AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Board Meeting No. 5-26
WORK SESSION
Thursday, March 26, 2026
8:30 a.m. (MT) / 7:30 a.m. (PT)

Water Center
Conference Rooms 602 B – D
322 E. Front St.
BOISE

Livestream available at https://www.youtube.com/@iwrb

1. Roll Call
2. Idaho Water Resources Research Institute Update
3. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Status
4. Rental Pool Procedures
   A. Water District 63*
   B. Water District 65*
5. Water Supply Update
6. IDWR Modeling, Monitoring, and Hydrologic Studies Update
7. IWRB Grant Program Update*
8. Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer Recharge Update
9. Cloud Seeding Program Update
10. Administrative Rules Update
11. Potential Legislation of Interest
12. Non-Action Items for Discussion
13. Adjourn

The Board will break for lunch at approximately noon.

***** 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: milin.ream@idwr.idaho.gov or by phone at (208) 287-4800.

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)

From: Planning and Projects Bureau Staff

Date: March 20, 2026

Subject: Idaho Water Resources Research Institute Update

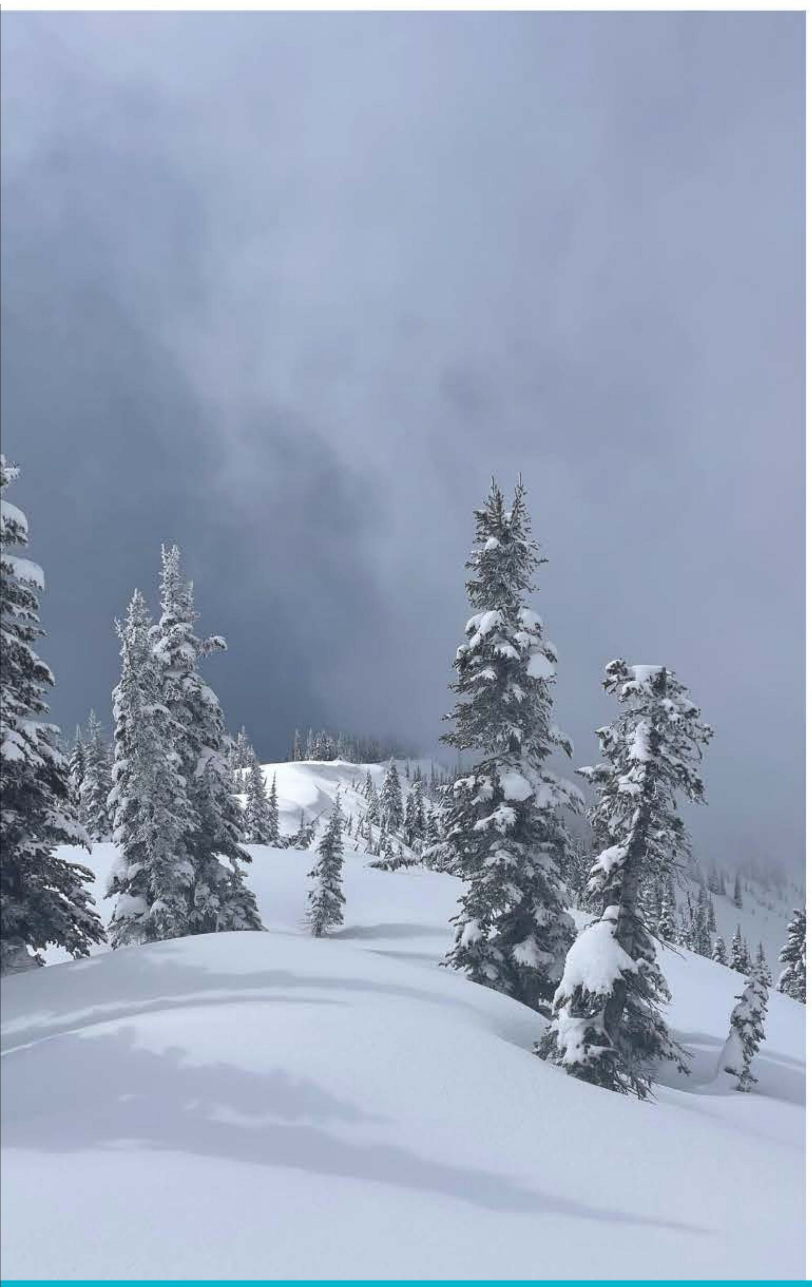
INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Kendra Kaiser, Director of the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, will provide the Board with a presentation update.

Attachments:

- *Research Advisory Process and Outcomes from 2025*
- *PowerPoint Presentation*

Idaho Water Resources Research Institute



2025 Idaho Water Research Priorities

IWRRI Research Advisory Committee Outcomes

Kendra E. Kaiser[1], Margaret A. Wolf[2]

[1]IWRRI Director & Assistant Research Professor, Soil and Water Systems
[2]IWRRI Assistant Director

University of Idaho

2025 IDAHO WATER RESEARCH PRIORITIES

IWRRI RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Kendra E. Kaiser[1], Margaret A. Wolf[2]

[1] IWRRI Director & Assistant Research Professor, Soil and Water Systems
[2]IWRRI Assistant Director

Acknowledgements
A special thanks to the members of the Research Advisory Committee for their contributions, to the IWRRI Executive Board for revisions, and to Atlas Strategic Communications for the development and facilitation of the RAC process.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the 2025 Idaho water research priorities and outlines the IWRRI Research Advisory Committee (RAC) process for identifying and prioritizing water research projects. The report includes information about the background and composition of the RAC, the process employed to identify and prioritize research projects, and funding recommendations.

The Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRI) is one of the 54 national water research and technology centers charged with conducting applied, impactful and relevant water research across Idaho. In 2024, the Idaho legislature appropriated $1M in annual state funding to IWRRI through Senate Bill 1209 to support rigorous, actionable water research at all of Idaho's public institutions of higher learning and fund research projects accordingly. In 2025, IWRRI established the RAC to identify and prioritize water research needs across the state.

RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Objectives

- Identify Idaho's most pressing water challenges and research needs.
- Generate and review a wide range of research project proposals.
- Evaluate proposals based on relevance, community impact, feasibility, political considerations, and geographic coverage.
- Prioritize research projects for near-term funding
- Identify ideas for long-term research project development.
- Provide clear direction to the IWRRI Executive Board for the allocation of IWRRI's newly legislated research funding.

Structure and Composition

The RAC was assembled to reflect the geographic, institutional, and topical diversity of Idaho's water management landscape (Figure 1). Thirty-two members were invited based on their professional expertise and their ability to represent the water-related interests of their respective organizations or constituencies. Committee members represented a range of scientific expertise and policy insight across multiple sectors. The committee included representatives from state and federal agencies, tribal governments, academic institutions, utilities, conservation organizations, municipal governments, and industry. Their backgrounds include hydrology, ecology, agriculture, engineering, natural resource management, and policy development (Appendix A).

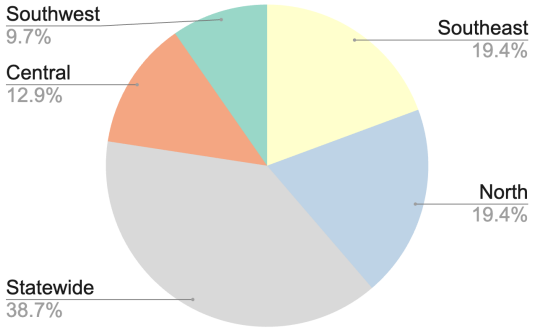


Figure 1: Geographic distribution of RAC members.

Identifying water research priorities across Idaho represents a critical first step in synthesizing water-related challenges and research needs across the state. This will be an evolving annual process, with new membership every 2-3 years. Continued input from a wide range of experts, community members, rightsholders and other stakeholders will be essential to ensure priorities remain responsive to emerging issues and local contexts.

Process (2024-2025)

As part of IWRRI's 2024–2025 outreach, the team worked with the RAC to identify, refine, and prioritize water research topics through a structured, three-part virtual meeting series supported by surveys and collaborative tools. The approach was iterative, moving from high-level challenge identification to detailed project evaluation and prioritization.

Meeting 1 | June 25, 2025: RAC members discussed major water-related research challenges facing Idaho, which were then synthesized into six overarching thematic areas (Table 1). Members were invited to develop and submit research project proposals that addressed these themes in consultation with the communities and organizations they represent.

Between Meetings 1 and 2: RAC members submitted over 90 project proposals in response to the identified challenges. Submissions came from both RAC members and the IWRRI team who drew on research needs identified from earlier stakeholder engagements (Fall 2024–Spring 2025). Project submissions were categorized according to the USGS Water Resources Research Act (WRRA) priority areas[1] and by Idaho Water Resources Board regions (Figure 2, Appendix B).

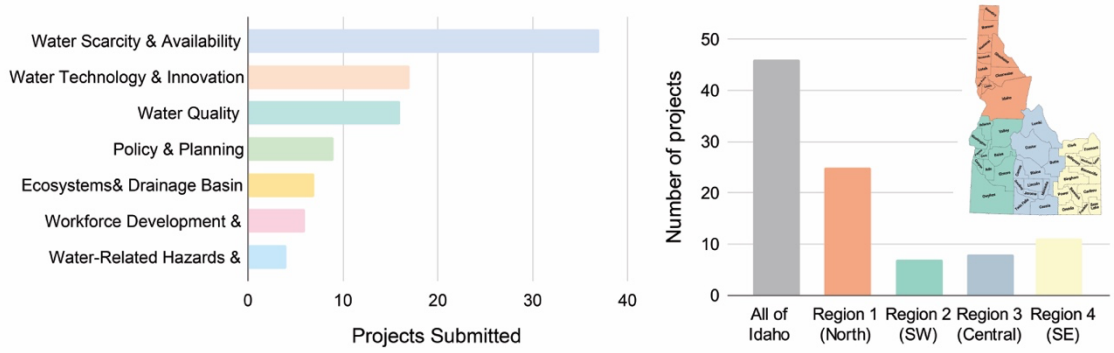


Figure 2: Number of submitted projects grouped by USGS WRRA Research Priority Area (left); and Idaho Water Resources Board (IWRB) regions (right).

Meeting 2 | July 14, 2025: The RAC was divided into three workgroups to review submitted proposals based on established evaluation criteria. Criteria included community need, geographic distribution, end-user applicability, and feasibility for one-year implementation. The workgroups then reported back to the full group on their discussion of projects.

Between Meetings 2 and 3: RAC members ranked 96 projects in each thematic category, with the number of votes in each category weighed by the number of projects submitted to each. IWRRI then synthesized the outcomes by clustering technically or geographically related projects, with the aim of reducing duplication and encouraging cross-cutting initiatives.

Meeting 3 | July 23, 2025: In the final meeting, RAC members reviewed the results of the prioritization survey (Appendix B). Strategies to integrate the top ranked projects were discussed collectively, and next steps were outlined.

After Meeting 3: RAC members completed a survey about their involvement in the research prioritization process (Appendix C).

[1] Donohue, M.J., Greene, E.A., Lerner, D.T. (2021) Water Resources Research Act Program- Current Status, Development Opportunities, and Priorities for 2020-30, USGS Circular 1488 https://pubs.usgs.gov/publication/cir1488

IDAHO'S WATER CHALLENGES

The RAC identified a broad range of Idaho's most pressing water challenges (Table 1). While this is not a comprehensive list, it captures concerns that are most frequently raised across the state.

Table 1: Primary Water Challenges in Idaho identified by the RAC

Theme	Idaho Water Challenges
Water Supply	Additional research is needed to manage the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. which is one of Idaho's most critical water quantity issues due to groundwater level declines and complex groundwater–surface water interactions.
	Information is needed about changes in water supply from headwater catchments statewide
	Community needs are outpacing updates to reservoir management. Prioritization and coordination are needed statewide.
Water Quality	Water quality concerns stemming from septic systems and agriculture impacts on surface water bodies and groundwater resources.
	Eutrophication and harmful algal blooms are emerging concerns for water bodies statewide, impacting drinking water sources, recreation and ecological functions.
	Current water temperature standards may be biologically outdated and poorly matched to observed conditions.
	Evaluation of water reuse standards necessary to support aquifer recharge while protecting groundwater quality is needed broadly.
Data	There are substantial needs regarding: water data interoperability and accessibility across agencies and organizations, tools & visualizations that can serve decision-makers.
	Idaho does not have the necessary spatial coverage of key observational data including weather, soil moisture, and snow data.
	Water modeling tools used for regulatory purposes have a range of limitations. The available tools are not accessible to non-technical users and decision makers.
Ecosystems	The spread of invasive species requires adaptive and rapidly deployable management strategies to protect Idaho ecosystems and native species.
	Understanding and prioritizing beneficial outcomes for aquatic ecosystems in coordination with broader water management is challenging due to divergent missions & objectives across organizations.
Education	Every Idahoan would benefit from increased understanding of the complexity of Idaho's water issues and understanding their role in sustainable water management.
	Workforce readiness (especially for state agencies) is a key need.
Growth	Increasing residential development, especially in sensitive aquifers, poses serious challenges to both water quality and long-term supply.
	Individual wells and septic systems beyond city limits is resulting in fragmented management and more challenging oversight.
	Rural communities have additional resource needs to maintain and upgrade water infrastructure to keep pace with residential development and aging infrastructure.
	Decision makers do not have consistent access to tools to quantify and evaluate the impacts of growth.

IDAHO'S 2025 WATER RESEARCH PRIORITIES

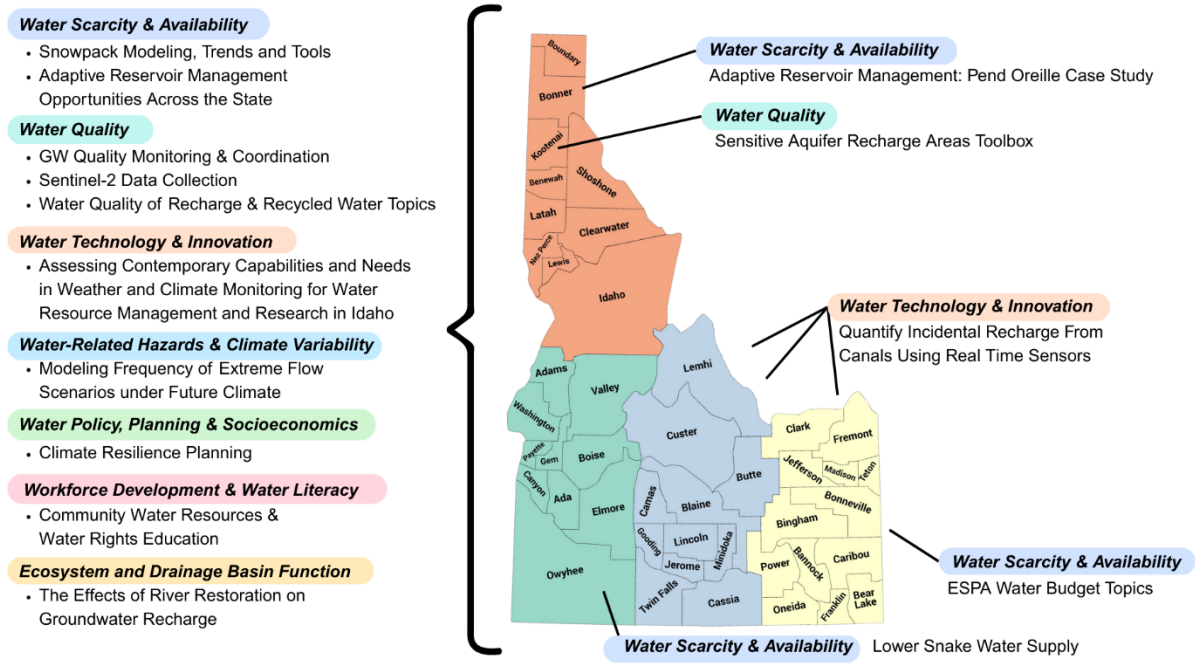


Figure 3: Priority research projects grouped by WRRA priorities highlighting both statewide (left) and regional projects (right).

