

Reed Reservoir contained and water flows dropping

BY: VIRGINIA GIORGIS Pioneer Editor

The leaking around the pipe at Reed Reservoir, 13 miles southeast of Mountain View, has been contained, and the reservoir is being monitored regularly by the property owners.

A flash flood warning was issued last week as the private reservoir was leaking around the pipe. Failure of the dam, according to the flood alert, would have resulted in a flood over Highway 414 where Sage Creek crosses under the highway. No structures were threatened.

According to John Yarbrough, natural resource analyst for the State Engineer's Office based in Lyman, said Wednesday morning, the reservoir is on land operated by Beaver Creek Cattle and is owned by Josh Romney and Anthon Stauffer (the old Wadsworth Ranch).

Yarbrough said the owners brought in divers who welded a metal plate, inside the dam structure, on the upstream side of the leaking outlet pipe. This work was completed after the owners brought in an engineer and the state brought in an engineer to assess the problem. Now, both the property owners and the State Engineer's Office feel the leakage is contained, but both "still recognize there is a problem," Yarbrough said.

Beaver Creek will be allowed to use the stored water this year. The reservoir is filled by ditch, and the flow in the ditch has been cut off so water is not continuing to flow into the reservoir. The projected time for further repairs will be in August or September when the water is lower or gone. Additional repairs will have to be completed before the state allows the dam to be refilled after this irrigation season.

When questioned about the dam leaking for a long time, Yarbrough countered and said it had never leaked so abundantly. He also commented on the importance of discovering the massive leak so repair work could be done on the dam.

As for the high waters brought on by the mountain snowmelt and heavy rains, the water flows have dropped, according to the water report by the Bridger Valley Conservancy District Wednesday morning.

Meeks Cabin has an inflow of 650 second feet, which is down another 55 second feet from Tuesday. It is still full and flowing over the spillway at about two inches, down from the historical high of 62 inches earlier this month. The release into the river below the dam is about 700 second feet.

Stateline is filling at about 185 second-feet, which is down about 15 second-feet from Tuesday. It is still full and spilling at about four inches. The release into the river below the dam is about 195 second-feet.