

# WATER DISTRICT REPORT

## WATER DISTRICT NO 170 – UPPER SALMON RIVER

### – January 2009 through January 2010 –

## OVERVIEW

This report provides an overview of the activities and developments of Water District No. 170, Upper Salmon River (WD170) from January 2009 through January 2010.

WD170 was created by an IDWR order issued on March 6, 2006 and a final, amended order dated April 06, 2006. Under these orders, WD170 comprises all surface and ground water rights within IDWR Administrative Basins 71 and 72, with the exception of small rights used solely for domestic and stockwater purposes<sup>1</sup>. Water rights within existing water districts (Water District No. 72-A, Challis and Garden Creeks, and Water District 72-F, Morgan Creek) are now within WD170, and the existing water districts have been designated as sub-districts within WD170, so the day-to-day administration of those water rights is unchanged.

Aside from the two existing water districts in Basin 72, little formal water administration had taken place in Basins 71 and 72 prior to the creation of WD170. Few of the diversion works were equipped with measuring devices and users were unfamiliar with water districts and water right administration. As such, the new water district is being brought into operation through a series of steps and has not yet become fully functional. The table below shows the intended and realized progression of the district.

Time period	Activities
Spring 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create WD170 in Basins 71 and 72</li> </ul>
Summer/Fall 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field Inventory focused in Basin 71</li> </ul>
Winter 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue Order requiring measurement and control in WD170</li> </ul>
Spring 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basin 71 plans for compliance with measurement and control due to IDWR</li> </ul>
Summer/Fall/Winter 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inventory work in Basin 72,</li> <li>Working with Basin 71 users on measurement and control</li> </ul>
Spring 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basin 72 plans for compliance with measurement and control due to IDWR</li> <li>Installation of measurement and control in Basin 71 required by start of the irrigation season</li> </ul>
Summer 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin measurement and reporting of diversions in Basin 71 and more active administration where necessary. IDWR to provide on-the-ground support</li> <li>Working with Basin 72 users on measurement and control</li> </ul>
Spring 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of measurement and control in Basin 72 required by start of the irrigation season</li> <li>A sub-district was formed in Basin 71 and began adopting a budget to fund local on-the-ground support for that basin</li> </ul>
Summer 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Began measurement and reporting of diversions in Basin 72 and more active administration where necessary</li> <li>Local, user-funded district employee(s) to provide on-the-ground support in Basin 71</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Small domestic and stockwater rights are those rights meeting the definitions of Idaho Code 42-111 and/or 42-1401A(11).

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Time period	Activities
Spring 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formation and operation of additional sub-district in the Clayton Area and expansion of 72-F</li></ul>
Summer 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continued measurement and installation of measurement and control in Basin 72</li></ul>
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formation of additional sub-districts as necessary</li><li>• Possible inclusion of Basins 73, 74, and 75 into WD170.</li></ul>

## 2009 ACTIVITIES

### BASIN 71 ACTIVITIES

On December 11, 2008, the Director of IDWR issued Final Order Creating Sub-district No. 71. That order created a sub-district within Water District No. 170 to administer water rights in Basin 71. As a sub-district, users in Basin 71 remain a part of Water District No. 170, but elect and fund a local watermaster to perform routine measurement and reporting in Basin 71. While the local watermaster is funded entirely by Basin 71 users, he/she is a deputy watermaster of Water District No. 170.

The majority of diversions within Basin 71 are now equipped with measurement and control structures. As a result, routine measurement and reporting of diversions was initiated in that basin during the 2008 irrigation season and will continue into the future. Most of the approximately 90 diversions that are actively used within the basin were measured throughout the irrigation season by the Sub-district 71 Watermaster. Delivery data for these diversions are attached as appendices to this report and are available on the IDWR Internet site. The Sub-district will prepare an annual delivery report each year, and additional information can be found in that report.

### BASIN 72 ACTIVITIES

The measurement and control order issued by IDWR in February 2007 required that certain diversions in Basin 72 be equipped with functional measurement and control devices by the start of the 2009 irrigation season. While many of the diversions have been brought into compliance, a number have yet to be addressed. The majority of the WD170 effort in Basin 72 during 2009 was put toward working with users on the East Fork and above to bring the diversions into compliance and perform regular diversion measurements. As a result of this effort, the majority of the diversions in that area have been brought into compliance.

With measuring devices and control structures largely in place, this area is equipped to begin regular operation with a local watermaster. As such, the users and IDWR are in the process of creating a sub-district that includes the East Fork and diversions from the Main Salmon and tributaries upstream to Thompson Creek and downstream to the Challis Irrigation Canal. It is anticipated that the new sub-district will hold an annual meeting this spring to adopt a budget and elect a local watermaster to conduct regular measurements and administer water rights in that area.

Additionally, periodic measurements were taken during the summer of 2009 by WD170 staff at diversion locations below the East Fork. However, as many of these diversion locations are not yet equipped with measurement and control structures, the measurements were fewer in number than in the areas upstream.

The measurements taken by WD170 throughout Basin 72 are included as an appendix to this report and can also be found on the IDWR Internet site.

It is anticipated that the remaining areas within Basin 72 will be incorporated into sub-districts as the diversions are brought into compliance with the measurement and control order.