



AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Board Meeting No. 8-26

WORK SESSION

Thursday, August 6, 2026

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

Springhill Suites

1177 S Yellowstone Hwy.

REXBURG, ID

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. Roll Call
2. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Agency Overview
3. Upper Snake River Basin Study Update
4. U. S Bureau of Reclamation Teton Dam Presentation
5. U. S. Bureau of Reclamation's Planning Program
6. Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project Update
7. House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 – Bear River Legislative Draft Report
8. Schedule for Water District Creation in Priority Areas
9. IDWR Eastern Regional Manager Update
10. Adjourn

The Board will break for lunch at approximately noon.

Upon adjournment the Board will attend a field trip to Teton Dam. Transportation will be provided for board members and invited guests only.

* Action Item: A vote regarding this item may be made 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: If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please make advance arrangements by contacting Department staff by email: mlin.ream@idwr.idaho.gov or by phone at (208) 287-4800.

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: July 29, 2026
Subject: Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Agency Overview

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

George Hitz, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Operations Manager/Deputy District Director, will attend the August 6, 2026, Work Session meeting to provide a presentation to the Board.

Attachment(s):

- *PowerPoint Presentation*



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

presented by:

George Hitz

1

Dust Bowl

1930
1940

SOIL EROSION: A NATIONAL MENACE

Hugh Hammond Bennett (1928), led the soil conservation movement in the United States and now recognized as the "father of soil conservation"

DUST STORM NEAR BEAVER OKLA 4/9/35



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Dust Bowl

1930
1940

1935
Federal

A dust storm from the Midwest blew into Washington, DC in 1935, darkening the skies over the Lincoln Memorial.
Photographer unknown. USDA



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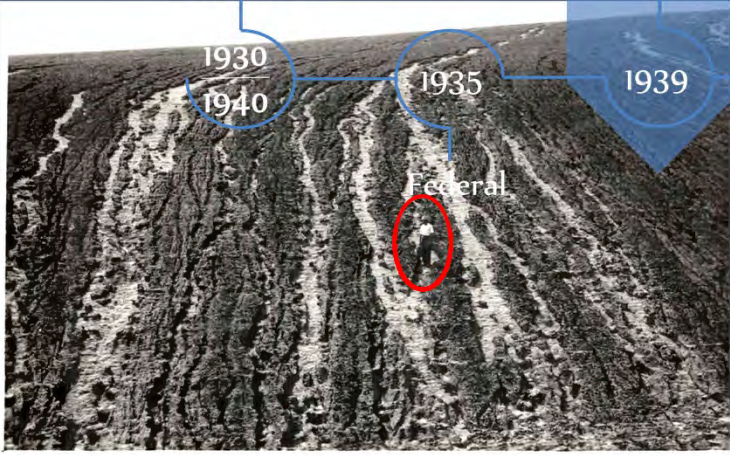
3

Dust Bowl

1930
1940

1935
Federal

State
1939



1205. August 1, 1931. Erosion on 40% slope in summer fallow field about 12 miles west of Pullman, Wash. Ditches are 5 to 10 inches deep and were caused by intense rain of July 30, 1931.

1934 National Reconnaissance Erosion Survey



¼ Land had lost 75% of the topsoil

51% affected by sheet erosion

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Dust Bowl

1930
1940

1935
Federal

1939
State

1940
Local

**PUT YOUR
Soil Conservation
DISTRICT
ON THE MAP**

One of the first Conservation Districts formed after the creation of the Soil Conservation Service.
Credit: USDA

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Dust Bowl

1930
1940

1935
Federal

1939
State

1940

Today

February erosion event was one of largest in 30 years, soil scientists say
By Matthew Weaver
Published on Thursday, June 12, 2025

EROSION IMPACT?

- Lowers Production
- Less Sustainability
- More Input Cost
- Infrastructure Cost
- Habitat Destruction
- Health & Safety concerns

Craters of the Moon

Idaho Falls

NASA image courtesy MODIS Rapid Response Team (2010)

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Partnerships



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Partnerships



Landowners & Land Managers

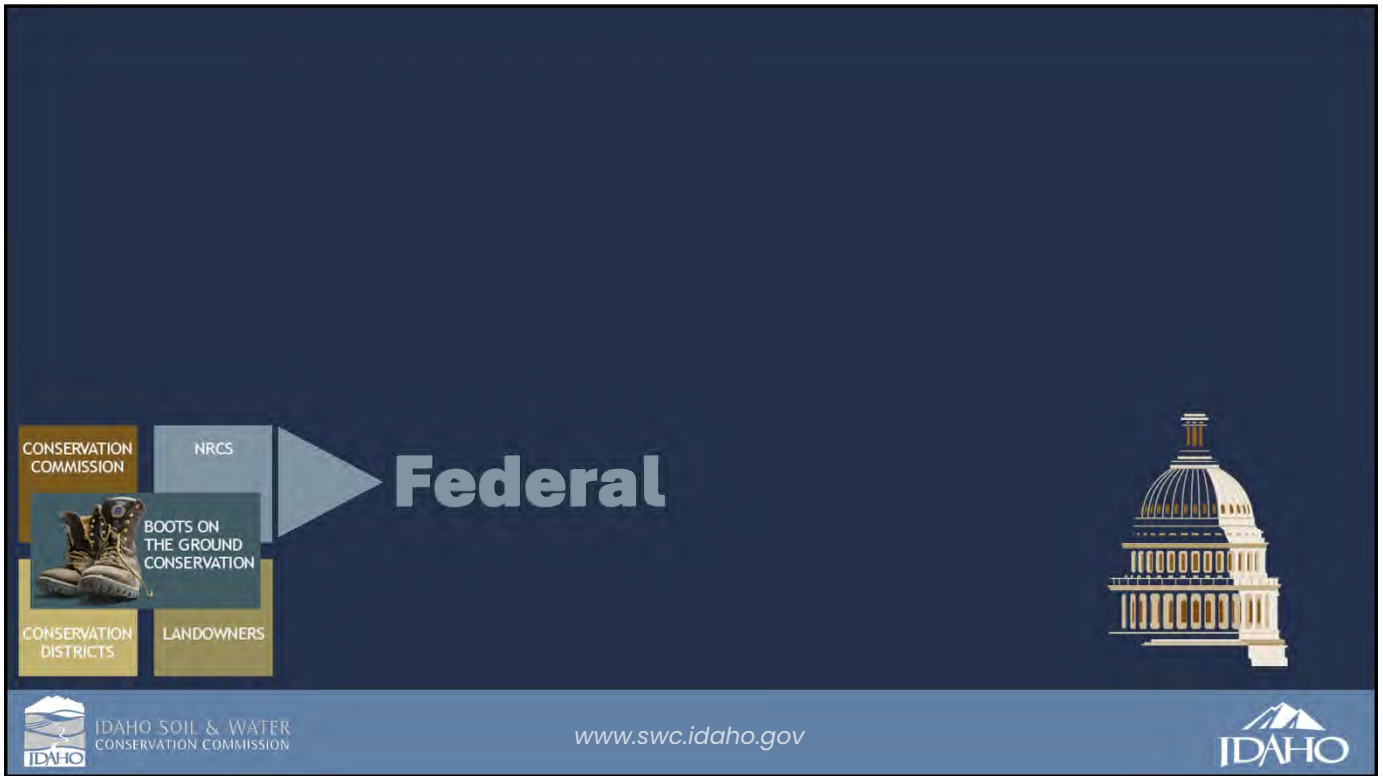


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Partnerships



LOCAL

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NRCS

BOOTS ON THE GROUND CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

LANDOWNERS

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

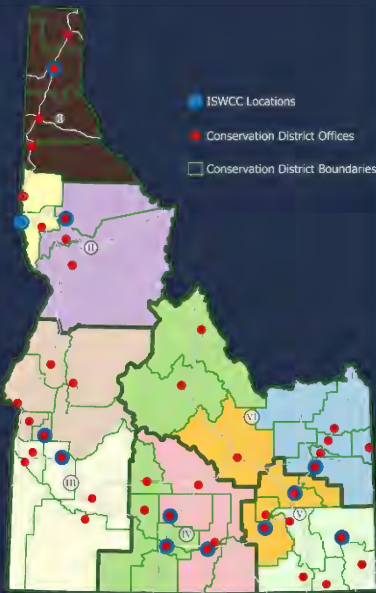
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People





Soil & Water Conservation Commission
 Erik Olson, Chairman | Wendy Pratt, Vice Chair
 Karen Sharpnack, Secretary | Blake Hollingsworth, Treasurer
 Joan Cloonan, PhD, ID | Mitchell Silvers | *Billie Jo Hodge*

In-House IT Support
 Burley Barton (IDWR)

DHR Services (Boise)
 Janelle McDonald, HRO
 Jacob Ellis-Gibbons, HR Specialist

Acting Administrator - Mat Weaver

South Idaho District Support and Conservation Programs
George White, Deputy Administrator
 Ag. Program Mngs. | CREP Manager | NRC (Idaho Falls)
 NRC (Boise) | CREP Field Staff | NRC (Jerome)
 NRC (Emmett) | NRC (Division 5)
 NRC (Ames Falls) | GW Lead/CREP

North Idaho & Engineering
 Bill Lillibridge
 NRC (Orofino) | NRC (Plummer)

Fiscal (Boise)
 Sascha Marston (IDWR)
 SWC Fiscal Lead
 Admin. Asst.
 Grants/Cont. Spc.
 #CRDP Loan Officer

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Services





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Outreach & Education





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Programs



RCRDP



TMDL



CREP



WQPA



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RCRDP

Low interest conservation loans

- 3 to 6% Interest Rates
- 7 to 15-year terms
- Up to \$600,000







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TMDL

Total Maximum Daily Load

- Clean Water Act
- Watershed Planning to restore water quality & beneficial uses



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CREP

FFY 2026: 9,621 acres (122 contracts)

FFY 2027: (2) Enrollment periods added 6,394 acres (37 contracts) resulting in a total of **159 Contracts and 16,015 acres, beginning Oct. 1**

- Since the beginning of the program (2006) -
643,787 ac-ft of groundwater saved (~300,000 Olympic swimming pools)
\$34.8M in federal rental payments | State match \$959,138 (Since 2022)



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WQPA

FY2023 – 2026



- \$12M in State General Funds + Match = \$35.5M in voluntary conservation
- 134 conservation projects
- 47 Conservation Districts have sponsored one or more projects

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Questions?

SOIL CONSERVATION



FARMING UP AND DOWN HILL IS - SANE
... UNTIL THE FIRST - RAIN



"They'd better hurry!"

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Let's get together or we'll all kick the bucket!

AW-191

USDA artist Felix Summers (1955-1967)

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MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: August 6, 2026
Subject: Upper Snake River Basin Study Update



INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Background:

Water users in the Upper Snake River Basin expressed interest in pursuing a Basin Study through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) WaterSMART program. On September 12, 2025, BOR and Minidoka Irrigation District representatives presented the program to the IWRB. Following the presentation, the Board directed the Chair and staff to prepare and submit a Letter of Interest.

Timeline:

- **October 14, 2025:** Letter of Interest submitted
- **November 21, 2025:** Letter of Interest recommended for full proposal
- **January 16, 2026:** Stakeholder meeting held
- **February 13, 2026:** Proposal submitted
- **June 3, 2026:** Proposal selected for the development of a Plan of Study
- **August 5, 2026:** Publish Request for Qualifications (RFQ) - Technical Consultant to assist the IWRB with the development of the Basin Study
- **September 17, 2026:** RFQ submission deadline

Status:

Rebekah Triolo, Project Manager with the BOR, will give a presentation on the status of the Basin Study process and next steps.

Attachment(s):

- *BOR PowerPoint Presentation*



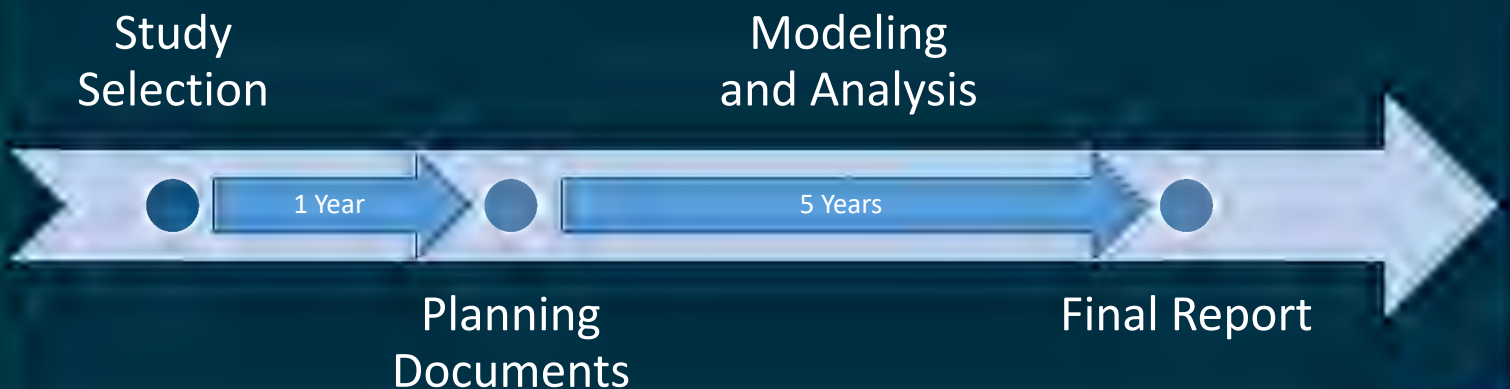
— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Upper Snake Basin Study

Planning Phase Update

August 6, 2026

Timeline



Planning

- Plan of Study
- Communication and Outreach Plan
- Technical Sufficiency Review Plan
- Memorandum of Agreement

Execution

- Modeling
- Basin Study Elements
- Technical Sufficiency Review
- Public Involvement



Plan of Study

Will serve as a project management plan for Reclamation and IWRB



Communications and Outreach Plan

- Develop a website for the basin study that is managed by Reclamation to share information about the basin study
- Distribute contact information for Reclamation staff and IWRB conducting the basin study to interested stakeholders
- Develop and distribute news/press releases as appropriate
- Establish a mailing list to ensure all interested stakeholders and the public receive updates on the basin study
- Use social media to share information about the study
- Hold public meetings at strategic points throughout the study

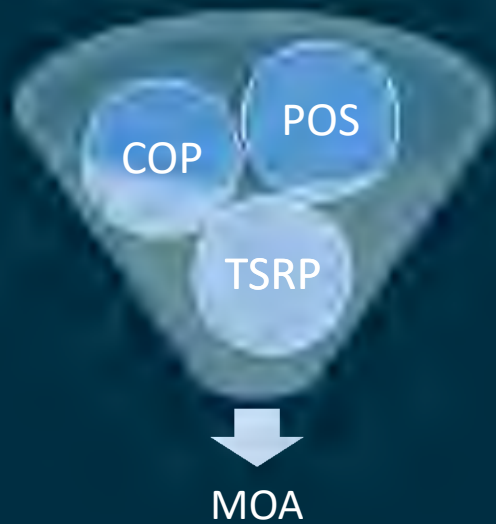


Technical Sufficiency Review Plan

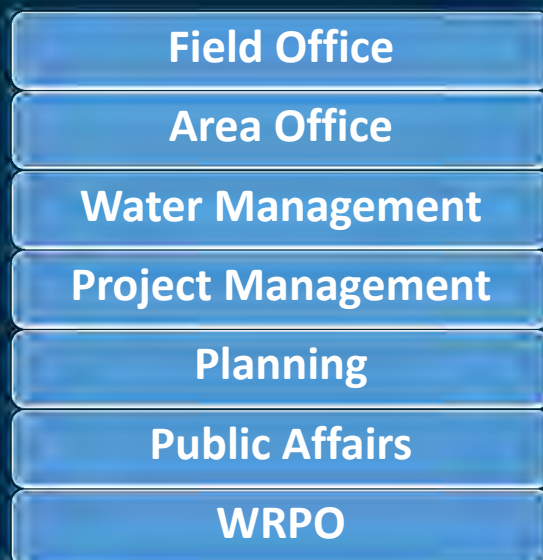
- Timing of review
- What aspects of the basin study will be reviewed (the scope of the review)
- How the review will be conducted
- Anticipated number of reviewers
- Plan for selecting the reviewers



Memorandum of Agreement



Review and Coordination



Next Steps

Transition to Execution Phase

Publish Planning Documents on Basin Study Website



Execution Phase Teams

- **Facilitation Management Team**
- **Project Management Team**
- **Technical Support Group**
- **Public Involvement Team**



Rebekah Triolo, Project Manager
rtriolo@usbr.gov



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: August 6, 2026
Subject: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Teton Dam Presentation

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will provide the Board with a presentation on Teton Dam.

