



AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Water Resource Planning Committee No. 1-26

Friday, May 8, 2026

8:30 a.m. (MT) / 7:30 a.m. (PT)

Water Center

Conference Rooms 602 C – D

322 E. Front Street

BOISE

Livestream available at <https://www.youtube.com/@iwrp>

Brad Little

Governor

Jeff Raybould

Chairman

St. Anthony

At Large

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen

Vice Chair

Lewiston

At Large

Dean Stevenson

Secretary

Paul

District 3

Dale Van Stone

Hope

District 1

Albert Barker

Boise

District 2

Brian Olmstead

Twin Falls

At Large

Marcus Gibbs

Grace

District 4

Patrick McMahon

Sun Valley

At Large

1. Introductions and Attendance
2. South Fork Snake River Basin Plan*
3. Other Items
4. Adjourn

Committee Members:

Chair Al Barker, Dean Stevenson, Jeff Raybould, Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, and Marc Gibbs.

Water Supply Management Committee No. 1-26

Begins upon adjournment of the Water Resource Planning Committee No. 1-26

1. Introductions and Attendance
2. House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 - Bear River Legislative Report*
3. IWRB Palisades Storage Release and Swan Falls Agreement Flows*
4. Other Items
5. Adjourn

Committee Members:

Chair Jeff Raybould, Dean Stevenson, Brian Olmstead, and Jo Ann Cole-Hansen.

*Action Item: A vote regarding this item may be made at this meeting. Identifying an item as an action item on the agenda does not require a vote to be taken on the item.

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you require special accommodation to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact the Department no later than five days before the meeting. To request an accommodation, please send an email to milin.ream@idwr.idaho.gov or call (208) 287-4800.

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board Water Supply Management Committee
From: Mike Morrison, Engineering Supervisor
Date: May 6, 2026
Subject: House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 – Bear River Legislative Report

REQUESTED ACTION: Offer Any Direction to Staff Prior to Finalization and Submission by June 1, 2026.

Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) No. 34, Planning and Projects Bureau staff have been working on a draft report addressing the study of the Bear River system, including water supplies in the Lower Division, opportunities for further development of Idaho’s compact allocation addressing statewide water obligations, and related costs and timelines for said opportunities.

In addition to the June 1, 2026, report, HCR No. 34 contemplates that a second legislative report will be submitted in September 2026. Staff anticipate that this subsequent report will build upon the findings of the initial submission, incorporate feedback received, and provide further analysis and refinement of recommendations as needed.

Staff will provide an overview presentation at the May 8, 2026, Committee meeting to summarize key elements of the draft report.

Attachments:

- *PowerPoint Presentation*







HCR-34 Report Update

May 8th, 2026
Mike Morrison, Matt Anders, and
Ethan Geisler

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HCR-34

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND REAFFIRMING IDAHO'S RIGHTS PURSUANT TO THE BEAR RIVER COMPACT

- Directs the Idaho Water Resource Board to prepare two reports for the Idaho Legislature.
 - The first report is due June 1st, 2026.
 - The second report is due September 30th, 2026.

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First Report (Due June 1st, 2026)

The first report shall include the following:

- A description of the current development of the compact allocation waters for Idaho and Utah.
- The frequency and timing of water supplies in the Lower Division that are available for further development.
- Preliminary opportunities for further development of Idaho's compact allocation to address Idaho's statewide water obligations, including estimated costs and timelines for completing projects related to the opportunities identified in the report.

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Second Report (Due September 30th, 2026)

The second report shall include the following:

- Recommended and prioritized projects for further development of Idaho's compact allocation.
- An outline of the necessary steps for the Idaho Water Resource Board, the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and the Idaho Legislature to secure future development of Idaho's compact allocation waters..

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Idaho Compact Allocation and Depletions

- Based on the 2019 Depletions Update
 - Central Division = <1000 AF remaining
 - Lower division = ~108,000 AF remaining

**Bear River Commission
Estimated Annual Depletions (Acre-Feet)
Changes from January 1, 1976, to December 31, 2019**

ABOVE STEWART DAM


State	Allocation	Agricultural Depletions	M&I Depletions	Reservoir Evaporation	Total Depletions	Remaining Allocation
Utah	13,000	5,839	-8	582	6,413	6,587
Wyoming	13,000	5,058	826	140	6,024	6,976
Idaho	2,000	1,150	3	0	1,153	847


LOWER DIVISION

State	Allocation	Agricultural Depletions	M&I Depletions	Reservoir Evaporation	Total Depletions	Remaining Allocation
Idaho	125,000 ²	16,387	245	11	16,643	108,357
Utah	275,000 ³	-16,879	11,543	0	-5,336	275,000

