AM to tell me they had paid. Jerry wanted to turn the water back on himself, but I told him no, I'd do it and check the measurements. I opened it up to what I thought would be about 90" / 1.8 CFS and then went down to measure it. It takes about an hour for the water to get to their weir. It was measuring three and one-eighth inches across a four foot blade = 1.77 CFS. When I went back up to the headgate all the available water was going through the headworks, none over the dam.

Judy Henderson stopped me to tell me they didn't have much water. Their diversion is above Mullers. I told her they needed to tighten up their diversion if they wanted more water because there was about 150" going past their dam and no more water to bring down. She asked me why I couldn't just go up and turn water out of the reservoirs at Upper Reynolds. I had to explain to her that they were privately owned and controlled.

July 29, 1998

Tom Benson called to discuss Jerry Mullers situation. I told him that it was all taken care of, paid and turned back on. Jerry had accused both Tom and Dan of telling me that he was still getting water.

July 30, 1998

There was one hell of a cloudburst on the lower end of Reynolds Creek this evening between 6 and 7 PM. Every draw was running water. The big sand draw at the upper west end of our place blew through our ditch and the Caldwell ditch is full of sand at every little draw. So we can't take any water until we get the ditches cleaned out and banks repaired. Backhoe work I would suppose.

There was about 500 inches of water going through the gulch stackyard off of the west side pasture draw and about 1000 inches across the road from the east side pasture drawn our place. The creek was up and muddy for a couple of hours, but cleared up by 7/31/98 at 9 AM. The flash flood really cleaned the moss out of the creek. Usually there is a tremendous amount of moss in the creek during hot weather.

There was also a "micro-burst" on July 28 down by Reynolds Creek Road and Hiway 78 that filled RID ditches with mud and sand, and debris from Hacklers.

August 1, 1998

We had another cloudburst last night 7/31/98 about 7 PM. The draws are all running again. Rich Brandau is not using any water as his ditches are all full of sand or blown out by the flash flood. Mike Henderson is not using any water because his diversion for the upper fields is not tight (water going by) and he is haying the lower end of his place. Jenny Muller has 2.30 CFS and is running pressure on his headgate (it should be 1.80 CFS but it will go down as the creek clears and subsides). Henry Brandau has a good 2.00 CFS (estimated because he has his weir blade out - the water has been so low I can't measure it accurately anyway). LaMar Young has a good 2.00 CFS, his weir blade is out for same reasons. Last ditch taking the balance of water in creek.

August 4, 1998

It looked like Jenny Muller had more water in his ditch than he should have, so I shut his headgate down a little to run pressure on it. I called Gladys to let her know.

August 5, 1998

I did a width, depth, velocity calculation on Jenny Mullers water and by my calculations he had about 175" or 3.5 CFS of water in the ditch, but less that 3 inches of water going across his weir. I checked the weir out and found a huge hole (I could stick my whole foot in it) around his weirbox. So I shut him down to what I estimate is about 70 to 90" (1.4 to 1.3 CFS) I called Gladys about 10 PM to let her know about the hold and shutting down the water. My theory is that if they are receiving less than their allotted amount of water when estimating flow, it gives alot more incentive to fix the hole (or problem) and get things right. If I estimate on the high side, then why should they fix it?

January 30, 1999

The cost per CFS delivered this year seemed high to me, until I looked back at the reasons. This has been the best water year that 57R has had since I've been on as watermaster. My father-in-law, Henry Brandau, is 84 years old and has lived here on the creek his whole life. He says that this has been the best water year that he has ever seen. In a good water year like this you are not called on very early because everyone has, and is using all of the water they can to get their fields wet up. Which isn't hard to do because there is so much moisture in the ground already, and it continues to rain sporadically. Therefore, much of my time is spent trouble shooting, things like beaver problems, debris in headgates, getting people to pay their bill, and figuring and directing the flow of waters that are available to senior rights but are not being used (for example, because they have shut the water off to hay). So, for all the running that was done there was not much need of actual measuring.