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Black Rock Update

In February 2003, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior, acting through Reclamation, to conduct the Storage Study. The Storage Study is an ongoing evaluation of options for additional water storage facilities to improve water supplies for the Yakima River basin. Congress authorized a Storage Study with emphasis on the feasibility of the potential for Black Rock Reservoir. Other alternatives to which Black Rock Reservoir is to be compared are Bumping Lake Enlargement, Wymer Reservoir, and Keechelus to Kachess pipeline.

One purpose of the Storage Study is to develop additional stored water and manage it to improve anadromous fish habitat. To this end, the water supply goal is to restore the flow regime of the Yakima and Naches Rivers to some semblance of the natural (unregulated) hydrograph. A second purpose is to improve the reliability of the Yakima Project water supply to provide not less than 70 percent supply for junior (proratable) water rights in dry years. Another purpose is to meet growth demand for municipal water supply. Because the Federal authorization includes the provisions, "...with emphasis on the feasibility of storage of Columbia River water in the potential Black Rock Reservoir..." and because the State of Washington appropriated \$4 million in the 2003 legislative session, also instructing that initial study emphasis be on the Black Rock alternative, the appraisal assessment of the Black Rock alternative (Assessment) was undertaken as an early component of the Storage Study. This Assessment focuses on the technical viability of the Black Rock alternative and the potential of a water exchange to

meet the Storage Study purposes. For complete article see website: www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study.

The Summary Report, Appraisal Assessment of the Black Rock Alternative (Summary Report) merges into a single document the information and findings of numerous technical reports prepared for this Assessment. The assessment is limited to engineering and technical aspects. The economic, financial, environmental, cultural, and social evaluations have not been conducted. A benefit-cost analysis has not been prepared. Likewise, a cost allocation to reimbursable and non-reimbursable project purposes has not been made, and an analysis of the ability to repay the reimbursable costs is yet to be done.

The Summary Report also identifies two technical issues involved with the Black Rock alternative that will need to be addressed: seismicity and leakage through the basalt and it sets the framework for further analyses. There are technical issues that need further study. The individual Reclamation reports will be published as a part of a technical series on the Storage Study website http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study/index.html at, or near, the time the Summary Report is released. Current estimate for construction cost for Black Rock Reservoir is \$3.5 to \$4 billion. *source: Bureau of Reclamation*



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2004 Water Quality

Monitoring data from the 2004 irrigation season showed that water quality in RSBOJC drains remained fairly consistent with the previous year. This season, three of the four main drain outlets met the Washington State Department of Ecology's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for suspended solids. The TMDL process is used to help the lower Yakima River and its tributaries meet specified water quality standards. The loads are estimates of the quantity of polluting material that the river can "safely" absorb without threatening beneficial uses of the river. Results for the season are reported both as 'turbidity' and 'total suspended solids (TSS) loading'. For compliance with the TMDL, irrigation water returning to the lower Yakima River must meet a turbidity goal of not more than 25 nephelometric turbidity units, or NTU.

Turbidity is a measurement of water clarity that relates directly to the concentration of suspended solids in water. For compliance purposes, the turbidity of each drainage outlet is reported at the "90th percentile" (90% of the measurements lie below that value and only 10% above). TSS loading is the actual measured concentration of suspended solids multiplied by the discharge of the drain, reported in tons/day.

During the irrigation season, turbidity and TSS were measured biweekly at the four primary drainage outlets to the Yakima River. They are sampled monthly during the non-irrigation season. As illustrated by Chart 1, the TMDL goal was met at the Sulphur, Snipes and Spring Creek Wasteway sites. With a value of 47 NTU, Granger drain continued to exceed the turbidity goal.

