2026 Idaho Water Summit

17-18 November 2026

Simplot Ballroom
Westmark Student Union Building

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Zoom link for virtual attendees, Day 1: https://boisestate.zoom.us/j/96162523939?pwd=gzbp45b2bv3woZikt7UzaREyXg0Qel.1

8:30 am	**Welcome and Opening Remarks** Dr. Lejo Flores, Boise State University President David Hahn, Boise State University (recorded remarks)
8:40 am	**Keynote Address** *Compacts and Calls: What the Colorado and the Snake Can Teach Each Other* Dr. David Raff, Stantec, Inc.
9:10-9:40 am	**Water Year 2026: Western US and Statewide Overview** Troy Lindquist, NOAA/National Weather Service
9:40-10:15 am	**Water Year 2026: Weather and Climate Behind WY 2026** Dr. David Hoekema, IDWR Dr. Lejo Flores, Boise State University
10:15-10:40 am	**Networking and Coffee Break**
10:40 - 11:10 am	**USBR Operations in the Upper Snake Basin** Brian Stevens, US Bureau of Reclamation
11:10 am - 12:00 pm	**Eastern Idaho and Forecast Panel** Mark Robertson, M3Works Julie Koeberle, NRCS (remote) Henry Pai, NWRFC (remote) Chris Runyan, US Bureau of Reclamation
12:00 – 1:00 pm	**Lunch Provided**

1:00-3:05 pm — **Western Idaho and Eastern Oregon Overview**

Ryan Hedrick, US Bureau of Reclamation

Student and Early Career Presentations

1:20-1:35 pm Otto Lang (Boise State University), *Idaho Snow Report: A Guide to Snow Monitoring Products and Applications*

1:35-1:50 pm Avalon Johnson (Boise State University), *Isotopic Evidence for Variation in Plant Water Use Across a Mountain Rain-to-Snow Transition Zone*

1:50-2:05 pm Gretchen Hough (Boise State University), *The Fate of Midwinter Melt Across the Rain-Snow Transition in a Semiarid Mountain Catchment*

2:05-2:20 pm Joshua Kietzman (Boise State University), *Predicting Critical Zone Subsurface Structure with Seismic Imaging and Machine Learning*

2:20-2:35 pm Zihao Zhang (Boise State University), *Bridging Land-Surface and Snow Modeling: A Noah-MP–iSnobal Intercomparison in the East River Watershed*

2:35-2:50 pm Zachary Butler (Oregon State University), *Using Machine Learning to Model Snow Depth with Lidar Subsets*

2:50-3:05 pm Lindsay Summers (Boise State University), *Glacier Speed Seasonality in Alaska, and Why You Should Care About It*

3:05-3:30 pm — **Networking Break**

3:30-4:30 pm — **A Moderated Panel on Drought Impacts in the Agricultural Sector**

PANELISTS:

Doug Finkelnburg, University of Idaho Extension (remote)
Mike Mastrofini, Big Wood Canal Company
John Shetler, Salmon River Canal Company
J.D. Messner, Salmon River Canal Company

MODERATOR:

Jennifer Schneider

4:30-6:00 pm — **Poster Session and Afternoon Networking**

Hors d'Oeuvres provided

6:00-7:00 pm — **Social Mixer**

No-host bar

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Zoom link for virtual attendees, Day 2: https://boisestate.zoom.us/j/98871412773?pwd=TZEYSaA5bohgI1pNkWt90azVw5Tyay.1

8:30-8:40 am	**Day 1 Recap** Dr. Jim McNamara, Boise State University
8:40-9:55 am	**IWRRI Drought Working Group (DWG)** Overview: Aims and Composition, Dr. Kendra Kaiser, IWRRI Progress and Synthesis: Jim McNamara, Boise State University Facilitated Discussion
9:55-10:15 am	**Networking Break**
10:15-10:35 am	**The Cost of Less Water: Drought's Impact on Idaho Farm & Ranch Margins** Brett Wilder, Assistant Professor and Area Extension Educator in Agricultural Economics, University of Idaho
10:35 am - 12:00 pm	**Northern Idaho and Long-Term Drought Overview and Discussion** Pete Youngblood, NRCS Lauren Soares, Idaho Office of Emergency Management Kara Ferguson, IDWR Patrick Maher and Steve Lentini, Avista Utilities (remote)
12:00 – 1:00 pm	**Lunch Provided**
1:00-2:00 pm	**A Moderated Panel on Drought Impacts** **PANELISTS:** Rob van Kirk, Henry's Fork Foundation Joe Kozfkay, Idaho Fish and Game Erik Weiseth, Idaho Outdoor Guides Association Frank Gariglio, Idaho Power Corporation **MODERATOR:** Kendra Kaiser, IWRRI Director
2:00-2:30 pm	**Drought and Human Health in Idaho: Understanding the Connections** Rachel E. Lookadoo, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center (remote)
2:30-4:00 pm	**ESPA Update** Mike McVay **Western Idaho Overview and Discussion** Troy Lindquist, NOAA/National Weather Service Mac Beers, US Bureau of Reclamation Mark Robertson, M3Works Jennifer Cuhaciyan, Idaho Power Corp.