Discussions about the 96 submitted projects underscored the value of integrated, transferable efforts that address multiple needs simultaneously, with consensus forming around a core set of high-priority and feasible projects (see votes in Appendix B). For example, the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Water Budget Gap Analysis was viewed as both technically important and urgent. Similarly, projects focused on evaluating snow products and data needs were highlighted for their broad applicability across the state, their importance to the West, and the confidence that they could be completed within a year. Other high-priority areas included groundwater modeling, water quality analysis of both surface and groundwater, and expanded snowpack and weather monitoring. Evaluating data gaps and opportunities for impactful research in each of these areas will be critical initial steps, with members emphasizing the importance of multi-agency alignment and collaboration, particularly where federal research and modeling overlap with state goals. RAC members also noted that initiatives such as climate resilience planning and public water literacy could benefit from dedicated working groups facilitated by IWRRI.

The final list of prioritized research topics incorporated details from the RAC discussions and input from the IWRRI Executive Board (Figure 3 & Table 2). Research Categories selected by the IWRRI Executive Board for 2025 funding include: Water Scarcity, Water Quality, Technology & Innovation, Water Hazards and Water Policy & Planning. Additional details for priority projects for funding may be found here.

Table 2: IWRRI Water Research Priorities. Projects with an (*) were grouped from submitted projects. Research Categories prioritized for 2025 funding include: Water Scarcity, Water Quality, Technology & Innovation, Water Hazards and Water Policy. Additional details for priority projects for funding may be found here.

Research Category	Priority Areas	Region	Projects
Water Scarcity & Availability	**Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Water Budget**	Southeast/ Central	**ESPA Water Budget Gap Analysis** **Analysis of changes in reach gains on Snake River between Blackfoot and Minidoka** **Groundwater- Surface Water budget for Upper Snake River Basin**
	Middle Snake	Southwest	**Water supply analysis in the Snake River below Swan Falls Dam and prominent tributaries, including the Boise, Payette, and Weiser drainages** ● Historic conditions and trend analysis of annual unregulated flows at key management points (e.g., Weiser Gage or Glenwood Gage) and fill of onstream reservoirs.
	Snowpack Modeling, Trends and Tools	Statewide	**Contextualizing Current Snow Water Storage with Historical Snow/Climate Conditions** ● Develop new interactive online visualizations that support water managers. **Snowpack Monitoring with Remote Sensing*** ● Synthesize remote-sensing tools for snowpack modeling including how field observations and advanced modeling techniques are being used. Evaluate snow monitoring network in coordination with monitoring project.
	Adaptive Reservoir Management	Statewide/ North	**Adaptive Reservoir Management Opportunities across Idaho*** ● Synthesize information about existing ACOE and USBR research on forecast informed reservoir operations and adaptive reservoir management in the state. ● Summarize ACOE/USBR processes, highlight opportunities to leverage federal funding. **Case Study on Lake Pend Oreille (North Idaho)*** ● Summarize changes in lake level management though time & connection to other reservoirs in the system. ● Snow projects and resiliency projects are of relevance.
Water Quality	**Water Quality Monitoring & coordination**	Statewide	**Water Quality Trends Across Idaho** ● Synthesize existing water data (groundwater & surface water). ● Identify data gaps and opportunities for additional monitoring. ● Explore opportunities for shared data and data visualization tool usable by multiple user groups. **Data Collection for Validation of Sentinel-2 Satellite Surface Water Quality Monitoring**
	Water Quality of Recharge & Recycled Water Topics	Statewide	**Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Area Toolbox** ● Integrate geospatial data to help identify priority areas to improve groundwater quality, aquifer recharge, and other aspects of groundwater protection and management. ● Case Study: Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer

Research Category	Priority Areas	Region	Projects
Water Quality (cont.)	**Water Quality of Recharge & Recycled Water Topics (cont.)**	Statewide	**Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) and Injection Wells*** ● Summarize existing approaches to quantify impact of MAR on water quality and evaluate current requirements. Determine if injected water needs to be treated for certain contaminants at the injection point. Identify if injection well locations should consider community source water protection plans and/or groundwater models. ● Create deliverables that are accessible to broad and non-technical audience.
			Recycled Water & Aquifer Recharge for Sensitive Resource Aquifers* ● Synthesize conditions necessary for recycled water to be used for groundwater recharge while protecting groundwater quality. ● Opportunity to highlight existing/ongoing recycled water projects in Idaho as case studies (e.g. Boise, Nampa, Post Falls).
Water Technology & Innovation	**Water Monitoring & Data Accessibility**	Statewide	**Improving Accessibility for Idaho's Water Data*** ● Visualizations of groundwater and surface water quality data, integration of multiple streamflow data sources, snowpack and weather data. ● Host community engagement activities to identify priorities. **Assessing Contemporary Capabilities and Needs in Weather and Climate Monitoring** ● Characterize the extent of Idaho's current weather and climate monitoring network to support water resource management and research. ● Assess how existing monitoring capabilities meet needs. ● Identify gaps and opportunities to expand monitoring coverage throughout the state.
		South	**Quantify Incidental Recharge From Canals Using Real Time Sensors** ● Expand monitoring in canal systems to better quantify incidental recharge and support refinement of water budgets.
Water-Related Hazards & Climate Variability	**Modeling Frequency of Extreme Flows Under Future Climate**	Statewide	● Hydrologic analysis that supports prioritization of flood management resources from the Idaho Office of Emergency Management and the Idaho Water Resources Board. ● Leverage data integration projects. ● Directly relevant for water resilience planning.
Water Policy, Planning & Socio-economics	**Climate resilience planning**	Statewide	● Evaluate the previously conducted resiliency plans related to water management that have been created in the State to support development of a water resilience plan for the State. ● Relevant related projects include historical analysis of snow, addressing data gaps in weather and flood frequency.
Workforce Development & Water Literacy	**Community Water Education**	Statewide	● Coordination across existing education efforts to identify the priority audiences and approaches.
	High-school water education	Southwest	● Expansion of "The Confluence Project," a field-based hydrology curriculum for high school students that culminates in a Youth Water Summit where students present their research.
Ecosystems & Drainage Basin Functions	**Effects of River Restoration on Groundwater Recharge**	Statewide	● Collaborate with ongoing research efforts to quantify impacts of river and wetland restoration on groundwater recharge. ● Understand how restoration impacts ecosystem transitions from disturbed to restored across varied landscapes.

Summary

The RAC process identified Idaho's 2025 water research priorities with several clear opportunities for investment:

- Additional groundwater modeling and development of water budgets is needed across the state, particularly related to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). This includes research related to groundwater-surface water interactions, and understanding how land use change and population growth affect water supply. These resources are critical to long-term resource planning and as prerequisites for effective management.
- Snowpack monitoring and modeling is critical to streamflow forecasting, reservoir operations and climate resilience planning. Synthesis of monitoring gaps, opportunities to leverage remote sensing and modeling approaches, and development of tools for water managers was widely supported.
- Water quality research, especially related to aquifer recharge and emerging contaminants, is a key interest to many Idahoans. Data-sharing and resources for communication with the public should be developed in parallel with this research for greatest impact.
- Data interoperability and accessibility is key to many state-wide research projects. Many projects depend on existing data that is siloed across organizations and agencies. A focus on data synthesis, visualization, and building tools for decision-makers will amplify research impact.

ADDRESSING IDAHO'S WATER RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The RAC process resulted in a list of high-impact water research priorities for Idaho. In August 2025, the IWRRI Executive Board reviewed and approved the projects that fall under the following categories for IWRRI funding: Water Scarcity, Water Quality, Technology and Innovation and Water Management and Resilience.

To advance these research priorities, IWRRI will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to Idaho faculty in August. Letters of intent will be due in early September, with full proposals reviewed using a standardized evaluation matrix. Final project selections will be approved by the IWRRI Executive Board.

Following selection, IWRRI will work closely with faculty and partners to refine Statements of Work and launch project activities. Research outcomes will be used to directly inform and address Idaho's most critical water resource challenges and shared through reports, webinars and resources hosted on the IWRRI webpage.

Appendices

Appendix A: RAC Committee Membership and Affiliations

Organization	Name	Region	Position and Expertise
Northside Canal Company	Alan Hansten	Central	North Side Canal Company, General Manager, professional engineer, oversee all operations and business activities of the company.
Bingham Groundwater District	Alan Jackson	Southeast	District Manager
Nez Perce Tribe	Allison Lebeda	North	Water Rights Program Coordinator: oversee streamflow and groundwater monitoring in homelands, review/comment on water rights, administer tribal water rights, investigate water quantity-related complaints, manage/implement grants.
Agricultural Research Station	Andrew Hedrick	Statewide	Research Hydrologist, background in snow physics and watershed hydrology, coordinate the snow research program at the USDA-ARS Northwest Watershed Research Center in Boise.
U.S. Forest Service	Ari Colvin	North	Fisheries Biologist, Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Ben Scofield	North	Water Resources Specialist in the Water Resources Program. My duties include managing and monitoring the Tribe's surface water resources. Much of my expertise is in aquatic invasive species management (primarily aquatic vegetation), limnology, and water quality.
Idaho State University	Colden Baxter	Southeast	Professor of Freshwater Ecology, Dept. Biological Sciences and Director, Center for Ecological Research & Education, Idaho State University
City of Boise	Colin Custer	Southwest	Water Resources Program Coordinator - Currently overseeing the City of Boise's water rights and various other water resources. Seven years of water quality and biological monitoring on the lower Boise River.
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	Craig Cooper	Statewide	Senior limnologist, Coeur d'Alene Lake Management. Lead interdisciplinary scientific work for Idaho DEQ on CDA Lake and interactions with the basin. Broad expertise in biogeochemistry and environmental water science, ranging from oceans to groundwater. Also have a solid understanding of environmental, energy, and climate policy. Prior to DEQ, I primarily conducted research in the biogeochemistry of metals and radionuclides in sediment and groundwater.
Idahoan	Dennis Leikam	Central	Director, Environment and Safety - manage all aspects of environmental programs - fresh water, wastewater, air permitting, and long-term strategy for all of these.
University of Idaho	Erin Brooks	North	Professor in the Soil & Water Systems Department. Agricultural Engineer by training and a certified Professional Engineer in the state of Idaho. My research focuses on impacts of management water quantity and water quality as both a field experimentalist and through the development of geospatial decision support tools. I've focused on agricultural, forested, range, and residential/urban dominated ecosystems. My primary motivation is improving management in complex landscapes through applied physical, chemical, and biological science.

Organization	Name	Region	Position and Expertise
Trout Unlimited	Erin Plue	Statewide	Trout Unlimited - Idaho State Director, Overseeing Idaho restoration and policy program. I previously ran the North Idaho Program primarily doing restoration implementation and communications. My background is primarily in aquatic and forest ecology.
NRCS Snow Survey	Erin Whorton	Statewide	Water supply specialist with the NRCS Idaho Snow Survey: We maintain the SNOTEL weather station network to monitor snow water equivalent, precipitation, and various meteorological parameters across Idaho's watersheds. I communicate water supply, snowpack, streamflow conditions to various water users and to the media throughout the year.
Idaho Power	Frank Gariglio	Central	Idaho Power - streamflow forecasting, reservoir operations, hydropower forecasts, river and reservoir operations compliance
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Jason Gerlich	Statewide	Regional Drought Early Warning System Coordinator - Serve as a regional source of information for federal agency partners, tribes, states, municipalities, partner academic institutions, and other organizations on drought early warning, forecasting and outlooks, and mitigation and response planning. Advance the integration of research on drought indicators and triggers, drought impacts, and the use of drought information, with adaptation and drought resilience efforts to manage water resources, reduce vulnerabilities, and mitigate impacts.
Panhandle Health/ Aquifer Protection District	Jenny Gray	North	Aquifer Protection Program Coordinator: This position serves as the subject matter expert for the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer (RPA) Protection Program within the Panhandle Health District. Comprehensive understanding of environmental and public health objectives, policies and rules, and serves as primary liaison for technical issues, training, and consultation concerning the RPA Protection Program.
Idaho National Lab	Kara Cafferty	Southeast	Senior Energy and Water Systems Researcher
U.S. Geological Survey	Kerri Treinen	Southeast	USGS, Hydrologist/Geochemist, Idaho National Laboratory Project Office: Water quality, fate and transport, geochemical modeling, quality assurance
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Lance Hebdon	Statewide	Bureau Chief of Fisheries, supervise Idaho's fisheries research, hatcheries and management to conserve native fish species and make fishing better for the citizens of Idaho
Boise State University	Lejo Flores	Southwest	Professor, Boise State University, Department of Geosciences. Advance fundamental understanding of hydrologic systems – particularly snow-dominated, mountain watersheds – through basic and applied research and disseminating knowledge via peer-reviewed publications, teaching, and outreach.

Organization	Name	Region	Position and Expertise
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes	Lytle Denny	Southeast	Deputy Executive Director, Natural Resources Division, I oversee the Division's five departments: Tribal Water Resources, Tribal Department of Energy, Fish and Wildlife, Land Use, and Agricultural Extension. My role involves both internal leadership and external coordination to protect and restore Tribal lands, waters, and natural resources across the Shoshone-Bannock homelands, which span parts of Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. I work at the intersection of policy, law, and intergovernmental relations. I engage with federal, state, and local governments, as well as nonprofit and academic partners, to advance Tribal priorities. My expertise includes organizational development, legal and policy planning, and cross-jurisdictional coordination. I also bring technical experience in GIS, permitting, grant administration, spatial analysis, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge.
Idaho Dairymen's Association	Megan Satterwhite	Statewide	Director of Operations- I oversee the Association's environmental services program and manage the IDA office and staff. I work with dairy producers on nutrient management, manure handling and storage, soil and manure sampling, and regulatory compliance. I engage with research scientists to develop, prioritize, and execute IDA-funded environmental research projects.
Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee	Mike Faupel	North	Director
Idaho Department of Water Resources	Mike McVay	Statewide	Water Resources Engineer, P.E., P.G, Hydrology Section
Lakes Commission	Molly McCahon	North	Executive Director - I work for the Lakes Commission Advisory Board, who are appointed by the Governor of Idaho to advise on water-related issues in the Pend Oreille Basin. My focus area is North Idaho and its connection to the Columbia River Basin.
The Nature Conservancy	Neil Crecenti	Statewide	Agriculture Program Manager, Idaho TNC. I oversee the agriculture program, which aims to increase the adoption of agricultural conservation practices to achieve outcomes in reduced carbon emissions, improved water quality, and reduced irrigation demands. I have worked in the water arena both quality and quantity for the past 15 years including policy analysis, planning, and ecosystem service (water quality trading) program design.
Idaho Department of Water Resources	Phil Blankenau	Statewide	Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) evapotranspiration (ET) analyst. I supervise the remote sensing group, maintain ET-IDWR and produce ET data and analyses.