Attachment(s):

- *PowerPoint*



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

1976 Teton Dam Failure Case History

Presented by Christopher Regilski and Keenan Arnold

Overview

- Part I
 - Design and construction
 - Failure sequence
 - Post-failure investigations
 - Conceptualized Failure Theories
- Part II
 - Reclamation culture before Teton
 - Design and construction lessons learned
 - Changes to organizational culture
 - Reclamation's Dam Safety Program today



Historical setting

- 1930s to 1960s – the Golden Era of Reclamation
 - Many iconic dams constructed
 - Federally driven projects with large budgets
- 1970s: Big dams era comes to an end
 - Tighter fiscal constraints
 - Fewer optimal dam sites
 - Increasing labor costs
 - Greater awareness of environmental impacts
- But ... there continued to be interest in some locally driven projects



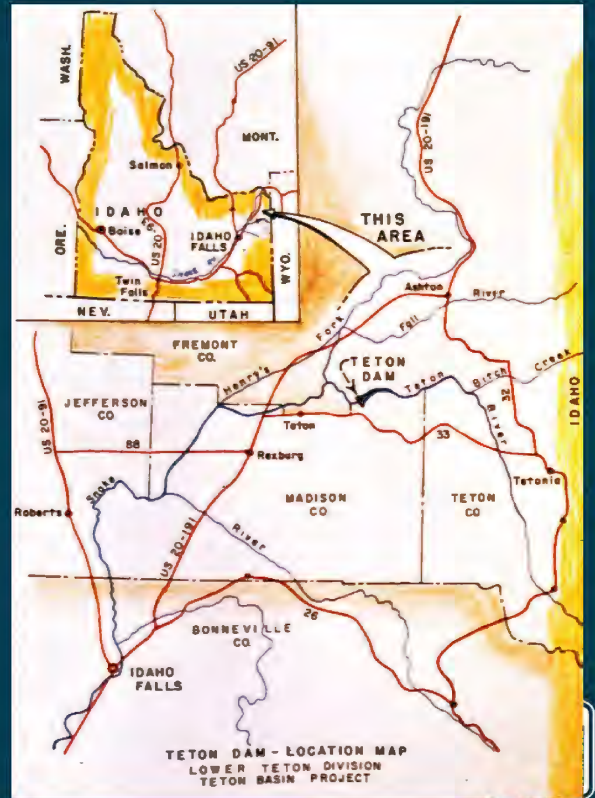
Eastern Idaho

- Volcanic table-land surrounded by high mountains
- Watershed of the Snake River
 - But semi-arid climate
- Sparsely populated
 - Typical county population density ranges from 1 to 70 per square mile
- Site of several early Reclamation projects
 - Snake River Plain considered suitable for agriculture with sufficient irrigation



Background

- Dam site first studied in the 1930s
- Site reconnaissance report completed in 1961
- Project championed by local and State politicians
- Project authorization by U.S. Congress in 1964
- Repayment contract with Fremont-Madison Irrigation District in 1969
 - Estimated cost of \$48,490,000



Background

- Pilot grouting program commenced in August 1969
 - To obtain design information
- Lawsuit by environmental organizations - September 1971
 - Multiple injunctions against construction denied by courts
 - Case dismissed in December 1974
- Construction award in 1971
 - Notice to proceed December 1971

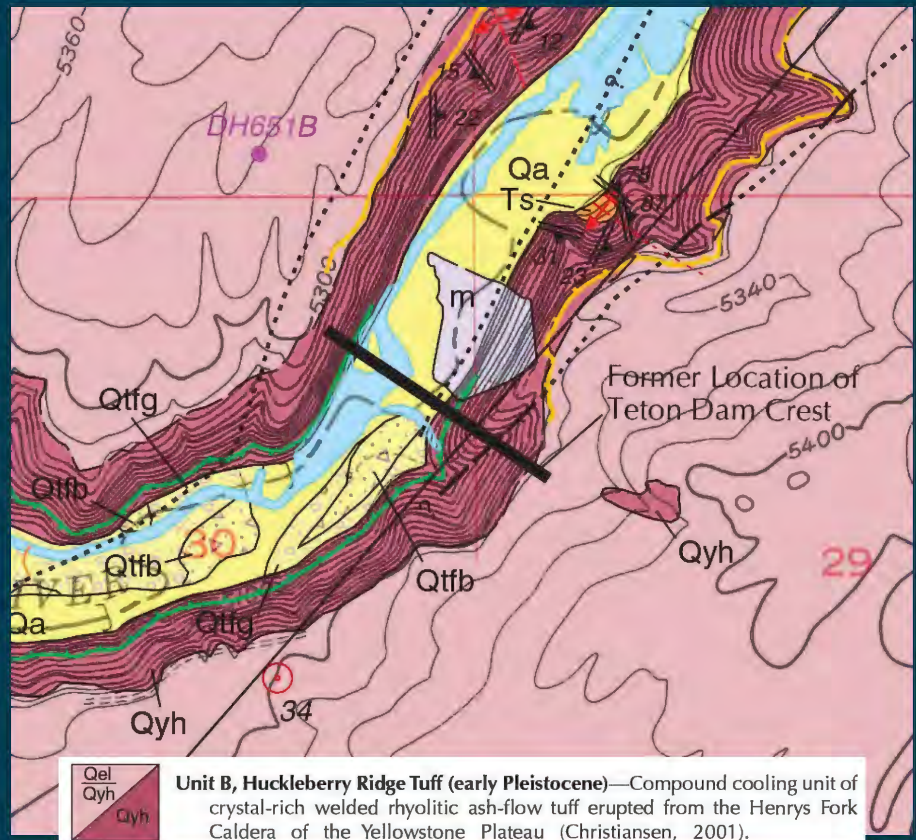


P549-47-214 NA Teton Dam--Dam Axis; Teton Project, Idaho
View of bottom of canyon at dam axis.
10/5/71 Bureau of Reclamation photo by R. Pittard.



Site geology

- Thick deposits of alluvium in valley
- Fractured volcanic rock on abutments
- Pilot grouting program indicated high grout takes in upper 70 ft
 - Concern that the cost of grouting could exceed the budgeted amount



Overall design

- 405-foot structural height
- Somewhat unusual zoning
- Locally available materials were silty and nonplastic
- No engineered filter (transition zone only)
- Cutoff trench to bedrock at maximum section
- Triple line grout curtain specified to address seepage concerns
- Grouting trenches ("key trenches") at right and left abutments





P549-147-4886 NA Teton Dam, Teton Project, Idaho
Right abutment keyway showing drill track on the grout cap and access stairway on the upstream side.
Morrison-Knudsen Company, Inc. and Peter Kiewit Sons' Company, Specifications DC-6910.
8/26/74 Bureau of Reclamation photo by B. Bockstruck



Construction

- Work began in February 1972
- Cutoff trench backfilling 1973
- Major work complete Fall 1975



Construction



Construction

- High grout takes led to relaxation of grouting requirements
 - Essentially resulted in a single line curtain
- Minimal foundation treatment along key trenches
 - Slush grouting discontinued above lower portions



PS49-147-5173 NA Teton Dam, Teton Project, Idaho
View of open joints on the right abutment at elevation 5133, station 15+30, 250 feet upstream. The joints are being separated. Morrison-Knudsen Company, Inc. and Peter Kiewit Sons' Company, Specifications No. DC-6910.
11/14/74 Bureau of Reclamation photo by B. Bockstruck



PS49-187-5201 NA Teton Dam, Teton Project, Idaho
A void in the right abutment to be grouted at elevation 5140, 250 feet upstream, station 15+30. Morrison-Knudsen Company, Inc. and Peter Kiewit Sons' Company, Specifications No. DC-6910.
11/15/74 Bureau of Reclamation photo by B. Bockstruck



PS49-147-5216 NA Teton Dam, Teton Project, Idaho
View of open joint on the right abutment at elevation 5142, station 14+52, 90 feet upstream ready to be grouted. Morrison-Knudsen Company, Inc. and Peter Kiewit Sons' Company, Specifications No. DC-6910.
11/14/74 Bureau of Reclamation photo by B. Bockstruck



First filling

- Commences in October 1975
- Heavy snowpack during the winter of 1975-1976
 - High spring runoff anticipated
 - Desire to fill the reservoir for the Summer 1976 irrigation season
- March 1976: Decision to waive the normal 1 foot per day filling requirement and allow up to 2 feet per day
 - River outlet "not ready" due to ongoing coatings work
 - Operating it to control rate of rise would have resulted in contractor claims
- Actual filling rate was over 3 feet per day for most of May 1976, with a maximum of 4.3 feet per day on May 18

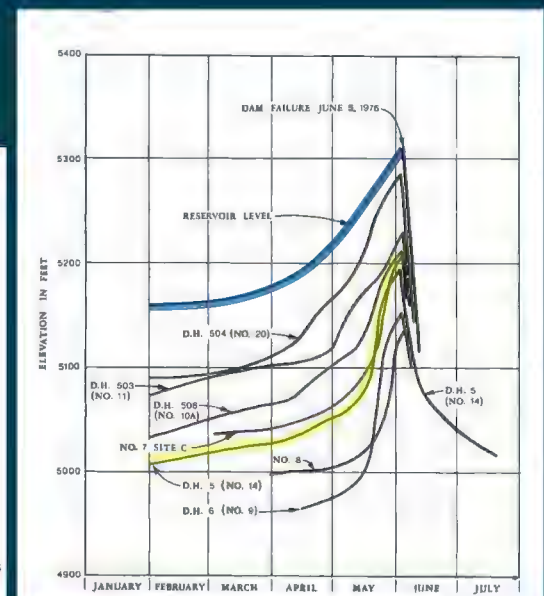
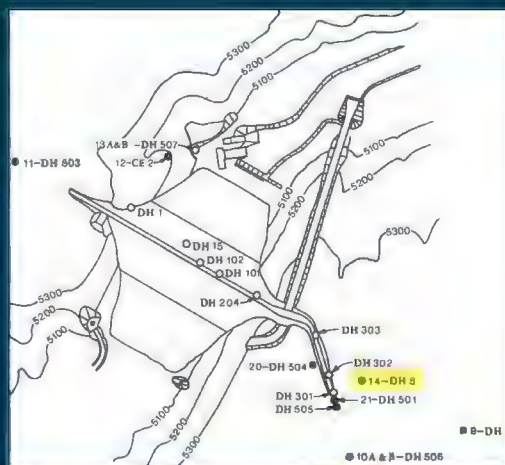
TABLE 10-2
Snow Water Equivalents as Percent of 1958-76 Averages

	<u>Pine Cr. Pass</u>	<u>State Line</u>
	(%)	(%)
Jan 1	191	191
Feb 1	142	129
Mar 1	141	141
Apr 1	141	136
May 1	193	233



Performance through June 4, 1976

- High groundwater, especially at right abutment
 - Few piezometers, only one d/s of grout curtain
 - Apparently was not a major concern

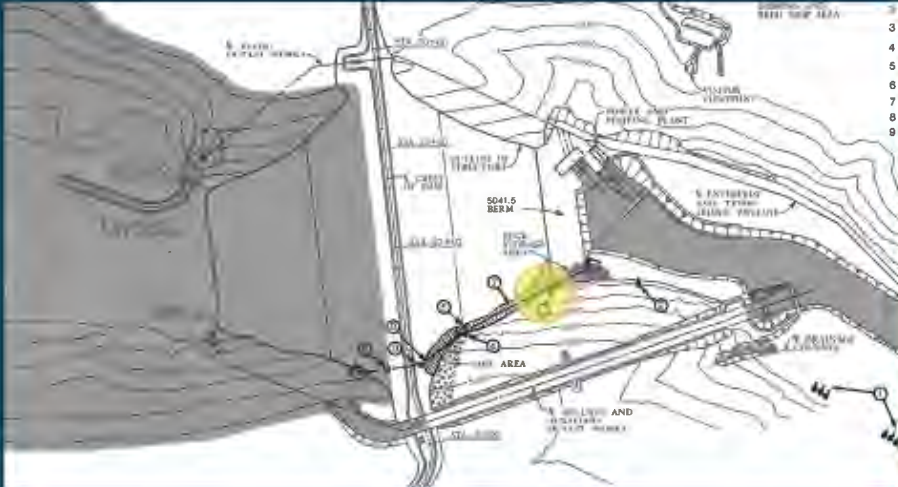


... have been monitoring the observation wells. ... These observations show that there are several of the wells in which the water level is rising. **Drill Hole No. 5** [No. 14 in Fig. 5-6] indicates a significant rise in the water table, but we do not feel that this well is truly representative of the area in which it is located. ...

