

10.11 Water right and storage delivery to Minidoka North Side and Minidoka South Side Canals

The Minidoka North Side Canal diverts Snake River water at Minidoka Dam to lands served by the Minidoka Irrigation District on the north side of the Snake River. The Minidoka South Side Canal diverts Snake River water at Minidoka Dam to lands served by the Minidoka and the Burley Irrigation Districts on the south side of the Snake River. Water rights owned by Minidoka Irrigation District have points of diversion for both the Minidoka North Side and South Side Canals. The Minidoka Irrigation District can divert all, or a portion of, its water rights through either North Side or South Side Canals. Water rights owned by Burley Irrigation District have their points of diversion assigned only to the South Side Canal. The Water District #1 measurement station for the Minidoka South Side Canal is near the head of the canal upstream of the Minidoka Irrigation District and Burley Irrigation District diversions from the canal.

Because the Minidoka and Burley Irrigation Districts' diversions from the South Side Canal are downstream of the Water District #1 measurement station, the split of water between the two districts cannot be determined by Water District #1 at the gaging station near the head of the South Side Canal. Therefore, the Minidoka North Side and Minidoka South Side Canals are treated as a *combined diversion* in the water right accounting for all Minidoka Irrigation District and Burley Irrigation District water rights.

When the *combined diversion* of Minidoka North Side and South Side Canals is less than the *natural flow* available to the combined Minidoka and Burley Irrigation Districts' water rights, the canals are only delivered *natural flow*. When the *combined diversion* of Minidoka North Side and South Side Canals is greater than the *natural flow* available to the combined water rights of the two districts, storage water is being diverted from the Snake River by the Minidoka Canals. A determination of the split between the two irrigation districts of storage delivered to each canal is not made in the daily water right accounting. Only the combined storage diverted by the two canals is listed in the daily water right accounting during the irrigation year. The Bureau of Reclamation sends Water District #1 the percentage split of storage used by the two irrigation districts at the end of the irrigation season. The storage usage between the two irrigation districts is documented in the final Storage Report to determine carryover storage for each of the irrigation districts at the end of the year.