Summary of Daily Average and Four-day Moving Average Flows at Station 10, Little Wood River at Richfield, May 1 – September 30, 2023 IDWR: 2/16/2024

This document summarizes flows in the Little Wood River at Station 10 near Richfield, Idaho from May 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023, in support of other year end reporting specified in the BWRGWMA Management Plan (Management Plan):

A goal of the Management Plan is to maintain a 32 cubic feet per second (cfs) four-day moving average stream flow target from May 1 through September 30 at Station 10 on the Little Wood near Richfield. This flow target is intended to support delivery of senior surface water rights and both stream and aquifer health.¹

The Ground Water Districts (GWDs) will submit a year-end report to the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) by December 1 summarizing actions taken to maintain the stream flow target.² Abundant 2023 winter snowpack and spring runoff conditions, coupled with a full supply of water from Magic Reservoir, contributed to a strong water supply and good streamflow conditions for the Little Wood River. The strong water supply conditions triggered few if any additional actions by the GWDs to maintain the Station 10 streamflow target.

The Station 10 gage is a site where river gage monitoring equipment has been used to measure and record river flows for many years. The site has been maintained in the past by both the USGS and Water District 37. Both Water District 37 and IDWR currently maintain flow monitoring equipment at the site. IDWR has monitored the site since Spring 2021. Instantaneous and average daily flows at Station 10, and other gage stations maintained by IDWR, are published to IDWR's Aqua Info webpage at: https://research.idwr.idaho.gov/apps/hydrologic/aquainfo

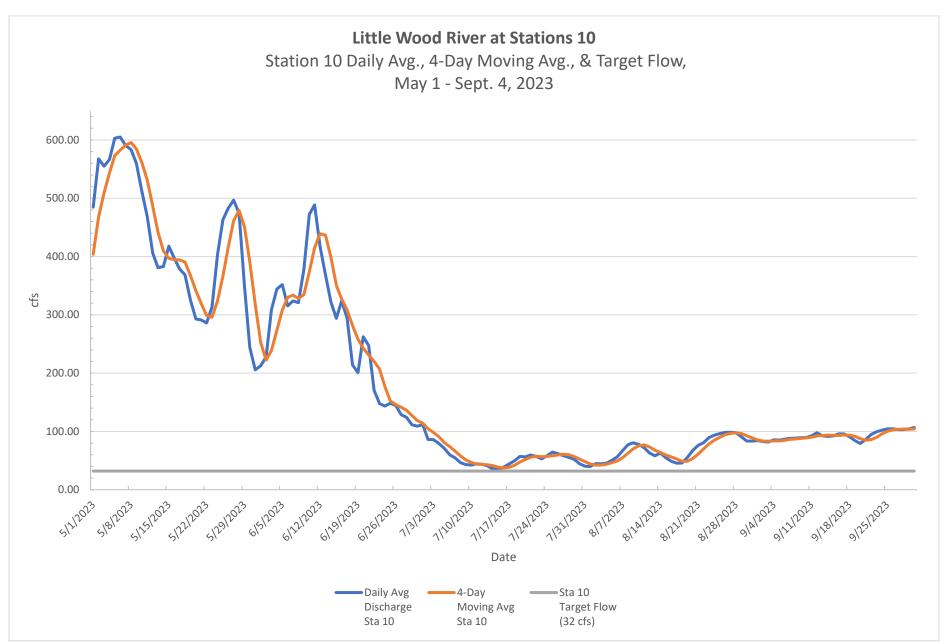
Department staff regularly visit Station 10 to calibrate monitoring equipment, maintain a river stage-discharge rating, and apply rating shifts as necessary. In 2023, IDWR staff visited Station 10 every 2 to 6 weeks, depending on flows, from May 04 to September 23. At each visit, staff inspect monitoring equipment and measure stream discharge. The ongoing site visit measurements are used to maintain the stage-discharge rating developed by IDWR. Rating shifts are applied as necessary by staff.

The hydrograph on the following page shows both daily average and four-day moving average flows in the Little Wood River near Richfield at Station 10. The daily average flows shown are those published for Station 10 on IDWR's Aqua Info web page. The daily four-day moving average flows were calculated separately by IDWR staff.

As observed from the hydrograph, the 32 cfs four-daily moving average target flow was satisfied during the entire May 1- September 30 period. High flow conditions were sustained through late June. The moving average was above 40 cfs from July through September except for three days in mid-July. The lowest daily average flows during the period reached about 35 cfs for several days in mid-July, but increased slightly from there and held consistently between 40 and 90 cfs through September.

¹ Final Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Management Plan. April 29, 2022, p. 9.

² Final Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Management Plan. April 29, 2022, p. 10.



Source: IDWR 2/16/2024