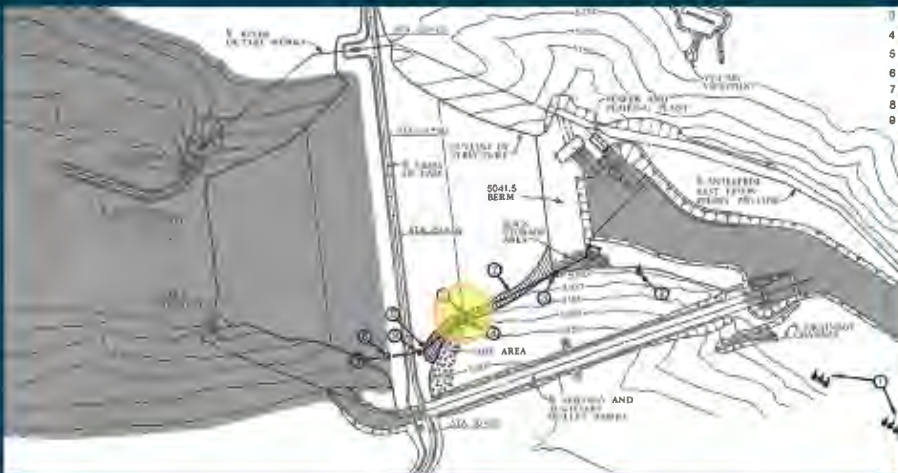
decision was then made to fill the reservoir to the spillway. (The rapid rise of the right abutment wells subsequent to that date was not viewed as indicating emergency conditions inasmuch as the left abutment wells downstream from the dam were not affected, so the readings were transmitted routinely and reached the E&R Center after

- Seeps observed along right canyon wall on June 3 and 4

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM, muddy seepage observed near toe at the right downstream groin

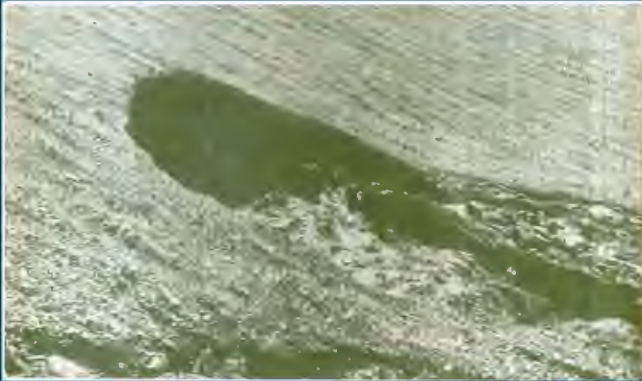


- 9 AM, seepage observed higher along right groin
- 10:30 AM, seepage breakout on face of embankment



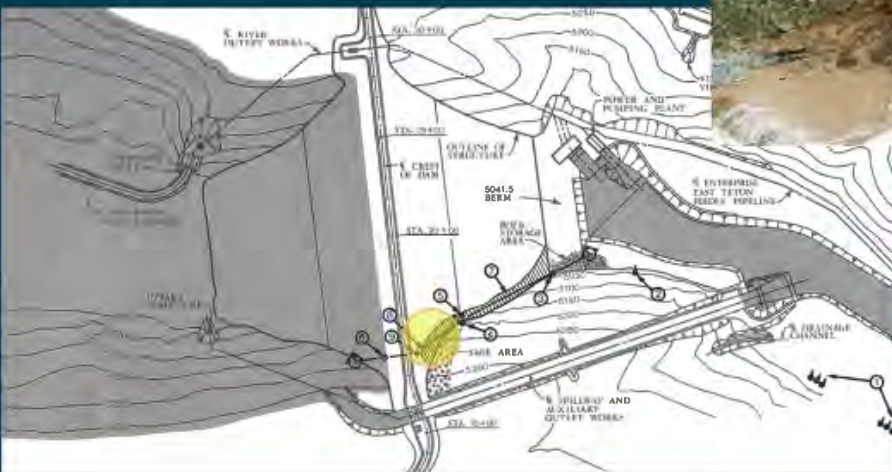
Failure sequence

- 10:45 AM intensifying seepage with surface erosion below; bulldozer deployed to d/s face



Failure sequence

- 11:15 AM, erosion continue up the slope
- 11:20 AM dozer lost into chasm



Failure sequence

- 11:50 AM, series of collapses above the erosion area



Failure sequence

- Loss of crest ~ 12:00 PM



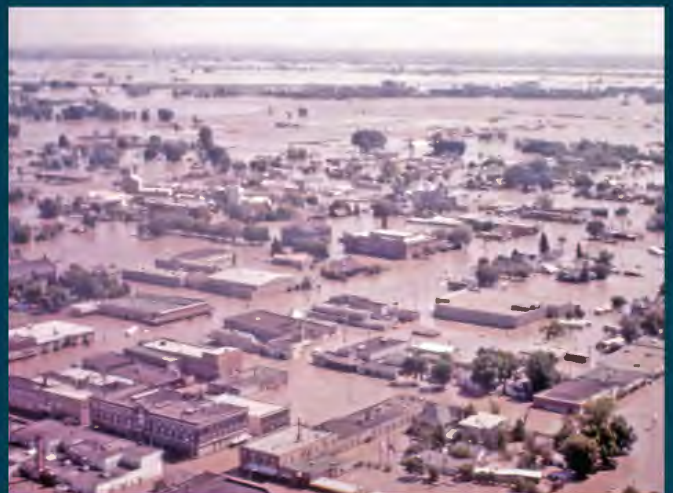
Failure sequence

- Loss of reservoir



Dam breach

- Occurred roughly 5 hours after first observation of muddy seepage
- 250,000 acre-feet of water released



Failure consequences

- Over 10,000 people were present in flood plain the morning of the breach
- Evacuation generally effective, but some returned to homes
- 11 fatalities attributed to failure, including 6 from drowning
 - Favorable weather conditions, day of week, and time of day
 - Unusually low fatality rate compared to other rapid failure case histories
- \$322 million paid in damage claims



Post-failure investigations

- Independent Panel
- Department of the Interior

Arthur Casagrande
Arthur Casagrande

Wallace L. Chadwick
Wallace L. Chadwick, Chairman

Howard A. Coombs
Howard A. Coombs

Munson W. Dowd
Munson W. Dowd

E. Montford Fucik
E. Montford Fucik

R. Keith Higgins
R. Keith Higgins

Thomas M. Leps
Thomas M. Leps

Ralph B. Peck
Ralph B. Peck

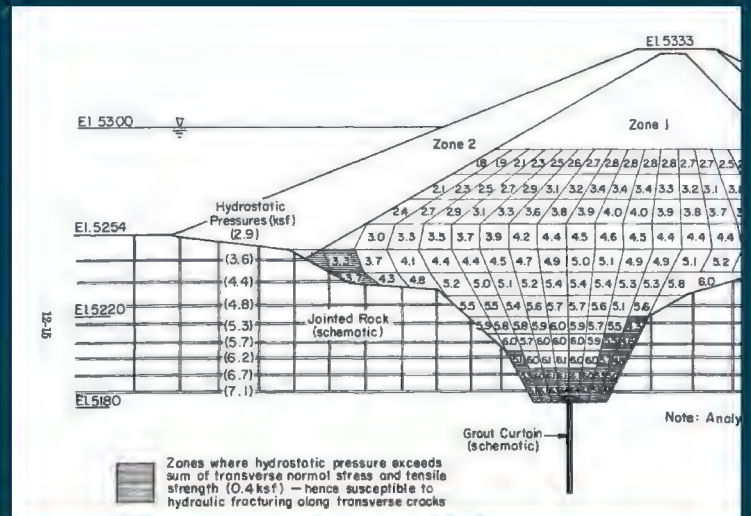
H. Bolton Seed
H. Bolton Seed

REPORT TO
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND STATE OF IDAHO
ON
FAILURE OF TETON DAM

BY
INDEPENDENT PANEL TO REVIEW CAUSE OF TETON DAM FAILURE
DECEMBER 1976

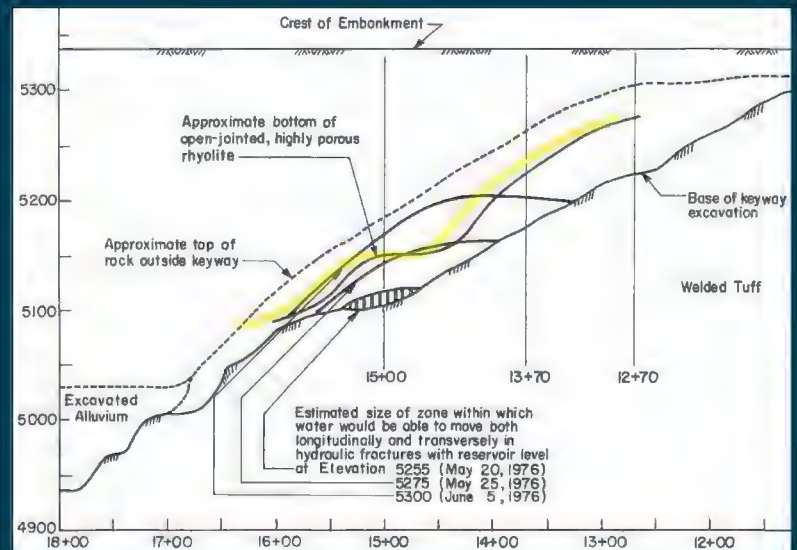
Post-failure investigations

- Removal of remaining backfill material in right key trench
- Examination and water testing of joints in right key trench
- Pressure testing of grout curtain
- Laboratory testing of soil
- Finite element modeling of stress conditions near Station 14+00
 - A portion of the grout cap, as well as the downstream wall of the key trench, were found to be missing in this area
 - A whirlpool had developed upstream of Station 14+00 prior to the failure



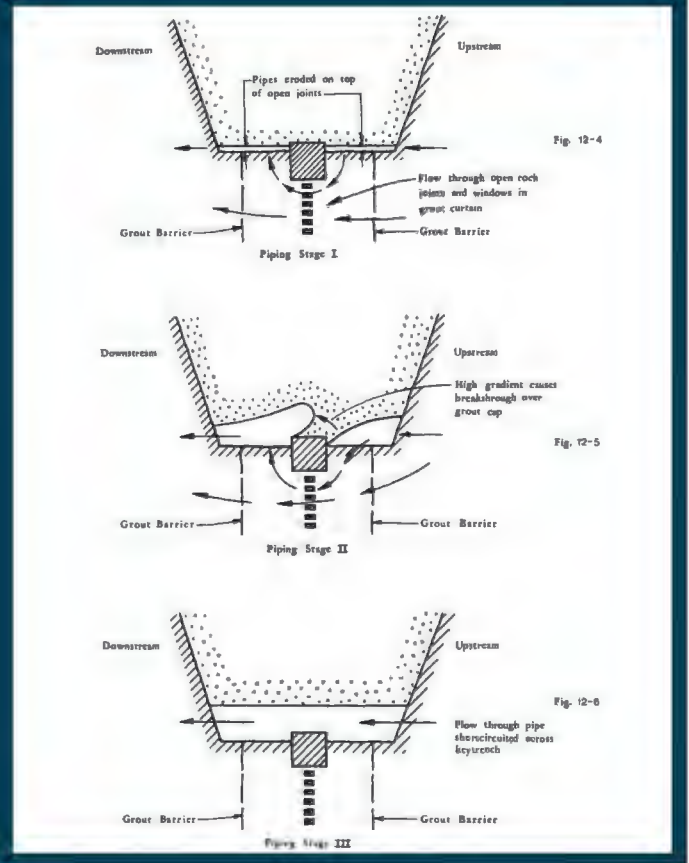
Failure Alternative 1: Hydraulic Fracturing

- Compacted soil arched between the sides of the key trench in the steep base
- Limited head loss through fractured rock into the key trench
- Hydraulic pressure exceeding the vertical stress from the soils and fractures the soil
- Water flows easier through the fractured soil and erodes the soil



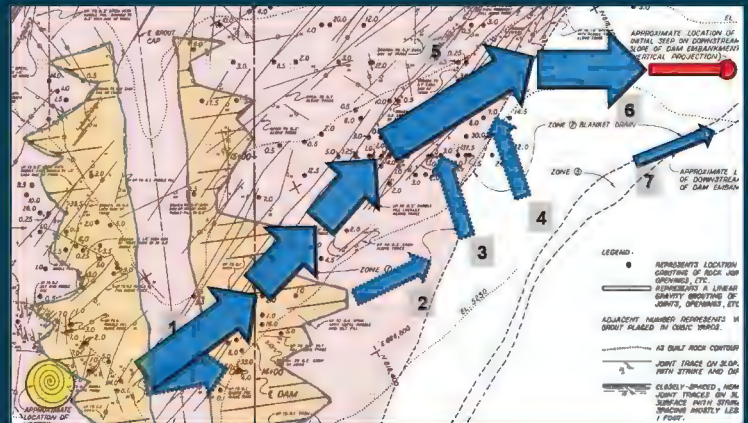
Failure Alternative 2: Grout Failure

- Premised on the idea that the grout curtain was ineffective and had many flaws at a relatively shallow depth
 - Some flaws were identified during forensic investigations
- High velocity seepage could have scoured the soils along the base of the key trench
- A breakthrough above the grout cap would then have allowed additional flow across the key trench and erode the soil above



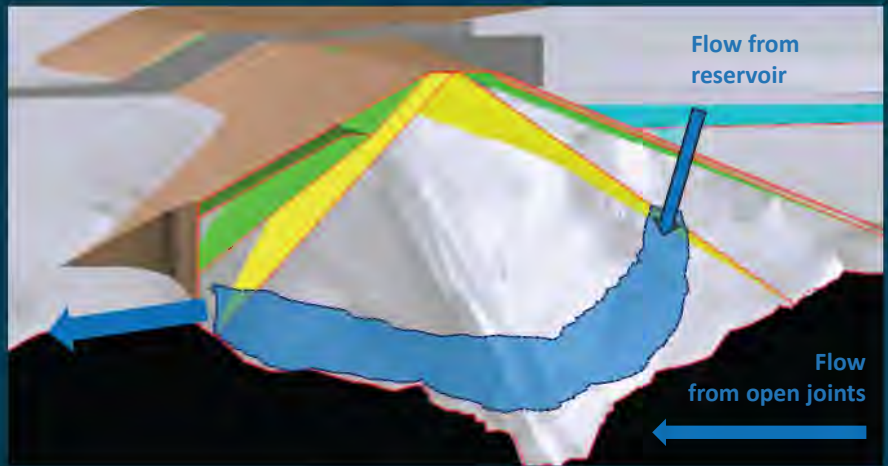
Conceptualized failure mode

- The loss of key trench backfill into the downstream right abutment would not in itself have represented a failure condition
- Rather, it would have represented the loss of a flow limiter, less permeable zone
- Eventually the voids forming in these two areas would have linked up and begun to attract seepage from other areas
- Once reservoir pressures were being translated to areas near the downstream shell, a process of sloughing commenced



PFM description

1. Initial Seepage Through the Upstream Right Abutment
2. Hydraulic Pressures Fracture the Backfill
3. Seepage Enters the Downstream Right Abutment
4. Void Formation and Loss of Self-Healing Capacity
5. Upstream Sinkhole Formation
6. Downstream Seepage Breakout and Slope Degradation
7. Final Breach



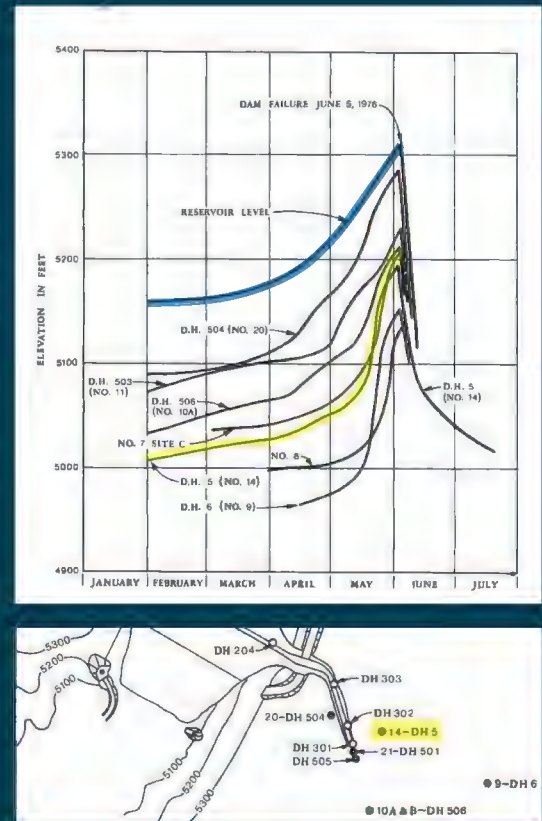
Would a filter have saved the dam?

