

Annual Watermaster Report for 2018

May

- The winter of 2017/2018 left snow in the "Twin Lakes Drainage" similar to amounts seen in the winter of 2016/2017. The spring melt occurred in mid-April, nearly one month later than the previous year.
- The Flood Control District maintained control of the dam into early May, raising the lake to its highest level of 2018: 10.2 feet.
- I measured Fish Creek on the 20th finding roughly 45 cfs, while a measurement at the dam showed roughly 8 cfs. This confirmed the high loss to seepage occurring at higher lake levels.
- I walked the entire stream from the dam to the Sylte Ranch in late May, taking pictures and video along the way. Many areas needing attention were noted and discussed with IDWR in the coming weeks and months.
- The annual meeting was held on May 24 where I retained the position of watermaster, unopposed.

June

- Regular stream measurements were taken as stream flows and lake levels remained high. Access to Fish Creek was made by kayak.

July

- Regular measurements of inflow and outflow to the lake continued throughout the month.
- I attended the annual TLIA meeting on the 7th, learning more about the district and ongoing projects. I answered questions from concerned district members that attended the meeting. I also met with members of Idaho Department of Lands present at the meeting and discussed the health of the drainage.
- I met with IDWR personnel in early July to formulate a plan for site visits and an "inventory" of water right holders, and their diversions, along Rathdrum Creek.
- I walked the unnamed creek upstream from John Sylte's property after complaints were made with IDWR disputing the way the water was being diverted on the Finman property. I then set up a meeting with Joe Carlson of IDWR at the Sylte Ranch to discuss the diversions. No resolution was found, and the dispute between Sylte and Finman over the unnamed stream continued throughout the summer.
- By late July, I was told by IDWR that if water could not reach the point of diversion of Gordon Sylte's stockwater right at some point, the gate at the dam would be closed, stopping the flow to Rathdrum Creek completely. This would have a significant impact on at least one water right holder along Rathdrum Creek, Mark Miller. He claimed to depend

on the stream for domestic drinking water at a house he owns along the creek, where water is treated by means of a filtration system.

- A concerted effort was made to minimize losses along Rathdrum Creek in order to avoid the loss of the creek flow, beginning with the Sylte Ranch. A plan was developed, and a Water District Advisory meeting was held in order to discuss how to approach compliance, starting with the Sylte Ranch and continuing upstream.

August

- Those on the Sylte Ranch worked hard to stop in-stream water losses over the first few weeks of August. Several dams were minimized or eliminated, and debris was cleared, making it possible to maintain flow to the point of diversion at the stockyard for the remainder of the season.
- I met with Joe Carlson on Paul Finman's property. We surveyed all water right locations, including Rathdrum Creek and the unnamed stream upstream from John Sylte. We also looked over pond and irrigation systems in place.
- I met with Joe Carlson on Mark Miller's property and completed a survey of his diversions while walking the entirety of his properties along the creek.
- I continued to meet with others along Rathdrum Creek including the Park's, Coyle's, Greilic's, and many in between. Concerns along the creek were mitigated with the help of Joe Carlson at IDWR.
- I had conference calls with management and legal advisors at IDWR (local and state levels) throughout the month. Discussions involved how to interpret and apply language set forth by the 1989 decree. By the end of August, I was told a portion of the incoming flow to the lake could still be released from the dam should water no longer reach the stockwater point of diversion on the Sylte Ranch. It would likely be enough to supply water to the domestic water right on Mark Miller's property.

September

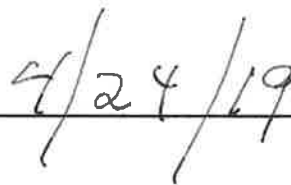
- Site visits continued through the month, including those around the lake. A new GIS map and database was made available by IDWR for use in the field.
- A few more measurements were taken for inflow and outflow determination as flows stabilized after very little precipitation through the summer. Water continued to flow to the stockwater right on the Sylte Ranch.
- I met with Joe Carlson and Curtis Johnson (Stream Alteration Specialist) of IDWR at the Finman property. We discussed possible diversion of Rathdrum Creek with Paul Finman. Nearly one half of the losses in water flow from the dam to the stockwater diversion on the Sylte Ranch occurred on a section of stream along his property. A proposal to return the stream to its natural channel was discussed. No decision was made.

October

- Site visits continued around the lake and down Rathdrum Creek.
- A few more measurements of inflow and outflow were taken. Water continued to reach the stockwater right on the Sylte Ranch.
- I received a call from the Flood Control District early in the month concerning possible contributions to new equipment at the dam.
- I met with the Flood Control District at IDWR later in the month to further discuss contributions. It was determined our budget did not allow a large contribution at that point in time. No contribution was made from the Water District.
- The control of the dam was transferred to the Flood Control District around the end of October in preparation for the winter months.

November/December

- IDWR personnel suggested in late fall that the district may be reduced to include only those using greater than a domestic amount. I was given a list of roughly 94 water district records (out of 450 records) and tasked with confirming how much they currently use and how much they intend to use in the future, along with updating their contact information.
- I continued working on this task through the winter and spring, making occasional phone calls and site visits.



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Watermaster
Water District 95-C