

IDAHO
Water Resource Board

Flow Obligations Downstream of the Boise River Basin

Treasure Valley CAMP Advisory Committee

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Flow Delivery Obligations Downstream of the Boise River Basin

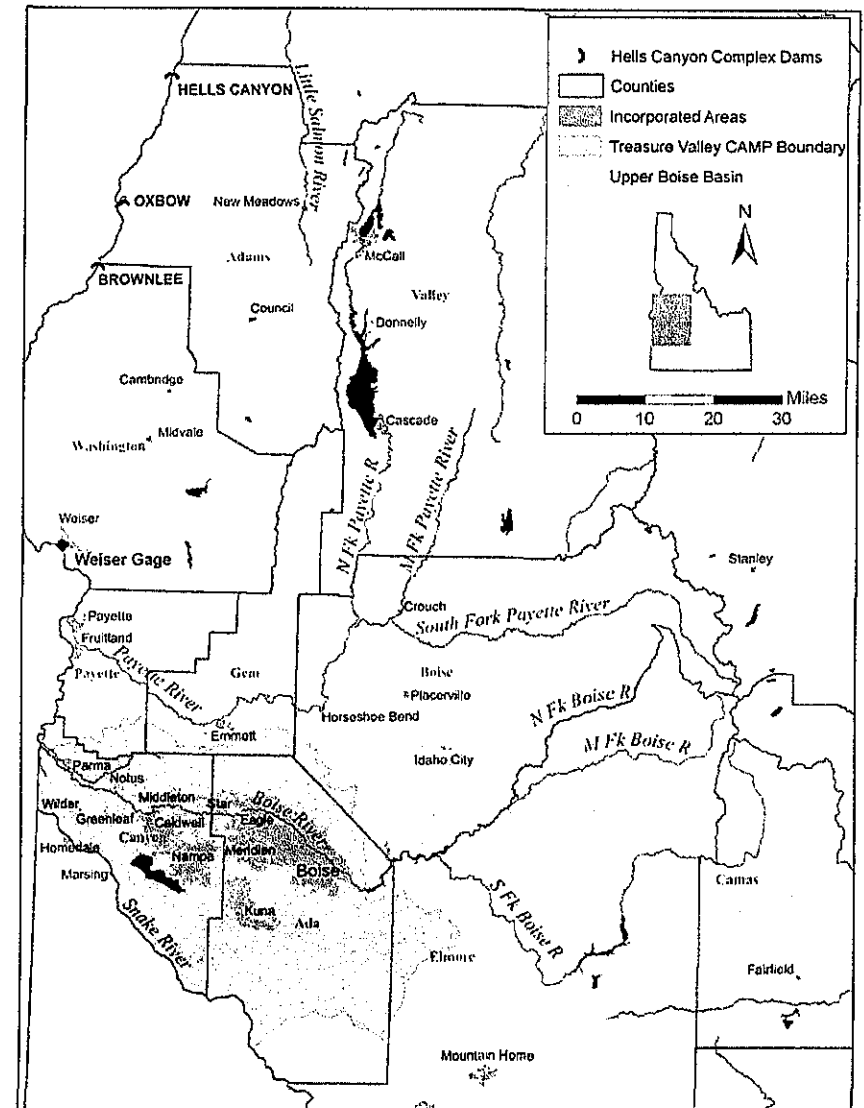
- The Purpose of presentation is to present obligations to deliver flow downstream from the Boise River Basin.
- There is not an interstate compact or agreement between Idaho, Oregon, and Washington on the use or allocation of Snake River flows.
- However there are two downstream obligations:
 - 1) Minimum flow at Weiser Gage on Snake River
 - 2) Downstream flow augmentation

Minimum Flow on Snake River at Weiser Gage

- Minimum streamflow water right of 4,750 cfs (year round) held by Idaho Water Resource Board. This water right has a priority date of 1976 and was established by legislative approval of the State Water Plan in that year.
- Purpose is to ensure an adequate flow into the Hells Canyon Complex for hydropower generation, and to protect other instream values.
- Boise River flow makes up only a part of the Snake River at Weiser. Additional flow comes from the Snake (minimum flow at Swan Falls Dam of 3,900/5,600 cfs), Payette, and Weiser Rivers, and from Oregon rivers including the Owyhee and the Malheur.