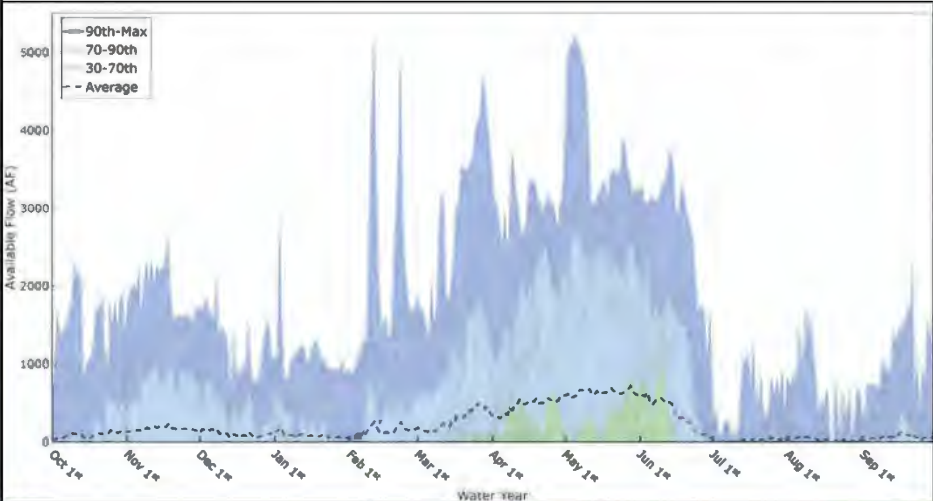
¹Any reductions in pre-1976 depletions are reflected in the above numbers.
²First right under Compact. Compact grants additional rights.
³Second right under Compact. Compact grants additional rights.

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Frequency and Timing of Water Supply: Idaho-Utah Stateline



Reservoir Space (AF)	Number of Years Space Would Have Filled 1990-2023
25,000	17
50,000	13
75,000	11
100,000	7
150,000	7
200,000	4

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Preliminary opportunities for development of Idaho's compact allocation

Project Name	Type	Capacity	Timeline (yrs)	Cost \$Millions (2025)
Bear Lake Additional Storage and Gentile Valley Flood Control Mitigation Measures	Storage	450,000 AF	5	10.3
Bear Lake Inlet Modification	Storage	100,000 AF	5	4
Caribou Dam	Storage	47,500 AF	10	50
High Oneida Dam	Storage	435,000 AF	10	220
Low Oneida Dam	Storage	140,000 AF	10	320
Mapleton Dam Project	Storage	34,500 AF	20	120
Trout Creek	Storage	18,000 AF	7	40
Rocky Point Irrigation	Storage	300,000 AF	20	350
Small Reservoir Infrastructure Projects	Storage	Varies	5	Varies
Bear-Portneuf Diversion Project	Diversion	1,815 CFS	20	380
Bear-BlackFoot Diversion Project	Diversion	1,815 CFS	20	500 - 1,000
Pumped Storage Projects	Pumped Storage	Small	10	Varies

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Managed Aquifer Recharge

- The standards and procedures used elsewhere in Idaho indicate the Lower Division of the Bear River Basin could be favorable for managed aquifer recharge
 - Depth to groundwater
 - Delivery systems
 - Geology
 - Retention in the aquifer

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QUESTIONS?



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MEMO



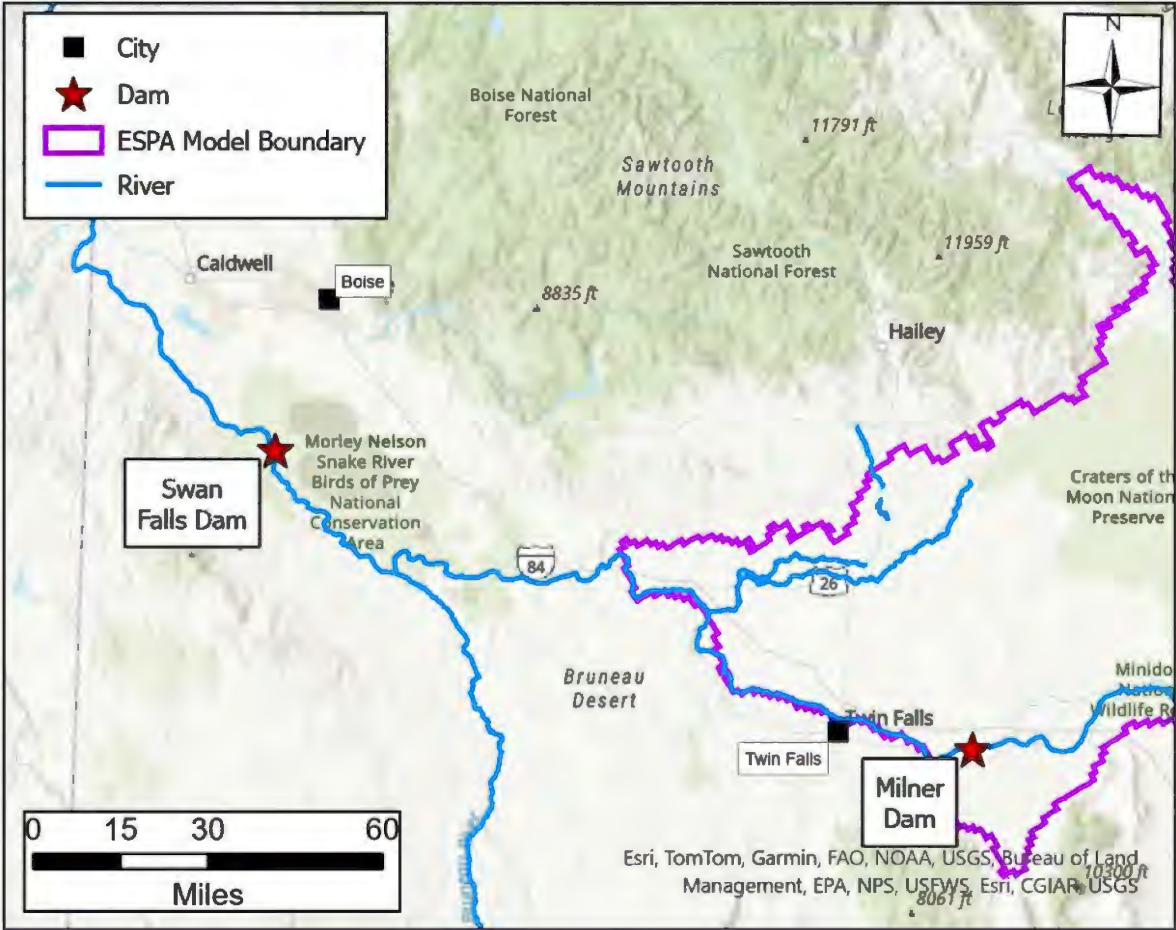
To: IWRB Water Supply Management Committee
From: Matt Anders, Planning & Projects Section Supervisor
Date: May 8, 2026
Subject: 2026 Minimum Streamflow Shortfall at Swan Falls Dam