- The use of filter zones is a key element of modern design practice
- However, it is doubtful that a filter would have helped at Teton
 - A filter zone constructed downstream of the impervious core would have been bypassed by seepage into/along the fractured bedrock
 - A filter zone along the downstream face of the key trench would have been difficult to place, would have further narrowed the impermeable zone, and may itself have been washed into the downstream fractures



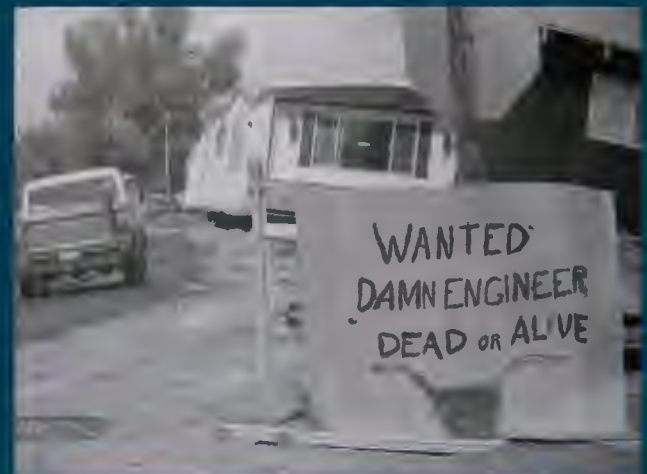
Could more vigilant monitoring have helped?

- Dam was lightly instrumented
- They probably should have stopped filling
- But, did not really know what to expect
 - For an existing dam, performance parameters are already established
- Visual manifestations of changing condition did not start to become evident until a few days before the failure
 - And did not appear to be directly related to dam
- None of this should call into question the need for good monitoring of existing dams



Overview

- Part I
 - Design and construction
 - Failure sequence
 - Post-failure investigations
 - Conceptualized Failure Theories
- Part II
 - Reclamation culture before Teton
 - Design and construction lessons learned
 - Changes to organizational culture
 - Reclamation's Dam Safety Program today



Before Teton

- 1940s – 1960s

- Big dams being constructed as fast as possible
- Concrete dam design advanced tremendously, however little advancement in Reclamation embankment dam design
- By 1960s, “standard designs” were used.
 - Very similar cross sections
 - Wide impermeable core without filter and drainage systems
 - Cutoff trenches upstream of core, sometimes to impermeable bedrock
 - Minimal foundation treatment



During Teton design

- 1970s

- Hundreds of large dams already constructed – great deal of confidence
- Despite several incidents, the standard designs were considered robust, resilient and safe
- Efforts to maximize efficiency and reduce costs in both design and construction considered rational (benefit-cost ratio)



Culture - Designers

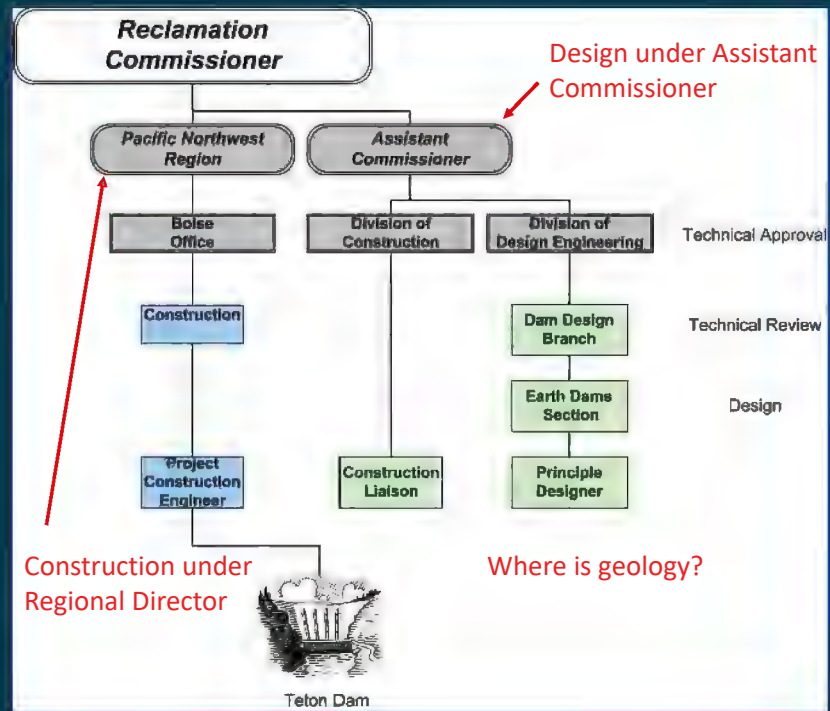
- Worked in small groups, designing multiple dams with the same engineers
- Drawings and Specifications submitted to the Region for Contract Solicitation, Award and Construction
- Independent consultants were rarely used
- Designers rarely visited site during exploration or construction (2 visits from 1972-1974 at Teton)
- Focus on cost and schedule



Culture - Construction

- Little communication with designers
 - Solving construction problems, but limited records of construction modifications or decisions
 - How to improve designs/ Lessons Learned
- Friction between designers and construction
- Reluctant to implement changes that impacted cost



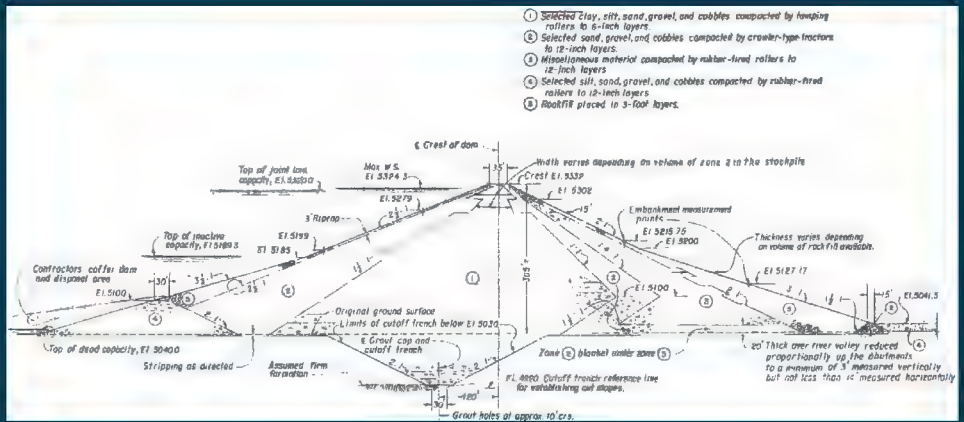


Change

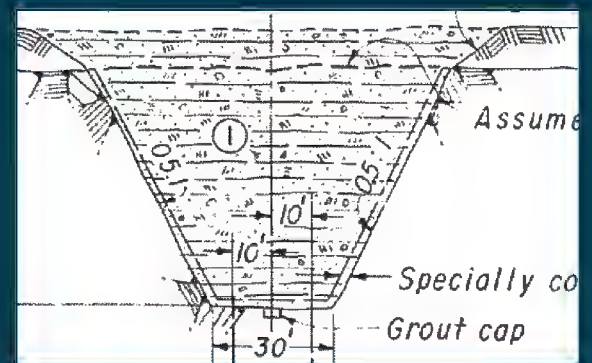
- Failure of Teton was a catalyst for change
- Design and construction
- External
- Internal



- **Significate Foundation treatment to prevent cracks / voids in abutment rock coming into direct contact with embankment material**



- (Grouting) Key trench was not covered by design standard
- State of the Art would not have used a key trench
- Risk of the design was not being assessed during conventional design practice (conceptualizing PFMs did not occur until late 1990s)



Design and construction lessons learned

Crystal Dam, CO, completed in 1976

- Dam type selection
 - Fractured volcanic formation – some amount of seepage inevitable
 - An embankment dam composed of silty materials was not the ideal design for this type of environment
 - Reclamation was building concrete thin-arch dams at the time, which may have been more appropriate for this site
 - A rockfill-based design could have taken advantage of locally available materials and would not have been as susceptible to internal erosion along the embankment contact



Design and construction lessons learned

- Overreliance on intervention
 - Reclamation had several first-fill incidents in the 1960s that were able to be averted
 - The “success” of the intervention efforts at Fontenelle may have led to the idea that a well constructed Reclamation Dam was unlikely to fail as long as we were willing to exert heroic efforts
 - Reason Fontenelle did not fail include joints were tight and the rapid ability to draw down the reservoir



Design and construction lessons learned

- Cost pressures versus dam safety
 - Tradition/ passion of helping communities develop.
 - At higher levels, political pressure to meet project objectives
 - The assumption that a well designed dam would generally perform well



Design and construction lessons learned

- Communication is key
- Frequent site visits by designers
- Detailed foundation inspections
- Documentation of design and construction decisions
- Additional internal reviews
- New design standards
- Emphasis on training



Emergency Action Plans

- Establishment of Emergency Action Plans
 - Documents different response levels, and Point of Contacts
 - Clarifies emergency decisions
- Credibility / seriousness of the evacuation warnings
- Inundation maps
 - Improve the focus of evacuations



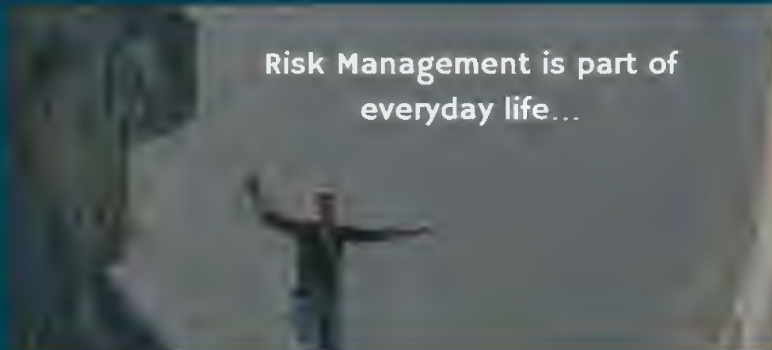
External Changes

- 1977 President Carter directed review of Federal dam safety programs and create an interagency committee to improve effectiveness of Gov programs
- Reclamation Safety of dams Act of 1978
- Oct 1979 Federal Guidelines for dam safety (FEMA 93)
- National Dam Safety Program established 1996



The Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety recognized...

- No dam can ever be made completely fail safe
- The use of risk analysis in dam safety decision making
- A continuous, dynamic process in which guidelines, practices and procedures are examined periodically and updated is essential



Safety of Dams Act 1978 PL 95-578 as amended

- Congress Authorizes Reclamation's Dam Safety Program and modifications to existing dams for safety purposes...
- Provided funding and authority
- Does not authorize modifications which:
"result from age and normal deterioration or nonperformance of reasonable and normal maintenance"



Lake Mead NV/AZ



Internal Changes

- Creation of Dam Safety Program
- SEED program (1979)
- Consultant Review Board
- Instrumentation
- Visual inspections



Ongoing program improvements

Public Protection Guidelines

- First published in 1997
- Continual evolution of program
- 2022 release of updated Public Protection Guidelines

Independent Review Panel (since 1999)

Post Oroville IEPR (2018)

Altus Process Review (2019)



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Public Protection Guidelines: a Risk Informed Framework to Support Dam Safety Decision- Making

Dam Safety Office
Dam Safety and Infrastructure Directorate

U.S. Department of the Interior

December 2022



Dam Safety Program today

- Dam Safety Mission:

- *“To ensure that Reclamation dams do not present unreasonable risk to people, property, and the environment.”*

- Reclamation Facilities:

- 491 Dams & Dikes
- 370 High & Significant Hazard Dams & Dikes
 - Would cause life loss or significant damage if failure occurs



Jackson Lake Dam, WY



Dam Safety Policies

- Guidance document

- Defines a Dam Safety Issue as:

- An issue that, if not resolved: could lead to a failure or malfunction resulting in an uncontrolled release that would place the public or resources at risk
- would compromise Reclamation's ability to detect developing adverse dam performance and prudently respond to that performance.

- Establishes responsibility for dam safety decisions



Buffalo Bill Dam, WY



Technical Response Team

- If a dam has an issue a Technical Response Team meets
- Team already established and represents:
 - Dam Safety, Area and Region Offices
 - Principal engineer
 - Geologist
 - Geotechnical engineer
 - Civil engineer
 - Instrumentation
 - Project operator



Routine Inspections

- Periodic Monitoring
 - Ongoing Visual Inspection and Instrumentation
- Annual Safety Inspection
- Periodic Facility Review
- Comprehensive Review



Ongoing Visual Inspection Checklist

Form Date: December 2022

Altus Dam

Schedule: Monthly when the reservoir is at or below 1559.0 feet
Applies to all facilities Weekly when the reservoir is above 1559.0 feet
Twice Daily when the reservoir is above 1562.42 feet

First Filling Schedule: Monthly when the reservoir is at or below 1536.44 feet.
Every other week when the reservoir is above 1536.44 feet, continued for 30 days after post-modification peak elevation is reached (then only monthly monitoring is required).
Applies to Lugert Dike & East Dike adjacent to East Trench Drain (Items 19-27) Every other week monitoring is resumed when the peak post-modification reservoir elevation is exceeded.
Daily when the reservoir is above 1553.0 feet, continued for 30 days after peak elevation for the year is reached (then only monthly monitoring required). Daily monitoring is resumed when the peak post-modification reservoir elevation is exceeded.
Twice Daily when reservoir exceeds 1559.0 feet or the fill rate exceeds 1 ft/day, continued for 3 additional days after the fill rate falls below 1 ft/day or after the reservoir drops below 1559.0 feet.