Organization	Name	Region	Position and Expertise
Henry's Fork Foundation	Rob Van Kirk	Southeast	Science and Technology Director for the Henry's Fork Foundation. I oversee all aspects of scientific research, long-term monitoring, and data curation and provisioning conducted by a six-member team of scientists and technicians. Broad subject areas covered by our department include hydrology and water management, climate science and adaptation, aquatic ecology and limnology, fish biology, and social science. I have particular expertise in groundwater-surface water interactions, water rights administration, and mathematical and statistical modeling across disciplines.
City of Twin Falls	Robert Bohling	Central	Water Superintendent- City of Twin Falls Employed 28 years here. Class IV Water Dist. Operator- In charge of the drinking water and pressurized irrigation systems for the City of Twin Falls.
U.S. Geological Survey	Scott Ducar	Statewide	Hydrologist, I serve as project chief and project member on complex hydrologic investigations for the Idaho Water Science Center. I am a licensed Geologist in the State of Idaho and my areas of expertise are hydrogeology and streamflow statistics.
Idaho Rural Water Users Association	Shelley Roberts	Statewide	CEO of Idaho Rural Water Association: management of federal and state grants providing broad range of technical assistance statewide for municipal drinking water and wastewater service providers and industry related federal and state legislative advocacy
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Sophie Wilderotter	Southwest	Civil Engineer, Long Term Operations and Planning Team (Modeling)

Appendix B. Submitted Projects and Project Prioritization Results

Details on submitted projects can be found here. The table below synthesizes the top voted projects from the RAC Survey. The projects receiving < 4 votes are not included here.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION SURVEY RESULTS	
PROJECT NAME	**PERCENT OF VOTES**
Water Scarcity & Availability	
ESPA Water Budget - Gap Analysis	17%
Improvements in Snowpack Modeling	11%
Reach gains -Blackfoot to Minidoka	10%
Groundwater-surface water budget for Upper Snake River basin	9%
Contextualizing Current Snow Water Storage Status within Historical Snow and Climate Conditions to Support Researchers and Managers:	7%
Low Snowpack in N Idaho - impacts on water & fisheries	7%
Adaptive Reservoir Management across the state of Idaho	7%
Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) in Pend Oreille Basin	5%
N Idaho GW studies	5%
Irrigation Efficiency & crop consumptive use quantification over time	5%
Expand snow-rain transition monitoring	4%
Modeling snowpack changes in north Idaho	4%
Impacts of Urbanization on consumptive use in the TV	4%
Integrated SW-GW models across scales for conjunctive water management	4%
MAR - assessing effectiveness of alternative recharge approaches (2)	4%
Consumptive Use Quantification in the ESPA	4%
Water Policy Planning & Socioeconomics	
Climate resilience planning	65%
Long-term water infrastructure funding	35%
Water Quality	
Statewide GW Quality Monitoring & Coordination	22%
Water Quality Trends Across Idaho	20%
Evaluation of Sentinel-2 Remote Sensing Models for Chlorophyll and Turbidity in Idaho Using Discrete Sonde Measurements and Field Spectral Data	16%
Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Area (SARA) Toolbox	14%
Recycled water & Aquifer Recharge for Sensitive Resource Aquifers	9%
MAR Injection Wells Water Quality (2)	9%
Impacts of Regenerative Agriculture practices on consumptive water use and water quality	9%
Nitrate Source pollution & isotope tracing	8%

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION SURVEY RESULTS	
PROJECT NAME	**PERCENT OF VOTES**
Ecosystems & Drainage Basin Functions	
Can river restoration mitigate wildfire?	20%
Landcover & Watershed Yield	16%
The Effects of River Restoration on Groundwater Recharge	36%
MAR - spring freshets & sturgeon	28%
Water Related Hazards & Climate Variability	
Coeur d Alene Lake modeling with natural hydrographs	14%
King Hill High Flows under future climate	14%
Modeling frequency of high flows under future climate in flood prone communities	71%
Water Technology & Innovation	
Assessing Contemporary Capabilities and Needs in Weather and Climate Monitoring for Water Resource Management and Research in Idaho	20%
Snowpack Monitoring with Remote Sensing	19%
Quantify incidental recharge from canals using real time sensors	11%
AI-Driven Insights into Surface Water Infiltration across the Eastern Snake River Plain	9%
Opportunities for energy production and behind the meter energy use in agriculture and water systems	9%
Water quality data accessibility	7%
Groundwater level data accessibility	6%
Database of streamflow's across organizations and datatypes	7%
Cloud Seeding Quantification	7%
Estimating ET on non-irrigated land	6%
Workforce Development & Water Literacy	
Community Water Resources & Water Rights Education	60%
High-school field-based water education	40%

Appendix C: RAC Reflections Survey

Following the final RAC meeting, IWRRI surveyed RAC members to gather feedback on the process and explore potential future directions. The RAC highlighted that project proposals were more difficult to fully assess when technical expertise wasn't available in the small discussion groups, leading to potential gaps in depth of understanding. IWRRI also found that some project proposals included far more detail and clarity than others. Feedback on the process highlighted that having additional time and an in-person meeting could alleviate these challenges, in addition to more clarity on what is expected in the research project submission process.

RAC Outcomes of Participation	
Increased Awareness of Statewide Water Issues	Reviewing project proposals and participating in discussions helped participants gain deeper insight into the breadth of Idaho's water challenges, and shared research needs.
Collaboration and Networking	Participants valued the opportunity to interact with professionals from across the state and across sectors. The process fostered potential collaborations and built relationships that participants hope will continue.
Effective Facilitation and Communication	Several participants praised the facilitation, reminders, and meeting materials (like slides and advanced distribution of materials), which contributed to a generally well-organized process.
Sense of Contribution to Research Direction	Participants appreciated having a voice in determining research priorities.

Looking ahead, there are additional opportunities to position projects for extramural funding and to leverage additional resources through partnerships. RAC members emphasized the importance of supporting longer-term research and engagement efforts that address complex water challenges over time. Achieving this will require identifying sustainable funding mechanisms and considering phased or multi-year project structures.

IWRRI will coordinate with the RAC to reconvene in spring 2026, alongside other in-person gatherings. The Committee will help guide how this year's selected projects (Year 1 of Legislative funding) connect to future efforts, by identifying ways to advance strong proposals not funded by IWRRI in 2025, and by ensuring that dynamic water research needs across Idaho continue to be addressed.

IWRRI

Idaho Water Resources Research Institute

Research Update

Idaho Water Resources Board

Dr. Kendra Kaiser, IWRRI Director
Assistant Research Faculty, Soil & Water Systems

March 26, 2026

University of Idaho

IWRRI connects stakeholders, students and researchers

Research complex & urgent questions

Independent analysis

Improved access to **data**

Translate knowledge to support decision-making

S1209 - Section 5
Prioritizing Water Research in Idaho Higher Education

- $1,000,000 shall be used for the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute.
- Expenditure of these funds shall be at the direction of the IWRRI Executive Board consistent with the Institute's research priorities.

IWRRI shall encourage rigorous, actionable water research at all of Idaho's public institutions of higher learning and shall fund research projects accordingly.

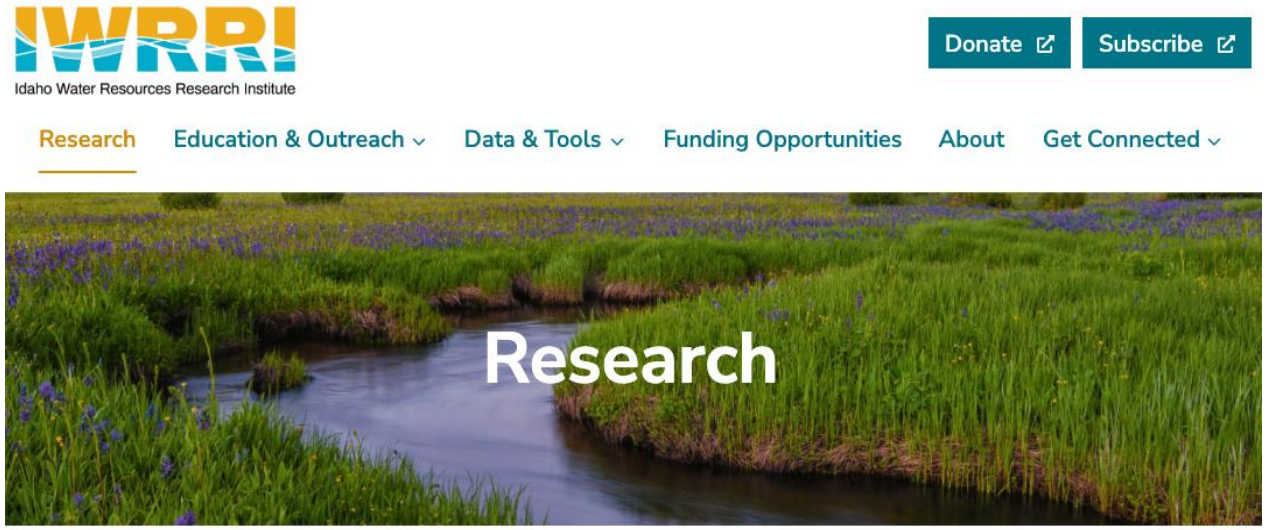
Interim report submitted to JFAC Dec 1, 2025.
End-of-fiscal year report due June 30, 2026.

FY26 IWRRI Accomplishments

Idaho Water Resources Research Institute

- Identified research priorities across the state with our 32-member Research Advisory Committee and approval from our Executive Board.
- Distributed $580,000 in funding to faculty at Boise State, Idaho State, and University of Idaho to address priority research projects.
- IWRRI is conducting research of key importance to the state through our team of research scientists.
- Generating a return on investment through competitive grants and contracts.

Research Prioritization Process



As part of its mission, the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute conducts applied water-related research. Two of the outcomes of IWRRI research are written reports and published papers. Explore this page for highlights of our research, a map with links to some of our previous reports, and recent scientific publications.

2025 Idaho Water Research Priorities

Suggest A Research Idea

Research Advisory Committee:
32 members across agencies, municipalities, industry, conservation organizations, and academic institutions

Identified Idaho's most pressing water challenges

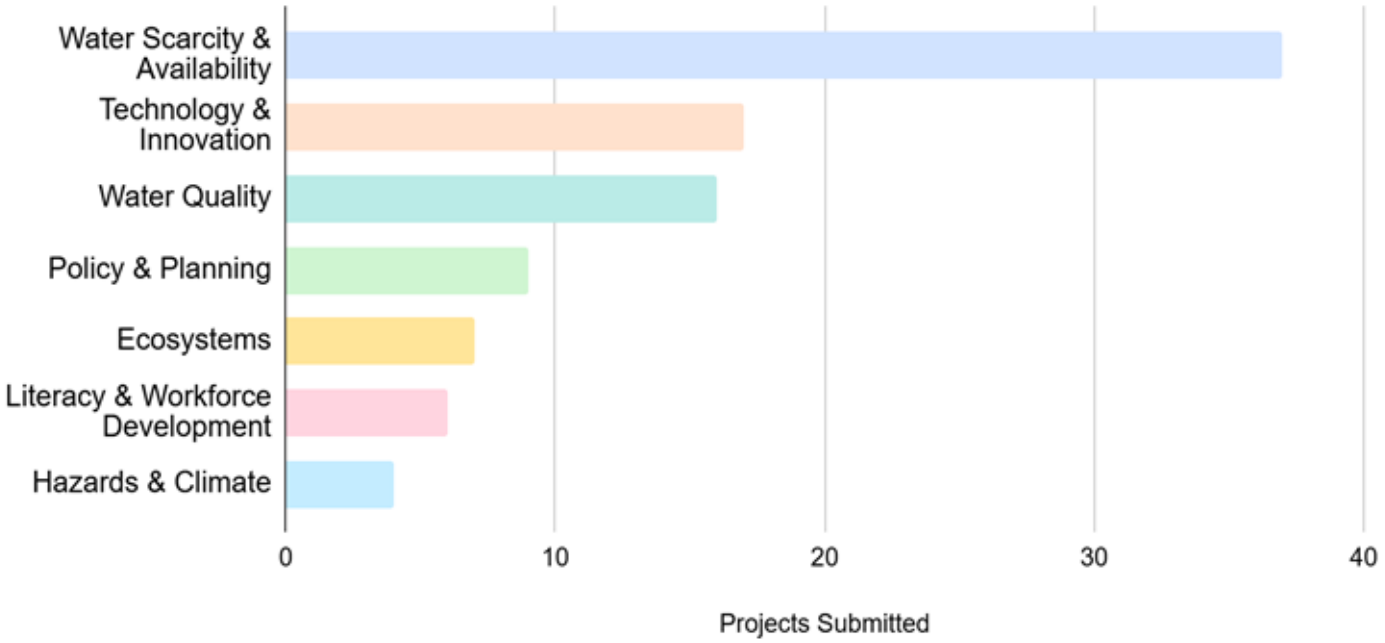
Generated 90+ research project needs

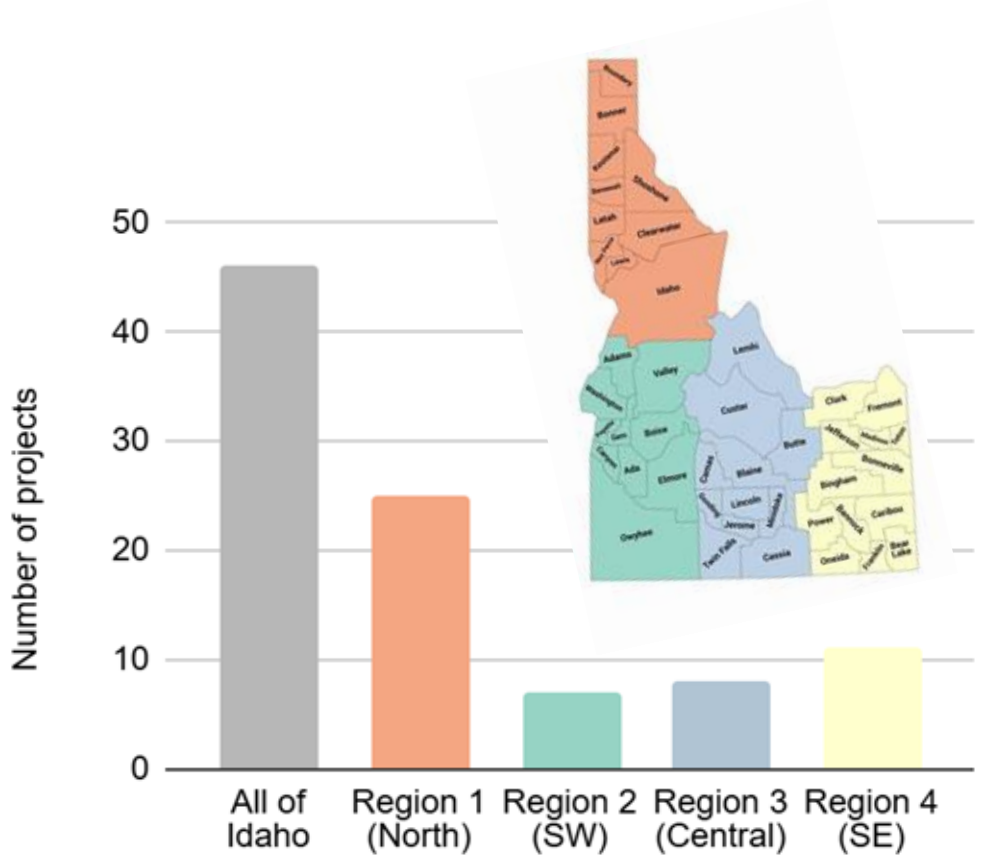
Evaluated projects based on relevance, community impact, feasibility, and geographic representation

Provided recommendations to the IWRRI Executive Board for allocation of IWRRI's legislated research funding

2025 Research Need Submissions

Idaho Water Resources Research Institute





2025 Idaho Water Research Priorities

Idaho Water Resources Research Institute

STATEWIDE RESEARCH

Water Scarcity & Availability

- Evaluating L-band InSAR for Idaho Water Monitoring Applications*
- Enhancing Visualization of Snow Water Storage Conditions*

Water Technology & Data

- Assessing Sufficiency, Optimal Deployment, and Application-Readiness of Idaho's Hydrometeorological Observation Network*
- Integrated Water Data and Visualization Platform