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Background

The reach of the Snake River from Milner Dam to Swan Falls Dam is 181 miles long (Figure 1). The river flows through an incised canyon that extends to depths of more than 700 feet below a relatively flat basalt plain. The water elevation along this reach falls 1,824 feet from Milner Dam to Swan Falls Dam, representing an average gradient of approximately 10 feet per mile. Idaho Power Company owns Swan Falls Dam and uses it to generate hydropower.

Figure 1. Location of Swan Falls Dam in southwest Idaho.



Swan Falls Settlement Agreement

The Swan Falls Settlement Agreement resolved an ongoing controversy over how to balance water use for agriculture and hydropower generation in the Snake River Basin. In the late 1970s, a group of Idaho Power Company (IPCo) ratepayers initiated a lawsuit against IPCo, contending that it had failed to adequately protect its water rights for hydropower generation at Swan Falls Dam. The ratepayers alleged that IPCo's failure to protect junior water uses upstream of Swan Falls Dam resulted in less water for power generation and higher electricity rates for its customers. The Idaho Supreme Court ruled in favor of the ratepayers, holding that the water rights at Swan Falls Dam were not subordinated to junior water rights.

Following the decision, Idaho Power Company pursued curtailment of approximately 7,500 junior water rights upstream of Swan Falls Dam. Given the catastrophic consequences that such curtailment would have had on agriculture in southern Idaho, the State of Idaho negotiated with IPCo to resolve the issue. The State's primary interests were to protect existing water uses and ensure State control of water allocation. IPCo's interest was to maintain adequate water in the Snake River for hydropower generation at Swan Falls Dam. The parties signed a settlement agreement in 1984 with the following key features:

- Idaho Power Company agreed to subordinate its water rights at Swan Falls and ten other hydropower facilities to all upstream water uses in existence at the time of the agreement.
- The State of Idaho agreed to a 3,900 cubic feet per second (cfs) minimum stream flow from April to October and a 5,600 cfs minimum stream flow from November to March.
- The State of Idaho placed IPCo's water rights in excess of the minimum stream flows, but less than 8,400 cfs, into a trust. Future water rights licensed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) for this water became known as "Trust Water Rights."

Swan Falls Hydrology

Inflows to the Snake River between Milner Dam and Swan Falls Dam include flows from above Milner Dam, spring discharge, tributary inflows, irrigation return flows, and groundwater seepage. In high runoff years, flow from above Milner Dam is a substantial portion of the discharge in the Snake River below Milner Dam. In low runoff years, little or no water is released past Milner Dam.

Discharge from springs between Milner Dam and King Hill contributes most of the flow in the Snake River at Swan Falls at times when there is no flow past Milner Dam. Flow in the river in July increases from essentially zero at Milner Dam to approximately 4,500 cfs at King Hill. Springs discharging from the ESPA and other gains between Milner Dam and King Hill contribute a larger percentage of Snake River flow during July than during other times of the year.

The primary tributaries to the Snake River between Milner Dam and Swan Falls include Salmon Falls Creek, Rock Creek, the Malad River, and the Bruneau River. The peak runoff from these streams occurs between late April and early June. High flows in these tributaries can exceed 1,500 cfs. These tributaries contribute very little flow to the Snake River during low runoff years and in July.

Water District 02 was created by IDWR to administer water rights on the Snake River between Milner Dam and Swan Falls Dam. There are approximately 770 water rights authorizing diversions from the Snake River between Milner Dam and Swan Falls. The average maximum diversion rate in Water District 02 in July is approximately 1,500 cfs.

