

Abbreviated Meeting Notes
Water District 01
Upper Snake River Advisory Meeting, February 25, 2015

Notes: This meeting was held jointly in the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Eastern Regional Office and State Office, with participants free to join either location to participate in person. There was also an option to connect into the meeting remotely via conference call and GoToMeeting.

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

Neal Farmer (IDWR)	Dan Temple (A&B)
Brian Patton (IDWR)	Dan Davidson (MID)
Cynthia Clark (IDWR)	Steve Howser (ASCC)
Wesley Hipke (IDWR)	Lyle Swank (WD01)
Roger Chase (IWRB)	Tony Olenchiak (WD01)
Walt Poole (IDFG)	Rob Keller (WD01)
Jon Bowling (IPCO)	Jerry Gregg (USBR)
Kresta Davis-Butts (IPCO)	Mike Beus (USBR)
Sarah Higan (IPCO)	John Hildreth (USBR)
Mike Webster	Ferman (USBR)
Peter Anderson (T.U.)	Travis Thompson (Barker Rosholt)
Brian Olmstead (TFCC)	Hal Anderson (IWE)
Dale Swenson (FMID)	Dave Tuthill (IWE)

2. **Mike Beus, with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR or Bureau):**

Mike reported that the Upper Snake Reservoir system as a whole was at 78% capacity, an increase of 3% from the February 10th meeting. The 3% increase in the reservoir system was a result of an increase at American Falls Reservoir (4%) and Palisades Reservoir (2%). At this time, the system fill is above average. Currently Palisades Reservoir fill is above average and flow out of the reservoir will not change unless the reservoir falls below 88%. American Falls Reservoir is on track with the average fill. Flows at the Snake River near Blackfoot gage show a decrease that is believed to be due to a combination of a drop off in snowmelt and recharge diversions. Flows out of American Falls Reservoir were decrease on the evening of Feb. 24th to increase fill of the reservoir. Lake Walcott is low due to a police action.

Mike discussed NRCS SNOTEL Basin Maps for February 25th, noting that above Palisades the snowpack had decreased from 116% to 105%. Based on NRCS data if projected snow pack is minimum the Snake Basin above Palisades would still be in the 40th percentile. If the snow pack continues to follow the average it will be in the 50th percentile. Mike shared that the weather forecast for the Tetons is projected to be slightly above average for the near future and average for the 6 to 10 day forecast. Precipitation in the ESPA is predicted to be close to average for the seven-day forecast and below average for the 6 to 10 day forecast. The temperature forecast is predicted to be cooler for the same time period. The USBR plan is to expedite data collection this week, working toward an operating forecast early next week. With the forecast, Mike did not expect changes at the operations of Palisades. Mike said that predicting operations at American Falls Reservoir and downstream is trickier. There is the potential that return flows from recharge could

elevate the need to reduce flows at American Falls Reservoir. However, if flows continue to decrease flows out of American Falls Reservoir would continue to be reduced to increase storage in the reservoir system. The USBR will be watching the weather forecasts carefully. Irrigation demand could come earlier, however, these same conditions could also correspond to early snowmelt.

Dale Swenson asked if the decrease flows out of American Falls Reservoir would affect the 2,700 cfs flows at Minidoka and would they need to cut flows further. Mike responded that if the system received 1" or more it would reduce the need to further decrease the flow out of American Falls Reservoir.

3. **Lyle Swank, Water District 01 Water Master:**

Lyle passed on his appreciation for the USBR providing the waivers concerning winter savings at Palisades to allow the effected canal companies and irrigation districts to participate in recharge deliveries. Lyle also mentioned that the Committee of 9 subcommittees on recharge and reservoir operations would be meeting to discuss these issues. Water District 01 has been supporting recharge deliveries by having staff verifying recharge amounts by QCing diversion reports.

4. **Kresta Davis-Butts, Idaho Power:**

Idaho Power's position has not changed from the previous meeting. Construction is still occurring at their Shoshone Falls hydropower plant, therefore from their standpoint, the less water in the river at that location the better. There is the possibility of moving the project schedule up, however, they are waiting on forecast to decide.

5. **Wesley Hipke, IDWR – Recharge Update:**

Wesley provided a brief update on late season and wintertime recharge operations. He recapped current and cumulative recharge diversions in the Upper and Lower Valleys. In the Upper Valley Fremont Madison Irrigation District, Great Feeder Canal Company, and Aberdeen-Springfield Canal Company are each recharging 170 cfs. In the Lower Valley, the American Falls Reservoir District 2 system is diverting 200 cfs between the canal, MP31 site, Gooding flood channel, and the Shoshone site. Twin Falls Canal Company is currently diverting 47 cfs and plans to continue until the start of irrigation deliveries. Southwest Irrigation District has been diverting water for recharge since February 6 and is currently at 27 cfs. Northside Canal Co. (NSCC) started diverting on February 18th. NSCC's current diversion is 600 cfs, however, it has ranged between 60 to 600 csf as a result of infiltration testing being conducted at Wilson Lake. Once the testing is completed, they will keep the system at equilibrium (~130 cfs).

6. **New Business:**

The group discussed the timing for the next meeting. It was decided to set the next meeting on Wednesday April 8th (4/8) at 1:30 pm.