Water Quality

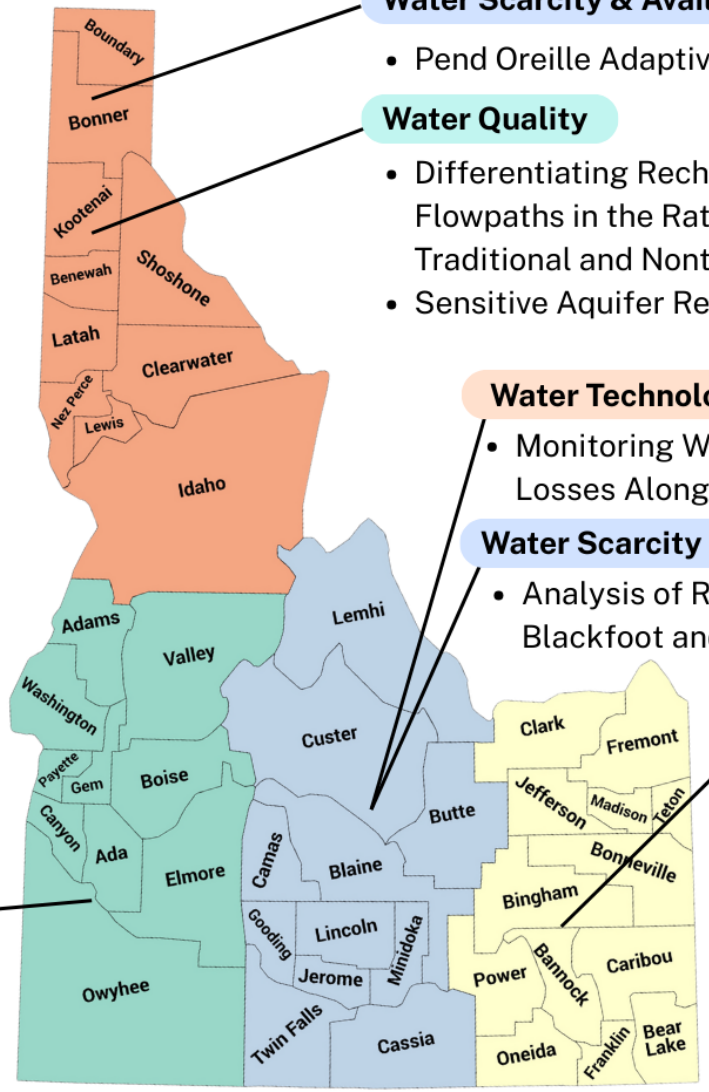
- Comprehensive Integration and Evaluation of Idaho Water Quality Monitoring*
- Sentinel-2 Satellite Surface Water Quality Validation
- Recycled Water and Aquifer Recharge

Water-Related Hazards

- Developing Probabilistic Flood Maps for Idaho Under Precipitation Uncertainty *

**Faculty-led projects across research universities*

REGIONAL RESEARCH



Water Scarcity & Availability

- Pend Oreille Adaptive Lake Management Case Study

Water Quality

- Differentiating Recharge Zones and Primary Flowpaths in the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer through Traditional and Nontraditional Groundwater Tracers*
- Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Area (SARA) Toolbox

Water Technology & Innovation

- Monitoring Water Seepage Gains and Losses Along Irrigation Canal Systems

Water Scarcity & Availability

- Analysis of Reach Gains Between Blackfoot and Minidoka

Water Scarcity & Availability

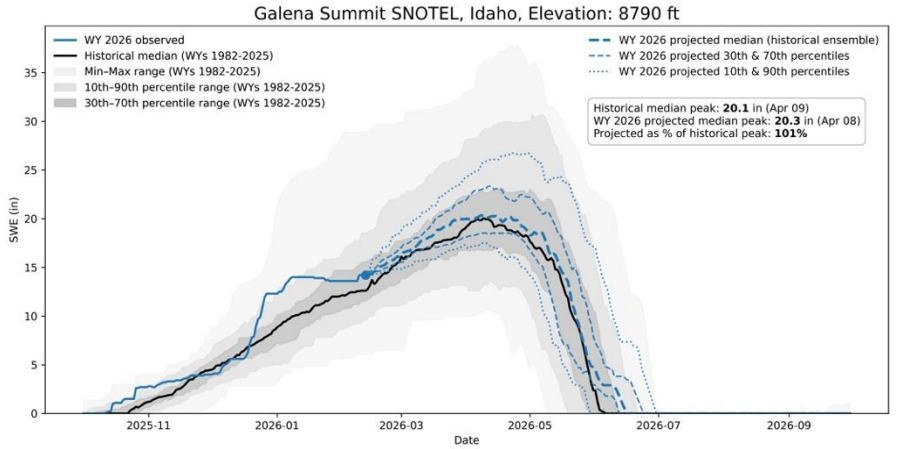
- Water Supply Analysis Below Swan Falls Dam and Major Tributaries

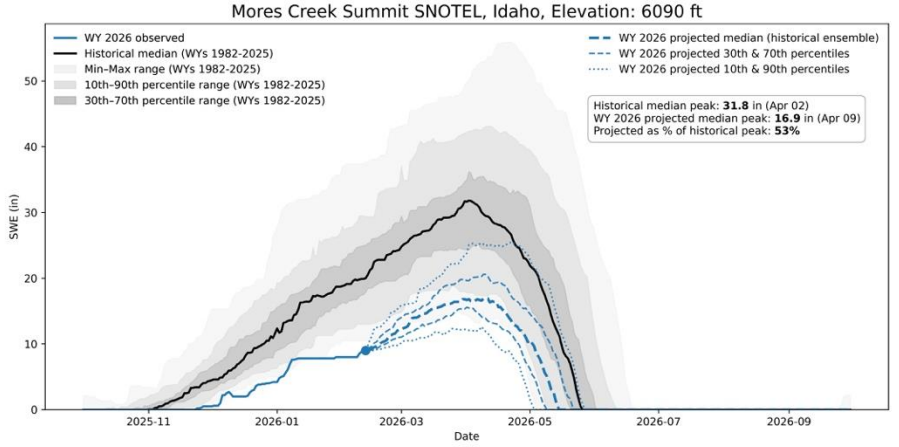
Water Scarcity & Availability

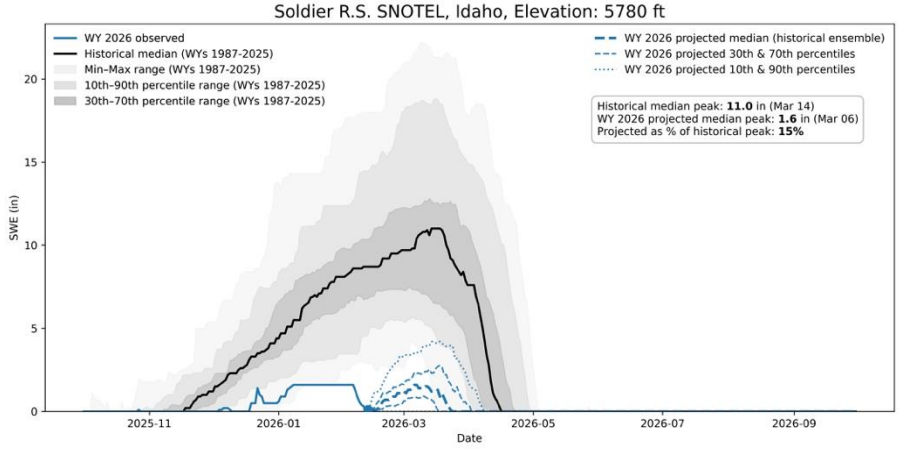
- Understanding Consumptive Use on the ESPA: Data Gaps, Uncertainty, and Impacts*
- ESPA Water Budget Gap Analysis
- Integrated Water Budget for the Upper Snake

Statewide Topics: Water Quantity

- Development of Tools to Visualize how Current Snowpack Levels Compare to Historical Patterns (BSU)
- Probabilistic Flood Maps for Idaho Under Precipitation Uncertainty (ISU)







Figures: Otto Lang, PhD
BSU Postdoctoral Researcher

Statewide Topics: Water Quality

Sentinel-2 Satellite Surface Water Quality Validation

This project will improve how well satellite images match on-the-water measurements of algae, and our ability to track the frequency and duration of algal blooms in Idaho lakes and reservoirs.

Water Quality Implications of MAR through Injection Wells & Recycled Water

Research synthesis about using surface water and recycled water for aquifer recharge, focusing on implications for drinking water protection, monitoring approaches, water quality requirements, existing regulations, and key knowledge gaps.

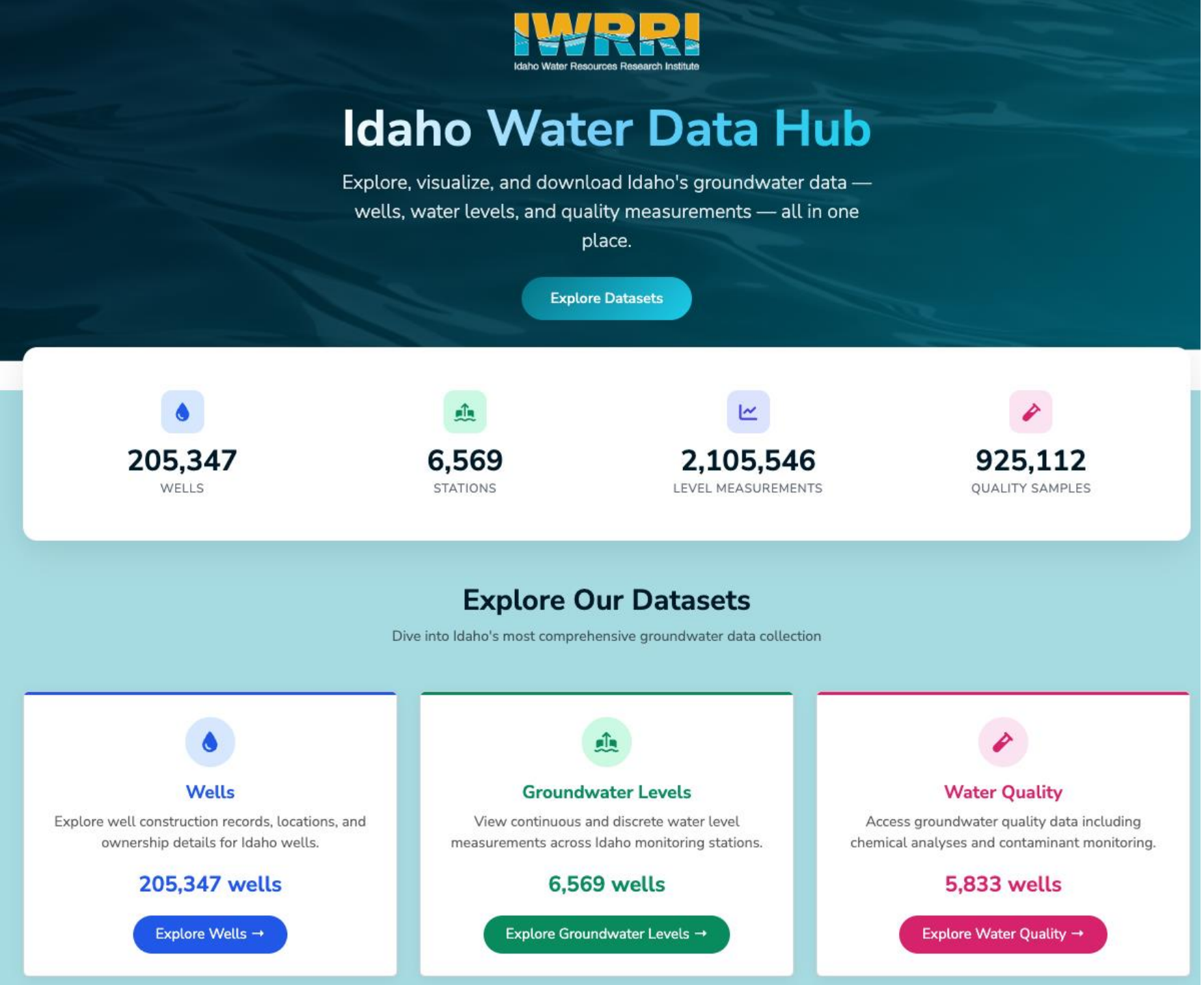
Sensitive Aquifer …

Steve Powers, PhD, IWRRI Research Scientist

Monitoring Opportunities

- Assessing Idaho's weather and climate monitoring systems to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement (ISU, BSU, UI)
- Evaluating a new remote sensing dataset (L-band InSAR) to track snow depth using Lidar (BSU)
- Monitoring water seepage gains and losses along irrigation canal systems (UI)

IWRRI
Idaho Water Resources Research Institute



Making Water Data More Accessible

datahub.iwrri.uidaho.edu

- Initiating effort to digitize well logs from across the state using AI tools
- UI Research Computing – Water Rights Data Hub
- Water Data Modernization Workshop May 14th

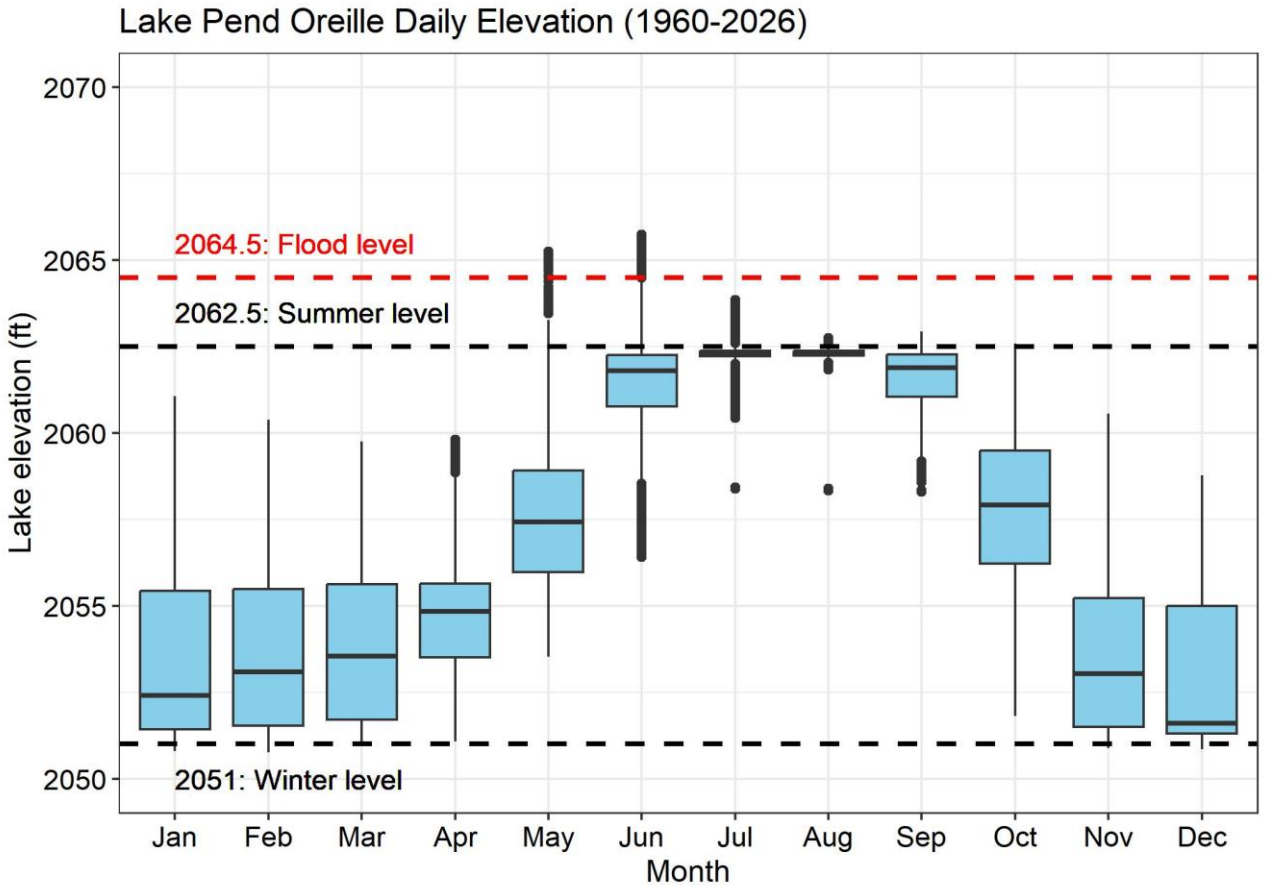
Regionally Relevant Topics

- **Valley County**: Water supply and growth
- **Treasure Valley**: Star Bridge Moratorium