Swan Falls Adjusted Average Daily Flow (AADF)

The discharge at the Snake River at the Murphy stream gage is used to represent the discharge in the Snake River at Swan Falls Dam. A measurement protocol referred to as the Adjusted Average Daily Flow (AADF) was developed by the Swan Falls Technical Working Group, which included representatives from IPCo, the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, IDWR, the City of Pocatello, and the United States Geological Survey. The calculation is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{AADF at Swan Falls} = & \\ & \text{measured flow at the Snake River at Murphy stream gage} \\ & + \text{change in storage at Storage Swan Falls Reservoir} \\ & + \text{change in storage at Storage CJ Strike Reservoir} \\ & + \text{change in storage at Storage Bliss Reservoir} \\ & + \text{change in storage at Lower Salmon Falls Reservoir} \\ & - \text{Idaho Power storage delivery past Milner Dam} \end{aligned}$$

A 3-day average of the AADF value is used to represent the streamflow in the Snake River at Swan Falls Dam. Averaging is used to “smooth” short-term fluctuations resulting from IPCo operations, natural flow variations, irrigation diversions and returns, and measurement error that may not be fully quantified by the AADF calculation.

2026 Swan Falls Minimum Streamflow Shortfall

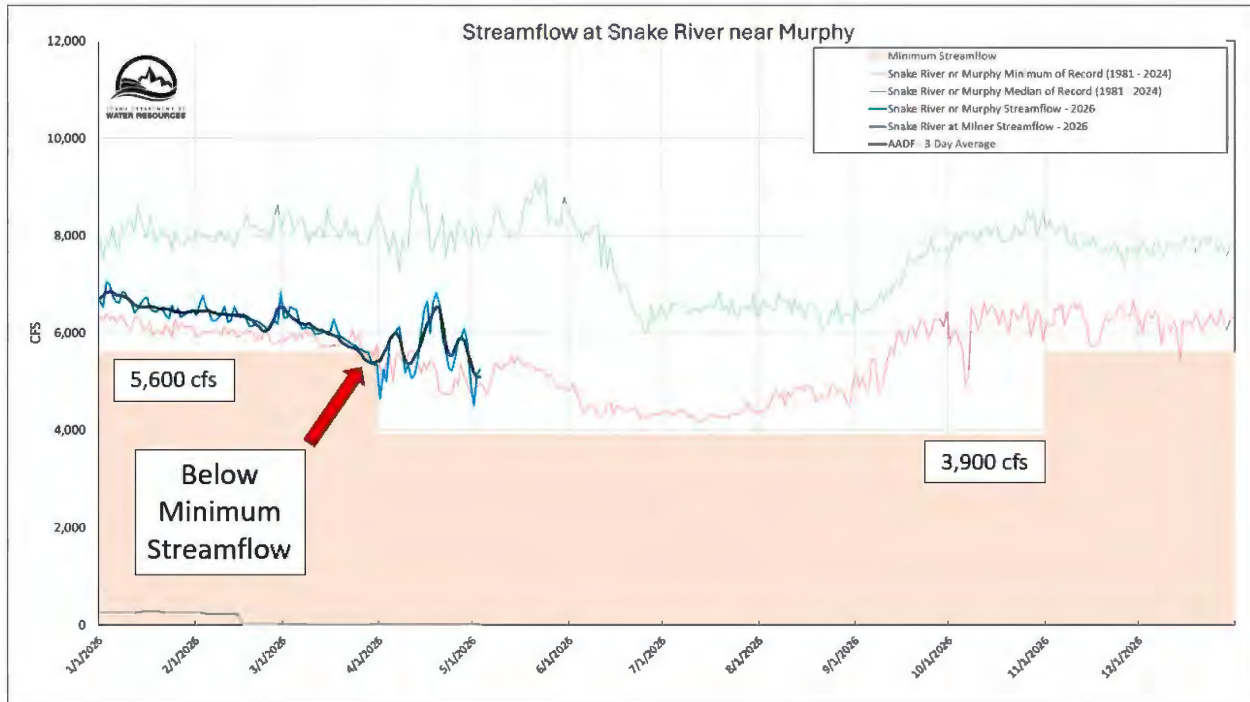
Inflows to the Snake River between Milner Dam and Swan Falls Dam were below average, and irrigation diversions were above average at the end of March 2026. Spring discharge from the ESPA in the Milner Dam to King Hill reach of the river was below average. Inflow from tributary streams was below average due to the absence of low-elevation snow. Irrigation return flow to the Snake River from the south side of the river began earlier than normal and was at approximately average rates of discharge for the start of the irrigation season. Irrigation diversions in Water District 02 began earlier than normal and were at approximately average rates for the start of the irrigation season. The combination of relatively low inflows and high irrigation diversions resulted in the 3-day average AADF falling below 5,600 cfs during the last few days of March (Table 1 and Figure 2).

Table 1. Minimum Streamflow Shortfall at Swan Falls Dam

Day	3-day Average AADF (cfs)	Shortfall (AF)
3/26/26	5,522	155
3/27/26	5,439	319
3/28/26	5,410	377
3/29/26	5,380	436
3/30/26	5,378	440
3/31/26	5,417	363
Total	---	2,091*

* Preliminary total shortfall

Figure 2. 3-Day Average Adjusted Average Daily Flow (AADF) at Swan Falls Dam



The Idaho Water Resources Board (IWRB) has 5,000 acre-feet (AF) of storage space in the Palisades Reservoir 1939 priority space. If the IWRB decides to mitigate the March 2026 shortfall at Swan Falls Dam with this storage water, IPCo will likely request delivery of the IWRB storage in July, at the same time it has its storage delivered past Milner Dam. The following is an estimate of the impact on the IWRB’s 2026 storage allocation if the IWRB chooses to mitigate the shortfall with storage water:

- Estimated 2026 storage allocation as of May 3, 2026 3,800 AF
- Swan Falls Dam minimum streamflow shortfall (preliminary) 2,091 AF
- Remaining 2026 storage allocation 1,709 AF

Water District 01 procedures state that any storage water delivered past Milner Dam becomes last-to-fill space in the subsequent water year. If the IWRB delivers 2,091 AF to Idaho Power Company for mitigation, that amount of the IWRB reservoir space will become last-to-fill in the 2027 irrigation season.