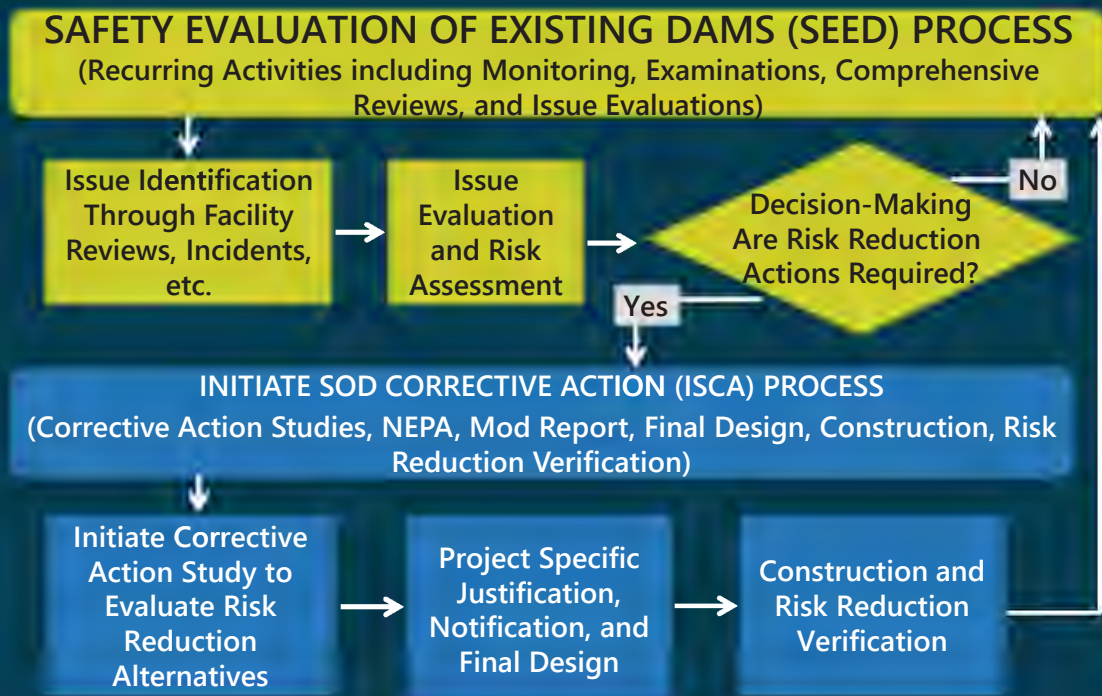
In the event of reservoir above 1562.42 feet or an earthquake, refer to the L-23 for complete guidance.

Inspector: _____ **Date:** _____
Reservoir Elev.: _____ feet **Time:** _____
Weather: _____ **Temperature:** _____ °F
Precipitation within the last 24 hours: _____ inches

A "YES" response should be given to question(s) below where observed conditions are unusual and different from previously observed conditions. A "YES" should be reported until the



Dam Safety Program- Process Overview

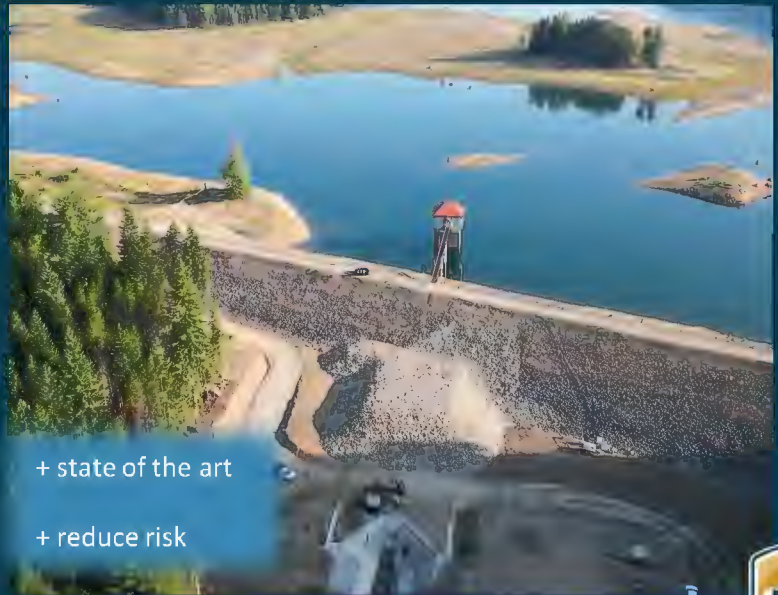


Dam Safety Decision Making



Risk-Informed Decision Making

- Risk Analysis (estimate risk)
- Risk Assessment (decide on necessary actions at single dam)
- Risk Management (prioritize dam safety actions from multiple dams)
- Risk Communication (obtain and convey risk information)



Dam Safety Website

- <https://www.usbr.gov/damsafety/index.html>



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RECLAMATION



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Dam Safety

Reclamation / Dam Safety & Infrastructure / Dam Safety

DAM SAFETY &
INFRASTRUCTURE

Dam Safety

Contacts

Links

Dam Safety

Greetings!





Chris Regilski, P.E., G.E.
CRegilski@usbr.gov

Keenan Arnold, P.E.
KArnold@usbr.gov



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: August 6, 2026
Subject: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Planning Program

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) will provide the Board with a presentation the BOR's Planning Program.

Attachment(s):

- *PowerPoint*



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Reclamation's Planning Program Basics

Presented by Ryan Alcorn and Mike Hilliard

1



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Rebuilding Teton Dam

1976 Failure- Lessons learned, Dam Safety Program created

Idaho has recognized the need to look for more water storage opportunities (SJM 101).

Teton Basin Project

- Site remains a federal Reclamation asset
- Legacy obligations including a repayment contract in abeyance
- Various geotechnical, engineering, and environmental studies would be needed
- Due to significant changes, cost estimation, and challenges, Congressional involvement would be needed.

2



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RECLAMATION

What a potential path for Teton Dam may look like?

- Appraisal level study
- Congressional approval for conducting feasibility study
- Feasibility study
- Geotechnical investigations, hydrologic modeling, risk analysis, water rights analysis, appraisal-level engineering
- Environmental and cultural compliance- ESA, NEPA, NHPA, Tribal consultations, etc.
- Congressional authorization for final design and construction
- Planning, designs, modeling, agreements, contracts, realty actions, mitigations
- Realistic Challenges- political, location/geology, cost, collaboration, fisheries/habitat, land related actions, water rights

3



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Other Storage Dams of Interest

Jackson Lake Dam & Minidoka Dam

Jackson Lake Dam- currently have extraordinary maintenance study planned for FY 28-FY30. This includes looking at the existing structure and replacing or rehabilitation. This does not include additional benefits.

Minidoka Dam- Some information analyzed previously. Information would need to be updated.

4

Basin Study Elements



Element 1a: Supply Projections



Element 1b: Demand Projections



Element 2: Existing Infrastructure



Element 3: Strategies



Element 4: Trade-Off Analysis

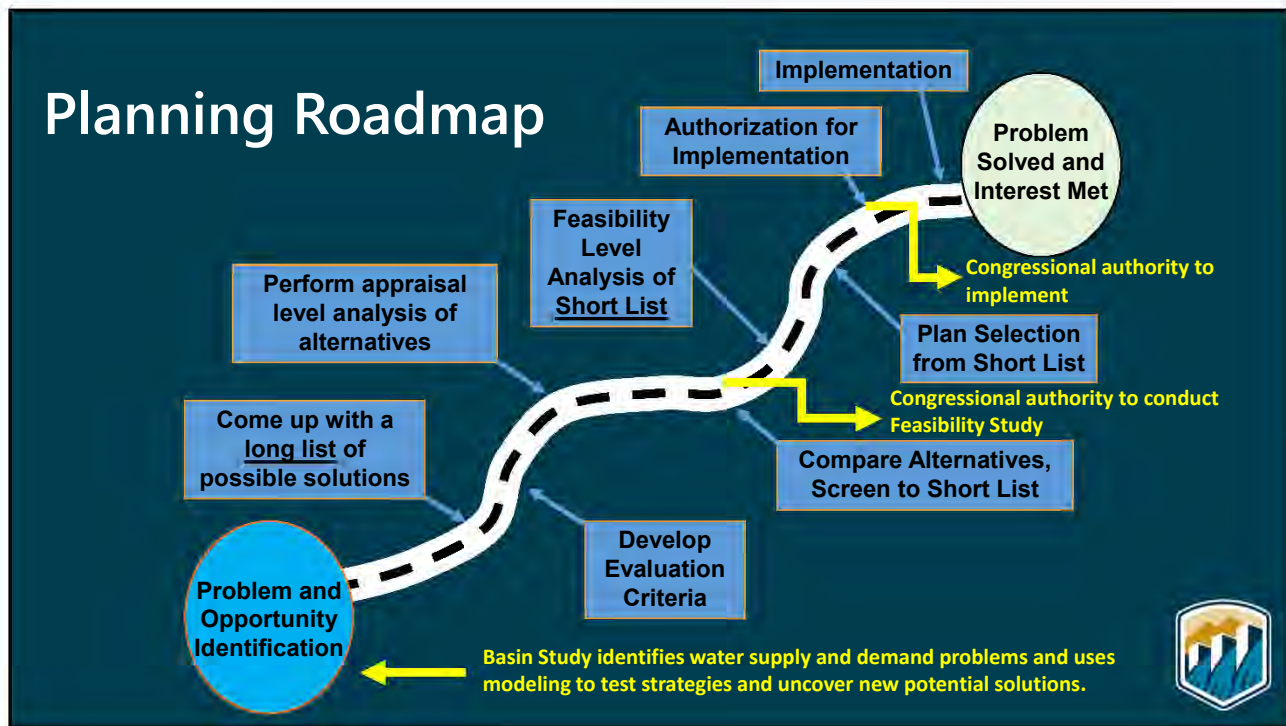


5

Basin Study Process



6



7

Basin Study vs. Appraisal Study

Basin Study

- Informs whether there is a water supply/demand problem, to what extent the problem exists, and where the basin is most vulnerable.
- Result: Basin Wide Model and tested strategies/alternatives.

Appraisal Study

- Problem/Need identified (and not limited to supply/demand, could be XM, O&M, SOD, recreation, etc.), used to inform alternatives to address problem
- Result: Documentation for Seeking Feasibility Authority



8



MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)
From: Justin Ferguson, IDWR Project Manager
Date: August 6, 2026
Subject: Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project Status Update

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Project Activities

- Reclamation has completed the 100 percent design for the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise and Reservoir Rim projects and continues to advance environmental compliance and project coordination in preparation for construction. Reclamation will provide an update on project progress and the anticipated project schedule at the August 6, 2026, IWRB meeting.
- The contested case for water right no. 63-34753 remains a top priority for IDWR Staff with the intent to have proceedings finalized in line with Reclamation's timeline to solicit construction contracts.
- At the direction of the Storage Committee, Staff conducted outreach to potential water users and interested parties to better understand anticipated demand for the new Anderson Ranch storage space and solicit feedback on potential mechanisms for allocating and contracting the new storage space. The survey gathered information on projected storage needs, preferred allocation methods, contract timing and duration, pricing considerations, and other factors to inform development of the Board's contracting framework. Staff are compiling survey responses for presentation to the Storage Committee.
- Staff are using the survey results to evaluate alternative approaches for allocating and contracting the new storage space and will present contracting alternatives and recommendations to the Storage Committee at a future meeting.

Project Background

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB; Board) partnered with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to evaluate opportunities for additional surface water storage in the Boise River Basin. Reclamation's 2020 Final Feasibility Study recommended raising Anderson Ranch Dam six feet, creating approximately 29,000 acre-feet of new storage space. The project was determined to be feasible by the Secretary of the Interior in December 2020, allowing it to proceed under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act.

In November 2021, the IWRB entered into a cost-share agreement with Reclamation to advance final design and construction of the dam raise. The current estimated design and construction cost is approximately \$149 million, excluding applicable interest during construction. Under the agreement, Reclamation is responsible for 11.05 percent of eligible project costs through federal appropriations, while the IWRB is responsible for the remaining 88.95 percent as the non-federal cost share. The Board intends to recover its non-federal

investment, to the greatest extent possible, through revenues generated from contracting the new storage space.

As project design moves toward construction, the Board is evaluating potential contracting mechanisms, and recent public outreach was conducted to better understand demand for the new storage space and gather stakeholder input on allocation methods, contract terms, and pricing considerations to inform development of the Board's contracting framework.

Attachment(s):

- *Boise River Basin Feasibility Study / Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Status Update Letter from USBOR to IWRB (signed July 2026).*



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702-4520



IN REPLY REFER TO:
CPN-6427
2.2.4.21

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mr. Jeff Raybould
Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board
322 East Front Street
Boise, ID 83702

Mr. Ryan Alcorn
Acting Area Manager
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702

Subject: Boise River Basin Feasibility Study / Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Status Update,
Boise Project, Idaho

Dear Mr. Raybould and Mr. Alcorn:

This status update is being sent in preparation for the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) meeting on August 6, 2026.

The IWRB and Reclamation partnered to complete a feasibility study of new surface water storage opportunities in the Boise River Basin (Study). Authorized under Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016, the Study focused on a 6-foot raise of Anderson Ranch Dam in Idaho to achieve approximately 29,000 acre-feet of new water storage.

Upcoming Key Milestones

2026 / 2027	Complete Environmental Compliance
Late 2026	Update total project cost estimate

Project Activities / Awareness

Recent:

- 100% designs have been completed for Dam Raise and Reservoir Rim Project.
- Project's Environmental Compliance is in progress.

Ongoing:

- Stakeholder coordination and project awareness.
- Frequent coordination between Reclamation and IWRB staff.

Completed Key Milestones

New:

February 2026	Completed update to total project cost estimate.
March 26, 2026	Completed Dam Raise 100% design.

Past:

Nov. 2017 – Jan. 2019	Reclamation completed initial screening of the three potential dam raise alternatives and developed a project management plan.
July 27, 2018	IWRB passed a resolution supporting the narrowed focus of the Study to a raise at Anderson Ranch Dam.
August 28, 2018	Reclamation and IWRB hosted a Legislative Infrastructure Tour to discuss large water infrastructure projects in Idaho with representatives from Idaho's Congressional delegation.
November 8, 2018	Reclamation and IWRB hosted an informational public open house on the Study in Boise, Idaho.
December 3-7, 2018	Reclamation conducted a Value Planning Study with a final Accountability Report received in February 2019.
December 25, 2018	Reclamation awarded an Indefinite Delivery / Indefinite Quality contract for architect and engineering services to Sundance-EA Joint Venture (Consultant) to complete the Study and environmental compliance activities.
April 30, 2019	Consultant submitted land, structure, infrastructure, and real estate impact assessment (Rim Analysis) for Anderson Ranch Reservoir.
June 7, 2019	IWRB filed a water right permit application for the potential additional storage (Water Right No. 63-34753).
June 19, 2019	Reclamation's Technical Service Center (TSC) completed feasibility-level design and cost estimates for Anderson Ranch Dam raise.
August 9, 2019	Reclamation published the Notice of Intent for an environmental impact statement (EIS) in the Federal Register.
August 27-29, 2019	Reclamation conducted Public Scoping Open Houses in Pine, Boise, and Mountain Home, Idaho.
February 3-7, 2020	Reclamation completed the Design, Estimate, and Construction review of the feasibility-level designs.

