

MEETING TO FORMULATE 2005 MITIGATION PROPOSALS
AND
GENERAL OPERATION OF WATER DISTRICT 34
FOR THE BIG LOST RIVER
(Revised November 15, 2004)

November 16, 2004:

Butte Middle School Auditorium
120 S Water St.
Arco, Idaho

- 1:00 Norman Sowards, Lawrence Babcock, Jim Beverly, Tip Harwood & Charles Huggins regarding Criteria of Acceptance of a Mitigation Plan for Dist. 34
- 2:00 Jay Jensen
- 3:00 *Open*
- 3:30 Loy Pehrson
- 4:00 Water Users of Dist. 34
- 5:00 Mitchell Sorensen
- 6:00 *Dinner break***
- 7:00 Public Meeting

DRAFT --- DISCUSSION PAPER --- DRAFT

Nov. 16, 2004

RE: 2005 Water Management Improvement Plan for Basin 34

Preface

The development, submission, and implementation of an approved mitigation plan for the 2005 irrigation season is an essential component of proper water management in Basin 34. However, it is also essential that surface flows from commonly administered sources be properly regulated to protect senior priority water rights. This position is based upon the broadly accepted hydrological principle that diversions from any common surface supply (including tributary sources) have a more immediate and direct impact on senior surface water rights than conjunctively managed ground water diversions which are generally more attenuated in their impact on those same senior water rights. Therefore, the following issues and concepts must be considered simultaneously if proper water management is ultimately to be achieved in Basin 34. The goal of this discussion paper is to inform water users and administrators of existing deficits in current practices and procedures, and develop plans that will remedy those problems. It is also the hope of the proponents of this discussion paper that certain conclusions will be reached prior to the annual water district meeting, so patrons of the water district will have an opportunity to present and decide if any improvement plan(s) will be sponsored by the water district or, in the alternative, by individual/group sponsorship.

Discussion Issues

- 1.) Regulation of all senior surface water rights in compliance with the "priority doctrine" and the limiting elements and remarks contained in the SRBA partial decrees.
- 2.) Full compliance with the General Provision partial decree.
- 3.) Compliance with IDAPA 37.03.12 Water Distribution Rules –Water District 34.
- 4.) Prevent the "unstacking" of combined water rights in their use. *Storage*
- 5.) Limit the Watermaster's discretion and require accountability in administration.
- 6.) Accessible Accounting Systems.
- 7.) Potential Components of Mitigation Plans for 2005
 - a.) River Flow or Direct Senior Right Augmentation
 - b.) Sources of Augmentation Supplies
(i.e. natural flow, storage allocations, groundwater pumpage)
 - c.) Enforcement of Curtailment of Non-Participants
 - d.) Managed Aquifer Recharge Credit
 - e.) "Flushing" of River System at the Commencement of Irrigation Season
 - f.) "Buy-out or Retirement" of certain Water Rights
 - g.) Causes for Suspension or Interruption of Mitigation Supplies
 - i.) Non-Curtailment of Non-Participants
 - ii.) Futile Calls
 - iii.) 1905 priority satisfied
 - iv.) Illegal Use(s) of Senior Right (see item #1 and #4)

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Mitigation Plan – Basin 4

1. Mitigation call timing

Mitigation requests must be filed by February 1, prior to the irrigation season to allow review by the water users in the March annual meeting.

2. Mitigation delivery onset

Mitigation would start prior to flushing of the river (if or when that occurs), upon delivery of recharge water, or any time after the beginning of the irrigation season.

3. Mitigation delivery timing

Mitigation will be provided mainly at the onset of the irrigation season in the form of flushing the river and the canal systems, and to help sustain the flows of the river and canals. Additionally, when recharge rights are available, mitigation will be provided during the portion of the year when those rights are available

4. Mitigation water

- Basin 34 has recharge rights that directly compensate for losses to the aquifer that may occur as a result of ground water withdrawal.

When recharge rights are on, recharge will be conducted and will be used to satisfy mitigation requests during the following years (Brian Higgs will be consulted to determine the time period over which the recharge should be depreciated).

- Storage water that sinks into the aquifer is owned by water users of Basin 34
Conveyance loss in both the river and the lateral canals will be totaled and will be applied to mitigation. Additionally, all storage water used to “flush” the river at the onset of the irrigation season will be applied to mitigation.
- Decreed water is delivered to the headgates of the lateral canals in Basin 34
Decreed water is not owned unless it is diverted; however, once it is diverted it is owned by the water right holder for which it was diverted. Therefore, conveyance loss of decreed water in lateral canals is owned water and will be applied to mitigation.

5. Mitigation upstream from Mackay Reservoir

- Ground water pumpage is minimal (-7500 ac-ft)
- There are no storage rights upstream from Mackay Reservoir to use for mitigation
- Pumpage is adequately mitigated through conveyance loss and flood irrigation (which is still a major form of irrigation in the upper valley).
- The upper valley draws water from a different aquifer, as explained by Brian Higgs and supported by IDWR (as IDWR recognizes that ranchers upstream from the Reservoir can not be mitigated).

Therefore – Mitigation upstream from Mackay Reservoir will not be required.

SOME FACTS TO CONSIDER FROM THIS YEAR'S IRRIGATION SEASON

There was approximately 44,678AF of water that was delivered below the Beck diversion. Of that 44,678AF, 26,360AF was lost in conveyance. Of that 26,360AF conveyance loss, 9,753AF was considered to be attributed to storage water and 16,607AF was attributed to natural flow.

