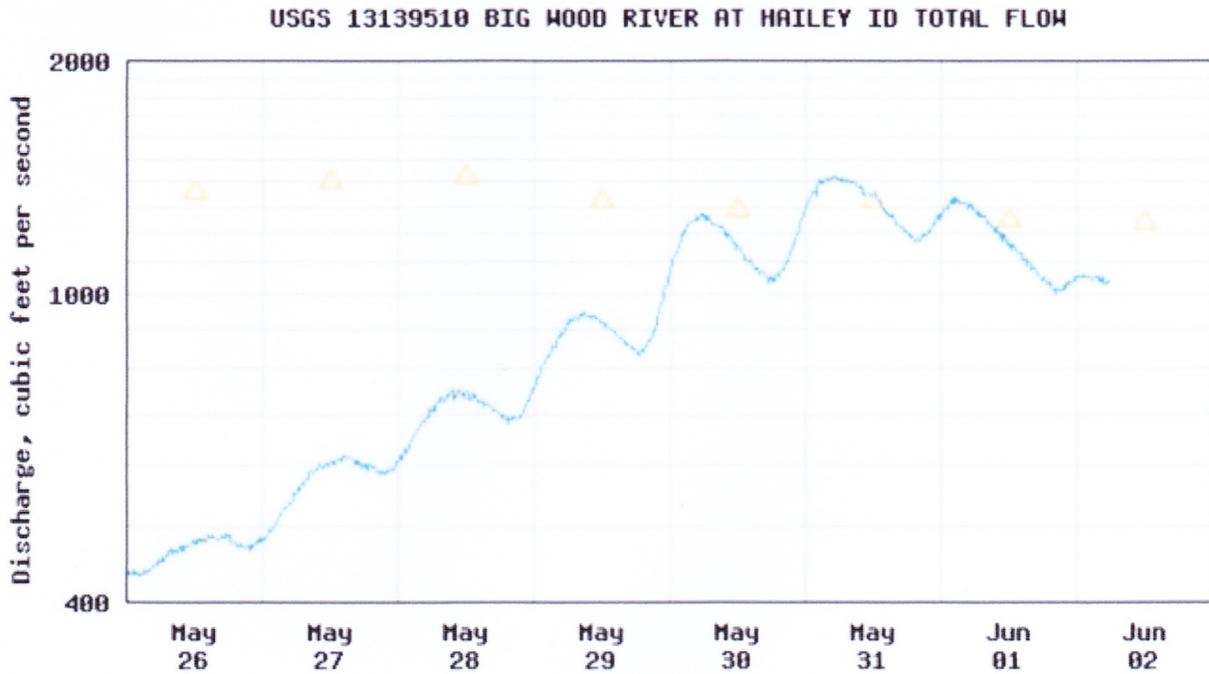


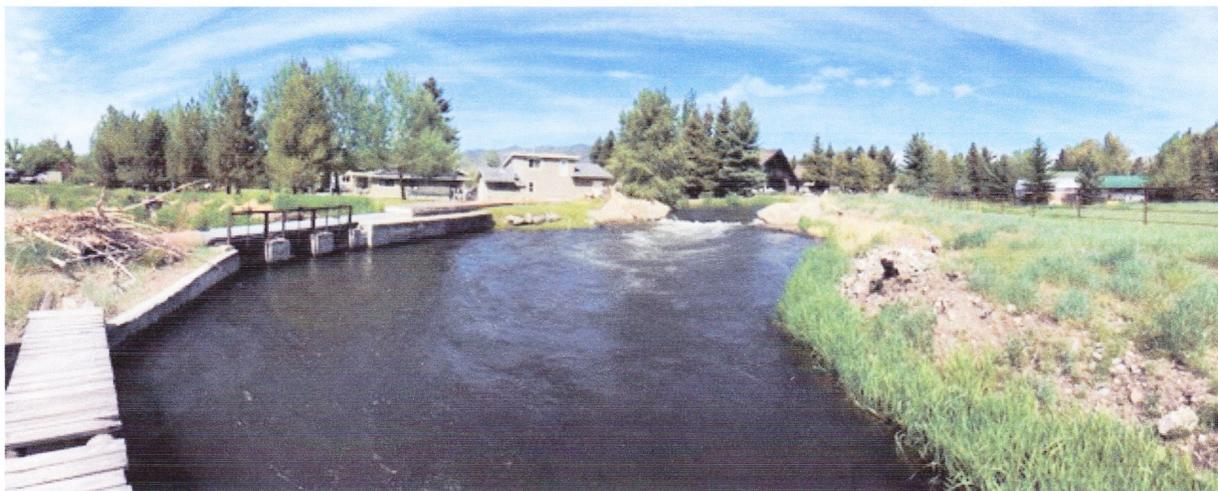
Ditch Doings June 2020

John Wright <jmwright001@icloud.com>

Mon 6/29/2020 6:22 PM



1st of June. The Bigwood peaked, right at average.