To mitigate the shortfall at Swan Falls, the IWRB must complete a private lease through the Water District 01 Rental Pool. Section 6.7 of the Water District 01 Rental Pool Procedures states that “the IWRB may lease its existing storage (up to 5,000 acre-feet) to Idaho Power and have it released past Milner for the purpose of mitigating minimum flows at Murphy. The administrative fee must be paid by the IWRB for any storage used for such purpose.” The Water District 01 rental pool administrative fee is \$2.30 per AF. The total administrative fee would be \$4,808.

Attachment(s):

- *PowerPoint Presentation*



2026 Swan Falls Minimum Streamflow Update

Matt Anders
Water Planning and Projects Section

May 8, 2026

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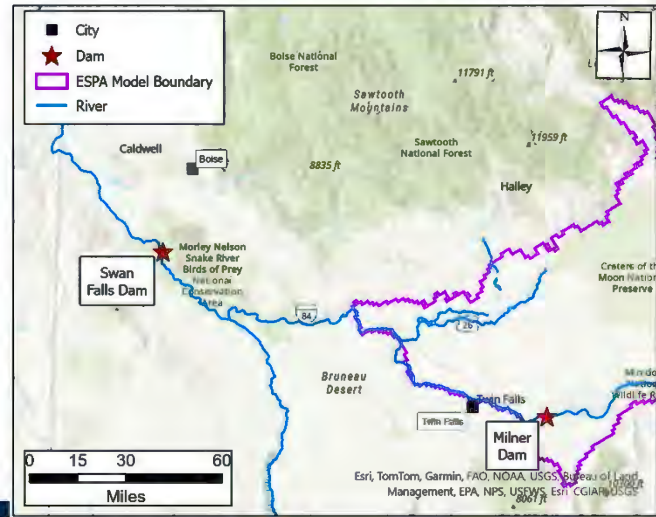
Swan Falls Minimum Streamflow

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Swan Falls Dam

- Swan Falls Dam is located on the Snake River in southwest Idaho
- Owned and operated by Idaho Power Company
- Litigation determined that the power generation water right at Swan Falls Dam is not subordinated to other beneficial uses
- Initiated the Snake River Basin Adjudication



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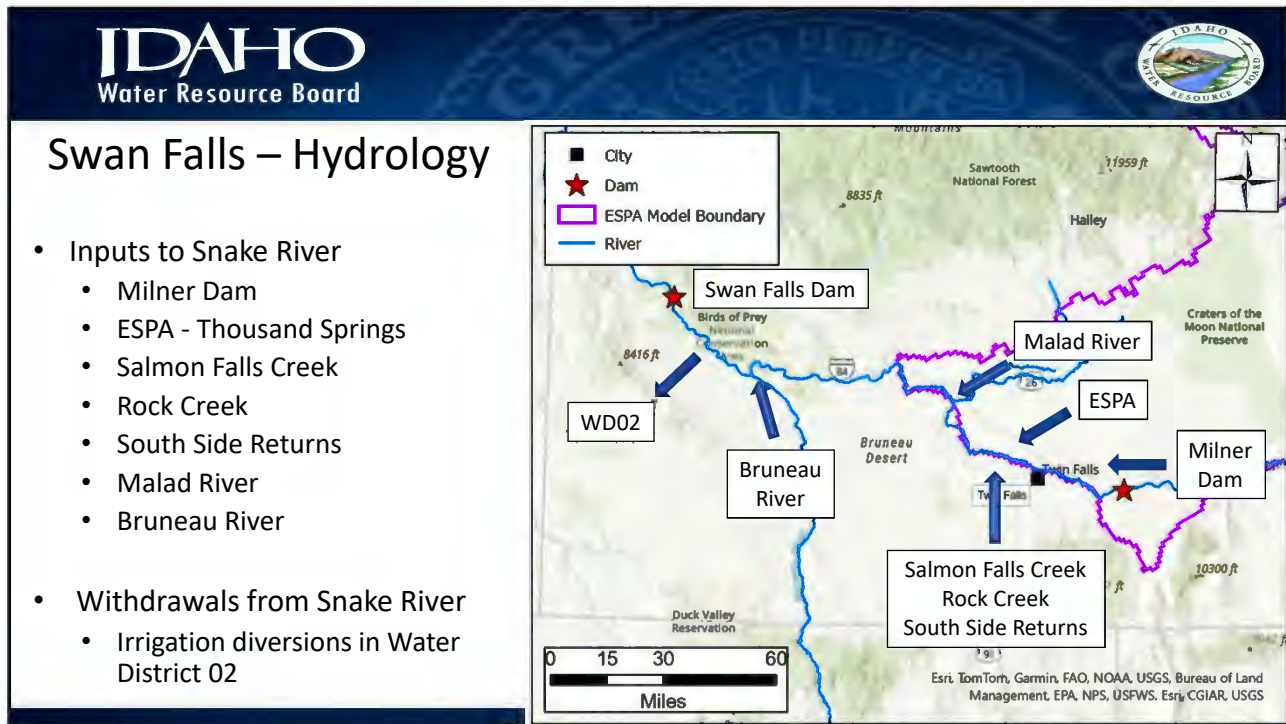


