


July 18, 2011

Idaho Department of Water Resources
2735 Airport Way
Boise, Idaho 83705-5082
Attention: Mr. Rob Whitney 

Dear Rob,

I wanted to write and let you know my feelings on this past water season on Cold Springs Creek, Basin 61. The Double Anchor Ranch (Harley) finally called me out on July 12th, not because he had a complaint but he felt the water master needed to see just what the creek looked like at the end of the water season.

At this time there was no water other than some spring drainage at the Half Moon Ranch and Juan didn't expect any more water from Cold Springs Creek.

At the Double Anchor the weir on the ranch proper was dry. At their upper diversion the creek was totally dammed off and running 1.67 cfs at the weir which is well within their allotted amount. Since Charter Mountain Ranch Inc. also had the creek totally dammed off this water must be springs and such.

As mentioned above, Charter Mountain Ranch also had the creek totally diverted into the mainline. The digital read out flow meter at the ranch was reading between 1110 and 1235 gal./min. With this much variance it was obvious he was letting the water just free flow through the mainline. If this reading has any significance it would be between 2.5 and 2.75 cfs which is more than his first priority (1.84 cfs) but probably not enough that any extra would reach the Double Anchor. The digital flow meter down at the pond end read 0.00. The washed out weir at the ranch that John said he was repairing the next week had never been repaired. It was dry, but since I was never called out I don't know if it was ever used. John and Teresa were gone so I couldn't get any explanation and since everybody pretty much felt the season was ended I left it that way.

If I had been called out earlier and found problems, took steps to see they were corrected, am I than supposed to assume they were corrected or is the water master supposed to follow up without being called out again. A procedure for following up on problems needs to be clarified. I feel that there will always be problems at the Charter Mountain Ranch as I feel he has you guys pretty much buffaloed and realizes that as long as the Watermaster isn't called out he has free rein to do as he pleases. I also think it is wrong that Charter Mountain Ranch is the only user without a measureable weir at the diversion.

It isn't practical to have a Watermaster that is only used in a crisis situation. He has an obligation to be somewhat available yet receive no compensation for being responsible and never used. If the Bennett Creek & Cold Springs Creek Water District feels they need a water master then they need to utilize him a minimum of once a week during the main months of irrigating so he can be on top of what is going on. It also should specify that if

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some water district member isn't complying with his priority rights than he should be solely responsible for any extra cost incurred to see it is corrected. This would allow the Watermaster to keep things running smoothly. After several years of finding a new Watermaster every year, it should be obvious the current system isn't working.

I would continue to be the water master under a more workable situation but if it remains as is you will need to find yet another water master at the end of the year.

Sincerely,



Richard Neal, Current Water Master Districts 61D and 61E





Whitney, Rob

From: to-b1ask1@q.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2011 11:25 AM
To: Whitney, Rob
Subject: Cold Springs Creek

Hi Rob,

Today I'm sending by snail mail a short report on this past water season. I guess I'm supposed to write a report for the annual meeting?? This letter is primarily for you and Dan. The pictures on both sides of the photos are of the Mcallum's. I didn't take any at any place else. I'll see what kind of a positive, constructive report I can put together. The districts current system of having a watermaster won't ever work well no matter who the watermaster is. If they wish to continue a call out system on a complaint basis as is the current policy then they should only have to deal with the DWR. They are small enough to not afford a full time watermaster, yet large enough to need to be a district and I can see its a head ache for DWR. How many small districts like this do you contend with and do any have a better working solution than Cold Springs Creek? It's a challenging situation for sure.

Best Regards,

Rich Neal, Watermaster for Cold Springs Creek