TSS loading has also been calculated for the four drainage sites. As shown in Chart 2, the median loading at Snipes Creek Wasteway was 0.25 ton/day, with 4.2 tons/day for Spring Creek Wasteway. Sulphur Creek Wasteway, had a load of 12.6 tons/day. Loading at Granger drain totaled 12.6 tons/day. Due to the larger volume of water discharged at Sulphur Creek Wasteway, it had a higher TSS load than Granger Drain. This is in spite of the fact that Sulphur Creek Wasteway has lower turbidity values.

In addition to meeting a TSS TMDL, the Granger Drain also has a TMDL for fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliform bacteria are a prime indicator of fecal contamination in water. These bacteria are measured as the number of colony-forming units (cfu) per 100 milliliters (mL) of water. The TMDL goal for 2012, reported in geomean, is 100 cfu/100mL. Samples over the last seven years show that fecal coliform concentrations have declined dramatically. This season, Granger drain had a geomean value of 350 cfu/100ml.

Results from the 2004 irrigation season show that gains made in previous years have been maintained, and that there is still some room for additional improvement.

In Memory of.....

James L. Sorensen passed away in February. Mr. Sorensen was born in Sunnyside. He was a long time farmer and Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Board member from 1977 thru 1980. Survivors include his wife, Annette Sorensen of Prosser; one daughter, Arlys Wyant of El Sugendo, Calif.; two sons, Alan Sorensen of Prosser and Lance Sorensen of Selah; 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Water Quality continued.....

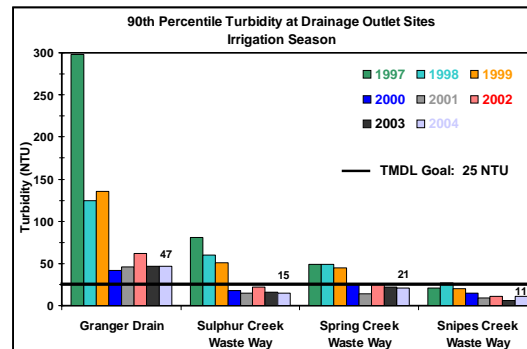
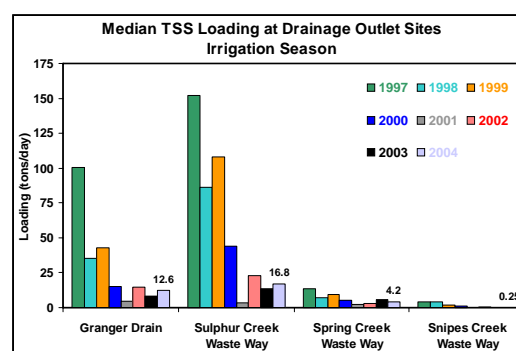


Chart Two



Jim Rice retires after 26 years of service

Jim Rice started with Snipes Mountain Irrigation in 1975, and four years later in 1979 became a Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District ditchrider. Jim will be retiring on February 28, 2005. He will be moving to central California for the summer months and spending the winter months in Prosser with his son (David).

Jim has plans to work part-time and the rest of the time spend with his grand children and working on a few hobbies like gardening and volunteering with abused teenagers. In the fall of 2005 there are plans for a retirement party for Jim (no date scheduled at this time). And in May Jim will be taking a cruise to Alaska for his 50th birthday. Looks like Jim is planning on enjoying every minute of retirement. Good Luck Jim!

Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project photo update



The Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project is coming along, as you can tell in this February 23, 2005 photograph.

The Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project is the result of a settlement agreement between the United States, Washington Department of Ecology, and Sunnyside Division in the Yakima Basin Water Rights Adjudication. Under the agreement, Sunnyside will reduce its annual diversion entitlement by 19,450 acre-feet (two-thirds) and will retain 9,712 acre-feet (one-third) annually to improve the availability of water supplies for irrigation. The project is expected to take 9 years to complete.