Swan Falls Agreement

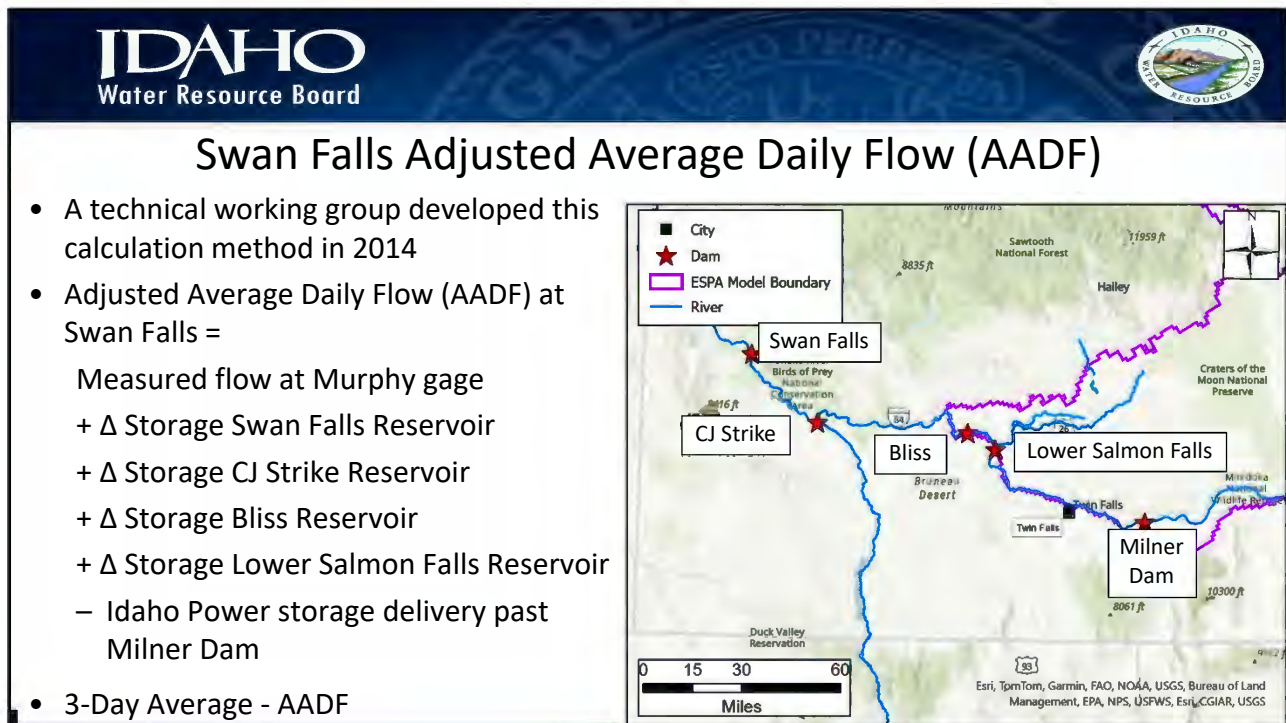
- 1984 Swan Falls Settlement Agreement
 - Protects Idaho Power's hydropower production water rights
 - Protects IWRB's minimum streamflow water rights: 02-201, 02-223, and 02-224
- Minimum Streamflow at Murphy Gage

• 5,600 cfs from November 1 to March 31	Non-Irrigation season
• 3,900 cfs from April 1 to October 31	Irrigation season
- Agreement specifies "actual flow conditions"
 - Adjusted Average Daily Flow (AADF) calculation factors out Idaho Power reservoir operations and storage deliveries for Idaho Power

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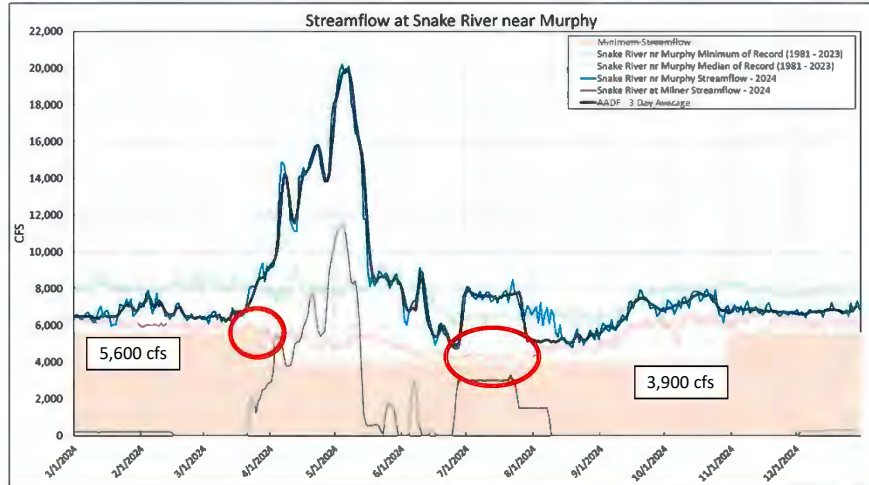