Due to the very low flows just prior to this peak, I had the Main Gates open wide. When the River came up, the Canal filled. We ran for several days with water higher than I'd ever seen

it for a sustained period, around 220 cfs. Typically, when demand is high, we run at about 180 cfs.

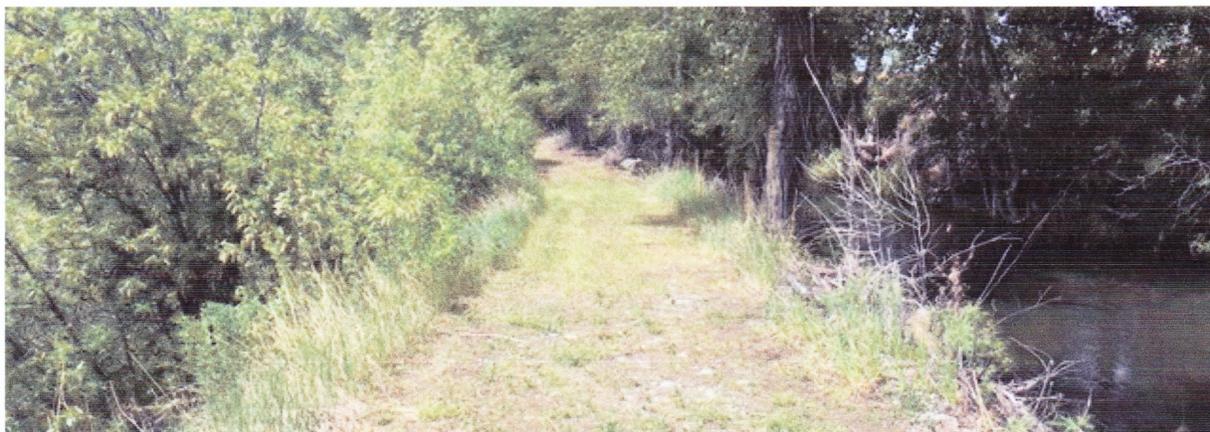


I was pleased to see how resilient the system was; how sufficiently it handled that high water. The recharge ponds were all filled and I was assured by the farmers at the ends of all the laterals that they were comfortable with what their ditches were running. It served as a very thorough flush and cleaning, and it provided proof that we have the capacity we should have.

It also provided the perfect opportunity for stir crazy kids to roll the biggest log they could possibly move, into the canal.

It made me laugh. I could just imagine how they all cheered after their organized and successful effort when that thing plunged from their grasp into that high water.

I'd have cheered, too!!

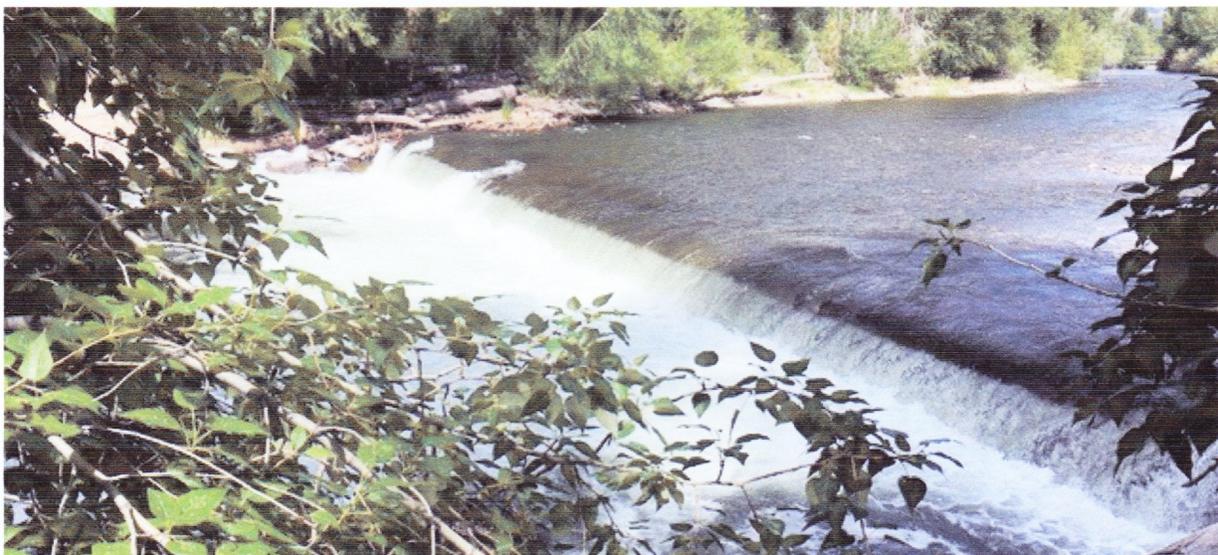


Upper Canal ROW cleans up nicely.



