

## Lund Irrigation and Water Company

Our concerns about the State Water engineer granting any water from Cave Valley, Dry Lake Valley, and Delamar Valley to SNWA are many.

First and foremost is the probability that some or most of the water recharging the five carbonate springs in the Lund/Preston area is coming from Cave Valley. The same may also be true for the shallow alluvial water that supplies many irrigation and domestic wells in the Lund/Preston area. While there are many small springs and marshes in Cave Valley, the large majority of recharge in Cave Valley obviously leaves the basin through the carbonate flow system. At least eight other significant carbonate springs south of the Lund/Preston area, but still in White River Valley, may be in even greater peril with connections to Cave Valley. The delicate balance of Mother Nature that supplies a constant year round amount of water to each carbonate spring in White River Valley, could be impacted by any pumping from the carbonate aquifer underlying Cave Valley. As we see it, the same holds true for the carbonate springs in Pahranaagat Valley from any pumping in the carbonate aquifer underlying Cave, Dry Lake, and Delamar Valleys. Depending on the interconnection between the alluvial and carbonate systems in Cave Valley and given the elevation difference between Cave and White River Valleys, any pumping from the alluvial aquifer in Cave Valley may also impact the carbonate springs in white River Valley and Pahranaagat Valley.

During the summer irrigation season, April 1st through November 20th, the carbonate springs in the Lund/Preston area supply water to irrigate over 2,000 acres of land. This include over seventy separate lots where the water is used for lawns, gardens and small pastures. There are thirty-eight separate field allotments where the water is used in regular turns to irrigate cultivated crops.

In addition to these springs there are, in the Lund/Preston area, over twenty-five irrigation wells that irrigate an additional three to four thousand acres of crops. There are also over one hundred sixty domestic wells. In the south end of the valley there are at least six residences where the total domestic water is direct from carbonate springs.

During the winter season the flow from the carbonate springs together with White River provide water for livestock and wildlife that are grazing the many cultivated fields, and is distributed over the thousands of acres of native meadows that extend approximately ten miles south of Lund.

During normal and wet years there is water flowing in white River, sometimes too much, but in dry years there is little or no water flowing for winter use, but water from the carbonate springs flows constant - winter and summer.

While the carbonate springs in White River Valley are the back bone of it's farming and ranching industry, it's economy, and it's culture, they play other important roles. The endangered fish (White River Spinedace) only exists at one spring and may be reintroduced to others. The Preston Spring Fish and the Deseret Sucker (threatened species), exist in some of the springs. The Hot Creek Spring and the Flag Springs, while contributing some to farming and ranching, are a major recreational fishing area and a migratory bird preserve. Wildlife of all nature is abundant throughout the entire valley.

As mentioned earlier, Cave Valley has many small springs and marshes. It also has great summer and fall grazing on the BLM and Forest Service lands. These springs and marshes are critical sources of drinking water for both livestock and wildlife. If the springs dry up most of the grazeable feed would go unused. To seven ranching outfits based in White River Valley this would create unbearable strain on their other feed production enterprises.

Lund Irrigation and Water Company is very concerned about the quality of life enjoyed by the residents of White River Valley and would like to see much more thought and research put into any possibility of impacting water in our valley.