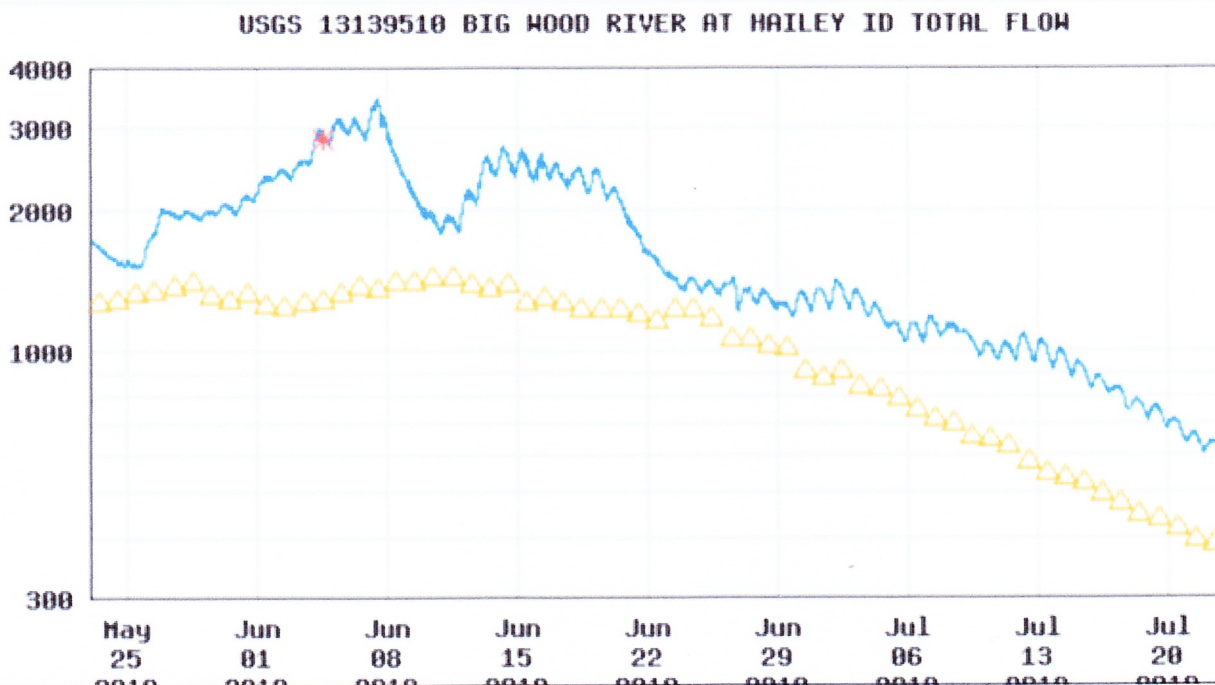


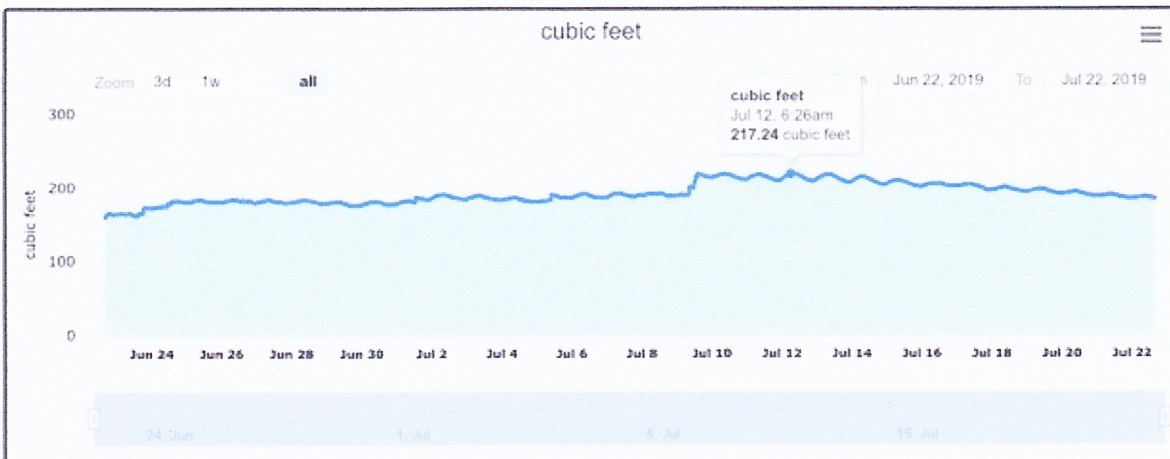
## July '19. Ditch Doings

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Tue 7/23/2019 8:29 AM



*Season winding down* But still running significantly higher than normal. At this rate, our first cuts might be during the first week of August. However, the local Barley growers will be shutting down their irrigation to begin drying up crops for harvest. When they shut down, demand for late summer water goes down, too.



*Our CFS at the Main Headgates* Late June and early July flow was held at our normal maximum-demand level, 185-190 cfs. On July 9, we took on additional flow to enhance our aquifer recharge effort while we had water available. That flow, near 218 cfs, allows us to keep several ponds, throughout the system, near full. This flow level is higher than has been run in the system for several years, with only one exception that I know of. (..a max flow trial that we ran in 2017, of about 240, very briefly.)

The daily changes are due to daily fluctuations in the Big Wood, itself. The gradual decline in our flow is due to the decline of the water level in the river directly above our Main Gates. Should it be decided that we need to maintain that high level, we would need to have Keith go into the river with equipment and rearrange some of the emerging gravel bars that keep available water higher, right above the gates.



