



**Water Rights Committee Report
August 15, 2020**

Karl Davis, Committee Chairman
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Charter: To protect the water rights decreed to Big Elk Meadows.

Committee Members: Karl Davis as Chairman, Members as Bob Forsberg, Victoria Darling-Orth, Roy McCutcheon, Bill Tolle, Paul Flanagan, Alan Hatfield, and Patrick F. Gill.

BEMA's contract with River Glen is due to expire at the end of December 2021 and the Committee is in discussion to begin work on a new contract with River Glen by July 1, 2021. BEMA also has the option of renewing our current contract for another 10 year period. There are many benefits in renewing with River Glen. Water is easily transported from the Ish Reservoir into the Little Thompson and BEMA would only have to bypass the Osborne Caywood head gate to get water to its historical irrigation area which provides a beneficial use even when Osborne Caywood is sweeping the river.

We have reestablished a live stream to Pinewood Springs and are releasing water from Meadow Lake. We have released a total of 10 acre feet of Augmentation water minus 1 acre foot we have stored in Sunset Lake. It is likely that we will release another 5 acre feet from Meadow Lake by the end of October. The Meadow Well is getting too low so Water Rights Chair K. Davis has started the process of moving 5 acre feet from Rainbow down to Meadow so he does not drain it further. The water will flow into Willow and Mirror and hopefully improve the aquatic conditions in those lakes. An unknown individual opened the gate to Meadow Lake during the fire in the upper pasture and drained 4" off the lake. It was determined that water was going to be released anyway so it was justified.

Water Rights Chair K. Davis has released 11.5557 acre feet of return flow water from the Ish Reservoir. He has one more release to make which will take care of the rest of the return flow and another 2 acre feet of Augmentation water that I will not have to release from BEM.

BEMA should have 85+ acre feet of water in total at the end of October and we will need to store 24 acre feet over the winter and spring.

Big Elk Meadows Association

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