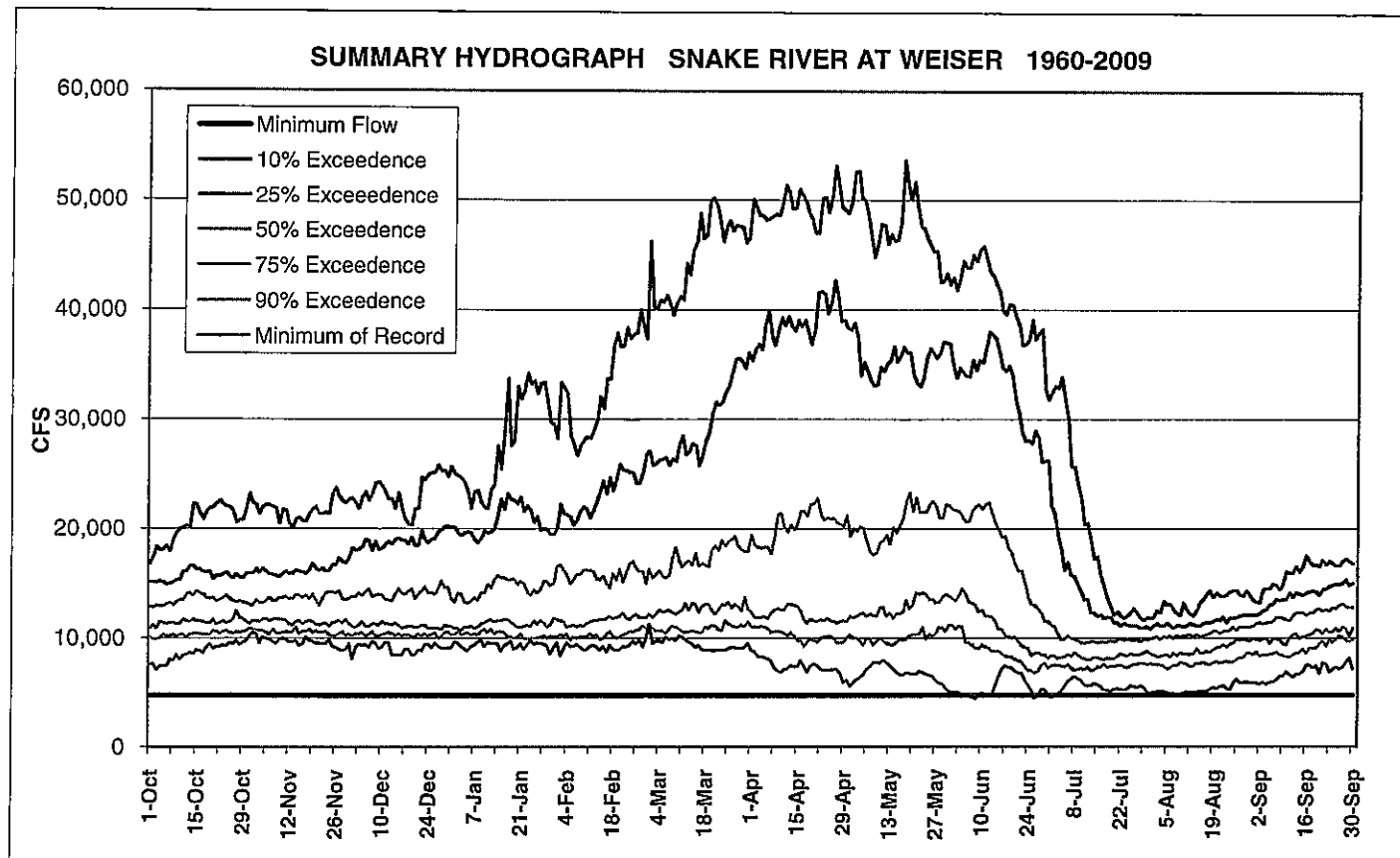


Minimum Flow on Snake River at Weiser Gage



Minimum Flow on Snake River at Weiser Gage

As can be seen from this chart, there is a substantial amount of flow that can be withdrawn before the minimum flow is reached.



Flow Augmentation

- Up to 487,000 acre-feet is provided from sources in Idaho upstream of Hells Canyon every year for flow augmentation.
- Purpose is to assist survival of ESA-listed fish species downstream of Hells Canyon dam.
- The Bureau of Reclamation acquires most of this water through voluntary rentals from the Boise, Payette, and Upper Snake Rental Pools, some from release of Reclamation's own "un-contracted" storage, and some from the Bell Rapids lease agreement with the Water Resource Board.

Flow Augmentation

- Program and volumes were formalized as part of the 2004 Snake River Water Rights Agreement (Nez Perce Agreement), which was approved by the Idaho Legislature and the U.S. Congress.
- About 42,000 acre-feet of the flow augmentation comes from the Boise River storage reservoirs.
- Consideration has been given to efforts to move this contribution out of the Boise River (such as building Galloway Reservoir on the Weiser River), in order to free up this 42,000 acre-feet for future needs in the Boise River basin.

Conclusions

- There are two components to flow delivery obligations downstream of the Boise River basin:
 - The 4,750 cfs minimum streamflow water right at the Weiser Gage,
 - The (up to) 487,000 acre-feet delivery for flow augmentation (42,000 from the Boise River storage reservoirs).
- A considerable amount of flow could be removed for additional use above the Weiser before impacting the minimum streamflow at the Weiser Gage.
- The Boise River component of flow augmentation could potentially be moved out of the basin in order to make this storage available for future needs in the basin.