

WATER REPORT – June 27, 2017

Beginning June 28, 2017 the USBR is calling for their recently adjudicated “Refill 2” water right to be delivered to refill the remaining empty space evacuated for flood control in both Jackson Lake and Palisades Reservoirs. What this means to other water users is that any water right issued after May 1, 2014 will be curtailed until the available volume of the USBR’s Refill 2 water right has been satisfied.

Water rights issued after May 1, 2014 include the recharge permits of Snake River Valley Canal (6/19/2013 priority), Peoples Canal (6/19/2013 priority), and Aberdeen-Springfield Canal (4/14/2014 priority), and all other water rights or permits with priority dates later than May 1, 2014. Even though the IWRB’s permitted 1980-priority water right was issued before May 1, 2014 it has been the policy of the IWRB to maximize reservoir storage ahead of recharge and, therefore, request all diversions using its recharge water right refrain from diverting water for recharge while the USBR is calling for the delivery to its Refill 2 water right.

Water travel times and forecasting when Milner Spill ceases can make precise projections of post-5/1/2014 curtailment dates difficult. Here is a schedule for projected curtailments to post-5/1/2014 issued water rights over the next few days for various reaches in Water District #1 assuming Milner Spill ceases on 7/2/2017:

- Henrys Fork Basin curtailed 6/27/2017
- Snake River Irwin to Idaho Falls curtailed 6/28/2017
- Idaho Falls to Blackfoot curtailed 6/29/2017
- American Falls to Minidoka curtailed 7/1/2017
- Minidoka to Milner curtailed 7/2/2017.

If Milner Spill continues until 7/3/2017, an additional day should be added to the above curtailment dates. If Milner Spill ceases on 7/4/2018, add two days to the above curtailment dates....and so on. Any diversions diverting water out-of-priority after these projected curtailment dates will be charged with diverting storage which will be deducted from their upcoming storage allocations.

Releases from Jackson Lake and Palisades Reservoirs are expected to be decreasing over the next week along with downstream tributary and river discharges. Projected water right priority deliveries and the status of Milner Spill are updated each weekday in the PROJECTED WATER RIGHTS tab of the www.waterdistrict1.com webpage.

USRRS FLOW SCHEMATIC