April 6-10, 2020	Reclamation completed the Peer Review of the Water Operations Technical Memorandum
July 31, 2020	Reclamation released the Draft EIS and Draft Feasibility Report.
October 30, 2020	Reclamation initiated formal Endangered Species Act consultation with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service and submitted its biological assessment.
December 2020	The Secretary of the Interior determined the Study's recommended plan to be feasible in accordance with the WIIN Act.
December 2020	Reclamation transmitted the Final Feasibility Report to Congress.
December 2020	Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations legislation secured \$12.88 million in WIIN Act funding for completing the Study, environmental compliance, and construction.
May 2021	Initiated pause in environmental compliance process pending further development of final design.
July / August 2021	Reclamation's Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region requested delegation of authority and received approval from the Commissioner to negotiate, execute, and administer a cost-share agreement pursuant to section 4007 of the WIIN Act with the IWRB.
Sept. / Oct. 2021	Reclamation and IWRB completed cost-share contract negotiation sessions: Sept. 22, Oct. 5, Oct. 19, and Oct. 28.
November 2021	IWRB and Reclamation signed and executed cost-share contract. IWRB provided first interval payment of advanced funds. TSC initiated final design activities.
June 2022	Reclamation's TSC completed dam spillway overlay feasibility design and conducted risk neutrality and construction risk workshop.
September 2022	Reclamation's risk neutrality and construction risk analysis, Dam Safety Advisory Team review and concurrence.
September 2022	Received total non-federal project funding based on the feasibility level total project cost estimate.
May 2023	Completed Dam Raise and Reservoir Rim Projects 30% Designs.
June 2023	Completed Dam Raise and Reservoir Rim Projects 30% design reviews, Value Engineering Studies, and Dam Raise Constructability Review.
November 2023	Completed on-site field explorations.
Jan. / Feb. 2024	Completed Reservoir Rim Projects 60% designs and Constructability Review.
May 2024	Completed Dam Raise 60% Design.
June 2024	Completed Reservoir Rim Projects Geotechnical Field Explorations Report.

November 2024	Completed: Dam Raise Geotechnical Field Explorations Report, potential hazardous materials site-survey report, initial plan for reservoir operations during construction, and the Reclamation / US Forest Service concurrence document for how accessibility requirements will be incorporated into Reservoir Rim Projects designs.
December 18, 2024	Completed Reservoir Rim Projects 90% designs.
Sept. – Dec. 2024	Completed updated analysis for potential water supply mitigation during construction shared it more broadly with the water user community.
March 2025	Received \$7,000,000 of additional federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
July 2025	Completed Dam Raise Updated Risk Neutrality and Construction Risk Analysis meeting.
September 10, 2025	Completed Reservoir Rim Project 100% design.
October 9, 2025	Completed Dam Raise 90% design.
November 6, 2025	Completed an updated risk neutrality and construction risk analysis, Dam Safety Advisory Team review and concurrence.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide an update on the Boise River Basin Feasibility Study / Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (208) 378-5360 or via email at ckeith@usbr.gov. *If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.*

Sincerely,

Chris Keith
Project Manager

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)
From: Mike Morrison, Engineering Supervisor
Date: July 29, 2026
Subject: House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 – Bear River Legislative Draft Report

REQUESTED ACTION: Provide Any Direction to Staff Prior to Finalization and Submission by September 30, 2026.

Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 34, Planning and Projects Bureau staff have been working on the draft second report which builds upon the findings of the initial report, and provides additional analysis and refined recommendations, as needed.

At the August 6, 2026, IWRB Work Session, Idaho Department of Water Resources Engineering Supervisor Mike Morrison will provide an overview of the draft report and summarize its key findings.

Attachment(s):

- *PowerPoint Presentation*

HCR-34 Report Update

Dr. Mike Morrison, P.E.
Water Planning/Projects
Bureau Engineer



1

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.

2

First Report (Submitted June 1st, 2026)

The first report included:

- A description of current development of 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.

3

Second Report (Due Sept. 30th, 2026)

The second report will include:

- Recommended and prioritized projects for further development of Idaho's compact allocation; and
- 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.

4

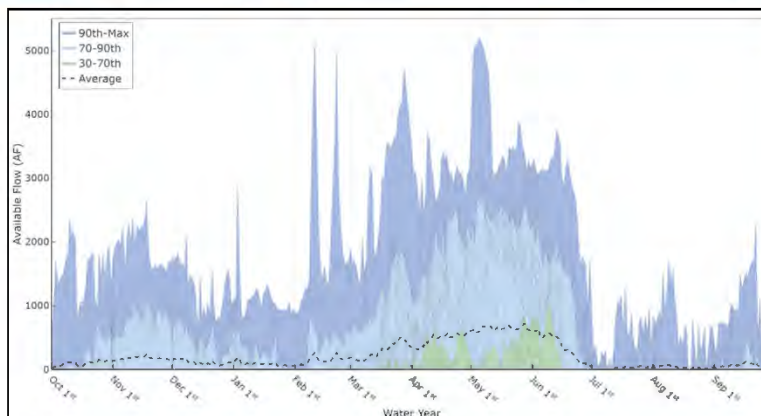
Evaluation Factors

Factors considered when evaluating projects

- Effectiveness—How much of Idaho's compact allocation will be developed by the project?
- Cost/Benefit—Expressed as Cost/Acre-Foot
- Timeline—All other things being equal, we ranked short timeline projects ahead of long timeline projects.
- Risks—Environmental review, land acquisition, permitting, litigation, and obtaining needed agreements from stakeholders. We removed projects deemed extremely risky from project ranking.

5

Hydrologic Considerations



Average Annual Available Compact Water at Idaho/Utah border was 36,941 AF (1990-2023)

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

6

Recommendations

Average Annual Available Compact Water at Idaho/Utah border was 36,941 AF (1990-2023)

Project Name	Type	Timeline (yrs)	Cost \$Millions (2025)	Risks
Bear Lake Additional Storage and Gentile Valley Flood Control Mitigation Measures	Storage	5	10.3	Moderate
Aquifer Recharge	Recharge	10	85	Low
Bear-Portneuf with Caribou Dam	Diversion	10	112	High
Small Reservoir Infrastructure Projects	Storage	5	Varies	Low
Trout Creek	Storage	7	40	Low
Caribou Dam	Storage	10	50	Moderate
Mapleton Dam Project	Storage	20	120	High
High Oneida Dam	Storage	10	220	Moderate
Low Oneida Dam	Storage	10	320	Moderate
Pumped Storage Projects	Pumped Storage	10	unk	Low
Bear-Portneuf Diversion Project	Diversion	20	380	Very High
Bear Lake Inlet Modification	Storage	5	4	Extreme
Rocky Point Irrigation	Storage	20	350	Extreme
Bear-BlackFoot Diversion Project	Diversion	20	500 - 1,000	Extreme

*Cost per AF of project capacity or annual average available compact allocation water, whichever is lower.

**Cost per acre foot of System Capacity up to Idaho's remaining compact allocation of 108,000 AF.

Recommend that the Board pursue these projects

Recommend no further action on these projects.

7

Recommendations Notes

- Annual average available compact allocation water at the Idaho/Utah Border is 37,000 AF, or about 34% of Idaho's 108,000 AF remaining available compact allocation.
- The average available compact allocation at each proposed project location is likely to be less than 37,000AF.

8

New to this report

Bear-Portneuf Diversion with Caribou Dam

- Without additional storage, the Bear-Portneuf diversion project would need to accommodate an additional 1,800 cfs over one month. This exceeds the Portneuf's current carrying capacity and would require substantial infrastructure modification and relocation. Total cost: \$380 MM.
- Storage at the Caribou Dam site would allow diversion to occur over a longer period of time (~3 months), reducing the diversion rate to approximately 500 cfs, obviating the need to modify and relocate infrastructure along the Portneuf. Total cost: \$112 MM.

9

Next Steps: IWRB

- Bear Lake Additional Storage and Gentile Valley Flood Control Mitigation Measures
 - Continue current efforts to obtain easements within the Gentile Valley.
 - Continue discussions with PacifiCorp to maximize available storage in Bear Lake.
 - Complete engineering, environmental, and economic feasibility evaluations necessary to determine long-term implementation options.

10

Next Steps: IWRB

- Aquifer Recharge
 - Work with IDWR to develop a groundwater model of the Bear River Aquifer between Grace and the Idaho/Utah border.
 - Determine the extent to which Managed Aquifer Recharge will support development of mitigation credits to allow more groundwater use under the GWMP.
 - Evaluate recharge feasibility, expected water supply benefits, operational constraints (including Water Considerations), and costs.
 - Work with stakeholders to determine whether a Managed Aquifer Recharge program could be an effective management tool and determine how it could be implemented.
 - Implement a Managed Aquifer recharge program and construct necessary infrastructure if hydrologic conditions are satisfactory and there is stakeholder support.

11

Next Steps: IWRB

- Small Reservoir Infrastructure Projects
 - Develop criteria for determining suitability of existing small reservoirs and canals to store additional water.
 - Engage with potential stakeholders to identify opportunities and constraints.
 - Conduct feasibility assessments of the most promising candidate sites including engineering, permitting, environmental, cost evaluations, and water right considerations.
 - Construct necessary upgrades and infrastructure modifications to enable existing small reservoirs and canals to store additional water.

12

Next Steps: IWRB

- Bear-Portneuf Diversion with Storage (e.g. Caribou Dam)
 - Refine timing and quantities of water to be delivered to the Snake River and determine the benefits of such a project to the Snake Plain Aquifer
 - Evaluation of alternatives that involve a regulating reservoir in the Bear River Basin to allow Idaho to move the same volume of water using a much smaller diversion system, reducing costs, environmental impacts, and implementation risk while improving operational flexibility.
 - Complete a comprehensive feasibility study, including alternatives analysis, engineering, environmental review, permitting requirements, stakeholder coordination, and Class 4 engineering cost estimates, and a comprehensive project implementation plan.
 - Assuming sufficient support, Construction could be complete by Calendar Year 2046.

13

Next Steps: IDWR

- Provide technical and hydrologic expertise for evaluation of prioritized projects.
- Assist IWRB in development and calibration of the Bear River groundwater model.
- Evaluate water availability, water rights administration, and operational considerations.
- Support feasibility studies through hydrologic analysis and modeling.
- Quantify expected groundwater recharge and ESPA benefits associated with priority projects.
- Assist with environmental review and permitting coordination as appropriate.
- Solicit and manage contract support as needed.

14

Next Steps: Idaho Legislature

- Continue appropriations for project planning, feasibility studies, engineering, and environmental compliance, and construction of the highest priority projects.
- Direct the IWRB to develop of Idaho's remaining Bear River Compact Allocation.

15



Questions?

16

MEMO



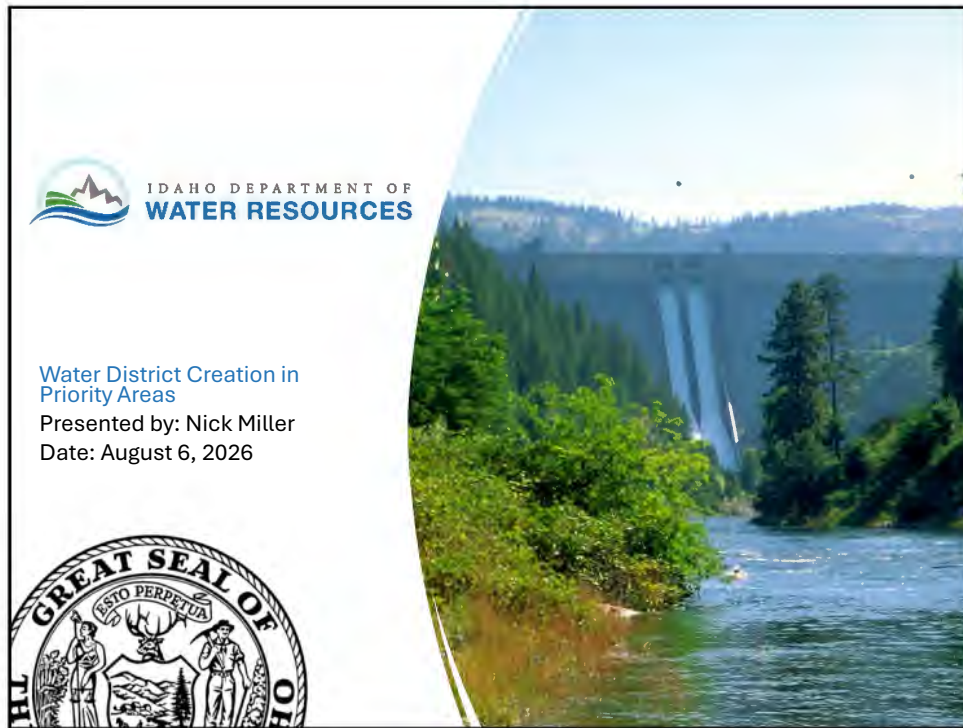
To: Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: August 6, 2026
Subject: Schedule for Water District Creation in Priority Areas

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Nick Miller, Idaho Department of Water Resources Western Regional Manager will provide a presentation to the Board.

Attachments:

- *PowerPoint*

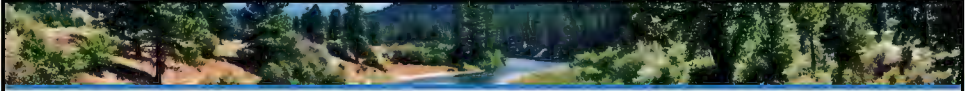


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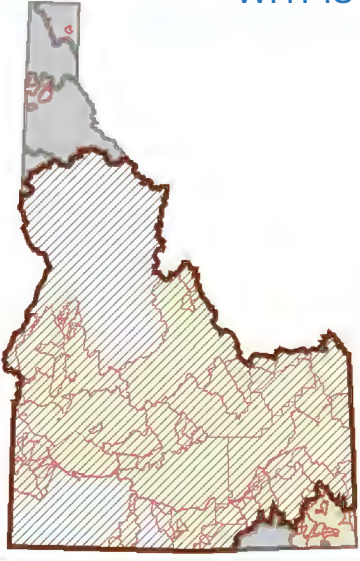
OVERVIEW/PURPOSE

1. We have a lot of water district creation to do.
2. We prioritize areas based on needs and resources. - These are our current priorities.
3. It takes considerable Department time and resources to start and maintain a water district.
4. There is opportunity for improvement.

2



WHY IS THERE A NEED NOW?



1. Required by statute:

“The director of the department of water resources shall divide the state into water districts in such manner that each public stream and tributaries, or independent source of water supply, shall constitute a water district: ... provided, that this section shall not apply to streams or water supplies whose priorities of appropriation have not been adjudicated by the courts having jurisdiction thereof.”



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

3



WHY IS THERE A NEED NOW?