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Swan Falls Adjusted Average Daily Flow (AADF)

- Example from 2024
- Periodically distributed by email
- Low Flow Periods
 - End of March
 - July

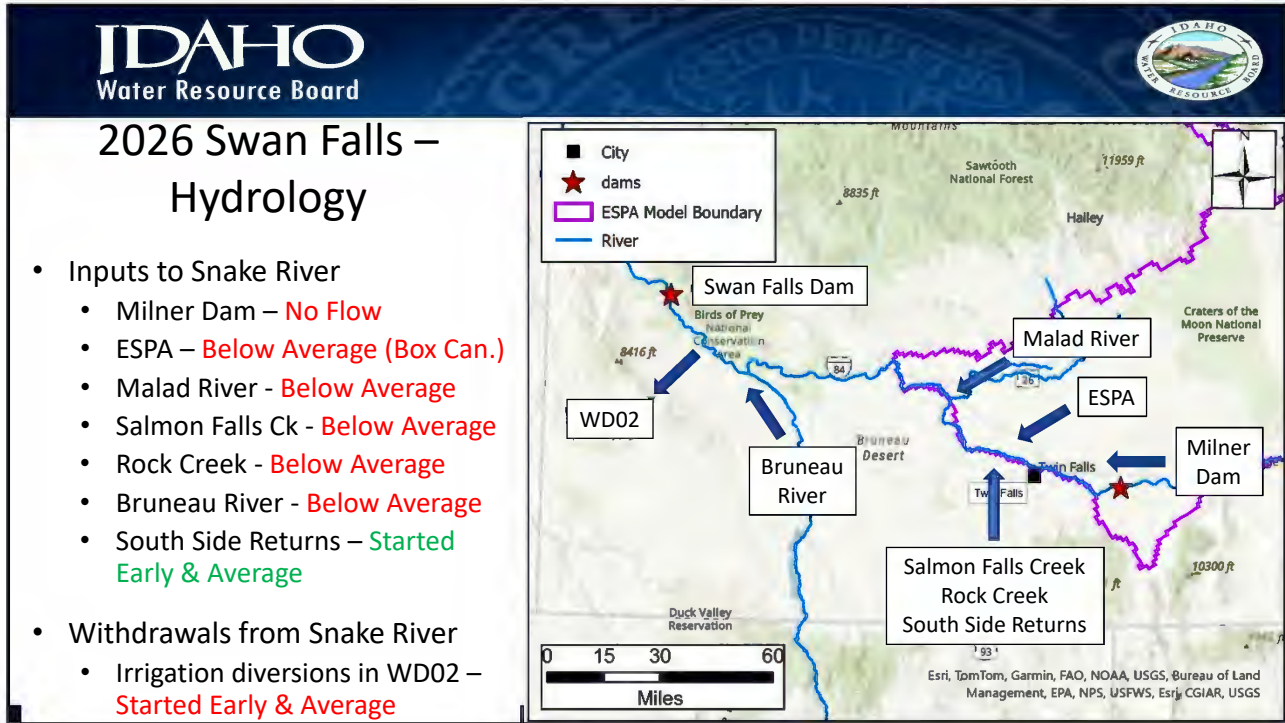


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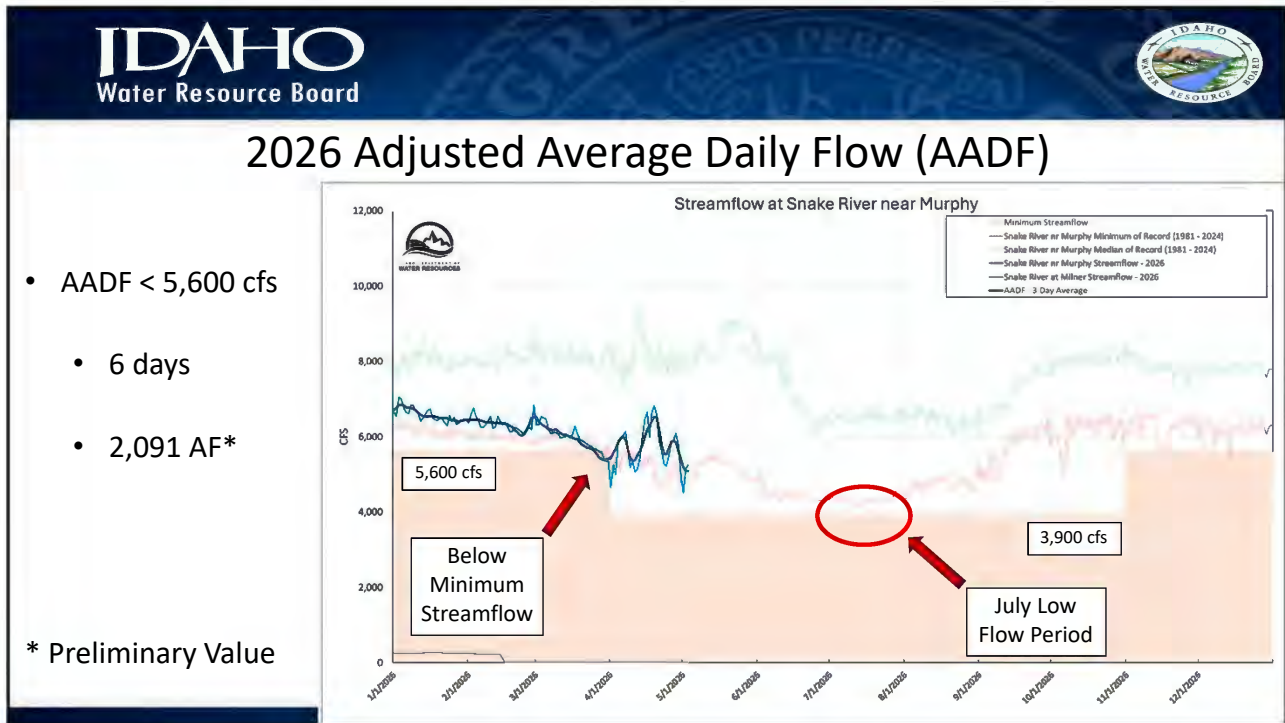