RSBOJC Participates in Training Grant Opportunity

During February and March, both Roza and SVID along with *Mountain States Construction Company* have been participants in a Construction Supervisor Training Course offered by the Association of General Contractors (AGC) Central Washington Region Office. The training courses; held over several evening sessions were 2 of the 10 modules of AGC's *Supervisor Training Program (STP)* curriculum. The subject matter of the courses dealt with *Managing a Cost-Effective Project* from the pre-planning stage to final project completion and *Managing Morale and Motivating Employees through Effective Leadership*. Potential training opportunities in the future include; Permit-Required Confined Space Entry, Hazardous Spill Response and Asbestos Abatement.

The overall intent of the TAPIT program funds are to enhance job skills, facilitate worker promotion and wage progression, improve employee performance by allowing them an opportunity to achieve specific professional certification and licensure and ultimately, retain employees living in Kittitas, Yakima or Klickitat counties. The training grant funds are expected to be available through March of 2006.

The training was made possible by way of grant money obtained through the Tri-County Workforce Council Apprenticeship, Pre-Apprenticeship and Incumbent Training Project or (TAPIT). TAPIT is a coalition of union trade organizations and employer-representative agencies.

2004/2005 Roza Construction

The Roza Irrigation District continued progress in its comprehensive water conservation program. The open ditch and concrete piped laterals 18.8, 20.3, 77.3, 82.8, and 88.9 were replaced with PVC pipe. Weirs were replaced with flow meters so that each lateral became a fully enclosed gravity pressure system. These new PVC laterals will eliminate water losses due to seepage, evaporation, and spill. Many landowners at lower elevations will benefit from the gravity pressure by reducing or eliminating power costs associated with pumping irrigation water. Approximately 70 percent of the laterals on the District are now part of the enclosed conduit system.

Another part of the District's Conservation program includes replacing the board type check structures with automated gates. This winter the District retrofitted three more automated gates. These three gates plus one earlier retrofit were also integrated into the District's supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system. These automated check structures and the SCADA system make a tremendous difference in effectively managing water in the main canal during drought years. To date the District has 19 automated check structures. 15 of these automated check structures integrated into the SCADA system.

Another major undertaking this winter included replacing a siphon on lateral 94.8. This was an old steel pipe which had been springing leaks each summer. It has been replaced with PVC.

The last major project being accomplished by the District this winter entails lining a 700 foot section of the main canal near mile post 92.4. This section of canal will be lined with a bituminous material made in Quebec that will remain exposed to the environment. Because of the ease of installation, this liner will take only a few days to install.

Email Updates for Roza Customers

This year the Roza Irrigation District will offer the landowners the opportunity to receive e-mails with updated information on the water situation. If the District is being prorated, the daily information will be e-mailed to the landowners who have provided their e-mail addresses. This information will also be posted on our web site (www.roza.org) as conditions change. If you are interested in the e-mail updates, please contact the District office at 509-837-5141. You can also e-mail your address to sbryant@roza.org or mmorales@roza.org.

Canal Safety Awareness

By RSBOJC Health and Safety Coordinator Timothy King

The Roza and Sunnyside Valley Irrigation Districts in conjunction with Sunnyside's Promise, the Sunnyside School District, Sunnyside Community Hospital, Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health, the City of Sunnyside and West Farm Foods formed The Canal Safety Committee in the fall of 2003. This committee of private and public entities applied for and received a \$5000 grant from the PacifiCorp Foundation for Learning. The intent of the grant was to facilitate the formulation; creation and publication of a coloring/story book in both the English and Spanish languages; and kindergarten curriculum to address to children the dangers posed to them by irrigation canals. As there are practically as many irrigation canals and laterals in the Selah, Moxee and Lower Yakima Valleys as there are power lines, Roza and SVID were very supportive of the Canal Safety Committee's efforts in attempting to enhance public safety by way of youth education. The irrigation districts' involvement with the committee consisted of technical support to the committee regarding various aspects of the unique dangers present in irrigation canals and the functioning of the canals.