Hay down provided us with the opportunity to continue filling our recharge ponds....

All these simple little scenes help me to remember that not everything is bad....



June 3rd, near the time of our max flow in the river, we visited our low-head dam that was built to ensure water would always remain available at our Main Headgate, probably 60 years ago. Those present for this meeting are recognizing that the structure is showing signs of deterioration, but its function must not be compromised. The discussion, at the moment, is simply to get agreement from the District Boards, that options need to be explored. The initial sight-surveying, plus a list of possible replacement solutions, is under way and will be presented soon.

Should anyone have any concerns or questions regarding this project, please feel free to contact me.

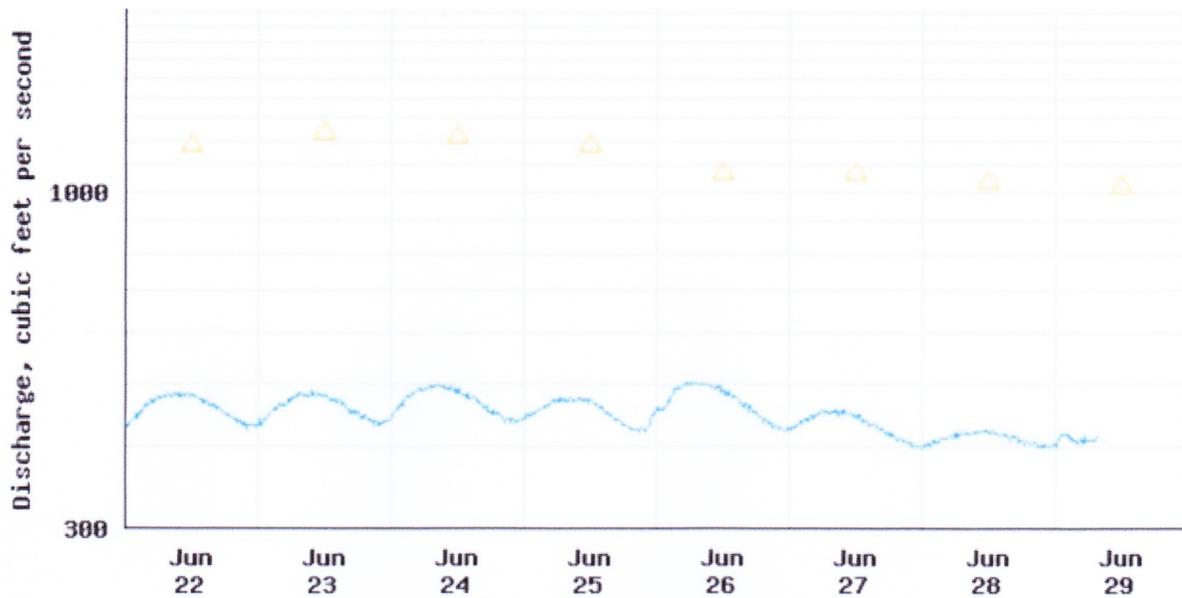
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Dammit! Where is my wrench?

.....replacing the gear motor on the brush beater.

In the meantime, I've been able to use our heavy roller to keep some of the thistles at bay at the same time as making our ROW a little safer place to run this mower. Slow but certain progress is being made along our banks.



This morning, the river continues to be holding quite steady, helped along by some recent storm cycles through the last half of June. We've been expecting our first cut in our water delivery for quite some time but it continues to be put off. I'm guessing it will happen in a week.



I think everyone with a camera in south county has stopped here at the top of Gannett Road, at some time over the last couple of weeks. The large mustard field has been an exceptionally beautiful place to take in a calming breath.

(...and this will soon be available on your hamburgers and hot dogs!...)



June 26 The hardy souls who helped with rescuing stranded fish as our largest recharge pond dried up.

Thank you, Trout Unlimited!

(...and you know these guys had fun with this...)



I laughed about the kids rolling in the log but I'm putting up some new signs near the Main Headgate.