Regionally Relevant Topics: North Idaho

Adaptive Management Case Study of Lake Pend Orielle

Characterizing conditions and inflows into Lake Pend Oreille that could support higher summer pool levels and analysis of changes in rain on snow events. Working with the community to provide educational materials about operations



Grace Peven, PhD, IWRRI Research Scientist

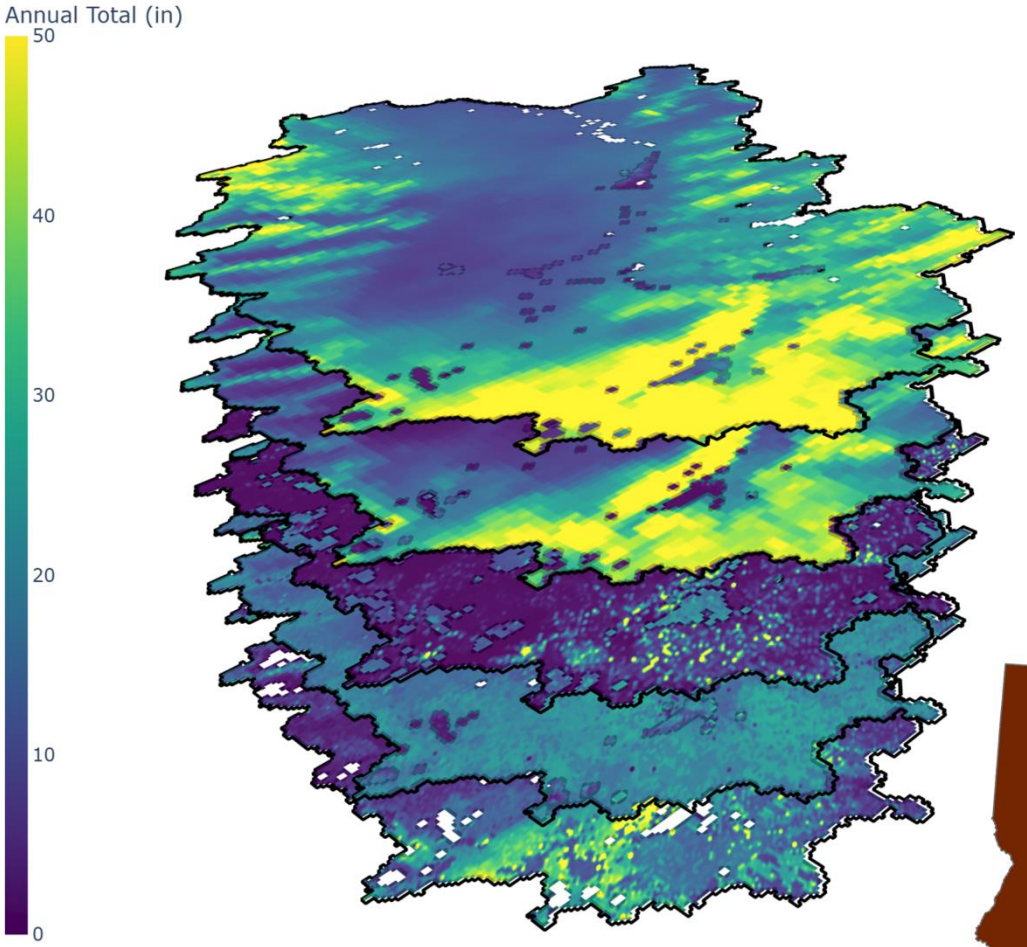
IWRRI ESPA Priorities

- **Evaluate aquifer recovery strategies to support reach-gains**
- **Quantify headwater contributions** entering the ESPA and quantify changes through time
- **Inform long-term management through improvements to water budgets:** Identifying gaps and opportunities to reduce uncertainty
- **Responsive to urgent needs to support near-term planning:** Developed curtailment forecasts to help prepare and adapt in advance

Outstanding questions:

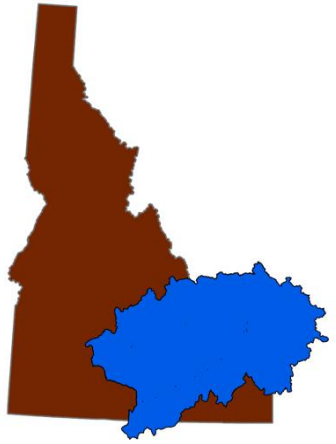
- What management actions drive Blackfoot to Minidoka reach-gains, and what are the associated time lags?
- Is there a way to predict reach-gains?
- Can forecasts of reach-gains provide a more stable measure of aquifer conditions than early season surface water supply forecasts?

Soil-Water-Balance Model



Develop and calibrate SWB for the Upper Snake:

- Use a process-based model to understand drivers
- Simulate water-budget components and uncertainty ranges (daily, monthly, and annual)
- Incidental recharge, non-irrigated land recharge, runoff, and ET



Phil Margarit, PhD
IWRRI Hydrogeologist

Blackfoot-Minidoka Modeling Ideas

- Develop, calibrate, and quantify uncertainty in a sub-model of ESPAM, implemented at a finer spatial resolution
- Evaluate the hydrologic response to historic climatic variability and management strategies
  - Test scenarios using uncertainty analysis to understand the probable range of impact from each driver (i.e. groundwater conservation efforts contributed 70-90% of the change compared to climatic changes)
- Detailed work plan to be determined with input from technical experts and stakeholders
- Support needed: How to explore state of the art modeling approaches and novel developments without having “competing models” or litigation

IWRRI Automation of Forecasting April 1 Methodology Order

- Efficient way to run the analysis
- Data inputs are the time-consuming component
  - *Currently there is no automated process for calculating storage allocations; we include a range of values to capture uncertainty
- Used historical IDWR data to develop relationships between Heise and natural flow at each entity

Findings represent estimated ranges of shortfalls and potential priority dates, they do not reflect official IDWR determinations.

Forecasting April 1 Methodology

Idaho Water Resources Research Institute

Water Supply Forecasts *(in March)*

Joint Forecast at Heise: (current JF is March-July): remove march volumes so the forecasts are April – July. We include percentiles from NRCS Forecasts for reference.

Natural Flow Supply Modeling: Remove outlier years, create regressions between historical natural flow at Heise and the water supply available for each entity, subtract one standard error.

Storage Allocation, Credits and Total Supply:

Using a range in place of updated numbers

Reasonable In-season Demand: Baseline Year (2018)

Shortfall Calculations & Water Right Priority

Total Shortfall = Forecast Supply – In-season Demand (for each entity)

Curtailment dates: The GW model calculates how much flow will accrue to the reach by Sept 30th if curtailed to a certain priority date. We used output from 2025 IDWR model simulations to identify approximate curtailment priority dates for a range of shortfall volumes

**Approach is separate from official IDWR determinations.*

Forecasted Curtailment Summary

- 10% likelihood that natural flow is high enough to not require curtailments, if each entity is at least 90% storage
- Based on current estimates of the Joint Forecast, the most senior water right would be 1945, and could easily drop to 1900

Exceed Prob.	Approx. Storage (%)	Total Shortfall (KAF)	Curt. Date
10%	90	0.3	-
10%	80	24	1976
50%	90	47	1964
50%	80/90	74	1952
50%	80	98	1900
70%	90	68	1954
70%	80/90	106	1900
JF	**90**	**89**	**1945**
90%	100	58	1958
90%	**90**	**109**	**1900**
JF	**80/90**	**126**	**1900**

Findings represent preliminary approaches to predict shortfalls and curtailments. They do not reflect official IDWR determinations.

Next Steps

- What is most useful for you?
- If of interest, expand code for forecasting methodology order, create online dashboard
  - Funding options: through IWRB, contract with water users, or submit and elevate through IWRRI RAC process
- Convene a Technical Advisory Committee to refine drivers of Blackfoot-Minidoka Reach-Gains Workplan
  - Explore opportunities to leverage funds from the Reach-Gains Fund to develop these tools
- Continue development of the Soil Water Balance model to characterize water budget components of the Upper Snake above King Hill
  - Funded through RAC process


IWRRI
Your Priorities.
Our Research.
Idaho's Solutions.
kkaiser@uidaho.edu
iwrri.uidaho.edu

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff

Date: March 20, 2026

Subject: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Status

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Rob Sharpnack, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Manager with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, will present an update on the status of CREP.

Attachments:

- *PowerPoint Presentation*

20 Years of Saving Groundwater in Idaho

Rob Sharpnack
State CREP Manager
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

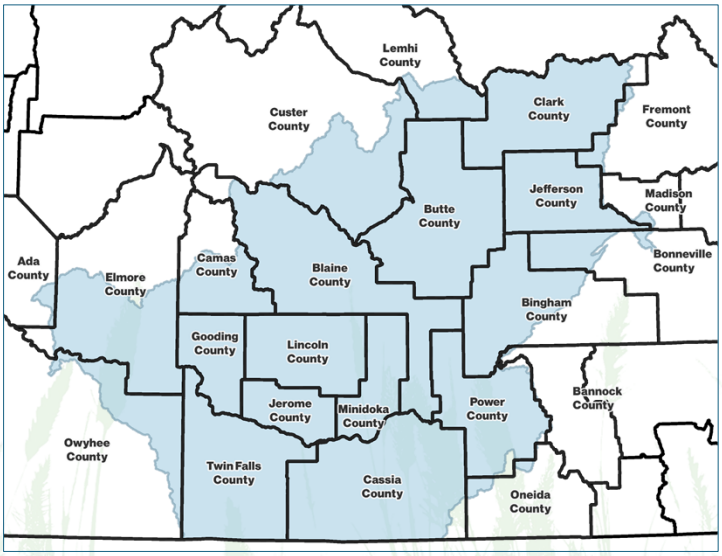
3/26/2026

1

CREP Area

All or portions of 23 Counties

(28 Conservation Districts)



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

2

CREP opened for enrollment!

- 2026 -

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10*	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

*Open enrollment announcement

Enrollment will be closed if the national cap limit for CRP is reached. If limit is not reached, enrollment may be continued or reopened.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program IDAHO

3

New CREP offers during the February 12 to March 20, 2026, CRP/CREP Open Enrollment Period

County Name	Contracts Received	Fields	Acres	Future Groundwater Savings (ac-ft)	Federal Rental Payment	State Match Payment	Total Annual Participant Payments
Bingham	7	13	990	1,980	$259,403.84	$33,722.50	$293,126.34
Camas	2	7	254	508	$65,029.12	$8,453.79	$73,482.91
Cassia	1	3	87	174	$30,919.00	$4,019.47	$34,938.47
Gooding	1	2	11	23	$4,414.00	$573.82	$4,987.82
Minidoka	9	26	216	432	$74,034.00	$9,624.42	$83,658.42
Power	5	9	653	1,307	$179,042.00	$23,275.46	$202,317.46
	25	**60**	**2,212**	**4,423**	**$612,841.96**	**$79,669.46**	**$692,511.42**

*Estimate of landowner offers during Feb-Mar. 2026 Open Enrollment, as of 3/18/2026

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program IDAHO

4

Idaho CREP program goals:

- Reduce the irrigation groundwater water consumptive use in ESPA
- Conserve energy
- Improve Water Quality (reduce non-point source pollution)
- Provide Wildlife habitat

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program IDAHO

5

Benefit to Idaho

Target

50,000 acres of groundwater irrigated cropland enrolled

- Reduce groundwater use and demand on the ESPA
- Raises the Local Water Table and Improves Spring Flows.
- Improve Water & Air Quality by Protecting Soil Resources
- Provide Wildlife Habitat
- Inject Funds into the Local Ag. Economy
- Conserve Energy.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program IDAHO

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Participants:

Pronghorn utilizing CREP field

- Enroll for a 10-year period
- Convert acreage into permanent vegetative cover
- Voluntarily curtail water right *(some irrigation may be used for veg. establishment)*
- Agree to restrict land uses during the contract period
- Receive federal annual rental payments and state cost-share assistance
- Land and water rights return after contract ends

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

7

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
established 1939
Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing Seeds of Stewardship

CREP Partners

USDA Farm Service Agency	Idaho Dept of Water Resources	USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Local Conservation Districts	Idaho Association of Conservation Districts	Idaho Ground Water Appropriators Inc
Idaho Department of Fish & Game	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	Local Irrigation Districts

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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Core Partner Roles

USDA Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Program Administration

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Technical service

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Water Right validation

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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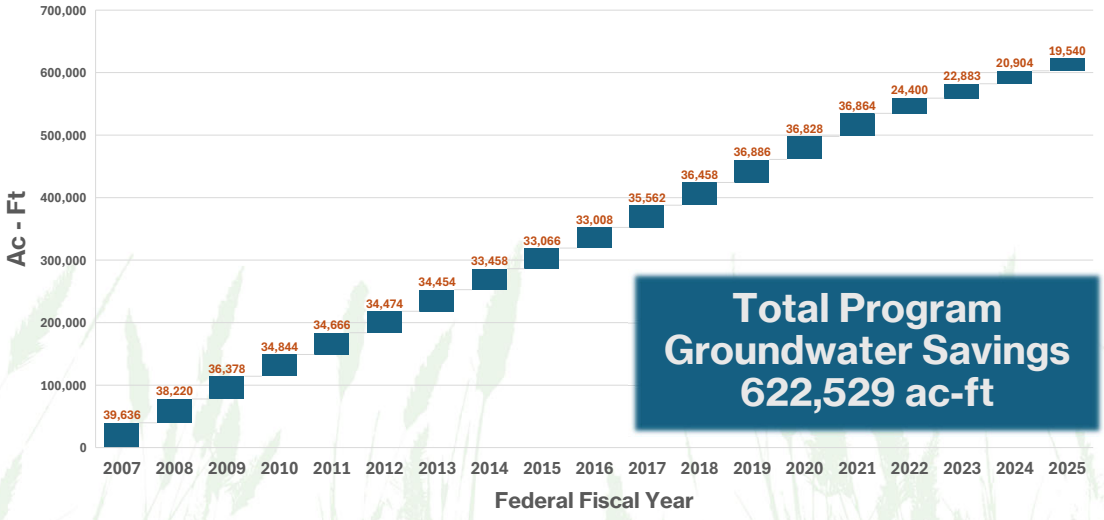
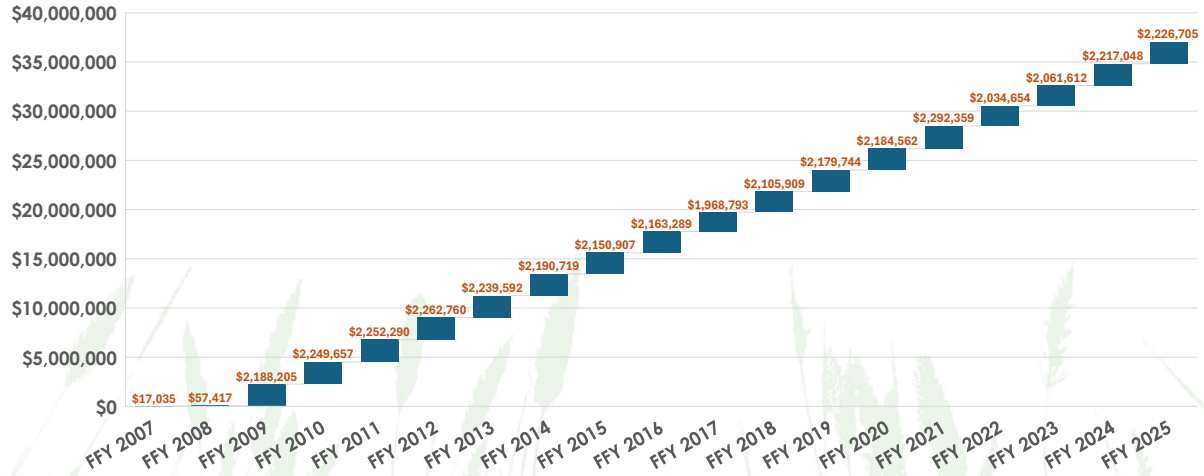
Idaho CREP Cumulative Groundwater Savings