Stay in Touch

Scan to join the Idaho Water Summit mailing list

Hear first about next year's summit, calls for talks and posters, and registration. Expect about 4–5 emails a year.

Sign-up page: https://idaho-water-summit.subscribepage.io

Tell Us How We Did

Scan to take the 3-minute attendee survey

Please respond by December 5, 2026.

Your feedback shapes the 2027 Idaho Water Summit: which sessions to keep, how the days are organized, and how we bring student research together with water managers and agencies.

Thank you for joining us, and for everything you do for water in Idaho.

Survey link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZ9RvLXiiz2Ha8NAGbg7-OqUochiFAMN-oVE9u32uPOVsMSw/viewform

Organizers and Supporters

The 2026 Idaho Water Summit is made possible by these organizations.

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

IWRRI
Idaho Water Resources Research Institute

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NIDIS

Contributed Talks and Posters

All contributions were presented at the 2026 Idaho Water Summit, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho, 17–18 November 2026.

Student and Early Career Presentations (Tuesday, 1:00–3:05 pm)

Lang, O. I., I. O. Alabi, A. Flores, H. P. Marshall, and K. Kaiser (2026). *Idaho Snow Report: A Guide to Snow Monitoring Products and Applications.* Oral presentation.

Johnson, A., J. McNamara, A. Bergstrom, T. Doody, and A. Flores (2026). *Isotopic Evidence for Variation in Plant Water Use Across a Mountain Rain-to-Snow Transition Zone.* Oral presentation.

Hough, G., K. Hale, S. Newcomb, A. Bergstrom, J. McNamara, and A. Flores (2026). *The Fate of Midwinter Melt Across the Rain-Snow Transition in a Semiarid Mountain Catchment.* Oral presentation.

Kietzmann, J. P., and Q. Niu (2026). *Predicting Critical Zone Subsurface Structure with Seismic Imaging and Machine Learning.* Oral presentation.

Zhang, Z., O. Lang, S. Akor, J. Meyer, and A. Flores (2026). *Bridging Land-Surface and Snow Modeling: A Noah-MP–iSnobal Intercomparison in the East River Watershed.* Oral presentation.

Butler, Z., and D. Hill (2026). *Using Machine Learning to Model Snow Depth with Lidar Subsets.* Oral presentation.

Summers, L., E. Enderlin, C. Florentine, S. O'Neel, A. Bergstrom, A. Flores (2026). *Glacier Speed Seasonality in Alaska, and Why You Should Care About It.* Oral presentation.

Posters (Tuesday, 4:30–6:00 pm)

Akor, S., and A. Flores (2026). *Synoptic-Scale Drivers of the 2026 Snow Drought in the Idaho Rocky Mountains: Insights from High-Resolution MPAS Simulations.* Poster presentation.

Domenech, S. R., S. M. Powers, and K. E. Kaiser (2026). *Evaluating SuperDove and Sentinel-2 Trend Records for Algal Bloom Dynamics in Cascade Reservoir, Idaho.* Poster presentation.

Formigli, K., A. Bergstrom, J. McNamara, and N. Patton (2026). *Spatially Variable Precipitation and Hillslope-Riparian-Stream Connectivity at the Rain-Snow Transition.* Poster presentation.

Fu, L. (2026). *Studying the Dominant Controls on Streamflow Generation in the United States with Large Catchment Datasets and Deep Learning.* Poster presentation.

Hayes, H., and Q. Niu (2026). *Geophysical Characterization of a Managed Groundwater Recharge Site on Fractured Basalt Bedrock in Southern Idaho.* Poster presentation.

Smay, M., J. McNamara, T. Doody, and S. Gao (2026). *Contrasting Riparian and Hillslope Evapotranspiration Across the Rain-Snow Transition Zone in Dry Creek Experimental Watershed.* Poster presentation.