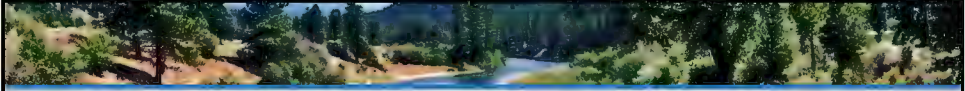
2. All the traditional reasons....



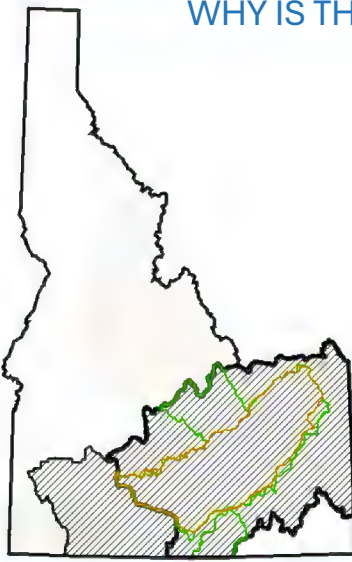


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WHY IS THERE A NEED NOW?



3. Some not so traditional reasons...

- Conjunctive management
- Agreements
- Other (often non-local) management reasons



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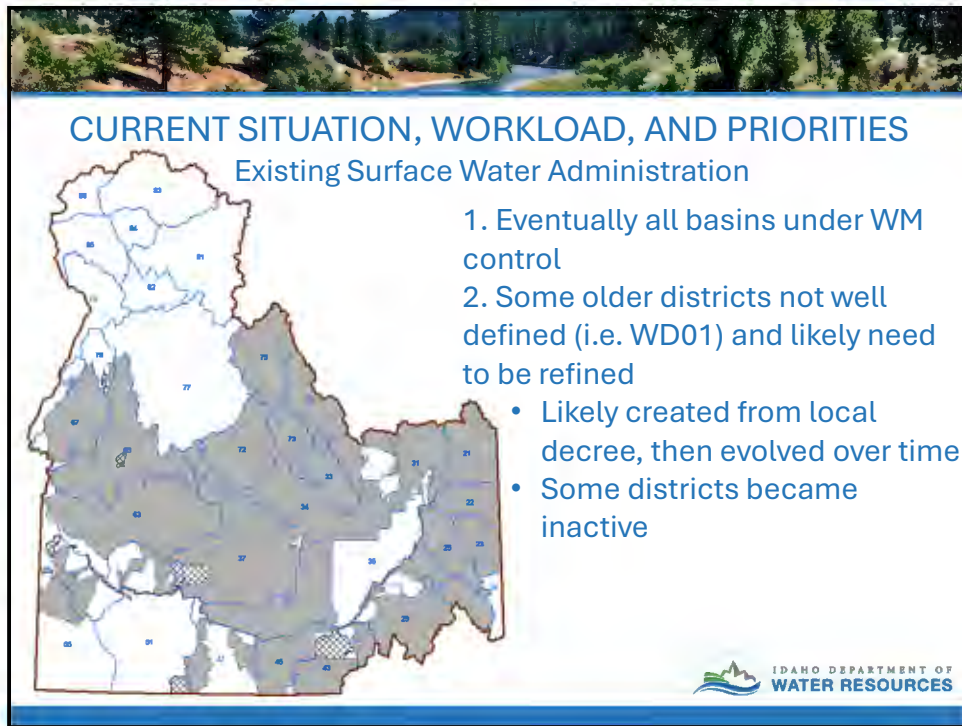
CURRENT SITUATION, WORKLOAD, AND PRIORITIES



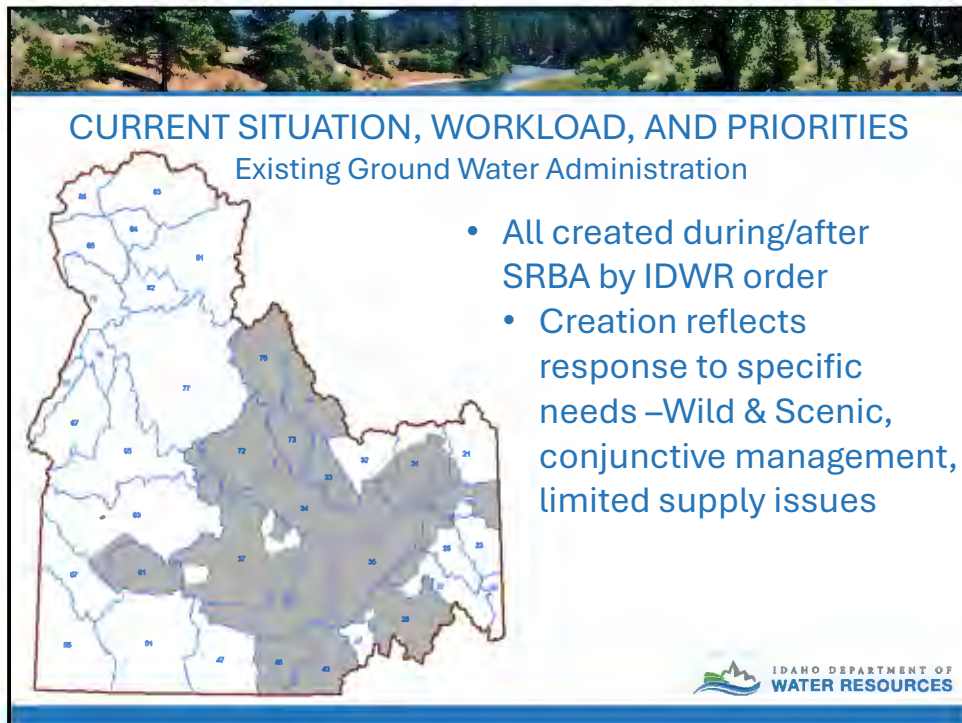
- Historically, districts created after local adjudications
- SRBA essentially complete, North Idaho and Bear River ongoing.
- Focus on SRBA today
 - Goal to enable administration throughout the SRBA
- Priority and available resources dictate timing



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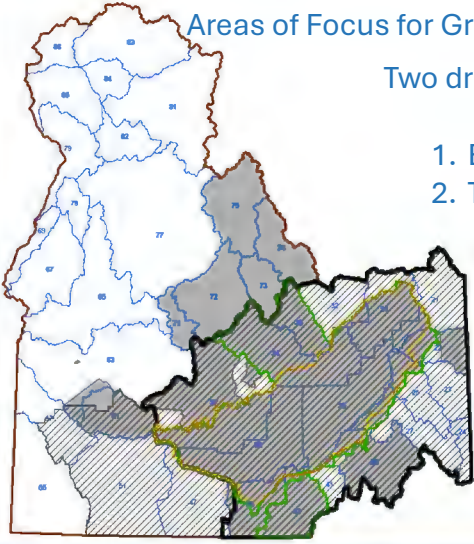
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WATER RESOURCES

CURRENT SITUATION, WORKLOAD, AND PRIORITIES

Areas of Focus for Ground Water Administration

Two drivers today:

1. ESPA Conjunctive Management
2. Trust Water and Moratorium A
 - Likely other drivers will emerge over time



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WATER RESOURCES

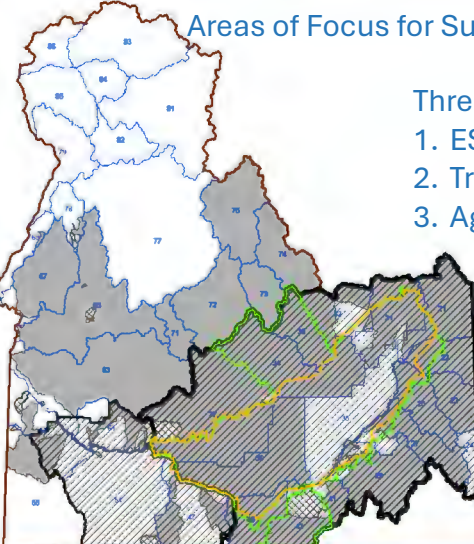
CURRENT SITUATION, WORKLOAD, AND PRIORITIES

Areas of Focus for Surface Water Administration

Three drivers:

1. ESPA Conjunctive Management
2. Trust Water and Moratorium
3. Agreements

- Likely other drivers will emerge over time



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THE PROCESS

Bringing an area under watermaster administration

Department Staff are heavily involved in education, guidance, training, ongoing support both before creating a district, **and for several years after** issuing an order creating a district

- Typically about three years from start to an operating district
Creating the district is the “easy” part
 - Typically, about a year from starting the process to holding first annual meeting
- Making it work thereafter is a long and difficult process
 - Typically, 2-3 years more to complete setting up district, inventory diversions, train district staff and watermaster, and implement measurement and control

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THE PROCESS

What happens before a district is created?

- Essential to engage local users:
 - Early outreach to form a local steering committee
 - Public information meetings in advance of a hearing
- Follow the prescription:
 - 10 days notice before a hearing, hold a hearing, allow another 10 days for written comments
 - Issue an order – the district now exists
 - Depending on the time of year and the state of the steering committee, might need several months in advance of an annual meeting to find staff candidates, develop resolutions, proposed budget, etc

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THE PROCESS

What happens after the first meeting is held?

- Appoint watermaster and treasurer then they can get the admin side on track
 - They need to set up the organization – EIN, Employment documents, Bank account, mailing address, various registrations
 - Collect assessments – work with county or send invoices, etc.
- Train Watermaster, Treasurer, any other staff and develop “inventory”
 - First season typically getting things established
 - Usually, new watermasters need ground up training
 - Water rights list is half the story... WM and IDWR work to reconcile with on the ground reality
 - Who owns what, really?
 - Where are the diversions... really?
- Issue measurement and control order and Implement the requirements
 - Usually give users at least a season to come into compliance

Department Staff are heavily involved in every step

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SUMMARY AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE PROCESS:

- A Water District is self-funded and locally controlled, but not entirely independent of IDWR
 - IDWR's directs and controls the distribution of water from all natural water sources within Idaho through watermasters
 - Water districts are instrumentalities of the state that independently fund, elect, and employ watermasters and others to operate the organization
- Statutory model balances local control with Director supervision
 - Users annually elect a watermaster, set a budget, and adopt governing resolutions.
 - Director appoints the elected Watermaster and supervises water delivery through training, providing information, guidance, and instructions
 - Director's role is (intentionally?) limited to favor local control – appealing when issues and funding are local and when users are informed and interested

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SUMMARY AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE PROCESS:

“Issues are increasingly non-local, water practices are changing, and the job of a watermaster is becoming more complex – local interests and larger interests don’t always align. Investments in education, training, and support are needed”

- Department invests considerable resources on existing districts to meet bare minimum requirements. Often without success.
- We invest heavily in new water districts so they are equipped to perform in these conditions. We have been successful in setting districts up, but it is fragile. All districts need ongoing support.
- Water Districts, as they are currently governed and operated, are resource intensive to create and maintain. This fact drives the timelines and limits progress toward the obligation to administer all adjudicated water rights.
- We have had success with economies of scale that can fund professional staff, or where IDWR has operated a district instead of supervising it.

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SUMMARY AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE PROCESS:

- One strategy is to lean on larger districts and on expanding existing districts to reduce startup training and district setup, leverage economies of scale, etc.
- Some challenges will always remain:



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WITH ALL OF THAT...

WHAT IS THE TIMEFRAME FOR THESE PRIORITY AREAS?

*** Recall timelines are necessarily a little fuzzy? ****

- ESPA Trib GW and Surface Water Tributary above Milner
 - The plan for GW in the eastern basins is to modify 100, 110, and 120 to leverage existing districts with department watermasters – those area likely administrable within a couple of years – rather than a projected 2030 date for entirely new districts
 - Clover and Little Wood/Wagon Creek - small, could be equally time consuming
 - Anticipate also leveraging existing districts for the remaining SW tributary to the Snake River, with a similar timeline, likely staggered start.
- Non-ESPA moratorium/Trust Water GW and Surface water tributary Milner to Swan Falls
 - Will look to leverage existing districts – expanding WD02, but expect several entirely new districts, so that area (51, 57, 61, 47) will take considerably longer to be fully administrable - for example if we have five or six to modify/create and can start one or two each year, then looking at about 2035 at the earliest.

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SUMMARY – FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. We will be continuously creating water districts to administer the six general adjudications until the entire state is “divided into water districts”
2. That process will take decades and considerable resources and will proceed accordingly. Priorities can shift to respond to changing needs and resources
3. There is opportunity to improve the process:
 - Streamline training and district setup
 - Additional resources – either for the Department or the districts, or others?
 - Pursue changes in statute – the statutory model for a water district could be modernized to help align local incentives with State objectives, for example.
 - How can the IWRB help?

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RECAP – END.

1. We have a lot of water district creation to do.
2. We prioritize areas based on needs and resources. - You know our current priorities – and that they can change
3. It takes considerable Department time and resources to start and maintain a water district
4. There is opportunity for improvement.

Questions?

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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Questions?

Nick Miller, Chief
Water Administration Bureau
Nick.Miller@IDWR.Idaho.gov



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MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: August 6, 2026
Subject: IDWR Eastern Regional Manager Update

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

James Cefalo, Eastern Regional Manager with the Idaho Department of Water Resources, will provide the Board with a presentation update.

Attachment(s):

- *PowerPoint Presentation*

REGIONAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Idaho Water Resource Board Work Session
August 6, 2026



1

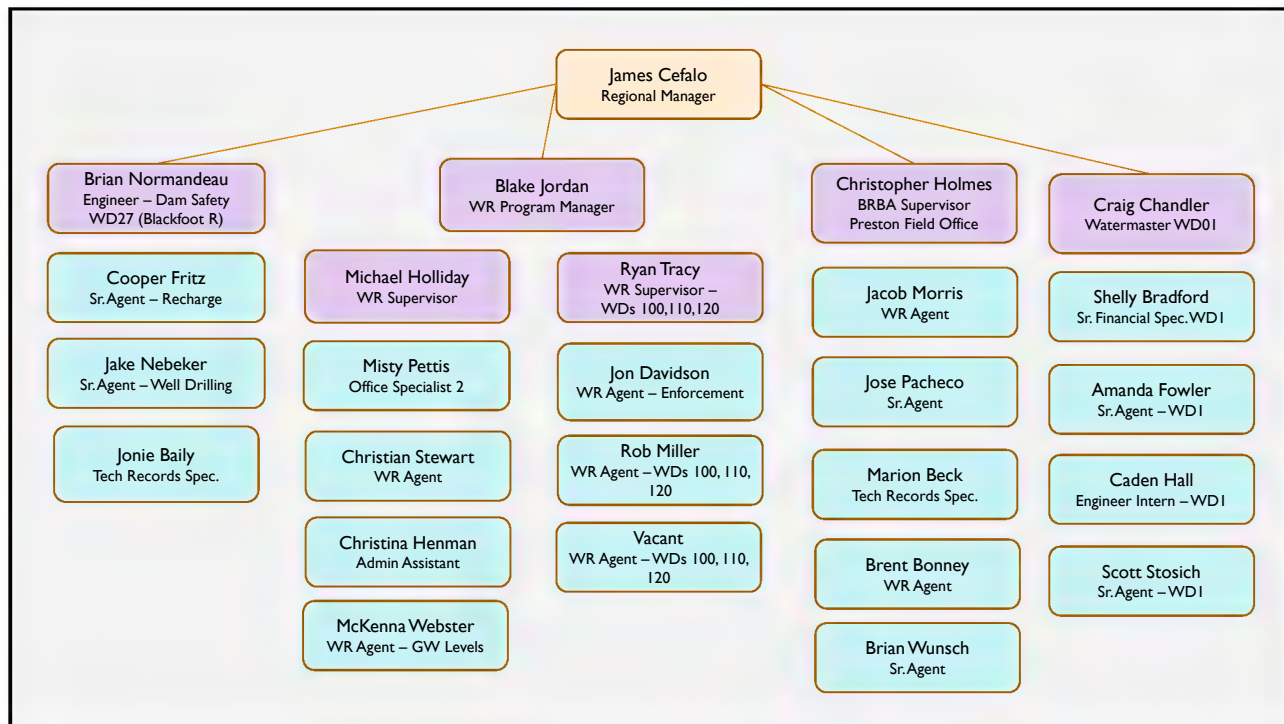
JAMES CEFALO - IDWR EASTERN REGIONAL MANAGER

- Born and raised in Northern Utah.
- Civil Engineering Degree from University of Utah.
- Law Degree from University of Colorado.
- Joined IDWR in 2007.
- Regional Manager in 2019.
- Hearing officer for contested cases.
- Alternate Bear River Commissioner for Idaho.