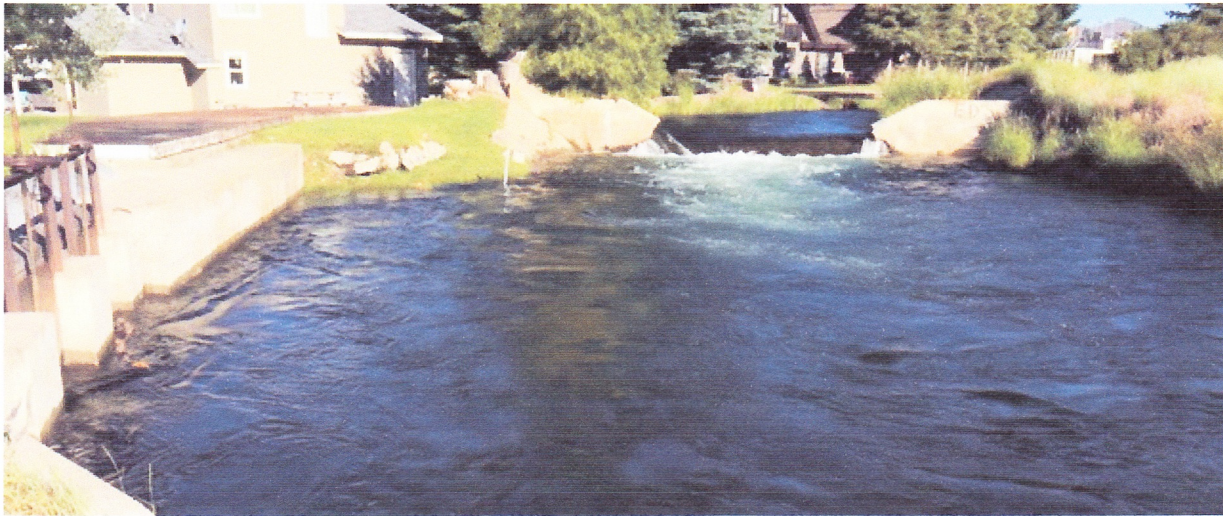


*Our new wall just south of town*

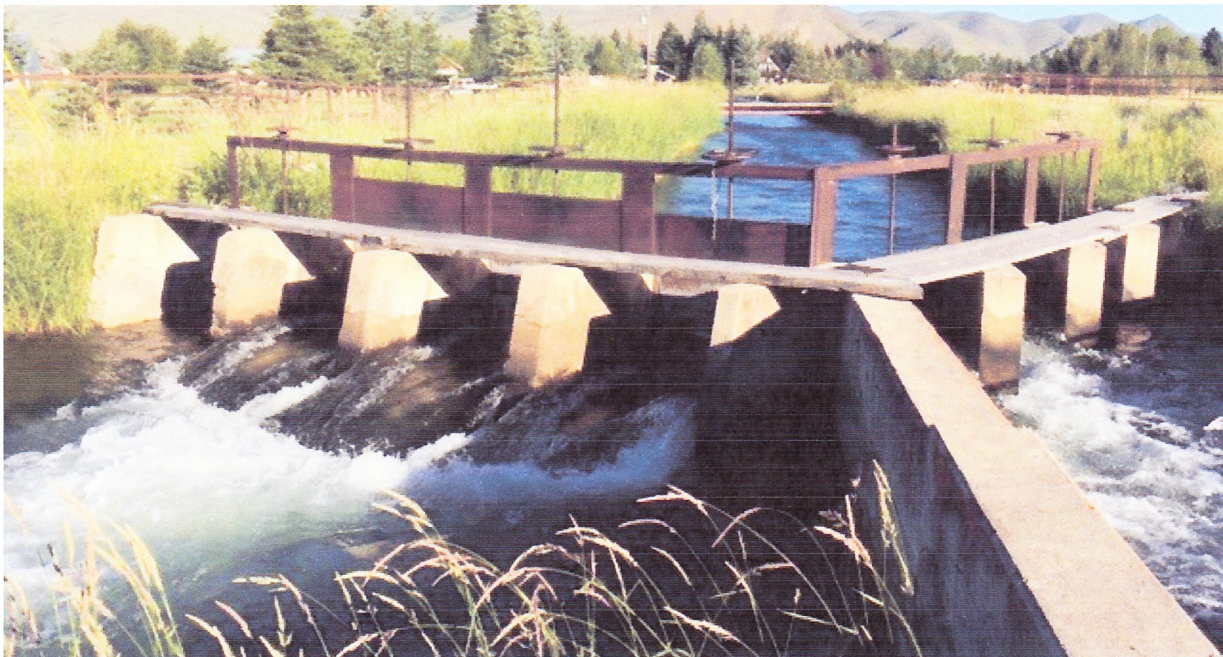


*Center Lateral above Lab Lane*





*Ed's Drop and the top of the 75 Lateral*



*Gannett Divide* These are all familiar places, but with this unusually high flow. I'm pleased with how accommodating all aspects of the system are: high, fast water, but very little difficulties or problems.





*Here is the exception* Due to a combination of high water and too much vegetation slowing the water down causing it to flood our little access road.

We have avoided this problem in all other locations by running higher, faster flows since before the growing season. The fast water had a scouring effect on all the new growth as it was emerging, so kept it somewhat at bay.

In this case, this lower section of the Walker Lateral, was left dry until after all the growth had taken place in late Spring and early Summer. Once the water was turned in here, the growth was immediately obstructing flow.

We're exploring our options to change this for next season.





*In the meantime:* what appears to be some success with my tough little brush mower....



*...led to this....* the teeth on the drive gear beaten flat due to the beautiful mowable banks being laced with rugged country.

No worry. Replacement parts, including new blades, arriving as I type. ....and maybe a little more time with that heavy, low maintenance roller, shown in last months update, is warranted....





*Plus: we're getting some very dedicated help* This is the main reason there are no longer sticks obstructing the flows.

A quick, funny story: Earlier, I emailed to the Board that I was without a phone: one of the necessities for my job. For 20 years, since the earliest cordless cell phones, I've carried one. The large majority of that time has been spent outdoors, almost always in or near water. Only once have I lost my phone. I was on horseback, completely absorbed by the thrashing and splashing cattle in front of me, and only barely spotted the phone as it vanished into thick muddy water. I returned to that spot an hour later and actually put my hand right on it under the knee deep soup. It was one of those prehistoric cell phones and so it endured and remained usable for some time after the appropriate TLC.