Swan Falls March 2026


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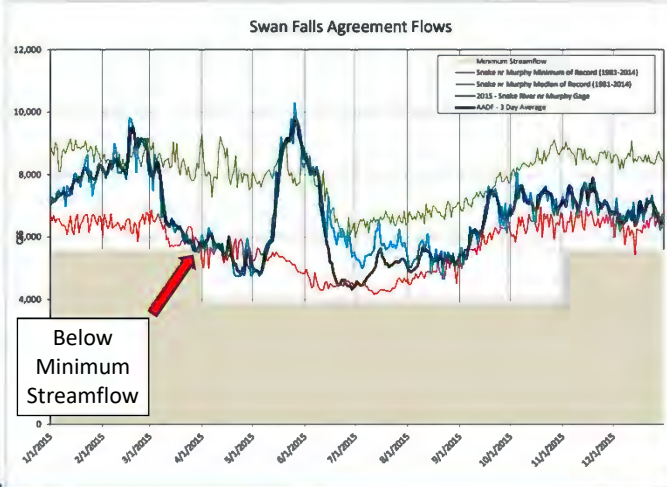
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2015 Swan Falls Minimum Streamflow Shortfall

- Swan Falls minimum streamflow shortfall = 190 AF
- IWRB passed a resolution establishing a “Debit System” to track the shortfall and deliver the equivalent storage to Idaho Power Company when requested



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2026 Swan Falls Minimum Streamflow Shortfall

- If IWRB chooses to mitigate the shortfall with its 5,000 AF of storage in Palisades (1939)
 - Estimated 2026 storage allocation as of May 3rd 3,800 AF
 - Swan Falls minimum streamflow shortfall 2,091 AF*
 - Remaining 2026 storage allocation 1,700 AF**
- WD01 rental pool administrative fee (\$2.30/AF) \$4,800
- Idaho Power Company would request delivery in July



* Reservoir space would become last-to-fill in the 2027 irrigation season
 ** Volume available for a minimum streamflow shortfall in July 2026 or carryover.

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Questions?





2026 WRB Storage Allocation

Date	Snake River nr Murphy Flow [cfs]	Adjusted Average Daily Flow [cfs]	3-Day Average AADF [cfs]
3/1/2026	6,310	6,386	6,517
3/2/2026	6,320	6,412	6,398
3/3/2026	6,530	6,266	6,355
3/4/2026	6,500	6,207	6,295
3/5/2026	6,170	6,037	6,270
3/6/2026	6,240	6,045	6,196
3/7/2026	6,080	6,215	6,199
3/8/2026	6,130	6,223	6,161
3/9/2026	6,110	6,171	6,203
3/10/2026	6,080	6,046	6,147
3/11/2026	5,960	6,087	6,101
3/12/2026	5,980	6,028	6,054
3/13/2026	5,990	6,061	6,059
3/14/2026	6,010	6,003	6,031
3/15/2026	6,020	5,875	5,980
3/16/2026	6,040	6,006	5,961
3/17/2026	6,280	5,960	5,947
3/18/2026	6,080	5,816	5,927
3/19/2026	5,920	5,769	5,848
3/20/2026	5,880	5,727	5,771
3/21/2026	5,840	5,589	5,695
3/22/2026	5,800	5,734	5,683
3/23/2026	5,760	5,748	5,690
3/24/2026	5,730	5,670	5,718
3/25/2026	5,670	5,471	5,630
3/26/2026	5,640	5,425	5,522
3/27/2026	5,620	5,422	5,439
3/28/2026	5,590	5,381	5,410
3/29/2026	5,410	5,337	5,380
3/30/2026	5,340	5,416	5,378
3/31/2026	5,340	5,498	5,417

MEMO



To: IWRB Water Supply Management Committee (Committee)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: May 8, 2026
Subject: Other Items

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

This item is included to allow the Committee an opportunity to bring forward and discuss any other matters.

Attachment(s):

- *None*