

Water District 170
Watermaster Report of Activities
Annual Meeting January 26, 2021

2020 activities:

- 724 hours charged to WD170. Approximate value to District \$54,073
- Covid-19 restrictions completely derailed plans for public meetings to introduce information regarding expansion of WD170 to include Administrative Basin 75. Basin 75 includes the Salmon River and tributaries downstream of Ellis, Idaho, to the Middle Fork Salmon River confluence, with the exception of the Lemhi Basin which is already a part of WD170.
- Covid restrictions affected non-essential field work in WD170. Watermasters and water delivery are considered essential by the IDWR Director, so all WD170 subdistrict watermasters were appointed and called to duty as usual. Watermasters were advised to take precautions to protect their health and that of their water users. Only one subdistrict, WD74J, did not have a returning watermaster. This did help to keep in-person training to a minimum. Watermaster workshops were not held in 2020. WD170 provided assistance in recruiting and training a watermaster for WD74J.
- Continued work toward compliance with the 2018 Lemhi Measurement Order. Conducted onsite followup of individual extensions of time which had been issued advancing the deadline to install measuring devices on certain diversions in B74. Not all water users requested an extension of time. Some B74 diversions remain out of compliance and may be subject to future regulatory action.
- WD73 and WD74 both interested in Survey 1,2,3 automated watermaster reporting application using smart phone or tablet. Have worked for several months assembling diversion information in WD74 and thanks to input from Rick Sager, hope to submit data within the next 30 days for preparation of the WD74 survey. WD73 survey is in development, needs measuring device information which will require coordination with the local watermaster.

2021 goals:

- Schedule public information meeting(s) for Basin 75 expansion. If traditional meetings cannot be held, consider alternate ways of sharing information such as virtual meeting (Zoom), radio broadcasts or outdoor venues.
- Fully implement Survey 1,2,3 in WD73 and WD74.
- Work to create and implement compliance plans for diversions in Basin 74 that are not yet in compliance with measurement order.
- Issue Watermaster instructions for administration of water transaction projects in subdistricts 71, 72D, 74C, and 74W.