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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

February 21, 2007

Nick Miller
Engineer Associate
Water Distribution
Idaho Department of Water Resources

RE: 2006 Water Diversions in WD34

Dear Nick;

As you can tell from my many telephone calls to you, I have been reviewing and trying to understand many of the details and general operations regarding the 2006 Water Right Accounting for the Big Lost River. Generally speaking, 2006 was a good water year producing periods of time within the irrigation season when no surface water rights were curtailed and even a period of time when significant surface water supplies were available for managed recharge within the basin.

From the record it appears the BLRID primary storage rights (34-10873, 34-00012, and 34-02507) were satisfied by May 25th and the other five minor rights continued to be satisfied within their respective priorities until they were either filled or curtailed by the watermaster. The record does not show to what extent water right 34-00013 was exchanged for other water rights in the "3 in 1 Canal", and I can not tell for sure exactly when the Mackay Reservoir filled and water began to spill over the "spill-way", but it appears to have been full some time around June 12th. Managed recharge continued until late June and the watermaster did not curtail any natural flow surface water rights until July 13th (last right available on that day was 04/01/1908). And that portion of the Big Lost River located above the Mackay Reservoir became "administratively disconnected" from the portion of the river located below the reservoir on July 21st.

My question is, during the period of time from May 1st to June 30th (June 30th appears to be the first day storage water was released from the reservoir for irrigation purposes showing a content change of -70.6 CFS) when there was relatively high surface water flows in the Big Lost River and Antelope Creek, how much "storage water, free water, and/or additional water" was diverted into the canal headings below the Mackay Reservoir? This means water supplies that were in addition to supplies used to fill natural flow and recharge water rights.

I would very much appreciate your response as soon as you are able to answer. If you need me to be any more specific in my question, please call me. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Mitchell D. Sorensen