

Luke, Tim

From: Skinner, Corey
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 4:33 PM
To: Kevin Lakey
Cc: bryanwood37N@outlook.com; Luke, Tim; Reeder, Jana; Erickson, Nathan
Subject: RE: Little Wood diversion at Carey

Kevin,

Thank you for bringing this concern to our attention. Tim and I discussed this matter yesterday afternoon. I also contacted Bryan Wood, Water District 37N (Upper Little Wood River) Watermaster, and discussed recent river operations in the Carey area. Mr. Wood provided the following information...

The Little Wood Irrigation District began drafting Little Wood Reservoir on January 31st pursuant to US Bureau of Reclamation guidance by releasing approximately 250 cfs of water from the reservoir. This release amount was gradually increased. Mr. Wood indicated that it took a week for the water to reach Carey when flows were approximately 350 cfs. By February 10th, releases from the reservoir had increased to approximately 500 cfs. Mr. Wood indicated that at times the USGS gage below the reservoir was reporting higher values, but upon examination of the gage, it was discovered that ice issues were causing the higher reported values. Over the last few days, releases from the reservoir have been reduced as they get closer to their goal of drafting the reservoir to the 5,000 acre-foot level. Mr. Wood indicated that as of yesterday there was approximately 120 cfs flowing into the reservoir and they were releasing approximately 360 cfs from the reservoir. The plan is that once they reach the 5,000 acre-foot level of storage they will attempt to maintain that reservoir level by matching releases with inflow until the big runoff this spring. Mr. Wood indicated that all of the releases from the reservoir have been running down the Little Wood River channel towards Carey, minus 10 cfs being diverted into the East Canal and West Canal near the USGS gage below the reservoir. This water was being diverted into the canals in an effort to help clean these two canal channels (snow and ice) in preparation for the low elevation snow melt between Carey and the reservoir. Mr. Wood indicated that the water in these two canals is not even making it to Dry Creek (north of Carey). Water flowing in the Little Wood River channel below the reservoir heads towards Carey and then is split into "two river channels" near/at Carey (west of Highway 93). Both of these channels cross the highway, with the north channel heading east towards the desert & lava flows east of town, before heading south and then back west towards Silver Creek. The south channel crosses the highway and then heads in a more southerly direction, generally paralleling the highway on the east side of the highway. Mr. Wood indicated that there is a check board structure at this channel split and that they attempt to balance the flows in each channel. He also indicated that the north channel that heads east towards the desert has a significant amount of loss, in particular along the lava flow at the edge of the desert and indicated that some of the landowners in the area indicate that "it sounds like a toilet". Both of these channels come back together approximately 4.0 to 4.5 miles south of the Highway 20 and Highway 93 junction in Carey (roughly southwest of the bend in the highway south of town). Both channels cross back across Highway 93 as they head west before joining back together and then continuing on towards Silver Creek. Mr. Wood indicated that he would estimate that there is about 75 – 100 cfs in the Little Wood channel as it meets Silver Creek. He also indicated that during the last few weeks that most of the water coming down the Little Wood River towards Shoshone was due to Silver Creek flows.

Examination of the USGS website for the gage below Little Wood Reservoir (https://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/uv?cb_00060=on&cb_00065=on&format=gif_default&site_no=13148500&period=&begin_date=2017-01-31&end_date=2017-03-09), aerial photography, and maps corroborates the information provided by Mr. Wood. It seems to me that the main concern that some of the downstream water users may have is the running of water in the channel that heads east out of Carey towards the desert/lava. Mr. Wood indicated that there were "two river channels" with the north channel that heads east having significant loss. During my review of this matter, I noted that the USGS (Carey) quadrangle for the area identifies the north channel that heads east towards the desert and parallels the lava along the edge of the dessert as the "Little Wood River" with no other channels leaving Carey being identified as the Little Wood River.

Hopefully this will address the concerns that were brought to you. I would appreciate it if you could pass this information on to the water users you mentioned in your letter. If you have any questions, or want to discuss this matter any further, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Corey

From: Kevin Lakey [mailto:watermanager@cableone.net]

Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 1:12 PM

To: Luke, Tim <Tim.Luke@idwr.idaho.gov>; Skinner, Corey <Corey.Skinner@idwr.idaho.gov>

Subject: Little Wood diversion at Carey

Tim,

Corey and I spoke about this matter yesterday over the phone. The attached letter will give a little more detail, but simply put Bill Arkoosh is asking for releases from Little Wood Reservoir that are required by B.O.R. be kept in the Little Wood Channel and not be allowed to run into the desert where the flow does not return to the river. I believe this practice has been carried out for many years in large water years, but nobody has really taken notice. As I say in my letter, this is not my jurisdiction, but I told Mr. Arkoosh that I would request the IDWR look into it. I'm sure we'll be in touch.

Kevin Lakey

Water District 37

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

WATER DISTRICT 37
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MAR 13 2017

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



Kevin Lakey
Watermaster

March 8, 2017

Tim Luke
Water Compliance Bureau Chief
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Idaho Water Center
322 East Front Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-7374

Corey Skinner
Southern Region Manager
Idaho Department of Water Resources
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 500
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301-5858

Gentlemen:

On March 6, 2017 I was contacted by Bill Arkoosh of Arkoosh Hydropower about a possible illegal diversion from the Little Wood River at Carey, Idaho.

Yesterday March 7, 2017, I spoke to Corey Skinner concerning the matter and we discussed options available. At that time I told Corey that I would go to Carey and look into the matter. Upon arriving in Carey, I found by visual appraisal approximately 100 to 150 cfs flowing in the Little Wood River Channel upstream from the City of Carey. The river was then split with approximately half the flow traveling in a canal in an easterly direction and towards the desert east of Carey where it does not return to the river. The other half of the flow traveled in a more Southeast direction in the old Little Wood channel where it eventually flows toward Richfield and Shoshone. In my research, I did not find a water right in that area for recharge or stockwater from the Little Wood River.

This morning I spoke to Mr. Arkoosh and explained what I had seen. In our conversation, Mr. Arkoosh said that he does not want to force anyone to flood the City of Carey by forcing too much water where it will not fit, but on the other hand wants diversion without a water right to cease. I told him diversions in that area are in Water District 37N and are not in my jurisdiction and that I did not feel comfortable telling another Watermaster how to do his job. I told him that I would refer the matter to IDWR. Thus, the purpose of this letter is to formally request on behalf of water users within my jurisdiction that IDWR investigate this matter in an adjoining district not in my jurisdiction.

In my conversation with Mr. Arkoosh, I said that the IDWR may not accept the request from me as Watermaster since it deals with matters outside of my jurisdiction. I told him that IDWR may require him to make the request instead. Mr. Arkoosh said that he would be willing to do that, but wasn't sure of the proper procedure in handling such a matter and wanted to be sure all of his bases were covered. Mr. Arkoosh also added that he had been in conversations with the individuals listed below and that he was informally representing them in this matter at this time.

Koyle Hydropower
Attn: Alan Koyle
1505 South 1800 East
Gooding, Idaho

Ravenscroft Hydropower
Attn: Alan Ravenscroft
1331 Shoestring Rd.
Bliss, Idaho 83314

Shorrock Hydropower Inc.
Attn: Jack Straubhar
P.O. box 1787
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

If you need any other information that I may be able to provide, I am happy to do so. I will also be sending a signed hard copy of this document for your records.

Respectfully,



Kevin Lakey
Water District 37

Cc:

Bill Arkoosh
Alan Koyle
Alan Ravenscroft
Jack Straubhar