Total Program Groundwater Savings 622,529 ac-ft

10

CREP Cumulative Direct Federal Payments to Participants



Total Program Federal Payments to Participants = $37,043,257. (thru FFY25)

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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CREP Active Contracts Active End of FFY2025

County Name	Contracts	Acres	Groundwater Savings (ac-ft)	Federal Annual Rental Payment	State 13% Match Payment	Total Payment to CREP Participants
Bingham	22	2,597	5,195	$620,366	$76,673	$697,03*
Blaine	1	81	162	$8,492	$1,104	$9,596
Cassia	20	1,605	3,211	$292,961	$22,155	$437,650
Jefferson	6	93	187	$13,692	$1,319	$18,556
Jerome	8	536	1,072	$172,592	$22,183	$196,725
Lincoln	15	1195.99	2,392	$227,628	$34,520	$264,239
Minidoka	40	2,150	4,300	$637,716	$78,792	$731,128
Power	8	1,239	2,478	$251,820	$24,021	$342,885
Twin Falls	1	43	86	$11,438	$1,487	$12,925
	121	**9,541**	**19,082**	**$2,293,547**	**$262,255**	**$2,555,802**

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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CREP FFY 2026 - Present

		Active Contract	Fields	Acres	Groundwater Savings (ac-ft)	Annual Federal Rental Payments	State Matching Payments	Total Payments to Participants
Original Agreement	Remaining Contracts	28	126	1,894	3,787	$272,291	$0	$272,291
Revised Agreement	Re-enrolled Contracts	67	317	6,041	12,082	$1,564,717	$203,413	$1,768,131
Revised Agreement	New Contracts '21-'24	23	70	1,565	3,130	$452,674	$58,848	$511,521
Revised Agreement	New Contracts '25	6	31	227	454	$62,647	$8,144	$70,791
		124	**546**	**9,727**	**19,453**	**$2,352,286**	**$270,399**	**$2,622,685**

Note: Original CREP Agreements were 15-year terms and Revised Agreement contracts have a term of 10 years.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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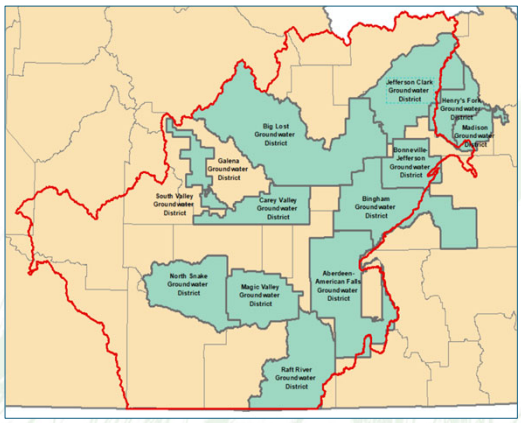
CREP and Groundwater Districts

How Groundwater Districts Relate to the CREP



FFY25 EOY CREP Contracts by Groundwater District

GW Districts	Contracts	Fields	Acres	GW Savings (ac.-ft.)	FSA Rental Payment	State Match Payment	Total Payment
Aberdeen-American Falls	13	34	1,798	3,597	$404,763	$41,844	$446,607
Bingham	17	45	2,038	4,076	$483,265	$58,850	$542,115
Bonneville-Jefferson	2	8	51	101	$7,152	$560	$7,712
Jefferson Clark	4	8	43	85	$6,540	$759	$7,299
Magic Valley	60	322	3,535	7,071	$952,960	$121,199	$1,074,159
None	1	1	43	86	$11,438	$1,487	$12,925
North Snake	4	17	428	856	$118,468	$15,401	$133,869
Raft River	20	87	1,605	3,211	$308,961	$22,155	$331,116
	121	**522**	**9,541**	**19,082**	**$2,293,547**	**$262,255**	**$2,555,802**

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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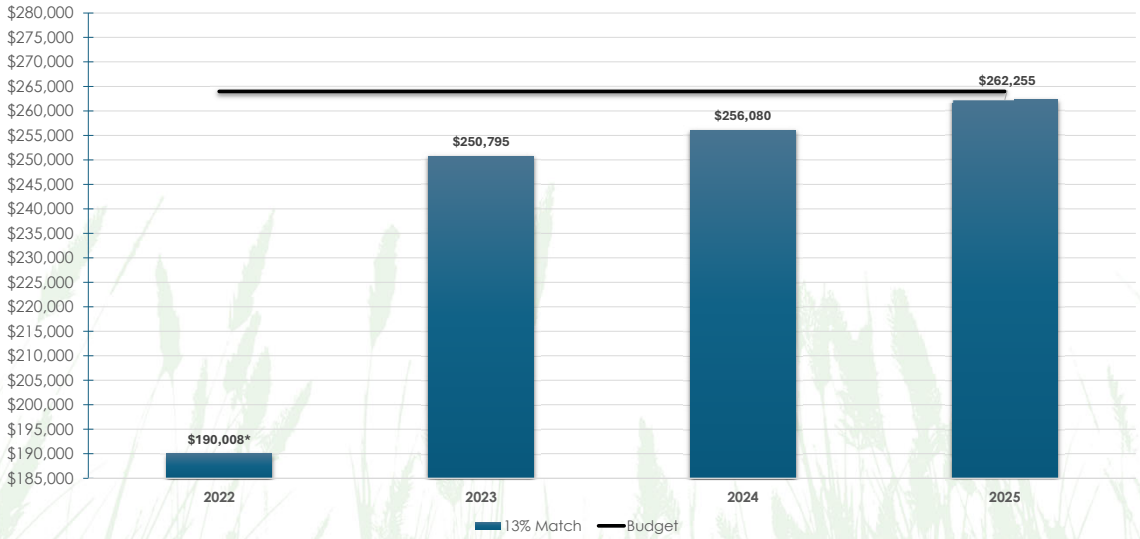
Idaho's Match Payment to Participants (up to 13%) by Year



* In 2022 the State paid its first Direct Payments for the 2021 contract period.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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CREP State and Fed. Participant Benefits

Fall field of Great Basin Wild Rye Grass in Minidoka Co.

One-Time

- Signup Incentive Payment (SIP)
- Fed. cost-share available for initial planting with an approved seed plan.

Annual, for 10 yrs.

- Federal rental Payment
  (ac. enrolled x County rental rate at time of signup)
- State match payment
  (up to 13% of the Fed. Rate)

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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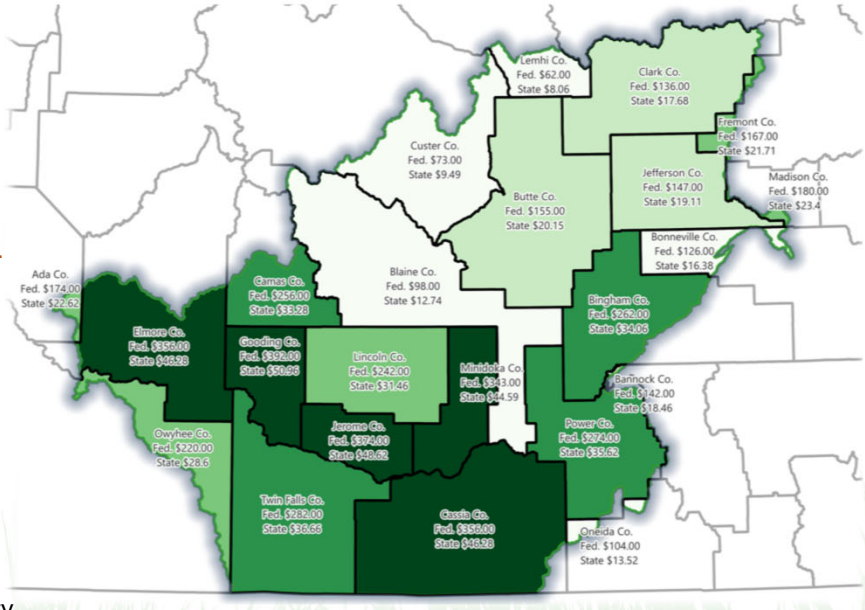
Federal CREP County Rates & State Match

Fed. = $62 - $392 per ac./yr.
State = $8.06 - $50.96 per ac./yr.


Four bull elk on a CREP field in Minidoka County



20 years ago, the original County average rate was $130/ac/yr. Now, the County average rate is $241.77/ac/yr.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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Signup Incentive Payments*

- SIPs were added in January 2025 through an addendum to the Revised CREP Agreement
- One-time payment, 32.5% of the total ann. Fed. payment for the contract, which was set during enrollment.
- $166,957 in SIPs have been made to 28 participants enrolled in the CREP.
- These SIPs will be an ongoing practice with newly enrolled land in the program.

*The State does not provide a Federal SIP Match.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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Example:

A producer in Cassia County enrolls 100 acres into CREP in the current enrollment period (2026)

Reoccuring Annual Payments	One-time Payments
FSA Annual Payment $356 x 100 ac. = **$35,600/year**	Federal SIP $35,600 x 32.5% = **$11,570 SIP**
State Annual Match Payment $35,600 x up to 13% = **$4,628/year**	Federal Cost-Share - up to 50% of Seed Cost (for this example, Seed Costs = $50/ac.) 100 ac. x $50 x .5 = **$2,500**
Combined Annual FSA and State Payments $35,600 + $4,628 = $**40,228**	Total Federal One-time Incentive Payments $11,570 + $2,500 = **$14,070**

Total Participant Payment for 100 acres per 10yr. Contract

($40,228 Annual Payment x 10yrs) + $14,070 = **$416,350**

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program IDAHO

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Common Questions:

What will my responsibilities be?

Follow Agreement not to Divert (ANTD)

- Adhere to "new" water right limit
- Do not water contract area except to establish native seed plan according to agreement limits. (Please do that!)

Follow Conservation Plan (4 Parts)

1. **Access Control (472)** - Exclude animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions. {Nesting Dates -> April 15 – August 15}
2. **Conservation Cover (327)** - Establish and/or maintain permanent vegetation for wildlife and erosion control.
3. **Pest Management Conservation System (595)** – Implement a Pest Management Plan… to reduce plant pest pressure.
4. **Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)** - Enable movement and / or provide food and cover to sustain wildlife that inhabit uplands.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program IDAHO

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Any other participant expectations or responsibilities?

Yes…

- ✓ Allow access for program staff (We will be stopping by to check on things)
- ✓ Allow us to share information with our partners
- ✓ Move seeded contract to full healthy condition that is based seed plan. (i.e. The Certified Contract)
- ✓ Nothing in this program removes your responsibility to control Noxious Weeds. (If you need to spay call FSA/ISWCC first!)
- ✓ Observe Nesting Period use exclusion stipulations – let the birds alone.
- ✓ Communicate issues or concerns with FSA/ISWCC
- ✓ Communicate changes in business/banking that affect the contract with FSA/ISWCC to ensure prompt payments.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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What does “Access Control” mean?

Preserve it for the wildlife!

Do Not:

- Stack or store grass/hay in your CREP field(s)
- Store manure piles in your CREP field(s)
- Do not store farm equipment in your CREP field(s)
- Do not drive your planting equipment through your CREP field(s)
- Do not drive your harvest equipment your CREP field(s)
- No grazing. Unless approved by FSA/ISWCC
- No harvesting hay. Unless approved by FSA/ISWCC
- Weed Control. When needed and approved by FSA/ISWCC
- No Construction: Inform FSA/ISWCC well in advance
- Hunting? Sure, Good Luck! Just don’t damage the field(s)

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

22

What happens to Water Rights when enrolled in CREP?

Water Rights associated with land enrolled in CREP are held for the period of the contract.

Okay… follow-up question, what does 'Held' mean?

It just sits there until the contract is up or terminated then it is yours again under what-ever provisions or agreements that would exist at that time.

- It is not used.
- It is not sold.
- It can not be gifted.
- It is not transferred.
- It is not traded.
- It is not banked.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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The whole point is to have real, demonstratable groundwater savings!

Example:

- If you have 1,000 acres with a Water Right of 4.0 ac-ft/ac (4,000 ac-ft) and you want to enroll in CREP.
- You put 100 acres of irrigated land into CREP, the groundwater water right (400 ac-ft) goes with it.
- The remaining acreage (the 900 acres), you still have a Water Right of 4.0 ac-ft/ac (3,600 ac. ft) to irrigate with.
- The 100 acres worth of annual ground water irrigation (400 ac-ft) is counted as CREP Groundwater Savings.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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Does my land qualify? Am I eligible?

Are you eligible to enroll in Federal/State programs?

- Cropland must be physically and legally capable of being irrigated in a normal manner at the time of offer.[1,2]
- Cropland must have been irrigated by groundwater sources for four out of the six previous years with ≥ ½ acre-ft of groundwater.

Do you have a cropping history for your land?

- Land must be owned or leased for at least one year (≥12 months) prior to enrollment to be eligible.

[1]If a Curtailment Order is issued before the CREP offer is finalized, the land will no longer be eligible for CREP enrollment. If the offer is approved before the Curtailment Order, then the water rights are held.

[2]IDWR verifies all offers that the water rights are valid.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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Is there a minimum or maximum field size that can be in CREP?

- There is no minimal field size requirement. Some landowners are considering removing end guns, enrolling corners, or other marginal land as a feasible option for voluntarily reducing groundwater consumption.
- There is no set field size, however there is a maximum Federal Cap per enrollee of $50,000 (includes SIP and Seed Cost-Share). State Match is not part of this CAP.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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What is the process?

CREP FLOW CHART – The Beginning

Participant
Potential CREP participant visits local FSA Office - Determine eligibility, payment rates, and sign forms (CRP- CRP-1,CRP-2, and information release forms).

FSA
Application sent to FSA State Office. FSA staff forward completed forms and GIS packet to the ISWCC.

IDWR
IDWR verifies the water rights and water savings information and provides Attachment A for the ANTD to the ISWCC.

ISWCC
ISWCC prepares a CPA-052 for signature by FSA and NRCS for the CREP participant.

ISWCC / Participant
ISWCC works with partners and participant to develop a conservation plan.

Participant
Participant signs State documents –
- Authorization to Release Info.
- Authorization Not to Divert
- Conservation Plan

FSA
State Paperwork submitted to FSA. FSA County Committee approves contract. Contract start date set.

ISWCC
ISWCC creates CPA-052 Seeding Plan for planting of contract.

Participant
Seeding contract approved by participant and planting date established.

START

Up until the Start Date, the landowner has full control of land use and water right, however land and participant must maintain eligibility.

IDAHO Soil and Water Conservation Commission
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
USDA Farm Service Agency U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
IDAHO Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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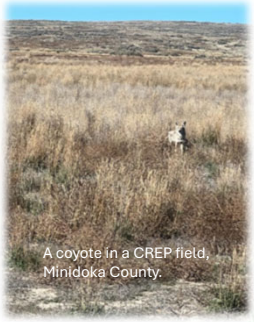
Value?

CREP is a valuable tool in the toolbox for groundwater conservation in southern Idaho!

FFY25 EOY average cost of one ac-ft of groundwater saved by the CREP Program was $13.74 for the State of Idaho.


A coyote in a CREP field, Minidoka County.

- Consistent
- Competitive
- Reliable
- Quantifiable

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Idaho Water Resource Board

Thank you for your support of the Idaho CREP

It is greatly appreciated!

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

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CREP

Thank you for your Time!

Any Questions?

20 Years of Saving Groundwater in Idaho

Rob Sharpnack
State CREP Manager
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

3/26/2026

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MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: David Graybill, Hydrologist

Date: March 18, 2026

Subject: Water Supply Bank Rental Pool Procedures

REQUESTED ACTION: None

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board) is responsible for the operation of the Water Supply Bank, inclusive of regional rental pools. The Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources ('IDWR') will review rental pool procedures and forms then submit a recommendation to the Board. Consistent with Section 42-1765, Idaho Code and Rule 40 of the Water Supply Bank Rules, IDAPA 37.02.03.040, rental pool specific amended procedures and review memos are included with this memo for consideration by the Board.

