SOUTH FORK CANALS PRESENTATON AND FUNDING REQUEST TO THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

November 19, 2013

Non recoverable costs of operations

1. Recharge.... At least 700,000 acre feet per year including seepage losses as well as flood irrigation losses. Wintertime operations that provide "managed" recharge all winter. Most winter volumes reach 50,000 acre feet recharged into the aquifer. Both summertime flows and winter time flows support and provide reach gains to lower valley users and slow water travel downstream, providing more manageable and useful river flows.

2. Flood control.... The South Fork canals have always participated in efforts to minimize flooding in flood events. In the flood of 1997 for example the water managers asked the canals to open early to "dispose" of as much water as possible. The South Fork canals went to great lengths to "dispose" of water by calling upon the water users to take water. The flooding at Blackfoot and other points was greatly reduced because of our actions.

3. The Willow Creek drainage and the operation of the Ririe Reservoir greatly impact the cost of operations for the Progressive Irrigation district. In 2011 a flood in the cities of Ammon and Idaho Falls was averted when farmers on the Progressive turned on to "dispose of" water that the flood channel simply could not carry. The costs were all borne by the irrigators and canal operators.

4. The great feeder itself provides the only means of waste water disposal for at least 3 incorporated cities.... Rigby, Ririe and Menan. Without continuous year round flows operational plans likely would not meet EPA & DEQ requirements.

5. Fishing & Recreation and Riparian..... The great feeder and the other South Fork canals provide significant, "close" in fishing opportunities for sportsmen. Bald and golden eagle nests are abundant, as are the ducks geese and other wildlife.

6. Aesthetic values have supported a building industry that has led to many high end subdivisions. Rigby Lake is nothing more than a recharge site that fills from the Great Feeder. On a summer day, thousands of people use the facilities.

7. The Great Feeder gate is used by dozens of vehicles each day as a bridge to cross the river.

8. The cost of the infrastructure in need of replacement or repair will require funding estimated in the 1.5 to 2 million dollar range. The useful life of the structures involved is rapidly coming to a close.