There was approximately 1,760AF of storage water released for flushing the river. The Howell Gauge was found to be operating inaccurately during a critical time of the irrigation season, resulting in a Nine-day delay for the water users above the reservoir to turn back on. Estimated contribution to river flows was 4,400AF.

If these losses could have been taken into consideration as a possible mitigation satisfaction that amount would have been.

9,753AF Storage water conveyance losses

1,760AF River Flushing

4,400 Faulty gauge reading

15,913AF possible mitigation satisfaction, if proved to be an acceptable practice

During the 2003 irrigation season there was approximately 66,581AF of water that was diverted through the lateral canal systems below the reservoir. Weekly average conveyance losses were researched through the Big Lost Irrigation Districts delivery records. It was found that the loss to conveyance during the 2003 irrigation season in the lateral canal systems below the reservoir was approximately 18,916AF. The conveyance loss to the river system during the 2003 irrigation season from the Beck diversion to the Moore and Eastside canals was approximately 35,916AF. Total loss to conveyance during the 2003 irrigation season was approximately $35,916 + 18,916 = 54,832$ AF.

To date in the 2004 irrigation season there has been approximately 56,085AF of water that has been diverted into the lateral canal systems below the reservoir. The loss in conveyance for the lateral canal systems, to date, has been approximately 21,561AF. This includes both storage water as well as natural flow. The conveyance loss to the river system during the 2004 irrigation season from the Beck Diversion to the Moore and Eastside canals was approximately 26,360AF. Total conveyance, to date, during the 2004 irrigation season is approximately $26,360 + 21,561 = 47,921$ AF.

The above information indicates the amount of water that has gone back into the system over the past two years. There are some additional losses that would be attributed to evaporation. How much was not known.

The water usage attributed to the "Exchange Well" or those well that are pumped into canal systems and diverted at a place of use farther away or considered to be "Out of District" was approximately 28,458AF. It must be taken into consideration that there may have been some "In District" application of this water as some of the water right holder have both property considered to be "In District" and "Out of District". The majority of the water usage would be "Out of District". The amount of mitigation water it would take to satisfy this usage would be $28,458\text{AF} @ 13\% = 3,699\text{AF}$, if the 13% is considered to be an acceptable number.

ROSTER OF ATTENDANCE

MEETING OF THE WATER USERS OF WATER DISTRICT 34 FOR THE FORMATION OF 2005 MITIGATION PROPOSALS

November 16, 2004
Beginning at 7:00 p.m.
Conducted by Gary Spackman
for the Idaho Department of Water Resources

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Holly Selfrad	4399 Houston Rd Mackay	Basin 34 W. U.
Jim F. Henze	P.O. Box 125 Mackay	Center Co. Commissioner
Laurie Clark	3888 W. 3700 N. Moore	Basin 34 W. U.
Janet Mary Smith	3897 W 3700 N Moore	Basin 34
Joel Anderson	3375 W 2791 N Moore	Basin 34
LARMAN ANDERSEN	3375 W 2780 N Moore	Basin 34
Laurine Babcock	Box 66 Moore	Basin 34
Sean Andersen	3450 west 2900 North Moore	Self
Bah Waddoups	2850 N 3474 W Moore, Idaho	Self
Stephen B King	3318 W 3300 N Moore	Self
Dobky Nielson	4133 Hwy 93 N Leslie	Self Basin 34 water user
Diana Nielson	4133 N Hwy 93	Leslie Basin 34 Water User
Mary Lauer	4102 N 3850 W Leslie	Basin 34 water
RANDY DAMIANA	3477 N Kings Mtn Rd Moore ID 83255	BASIN 34 HOUSES
Jim & Barbie Huelsgaard	3493 W 3450 N Moore, ID 83255	Basin 34 water
Doug & Lore Schureman	3059 W 2230 N Arco ID 83213	Basin 34 water

NAME

ADDRESS

REPRESENTING

Keith Hill	4965 N 5600W Mackay	Basin 34 water users
Jim Gregory	5306 Zollinger RD Mackay, ID	Basin 34 water users
Charles Wilkins	4905 Hwy 93 Mackay Id.	Basin 34 water users
Alvin F. Roemer	R.# 11 Box 247 Arco, Id.	Basin 34 user
RICHARD DEAN	911 HIGHWAY 10 ARCO, ID	CITY OF ARCO
Mike Dotzenrodt	Darlington	Basin 34 water users
Mathew Bradford	3776 W 3700 N Darlington	✓ ✓ ✓
Bruce Black	3007 N, 3350 West, Moore	Basin 34
Alvin Wheeler	Box 915 MOORE	Basin 34
Diana Adams	3044 N. 3350 W. MOORE	Basin 34
Heater Bell	3607 N 3680 West Darlington	Basin 34
BRAD HARALSON	3234 W 2900 N ARCO	Basin 34
Nathan Carpenter	P.O. Box 307 Arco	Basin 34 water users
Harold Babcock	Moore	self
Trent Smith	Moore	
Travis Smith	Idaho	
Don Don	3199 W 2900 N Arco	Isom Farms
Loy Piheson	Darlington	self
Jay F Pearson	2830 N 3375 W	Basin 34
Brooks Buxton	3122 W VS 93	self
Bruce Blackmer	3264 W 2900 N, Moore	self

NAME

ADDRESS

REPRESENTING

Jay Jensen	3300 W King Mt. Rd.	Moore ID 83255
L. Vaughn + Darlene Jensen		Moore ID
LENORE HARDY BARRETT	CHALKS, ID	Idaho State Representative
Randy Peterson		Mike Kay
Norm SOWARDS		MOORE
Ben Zell		MOORE
Tony Mann		Jos Lee
Keva Walker	P.O. Box 32	Arco ID 83213