This time, I didn't lose my phone. Due to the requirement that I remain available by phone, I had taken it with me into the theatre on a recent evening out with Merrily. I had dutifully turned off the sound when the play



started, then carefully placed it into the armrest cup holder where, should it light up with a call, it would be in my field of vision. Perfect.

Problem was: I had first placed my little cup of drinking water into the same cupholder, in the dark! I was alerted to the problem because the phone kept lighting up with Siri asking me to help her.....

These things only happen on long holiday weekends, just like toothaches...

The outcome was good. My kids applauded the fact that I would finally have to replace my dinosaur of a SMART phone! However, since the stores were closed for the holiday, I couldn't wait, and spent a little time with the tried and true TLC! My phone is fine...perhaps even better, after its bath....

John Wright  
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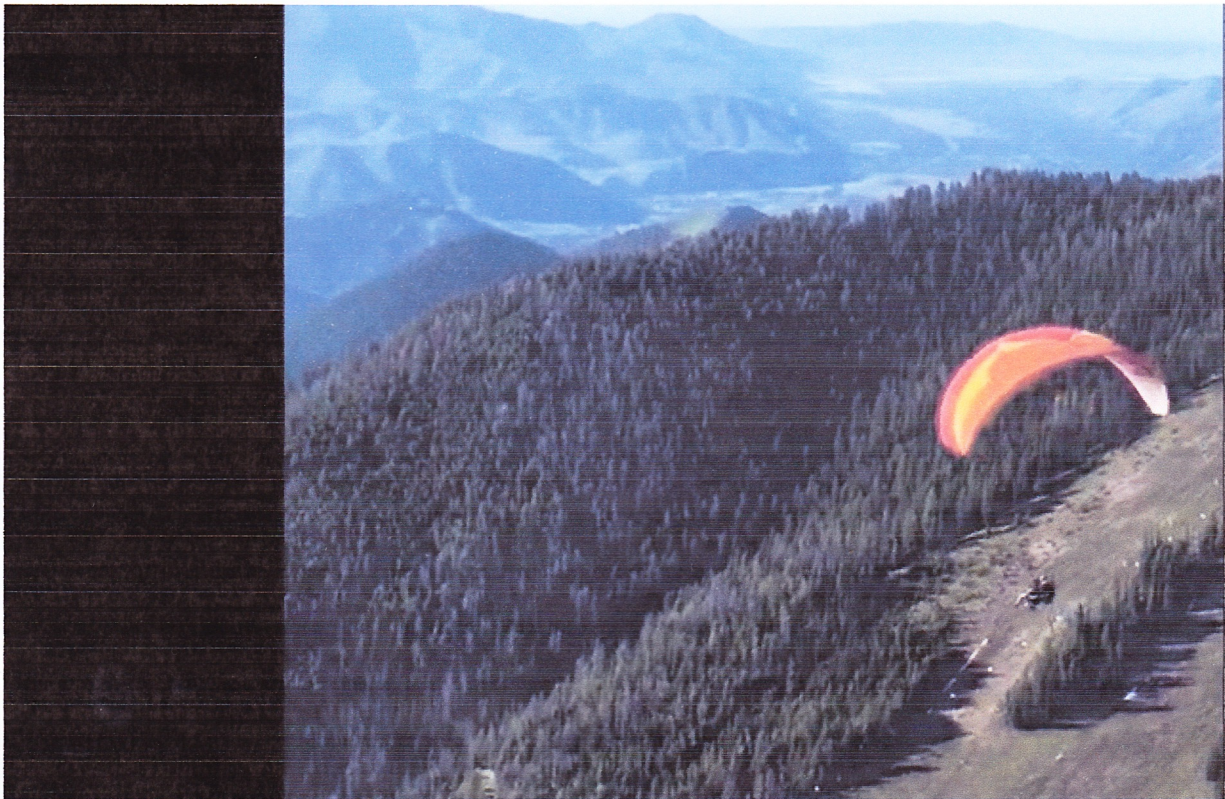


*Barley turning golden. Water off here next week*





*Harvesting equipment showing up on the periphery*



*My latest canal management tool* Its great for finding flooding problems quickly. It just takes a little longer to arrive on scene to make necessary changes...