A redlined version of the recently amended Boise River Basin Rental Pool procedures adopted by the Water District (WD) 63 Advisory Committee on December 16, 2025, is provided, along with a Departmental review memo summarizing key aspects of the amended procedures. The final adopted procedures along with the resolution for the Board's consideration to approve them are included with the Board Meeting materials to be presented on Friday.

A redlined version of the recently amended Payette River Basin Rental Pool procedures adopted by the Water District (WD') 65 Advisory Committee on March 10, 2026, is provided, along with a Departmental review memo summarizing key aspects of the amended procedures. The final adopted procedures along with the resolution for the Board's consideration to approve them are included with the Board Meeting materials to be presented on Friday.

Attachment(s):

- *Review Memo to Director - WD 63 2026 Rental Pool Procedures*
- *WD 63 Rental Pool Procedures – Redline Adopted 12.16.2025*
- *Review Memo to Director - WD 65 2026 Rental Pool Procedures*
- *WD 65 Rental Pool Procedures – Redline Adopted 3.10.2026*

Memorandum

To: Mathew Weaver, IDWR Director

From: David Graybill, WSB Program Coordinator

Date: March 18, 2026

Re: Boise River Basin Rental Pool Procedures

Enclosed with this memo is a copy of the draft redline 2026 rental pool procedures and the final 2026 Rental Pool Procedures, adopted by the water users and the water district advisory committee of Water District 63 on December 16, 2025. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1765 and the subsections of Rule 40 of the Water Supply Bank (WSB) Rules (IDAPA 37.02.03.040), the Water District 63 Advisory Board is the IWRB-appointed local committee to facilitate the lease and rental of stored water within the Boise River Basin rental pool.

The updates to the Water District 63 rental pool procedures for 2026, with reference to the correlating subsection of WSB Rule 040 criteria met, in summary are:

- Procedure 4.4.101(c) – Application to Rent Storage from the Rental Pool – *Contents*
    - Additional language clarifies that a "single" point of diversion must be identified in the rental pool application.
- Procedure 5.6.103– Payments to Assignors – *Timing of Payment*
    - Additional language allows contractors to request an earlier payout once the full fee amount has been received, and establishes that after a rental pool assignment form is signed and funds are delivered to the entity, no further reimbursements can be issued due to changes in the rental pool assignment contract.

The above listed changes to the Water District 63 Rental Pool procedures adequately address and meet the criteria required of rental pool procedures within WSB Rule 40 (IDAPA 37.02.03.040). Approval of the proposed procedures and application forms is recommended.

Attachment(s): WD 63 Rental Pool Procedures – Redline 12.16.2025
WD 63 Rental Pool Procedures – Final

Amended 2025

WATER DISTRICT 63

BOISE RIVER BASIN

RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES

AMENDED 12/16/2025

WATER DISTRICT NO. 63

RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES

The Boise River Rental Pool is administered by the Rental Pool Committee through the Boise River Watermaster's office.

Please contact the Watermaster for more information.

Daniel Hoke

Boise River Watermaster

(208) 908-5480

daniel@wd63.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WATER DISTRICT 63
RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES

RULE 1.0 LEGAL AUTHORITY

1.1 These procedures have been adopted pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1765 and IDAPA 37.02.03.040 to assure orderly operation of the Boise River Rental Pool by the Advisory Board of Water District No. 63.

1.2 These procedures shall not be interpreted to limit the authority of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, the Idaho Water Resource Board, Water District No. 63 Advisory Board, or the Watermaster in discharging their duties as prescribed by statute or rule.

1.3 These procedures shall be interpreted consistent with Idaho Code, rules promulgated by the Idaho Water Resource Board, relevant provisions of repayment contracts with the United States, and the Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004 commonly referred to as the Nez Perce Mediator's Term Sheet dated April 20, 2004.

RULE 2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 **Accounting Year:** the Water District 63 water accounting year that begins on November 1 and ends on October 31

2.2 **Acre-foot:** a volume of water sufficient to cover one acre of land one foot deep and is equal to 43,560 cubic feet.

2.3 **Administrative Fee:** a fee of One Dollar and Thirty Cents ($1.55) per acre-foot assessed by the District on all storage rented through the Rental Pool.

2.4 **Assignment:** a written agreement to convey a specific quantity of storage into the Rental Pool for use during a specified period of time.

2.5 **Assignor:** a person who assigns storage to the Rental Pool.

2.6 **Board:** the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB).

2.7 **Board Surcharge:** a surcharge equal to ten percent (10%) of the Net Rental Price assessed on all storage rented from the Rental Pool, which is disbursed to the Board.

2.8 **Committee:** the Advisory Board of Water District No. 63.

2.9 **Department:** the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR).

2.10 **Director**: the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

2.11 **District:** Water District 63 of the State of Idaho.

2.12 **Net Rental Price:** The Rental Price less the Administrative Fee and Board Surcharge.

2.13 **Person:** an individual, company, association, corporation, partnership, irrigation district, canal company, political subdivision, or governmental agency.

2.14 **Reclamation:** the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

2.15 **Rent:** a written agreement to acquire the right to use a specific quantity of storage from the Rental Pool for a determinate period.

2.16 **Rental Pool:** a market for the exchange of storage operated by the Advisory Board of Water District No. 63.

2.17 **Rental Price**: the fee, including the Administrative Fee and Board Surcharge, for rental of storage from the Rental Pool.

2.18 **Renter:** a person who rents storage from the Rental Pool.

2.19 **Reservoir System:** refers to Arrowrock, Lake Lowell, Anderson Ranch, and Lucky Peak reservoirs.

2.20 **Space:** all or any portion of the active capacity of a federal reservoir measured in acre-feet.

2.21 **Spaceholder:** the holder of the contractual right to space in the reservoir system, or Reclamation.

2.22 **Storage:** water that accrues to reservoir space and is available for use.

2.23 **Watermaster:** the watermaster of Water District 63.

RULE 3.0 PURPOSES

3.1 To promote the maximum beneficial use of stored water establish a process and provide incentives, consistent with Idaho Code § 42-1765, through which storage supplies may be made available for rental by persons who need additional water for beneficial purposes.

3.2 Maintain adequate controls and priorities to ensure that (a) irrigation uses are provided an opportunity to obtain supplemental storage supplies ahead of non-irrigation uses, (b) existing water rights are not injured, and (c) the use of storage water obtained through the Rental Pool is consistent with the protection of the local public interest and the conservation of water resources within the state of Idaho.

3.3 Provide a source of revenue for the District to offset operating costs of the district.

RULE 4.0 MANAGEMENT & APPLICATION PROCESS

4.1 C**ommittee.** The Committee, which shall decide all matters by majority vote, will exercise the following responsibilities:

(a) Adopt, and amend as necessary, procedures for operation of the Rental Pool;

(b) Provide direction to the Watermaster in the operation of the Rental Pool within the framework of the these procedures;

(c) Set policies for the investment and disbursement of funds generated by the Rental Pool in conformity with the Public Depository Law, Chapter 1, Title 57, Idaho Code; and

(d) Notify the Director and Watermaster of rentals where storage will be moved from the place of use authorized by the permit, license or decree establishing the storage water right.

4.2 **Watermaster.** The Watermaster shall serve as the manager of the Rental Pool and shall take all reasonable actions necessary to administer the Rental Pool consistent with these procedures, which include:

(a) accepting assignments of storage into the Rental Pool on behalf of the Committee;

(b) distributing storage rented through the Rental Pool;

(c) accepting and disbursing funds generated through the rental of storage; and

(d) taking such additional actions as may be directed by the Committee.

4.3 **Application to Assign Storage to the Rental Pool**.

4.3.101 *Contents.* Applications to assign storage to the Rental Pool shall be made upon forms approved by the Watermaster, which shall include:
(a) the quantity of storage sought to be assigned to the Rental Pool;
(b) an indication of whether the storage may be rented for out-of-basin uses; and
(c) the date received in the Watermaster's office.

4.3.102 *Conditional Assignment.* For purposes of determining the priority of assigned storage under Rule 5.4, storage shall be deemed conditionally assigned to the Rental Pool on the date the application is received by the Watermaster subject to approval by the Committee pursuant to Rule 5.2.

4.3.103 *Subsequent Applications*. Any applicant, having once assigned storage to the Rental Pool, may make application to assign storage in subsequent accounting years by (a) providing written confirmation that the information on the prior assignment application is true and correct, and (b) indicating the quantity of storage sought to be assigned.

4.3.104 *Deadline for Application*. An application to assign storage must be received by the Watermaster and approved by the Committee pursuant to Rule 5.2 not later than October 31 in order for the storage identified in such application, provided it

is subsequently rented within the time limit prescribed in Rule 5.5.101, to be accounted for as having been diverted in the current accounting year.

4.4 **Application to Rent Storage from the Rental Pool.**

4.4.101 *Contents.* Applications to rent storage from the Rental Pool shall be made upon forms approved by the Watermaster, which shall include:
(a) the amount of storage sought to be rented;
(b) the purpose(s) for which the storage will be put to beneficial use;
(c) ~~a~~ single point of diversion identified by legal description and common name;
(d) a description of the place of use; and
(e) the date received in the Watermaster's office.

4.4.102 *Acceptance.* For purposes of determining a rental applicant's priority under Rule 6.1, applications are not deemed accepted until received by the Watermaster together with the appropriate rental fee.

4.4.103 *Subsequent Applications*. Any rental applicant, having once rented water from the Rental Pool, may make application for rental of storage in subsequent accounting years by (a) providing written confirmation that the information on the prior rental application is true and correct, (b) indicating the quantity of storage sought to be rented, and (c) tendering the appropriate rental fee.

4.5 **Rental Pool Account**. All monies submitted by rental applicants shall be deposited in the Rental Pool Account and maintained by the Watermaster on behalf of the Committee. Monies in the Rental Pool Account will be disbursed to the District, the Board, the Assignors in the proportions set forth in these procedures. Accrued interest to the Rental Pool Account shall be disbursed to the District for purposes consistent with Rule 3.3. Rental Pool funds shall be considered public funds for investment purposes and subject to the Public Depository Law, Chapter 1, Title 57, Idaho Code.

RULE 5.0 ASSIGNMENT OF STORAGE TO THE RENTAL POOL

5.1 **Assignment of Storage.** Any spaceholder may assign storage to the Rental Pool subject to approval by the Committee.

5.2 **Approval by Committee.** The Committee may approve or reject, in whole or in part, an application to assign storage to the Rental Pool and may impose conditions necessary to satisfy the purposes set out under Rule 3.2. All storage approved for assignment into the Rental Pool shall be under the control of the Committee and Watermaster during the term of the assignment.

5.3 **Reservoir Designation**. When an assignor has space in more than one reservoir, storage will be assigned to the Rental Pool from the assignor's space in the reservoir system in the following sequence: Lucky Peak, Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock, and Lake Lowell.

5.4 **Priority of Assigned Storage**

5.4.101 *Assignments Made On or Before July 1st.* All storage assigned to the Rental Pool on or before July 1 shall be rented on a pro-rata basis.

5.4.102 *Assignments Made After July 1st.* All storage assigned to the Rental Pool after July 1 will be rented on a first-in-first-out basis, but only after all storage assigned under Rule 5.4.101 has been rented.

5.5 **Term of Assignment**

5.5.101 *Unrented Storage.* All storage assigned to the rental pool, but not rented by October 31, shall revert to the assignor, unless the assignor executes a written extension and an extension is approved by the Committee.

5.5.102 *Unused Storage*. All storage assigned to and rented from the Rental Pool, but put to beneficial use by March 1 of the year following the accounting year in which the storage was assigned to the Rental Pool, shall revert to the assignor unless the assignor executes a written extension and the extension is granted by the Committee; provided, however, any extension granted by the Committee shall not extend beyond March 31.

5.6 **Payment to Assignors.**

5.6.101 *Amount of Payment*. Payment to assignor will be made only if the storage assigned to the Rental Pool is subsequently rented. Assignors shall share pro-rata in the Net Rental Price from the rental of storage assigned on or before July 1and shall receive one-hundred percent of the Net Rental Price from the rental of such storage assigned after July 1 based on a first-in-first-out basis.

5.6.102 *Calculation of Payment*. The Watermaster will calculate the payment due each assignor based on data published in the Annual Report of the Watermaster showing the actual quantity of storage rented from the Rental Pool.

5.6.103 *Timing of Payment*. Payments to assignors shall be due and payable after the Watermaster has calculated the payments under Rule 5.6.102 and after the final water accounting for the accounting year is completed by the watermaster. However, private contracts may request an earlier payout from the water district if amount is set and the total monies have been received. Once any entity signs a rental pool assignment form and monies are delivered to said entity, no financial reimbursements can be made to entity if there are any changes to said private contract.

RULE 6.0 RENTAL OF STORAGE FROM THE RENTAL POOL

6.1 **Priority of Rental Applicants.** Storage rented from the Rental Pool shall be pursuant to the following priorities:

6.1.101 *First Priority*. On or before June 1, rental of water by spaceholders for irrigation purposes within the District.

6.1.102 Second Priority. After June 1, rental of water for irrigation and all other beneficial purposes.

6.1.103 *Sub-priorities.* Priorities among rental applicants within each of the three priority groups, identified above, shall be determined based on the date the rental application is accepted by the Watermaster pursuant to Rule 4.4; provided, however, during periods of drought or other extraordinary circumstances, the

Committee may develop additional or alternative procedures for determining sub-priorities among competing rental applications.

6.2 **Rental Price.** The Rental Price per acre-foot (af) of storage rented from the Rental Pool is $23.00.

6.3 **Out-of-Basin Rentals.** Storage rented for use outside the hydrologic basin of the Boise River or below the confluence of the Boise River and Snake River shall subject the space from which the storage was rented to last to fill in the ensuing accounting year.

6.4 **Rentals for Greater than Five (5) Years**. Applications to rent water from the Rental Pool for a period of more than five (5) years shall be submitted to the Board, and separately to Reclamation, for review and approval as a condition of approval by the Committee.

6.5 **Arbitrage.** A spaceholder may not assign storage and rent storage in the same accounting year, unless an exception is granted by the Committee.

6.6 **Flow Augmentation**. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, Reclamation may assign and rent storage held in uncontracted space for flow augmentation purposes pursuant to the provisions contained in the Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004 (aka the Nez Perce Mediator's Term Sheet dated April 20, 2004) and Idaho Code § 42-1763B, in which case only an administrative fee shall be assessed pursuant to Rule 2.2.

Memorandum

To: Mathew Weaver, IDWR Director

From: David Graybill, WSB Program Coordinator

Date: March 18, 2026

Re: Payette River Basin Rental Pool Procedures

Enclosed with this memo are copies of the redline rental pool procedures and the final revised rental pool procedures, adopted by the Water District Advisory Committee of Water District 65 on March 10, 2026. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1765 and the subsections of Rule 40 of the Water Supply Bank Rules (IDAPA 37.02.03.040), the Water District Advisory Committee of Water District 65 is the IWRB-appointed local committee to facilitate the lease and rental of stored water within the Payette River Basin Rental Pool.

The updates to the Water District 65 rental pool procedures revised in 2026 in summary are:

- Procedure 4.5.101 Application for Private Lease - *Contents*
    - Additional language specifies that the deadline for lease submittal is for those that are "in-basin" This change was also made on the lease agreement form.
- Procedure 4.5.102 Application for Private Lease - *Acceptance*
    - Corrects a spelling error

The above listed modifications to the Water District 65 Rental Pool procedures adequately address and meet the criteria required of rental pool procedures within WSB Rule 40 (IDAPA 37.02.03.040). Approval of the proposed procedures and application forms is recommended.

Attachment(s): WD 65 Rental Pool Procedures – Redline 3.10.2026
WD 65 Rental Pool Procedures - Final

WATER DISTRICT 65

RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES

Approved by the Committee on March 10 ~~March 11~~, 2026~~5~~ to take effect immediately following approval by Director Weaver and the Idaho Water Resource Board. These procedures will be used for the 2026~~5~~ season and seasons following or until new changes are approved.

