

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

CENTER POINT DITCH

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Beginning on the south bank of the Boise River in Section 12 of T4N, R4W, the Center Point Ditch extends northwesterly through a chain of sloughs. Irrigation of lands under this ditch in T4N, R4W and T5N, R4W originated in 1864 with water being diverted from the Center Point Slough. Most farmers in the area initiated serious cultivation of lands in 1868. At this time they were raising oats, wheat, hay, and other various varieties of grain. In 1870, the neighboring farmers organized among themselves. In 1873, they built brush dams across the Boise River to divert more water into the slough. A small headgate was first installed in 1877. In 1879, the headgate was enlarged and a 200-yard ditch was built to run water from the diversion point to the slough in a more accommodating manner. Also in 1878, the first filing of a water notice took place. The farmers then claimed the right to appropriate and divert 10,000 inches of water. A further enlargement of the ditch was made in 1881. In effect, the Center Point Ditch was actually a chain of connected sloughs that received supplemental river water. The chain of sloughs or ditches produced available water for over 2,000 acres. By 1903, Center Point Ditch maintained a capacity of 18.7 second feet and extended seven miles in length with seven miles of laterals. In 1906, the ditch received water rights (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 38, 43, 73) of 1,945 inches.

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