Mount Olympus
go-utah.com

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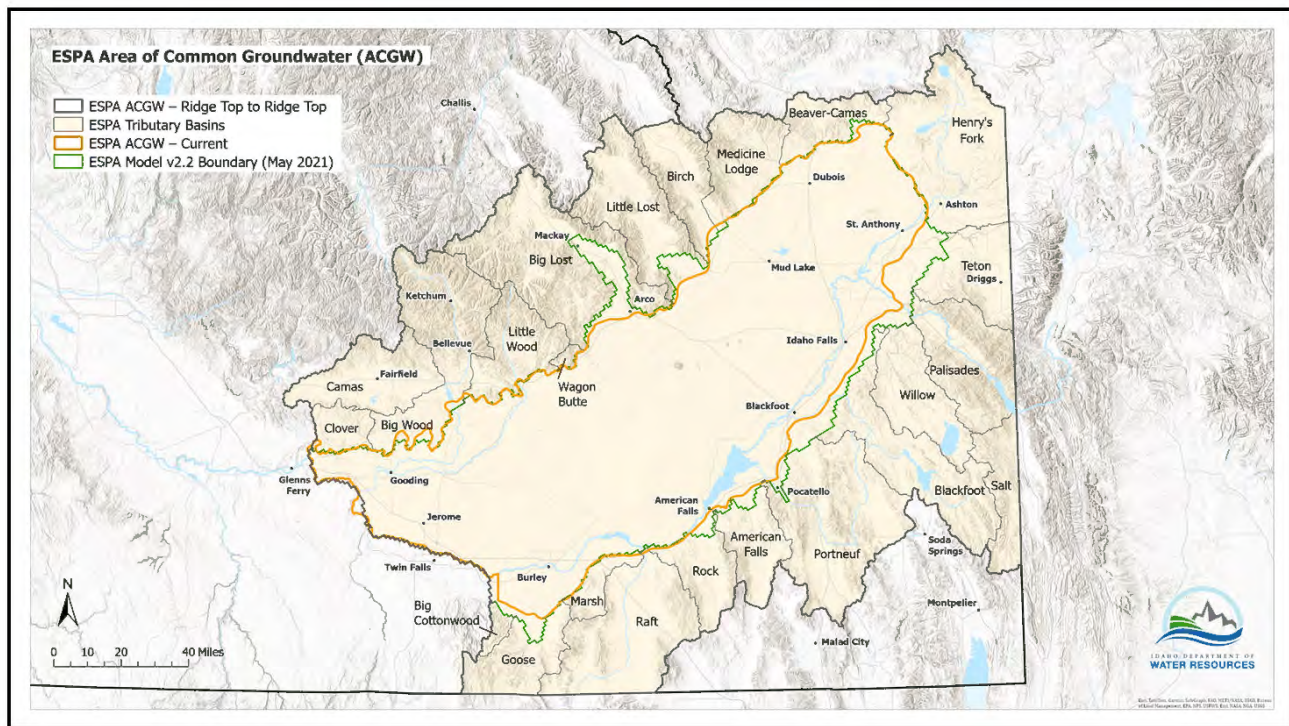


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SWC DELIVERY CALL - SUMMER 2025 CURTAILMENT

- Based on the Sixth Methodology Order (2023) and severe drought conditions developing in the spring and extending through the summer, the curtailment for the SWC Delivery Call reached the maximum possible curtailment level in July 2025.
- All ground water rights junior to October 11, 1900, were curtailed unless the rights were enrolled in an approved mitigation plan.
- **Most ground water rights and ground water users across the ESPA were not affected by the summer 2025 curtailment order because they were already enrolled in an approved mitigation plan.**

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SWC DELIVERY CALL - SUMMER 2026 CURTAILMENT

- Ongoing drought means the curtailment level has not changed.
- All rights junior to October 11, 1900, are curtailed unless the rights are enrolled in an approved mitigation plan. Curtailment does not affect exempt domestic uses.
- Beginning in 2026, Curtailment Orders also apply to water users in the expanded area having a common ground water supply (area of impact).
- Most ground water rights and ground water users across the ESPA were unaffected by the summer 2025 curtailment order because they were enrolled in an approved mitigation plan.
- Approximately 930 water rights on the Summer 2026 curtailment list.
- Approximately 750 of those water rights in Eastern Region.

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SWC DELIVERY CALL - SUMMER 2026 CURTAILMENT

Current Status of Summer 2026 Curtailment Effort

Curtailment Status Category	Status as of June 22, 2026 (# of ground water rights) ³	Percent of Total	Status as of July 29, 2026 (# of ground water rights) ³	Percent of Total
Curtailment Unnecessary ¹	446	48%	506	54%
Curtailed by User ²	323	35%	328	35%
Investigation Ongoing	145	16%	85	9%
Investigation Not Yet Initiated	16	2%	11	1%
Total Number of Rights Subject to Curtailment	930		930	

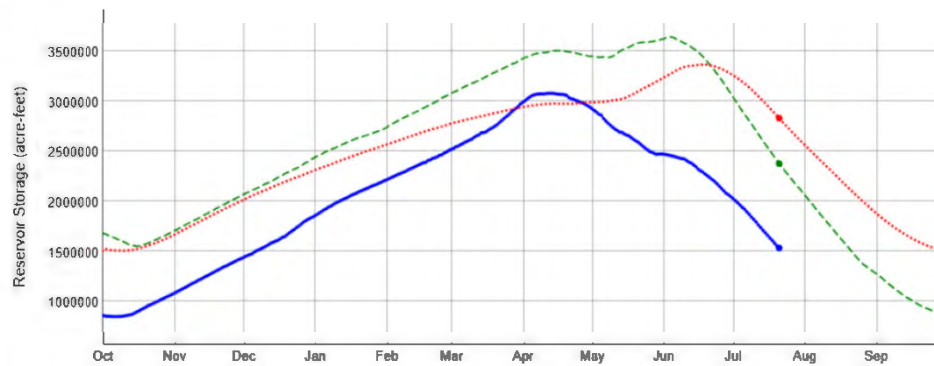
¹ Examples include rights that meet the domestic exemption limits of Idaho Code 42-111, rights found to be participating in an approved mitigation plan, or instances in which no well was found to exist at that point of diversion.

² Examples include instances in which the ground water user has curtailed their use but the Watermaster has not physically locked the well, or the well is not being used at all, or the user has limited their use to fit within the domestic exemption limits of Idaho

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DROUGHT – RESERVOIRS

Current Year: 1535388
 Previous Year: 2377138
 Average: 2831207.86



PROVISIONAL DATA - Subject to change

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DROUGHT – RESERVOIRS

Water District 1 Accounting July 26, 2026

Reservoir	Current Contents (af)	Total Space (af)	Percent Remaining	Daily Use (af)	Daily Use %
Jackson Lake	559,310	847,000	66.0%	8,720	1.0%
Palisades	360,240	1,200,000	30.0%	7,960	0.7%
Henry's Lake	81,958	90,000	91.1%	1,020	1.1%
Island Park	65,597	135,000	48.6%	1,620	1.2%
Grassy Lake	8,237	15,200	54.2%	215	1.4%
Ririe	53,135	80,500	66.0%	120	0.1%
American Falls	369,221	1,672,600	22.1%	9,310	0.6%
Walcott	95,200	95,200	100.0%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	1,592,898	4,135,500	38.5%	28,965	0.7%

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DROUGHT EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Excerpts from Order Declaring Drought Emergency (April 13, 2026)

WHEREAS, the peak snow water equivalent (SWE) ... in all basins in Idaho, except for the Big Wood, Little Wood, Big Lost, and Little Lost basins, registered below the 20th percentile on SNOTEL indices-indicative of Moderate Drought conditions-with seven basins recording peak SWE below the 2nd percentile, reflecting Exceptional Drought conditions;

WHEREAS, these abnormally low SWE levels were primarily attributable to the second warmest snow accumulation season (October through March) recorded in Idaho since 1896 ..., with only the winter of 1933-1934 being warmer;

WHEREAS, the April 1 snowpack in Idaho was the lowest on record according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) SNOTEL index, with 54 snow course locations and 45 SNOTEL sites within the Snake River Basin reporting record low SWE values;

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to the authority of the Director provided in Idaho Code § 42-222A, a drought emergency for purposes of Idaho Code § 42-222A is hereby declared for all Idaho counties.

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DROUGHT – TEMPORARY CHANGES

Idaho Code § 42-222A(1):

Upon declaration of a drought emergency for an area designated by the director of the department of water resources and approved by the governor of the state of Idaho, the director of the department of water resources is authorized to allow temporary changes to the use of water rights consisting of temporary transfers to change point of diversion, place and purpose of use of valid existing water rights . . . when the director of the department of water resources determines that such change(s) can be accomplished in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Temporary Changes (aka Drought Emergency Transfer) Processed by Eastern Region in 2026:

Basin 21 (Henrys Fork) – 3 approved
 Basin 29 (Portneuf River) – 1 approved, 1 withdrawn
 Basin 34 (Big Lost River) – 9 approved, 1 denied
 Basin 35 (ESPA) – 1 approved

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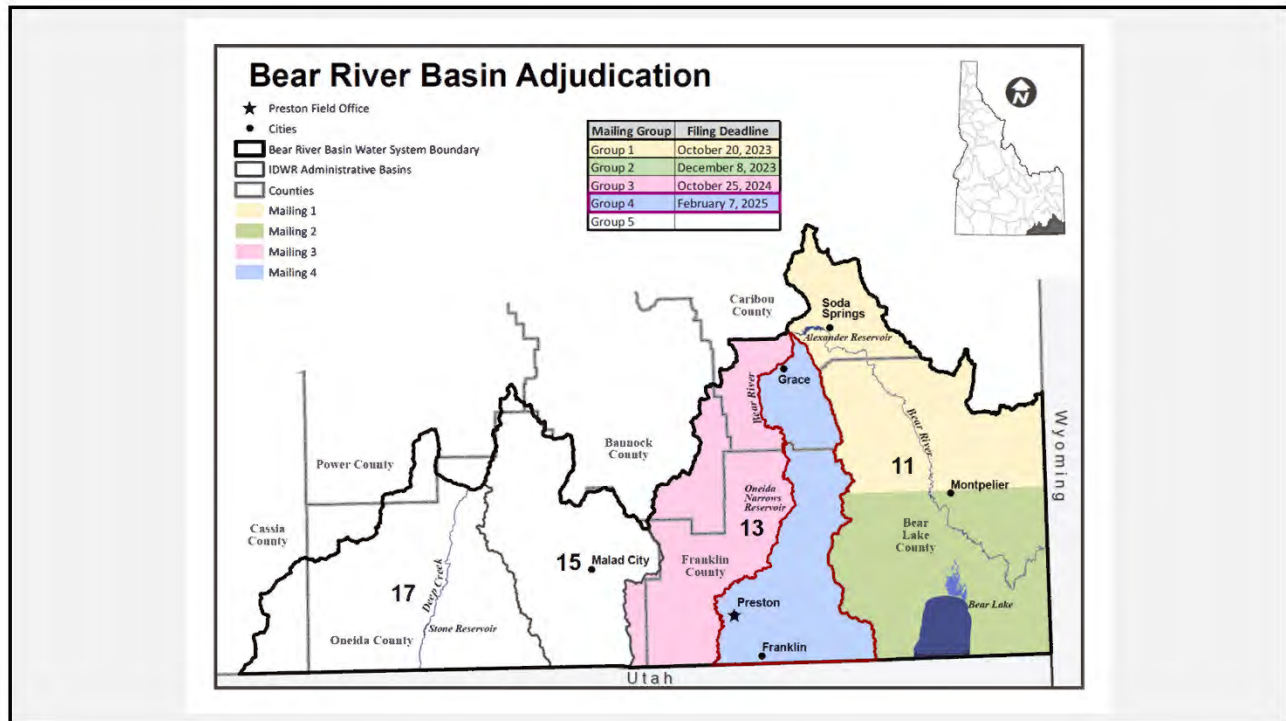
WATER DISTRICT CREATION

- Expansion of Water Districts 110 and 120 to match ESPA model boundary.
- Water District 129 – ground water rights in Portneuf River Basin.
- Water District 122 – ground water rights in Teton River Basin.
- Starting process for Henrys Fork Basin and American Falls Area.
- Expansion of Area of Common Ground Water Supply.
- Department's Role: public information meetings, public hearing, orders, appeals, steering committee, inventories, watermaster support



Outhouse and Pump near Bennington, Idaho
hisandhersphoto.com/Heritage/hhout_012.htm

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BEAR RIVER BASIN ADJUDICATION

- Initial claims taking completed in Basins 11 and 13.
- 7,000 claims filed (mostly from Basins 11 and 13).
- Preston Field Office staff have focused their attention on reviewing claims in Basin 11, Part I and preparing recommendations.
- Nearing completion on preparing recommendations for Basin 11, Part I (1,500 claims).
- Preliminary Director's Report for Basin 11, Part I issued by August 31, 2026.
- Notice of Error process in September and October.
- Goal is to file the Director's Report for Basin 11, Part I by the end of the year.



Montpelier Reservoir
idahohighcountry.org/item/montpelier-reservoir

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Questions / Discussion



www.upi.com/Sports_News/Photos/FIFA-World-Cup-Japan-Netherlands-tie/16634/



<https://www.kansascity.com/sports/fffa-world-cup/>

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