The committee initially attempted to obtain an educational program developed by the School District of Modesto, California. But the California program was copyrighted and would have cost \$26,000 for the Canal Safety Committee to use. Committee members took it upon themselves to seek-out local resources for most of the creative development of the project using Sunnyside High School Art student Greg Burbidge who created the main character of the book-Cathy the Cattail, and deciding to use Harrison Middle School student Sasha Castro as the book's principle artist. Eventually, the committee hopes to create an educational brochure for parents as well as work with members of the Sunnyside High School Marketing Class to create Public Service announcements regarding canal safety. The planned "unveiling" of the coloring book and curriculum is slated for later this spring. The Roza and Sunnyside Valley Irrigation Districts are proud to support the Canal Safety Committee as it benefits the landowners the districts serve.



The Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control (RSBOJC) publishes the **RSBOJC UPDATE** biannually for landowners. All articles, letters and other items submitted to RSBOJC for use in its landowner newsletter become the property of RSBOJC which is authorized to use any item submitted, without payment or compensation to the person submitting the item, in any newsletter or other publication of RSBOJC. RSBOJC reserves the right to edit all items submitted. Mike Miller, Chairman; Doug Simpson, Vice-Chairman; Robert Golob, Ric Valicoff, Larry Haak, Mike Hogue, Dave Michels, David Minick, John Newhouse, Helen Darr, Steve Smith, Jim Willard, Directors. Officers: Ron Van Gundy, Secretary; Patricia Bailey, Treasurer. Address comments to: Trish Nelson, Editor, P.O. Box 239, Sunnyside, WA 98944.

When Ordering Water

When ordering water, please be aware that all your assessments must be paid, including 2005, to ensure delivery. Ditch riders will not deliver water to delinquent accounts. On the Roza, besides paying your assessment, any landowners owning and/or leasing more than 240 acres need to file the appropriate RRA forms with the office before they will be eligible to receive water.

If you are not sure of your account balance, please use the automated service at 837-8611. You will need your parcel number, which is located above your name on both Roza and SVID billing statements. The parcel number is the same tax number used by Yakima and Benton counties. If you owe for past years (2002-2003-2004) please contact the business office to obtain your balance including interest. Roza office 837-5141; or SVID office 837-6980

You may place water orders by calling a number in your toll free calling area: 837-8611, 877-2122, 837-2223, 837-3115, 854-1540, 882-4343, 588-5521, 837-5040. Directions for use of the water ordering system can be picked up at either office or downloaded from <http://www.svid.org> web site, click on water order tab. Or from <http://www.roza.org>, click on water ordering information.

For Roza you may also email your water orders to Upper End upperend@roza.org, Middle Division cbohlke@roza.org, or Lower End lowerend@roza.org.

For SVID you may order your water on the website at http://www.svid.org/order_water.htm by completing the form on that page.

Water ordering for users within Prosser, Grandview, Zillah and Granger:

If you live within the city limits of the following cities: Prosser, Grandview, Zillah and Granger, you must contact your local irrigation provider. Prosser 786-7300; Grandview 882-9211; Zillah 829-5151; Granger 854-2299. These providers should contact the district numbers to order water on. The deadline for city water orders is prior to 4:00 p.m. the day prior to expected delivery date.

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

System storage is about 675,000 AF, which is about 65% of capacity 120% of average for this time of year. Snow pack is less than 25% of average. Mountain precipitation October 01 to date is just below 60% of average. February mountain precipitation through the 15th was about 14% of the month's average. If this trend continues the Yakima Basin will likely experience a significant shortage in water supply this summer. The first numerical Total Water Supply Available (TWSA) forecast from the Bureau of Reclamation will be announced March 7th. The National Weather Service three month forecast calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.

Even with full reservoirs, basin storage is only capable of providing 40% of summer demands for water. Runoff from snow pack usually covers 60% or more of summer demands for water. In other words snow pack is very important in meeting summer demands for water. It is possible March and April mountain snow storms will improve the snow pack. **Let it snow!**