

**Abbreviated Meeting Notes**  
**Water District 01**  
**Upper Snake River Advisory Meeting, October 30, 2014**

*Notes: This meeting was held in the Boise, Idaho, Idaho Department of Water Resources conference room. There was also the option to connect into the meeting remotely via conference call and using GoToMeeting.*

1. **Introductions were made and an attendance list was circulated. The following people were in attendance:**

Norm Semanko (IWUA)	Dale Swenson (FMID)
Liz Cresto (IDWR)	Dan Temple (A&B)
Neal Farmer (IDWR)	Lyle Swank (WD01)
Brian Patton (IDWR)	Tony Olenchiak (WD01)
Cyntia Clark (IDWR)	Rob Keller (WD01)
Roger Chase (IWRB)	Dan Davidson (MID)
Jon Bowling (IPCO)	Mike Beus (USBR)
Peter Anderson (T.U.)	John H. (USBR)
John Simpson (Barker Rosholt)	Shawn Ellis (Capital Press)
Teresa Molitor (GFCC)	

2. **Mike Beus, with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR or Bureau), gave a presentation** on the current state of the reservoirs, overview of 2014 operations, climate forecasts, and storage system fill forecasts. Mike started off with the statement that the reservoirs are currently in “good shape” and that 2014 had been an “interesting year”. Mike presented the teacup diagrams for 10/29/2014 which indicated the system was 45% full. Mike next reviewed the April through July runoff predictions from April 1 and compared them to the observed value of 118% of normal. Most of the forecasts over-predicted reality, perhaps in part due to a slow melt period leading to more soil infiltration and less runoff. Mike presented two slides depicting hydrographs of the physical system storage of the Upper Snake in July and in October with 2013, 2012, 2008, and 2007 shown for comparison. Mike also presented a slide recapping flows at Milner during the irrigation season and noted spikes in flow due to flow augmentation releases, IPCO storage releases, and above normal precipitation in August. Mike presented slides illustrating NOAA’s three month forecasts for precipitation (equal chance) and temperature (33% chance below normal and equal chance). Mike next presented three slides depicting forecast operations for American Falls (AFR), Palisades, and Jackson Reservoirs. The forecasts are new products the Bureau is working on that are derived from their RiverWare model of the Upper Snake. Each forecast depicts a dry, wet, and mean projection of reservoir content. For AFR, the dry and wet forecasts projected full fill by April, and the mean forecast projected slightly less than full fill. For Palisades, all three forecasts predicted a complete or nearly complete fill by mid-June. For Jackson, all three forecasts predicted a complete or nearly complete fill by late-June. Mike concluded with a brief overview of the winter operations and flows for AFR (minimum gate opening equaling 365 cfs under current head) and Palisades (900 cfs).

A question was asked regarding the current draw down of the Milner Pool. It was noted that a dam safety inspection forced the draw down, resulting in 1,200 cfs of flows at Milner for two weeks.

Refer to attached slides as presented by Mike during the meeting.

3. **Lyle Swank, Water District 01 Water Master, discussed the current state of the system and** provided a brief overview of the past water year. Lyle revisited the Bureau's teacup diagrams and noted that almost all canals had shut off, indicating that Dry Bed would shut off by 10/31. Lyle compared 2014 to 2013 operations and reservoir content, indicating the system contained an "average" carryover volume heading into the next storage season. Lyle was asked, or asked the question "is the drought over"? Lyle responded with a maybe, but noted the effect of the drought on the river was not over.
4. **Jon Bowling, Idaho Power, gave an update on Idaho Power operations. He started off by** discussing fall Chinook salmon operations at Brownlee and Hells Canyon, resulting in 8,500 – 9,000 cfs flows at Hells Canyon through December 10. IPCO's goal was to have Brownlee full by 12/10. Jon discussed operations at Milner Dam and the high flows due to drafting the reservoir for maintenance.

Lyle asked for an update on cloud seeding operations. Jon discussed upcoming operations and expansion of their program over five years.

5. **Neal Farmer, IDWR, gave an update on late season and winter time recharge operations. He** recapped current recharge diversions into the Milner-Gooding Canal (300 cfs) and TFCC main south side canal (50 cfs). Recharge in the AFRD2 system was occurring in the Milner-Gooding Canal through milepost 31 and in the off-canal basin at MP31. No water was flowing past MP31. Recharge in the TFCC was occurring in the canal down through Murtaugh Lake, and in the lake itself. Neal indicated that SWID hoped to divert 20 cfs of recharge as soon as the pool level in Milner was high enough to operate their pumps. Neal also briefly recapped injection well tests at the Milner Pool, dye testing, and the support role of LSARD and IPCO in measuring and monitoring recharge.

Roger Chase asked how much water we hoped to be able to recharge in injection wells at the Milner Pool. Neal responded by acknowledging it was very early in the testing process, but we ultimately hoped to get 10 cfs at one or more wells at that location.

6. **Lyle Swank provided an overview of the "reset" of storage water right priority dates in the** water right accounting program. Lyle initiated the conversation by discussing the reset date and the logical need for a reset date in the programming. He indicated that currently the reset date is programmed as 9/15, and this is usually indicative of the "trough" between decreasing natural flow diversions and the need to start filling storage. This date helps ensure that the water right accounting program can accrue natural flow to storage rights late in the season thereby optimizing reservoir fill. Dan Temple asked about the impacts to natural flow water rights junior to Walcott that were forced to use storage after the reset date. This dilemma is the rub of the issue. Discussion closed with acknowledgement that this is an important issue in need of further discussion and resolution, but the Operations Forum was not the right setting.
7. **Under new business the group discussed the timing for the next meeting. It was decided to** target the next meeting for mid-March unless changing weather and storage conditions warranted an earlier meeting.