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WATER DISTRICT 65
RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES

PROCEDURE 1.0 LEGAL AUTHORITY

1.1 These procedures have been adopted pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1765 and IDAPA 37.02.03.040 to assure orderly operation of the Water District 65 Rental Pool.

1.2 These procedures shall not be interpreted to limit the authority of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, the Idaho Water Resource Board, Water District No. 65 Advisory Board, or the Watermaster in discharging their duties as prescribed by statute or rule.

1.3 These procedures shall be interpreted consistent with Idaho Code, rules promulgated by the Idaho Water Resource Board, relevant provisions of repayment contracts with the United States, and the Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004 commonly referred to as the Nez Perce Mediator's Term Sheet dated April 20, 2004.

PROCEDURE 2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 **Acre-foot**: a volume of water sufficient to cover one acre of land one foot deep and is equal to 43,560 cubic feet.

2.2 **Administrative Fee**: a fee of One Dollar and fifty-five cents ($1.55) per acre-foot assessed by the District on all storage rented through the Rental Pool.

2.3 **Assignment**: a written agreement to convey a specific quantity of storage into the Rental Pool for use during a specified period of time.

2.4 **Assignor**: a spaceholder who assigns storage to the Common Pool.

2.5 **Board**: the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB).

2.6 **Board Surcharge**: a surcharge equal to ten percent (10%) of the Net Rental Price assessed on all storage rented from the Rental Pool, which is disbursed to the Board. For purposes of these procedures, the surcharge for in-basin rentals under Procedure 6.2.104 (a) and (b) is equal to $0.49 per acre-foot and for out-of-basin rentals under Procedure 6.2.104 (c) is equal to $1.95 per acre-foot.

2.7 **Committee**: the Advisory Committee of Water District No. 65.

2.8 **Common Pool**: storage water made available for rental pursuant to Procedures 5 and 6.

2.9 **Department**: the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR).

2.10 **Director:** the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

2.11 **District**: Water District No. 65 of the State of Idaho.

2.12 **In-Basin Uses**: Beneficial uses with points of diversion above the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River.

2.13 **Lessee:** a person who leases storage from a spaceholder pursuant to Procedure 7.

2.14 **Lessor:** a spaceholder who leases storage to a person pursuant to Procedure 7.

2.15 **Net Rental Price**: The Rental Price less the Administrative Fee and Board Surcharge.

2.16 **Non spaceholder:** Someone who does not hold any contractual rights to storage space in the Reservoir System.

2.17 **Out-of-Basin Uses**: Beneficial uses with points of diversion below the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River.

2.18 **Person**: an individual, company, association, corporation, partnership, irrigation district, canal company, political subdivision, or governmental agency.

2.19 **Reclamation**: the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

2.20 **Rental Agreement**: a written agreement to acquire the right to use a specific quantity of storage from the Common Pool for a determinate period.

2.21 **Rental Pool**: a market for the exchange of storage operated by the Advisory Committee of Water District No. 65.

2.22 **Rental Price**: the fee for rental of storage from the Rental Pool as set forth in Procedure 6.2, which includes the Administrative Fee and Board Surcharge.

2.23 **Renter**: a person who rents storage from the Rental Pool.

2.24 **Reservoir System**: refers to Cascade Lake, Deadwood Reservoir, Payette Lakes, and the Upper Lakes.

2.25 **Space**: all or any portion of the active capacity of a reservoir measured in acre-feet.

2.26 **Spaceholder**: the holder of the contractual right to space in the reservoir system, or Reclamation.

2.27 **Storage**: water that accrues to reservoir space and is available for use.

2.28 **Watermaster**: the watermaster of Water District 65.

2.29 **Year**: a calendar year.

PROCEDURE 3.0 PURPOSES

3.1 To promote the maximum beneficial use of stored water establish a process and provide incentives, consistent with Idaho Code § 42-1765, through which storage supplies may be made available on a voluntary basis, for rental by persons who need additional water for beneficial purposes.

3.2 Maintain adequate controls and priorities to ensure that (a) irrigation uses are provided an opportunity to obtain supplemental storage supplies ahead of non-irrigation uses, (b)

existing water rights are not injured, and (c) the use of storage water obtained through the Rental Pool is consistent with the protection of the local public interest and the conservation of water resources within the state of Idaho.

3.3 Provide a source of revenue for the District to make improvements in distribution of water and aid in increasing the conservation of water in the Payette River Basin.

3.4 To maintain adequate controls, priorities, and safeguards to ensure that existing water rights are not injured and that a spaceholder's allocation is not impacted without his or her consent. To financially compensate an impacted participating spaceholder in the common pool as determined by the procedures developed by the Committee.

PROCEDURE 4.0 MANAGEMENT & APPLICATION PROCESS

4.1 C**ommittee.** The Committee, which shall decide all matters by majority vote, will exercise the following responsibilities:

(a) Adopt, and amend as necessary, procedures for operation of the Rental Pool;

(b) Provide direction to the Watermaster in the operation of the Rental Pool within the framework of these procedures;

(c) Set policies for the investment and disbursement of funds generated by the Rental Pool in conformity with the Public Depository Law, Chapter 1, Title 57, Idaho Code; and

(d) Notify the Director and Watermaster of rentals where storage will be moved from the point of diversion, place of use, or purpose of use authorized by the permit, license or decree establishing the storage water right.

4.2 **Watermaster.** The Watermaster shall serve as the manager of the Rental Pool and shall take all reasonable actions necessary to administer the Rental Pool consistent with these procedures, which include:

(a) accepting assignments of storage into the Common Pool;

(b) executing rental agreements on behalf of the Committee;

(c) distributing storage rented through the Common Pool;

(d) accepting and disbursing funds generated through the rental of storage; and

(e) taking such additional actions as may be directed by the Committee.

4.3 **Application to Assign Storage to the Common Pool**.

4.3.101 *Contents.* Applications to assign storage to the Common Pool shall be made upon forms approved by the Watermaster, which shall include:
(a) the quantity of storage sought to be assigned to the Common Pool;
(b) an indication of whether the storage is to be used only for In-Basin Uses; and
(c) the date received in the Watermaster's office.

4.3.102 *Acceptance.* For purposes of determining the priority of assigned storage under Procedure 5.4, applications shall be deemed conditionally accepted on the date received in the Watermaster's office subject to acceptance by the Committee pursuant to Procedure 5.2.

4.4 **Application to Rent Storage from the Common Pool.**

4.4.101 *Contents.* Applications to rent storage from the Common Pool shall be made upon forms approved by the Watermaster, which shall include:
(a) the amount of storage sought to be rented;
(b) the purpose(s) for which the storage will be put to beneficial use;
(c) the point of diversion identified by legal description and common name;
(d) a description of the place of use; and
(e) the date received in the Watermaster's office.

4.4.102 *Acceptance.* For purposes of determining a rental applicant's priority under Procedure 6.1, applications are not deemed accepted until received by the Watermaster together with the appropriate rental fee.

4.5 **Application for Private Lease**

4.5.101 *Contents*. Applications to enter into a private lease shall be made upon forms approved by the Watermaster, which shall include:
(a) the amount of storage sought to be leased;
(b) the purpose(s) for which the storage will be put to beneficial use;
(c) the point of diversion identified by legal description and common name;
(d) a description of the place of use;
(e) the date received in the Watermaster's office;
(f) the agreed upon price (to determine the Board's fee); and
(g) signature of both Lessee and Lessor and dated

And all in-basin leases must be submitted by May 1st of the year it will affect to be considered for approval.

4.5.102 *Acceptance*. Application will be reviewed to determine local public interest. Any leases greater ~~then~~than five years are required to follow Procedure 6.4. All applications are subject to approval by the Committee.

4.6 **Rental Pool Account**.

4.6.101. *Account.* All monies submitted by rental applicants shall be deposited in the Rental Pool Account. which shall be an interest-bearing account maintained by the Watermaster on behalf of the Committee. Rental Pool funds shall be considered public funds for investment purposes and subject to the Public Depository Law, Chapter 1, Title 57, Idaho Code.

4.6.102. *Disbursement of Monies.* Monies in the Rental Pool Account will be disbursed to the District, the Board, and the Assignors in the proportions set forth in these procedures. Accrued interest to the Rental Pool Account shall be disbursed pro-rata to the Assignors at the time payments are made under Procedure 5.6.

4.6.103 *Contingency Fund*. Administrative fees received by the District in excess of actual costs required to operate the Rental Pool shall be maintained by the Watermaster in a separate interest-bearing account to serve as a contingency fund

for use by the Committee for the benefit of the District; provided, however, that such use does not conflict with the Idaho Public Depository Law, Chapter 1, Title 57, Idaho code.

PROCEDURE 5.0 ASSIGNMENT OF STORAGE TO THE COMMON POOL

5.1 **Assignment of Storage.** Any spaceholder may assign storage to the Common Pool subject to acceptance by the Committee.

5.2 **Acceptance by Committee.** The Committee may accept or reject, in whole or in part, an application to assign storage to the Rental Pool and may impose conditions necessary to satisfy the purposes set out under Procedure 3.2. All storage assigned and accepted into the Common Pool shall be under the control of the Committee and Watermaster during the term of the assignment.

5.3 **Reservoir Designation**. When an assignor has space in more than one reservoir the assignment shall designate the reservoir from which the storage is assigned.

5.4 **Priority of Assigned Storage**

5.4.101 *Assignments Made On or Before June 1st.* All storage assigned **to** the Common Pool on or before June 1 shall be rented;
(a). In-basin first, with the amount determined by the Committee for In-Basin Uses. and,
(b). The remainder Out-of-Basin Uses as needed, both on a pro-rata basis.

5.4.102 *Assignments Made After June 1st.* All storage assigned **to** the Common Pool after June 1 will be rented;
(a). In-basin first, with the amount determined by the Committee for In-Basin Uses. and,
(b). The remainder Out-of-Basin Uses as needed, on a first-in-first-out basis, but only after all storage assigned under Procedure 5.4.101 has been rented

5.5 **Term of Assignment**

5.5.101 *Unrented Storage.* All storage assigned to the Common Pool, but not rented by December 31, shall revert to the assignor, unless the assignor executes a written extension.

5.5.102 *Unused Storage.* All storage assigned to and rented from the Common Pool, but not put to beneficial use by March 1 of the year following the calendar year in which the storage was assigned to the Common Pool, shall revert to the assignor unless the assignor executes a written extension and the extension is granted by the Committee.

5.6 **Payment to Assignors.**

5.6.101 *Amount of Payment*. Payment to assignor will be made only if the storage assigned to the Common Pool is subsequently rented. Assignors shall be paid for the amount of storage rented on their behalf for the uses determined by 5.4.101, and 5.4.102

5.6.102 *Calculation of Payment*. The Watermaster will calculate the payment due each assignor based on the amount of storage rented for each use calculated by the prices in 6.2.104. and data published in the Annual Report of the Watermaster

showing the actual quantity of storage rented from the Common Pool. In the event water is rented after the filing of the Annual Report of the Watermaster; the Watermaster shall file a revised Annual Report to properly represent total Common Pool activity for the reporting period.

5.6.103 *Timing of Payment*. Payments that do not rely on final accounting for calculation can be paid as soon as the money is in the rental account if the spaceholder so chooses to accept it at the time. Payments that rely on final accounting shall be due and payable after the Watermaster has calculated the payments under Procedure 5.6.102

PROCEDURE 6.0 RENTAL OF STORAGE FROM THE COMMON POOL

6.1 **Priority of Rental Applicants.** Storage rented from the Common Pool shall be pursuant to the following priorities:

6.1.101 *First Priority*. On or before June 1, rental of water by space holders for irrigation purposes for In-Basin Uses.

6.1.102 *Second Priority*. After June 1, rental of water for any beneficial purpose.

6.1.104 *Sub-priorities.* Priorities among rental applicants within each priority group, identified above, shall be determined based on the date the rental application is accepted by the Watermaster pursuant to Procedure 4.4; provided, however, during periods of drought or other extraordinary circumstances, with consideration of the local public interest, the Committee may develop additional or alternative procedures for determining sub-priorities among competing rental applications.

6.2 **Rental Prices.** The Rental Price per acre-foot of storage rented from the Common Pool is as follows:

6.2.101 Tier 1 (*In-Basin*) For uses above the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River by Spaceholders.

6.2.102 Tier 2 (*In-Basin*) For uses above the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River by Non-spaceholders.

6.2.103 Tier 3 (*Out-of-Basin*) For uses below the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River.

6.2.104 Fees & Surcharges There shall be added to the rental price for all rentals the Board surcharge and administrative fee, resulting in the following summed amounts charged for rentals for the various tiers described in Procedures 6.2.101 through 6.2.103.

(a) Tier 1: $4.96+$0.49+$1.55= $7.00

(b) Tier 2: $4.96+ $.49+$1.55= $7.00

(c) Tier 3: $19.50+ $1.95+ $1.55= $23.00

6.3 **Arbitrage**. A person may not assign storage and rent storage in the same calendar year unless an exception is granted by the Committee. In the event an exception is granted by the Committee, the rental price shall equal the amount paid to the person for the prior assignment plus a 10% board surcharge and $2.30 per acre-foot administrative fee.

6.4 **Rentals for Greater than Five (5) Years**. Applications to rent water from the Rental Pool for a period of more than five (5) years shall be submitted to the Board, and separately to Reclamation, for review and approval as a condition of approval by the Committee.

PROCEDURE 7.0 PRIVATE LEASES

7.1 **Purposes.** Storage may be leased through the Rental Pool only for beneficial use purposes. A person may not lease storage to a lessee and rent storage in the same calendar year unless an exception is granted by the Committee.

7.2 **Payments to Lessor.** The lessor shall receive one-hundred percent (100%) of the lease price.

7.3 **Fee & Surcharges.** There shall be added to the lease price the administrative fee and the Board surcharge.

7.4 **Lease of Storage from the Bureau Uncontracted Space.** Notwithstanding the limitations set forth in Procedure 7.1, the Bureau may lease storage from its uncontracted space for flow augmentation as identified in Appendix III of the – Mediator's Term Sheet of the 2004 Snake River Water Rights Agreement, in which case only an administrative fee shall be assessed pursuant to Procedure 2.2.

PROCEDURE 8.0 IMPACTS

8.1 **Impacts to Spaceholders resulting from all common pool, and private leases.** To avoid impacts to spaceholders caused by rental pool storage provided under Procedures 5, 6, and 7 in years when any storage reservoir in which any spaceholder rented or leased storage the previous year did not fill, the supplying spaceholder's storage allocation shall be reduced to ensure all other reservoir space receives a 100% fill to its storage allocation ahead of allocations to space evacuated to supply previous year leases, assignments, and rentals. If the amount of storage in the reservoir system exceeds the amount necessary to allocate 100% fill to space that wasn't evacuated to supply leases, assignments, and rentals but is insufficient to allocate 100% fill to all system spaceholders, allocations to lessors', assignors', and other space shall occur in the following priorities:

(a) Storage supplied under Procedure 5, 6, or 7 for beneficial uses with points of diversion above the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River shall be second to fill.

(b) Storage supplied under Procedure 5, 6, or 7 with points of diversion below the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River shall be last to fill.

WATER DISTRICT #65 RENTAL POOL
APPLICATION TO RENT STORAGE FROM THE COMMON POOL

____________________________________ (applicant) hereby requests to rent _________ (acre-feet) of storage from the Water District #65 Rental Pool with the enclosed rental fees of $___________ for the irrigation season 20____. The acceptance and approval of this rental request by the Water District #65 Watermaster is subject to the adopted Water District #65 Rental Pool Procedures pursuant to Idaho Code Section 42-1765.

Description of Point of Diversion:

Name of River or Stream from which rental is diverted:
____

Canal or Pump Name & location:
____

Place of Use description:
____

Water Right Appurtenant to Lands:
____

Applicant Signature and Address:

Print Name: ____

Signature:
____Date:__________________

Address: ____

_______________________________________ Phone: ______________________

= =

(official use only)

Date Lease Accepted by Watermaster: ______________________________

Watermaster Signature: ____

WATER DISTRICT #65 RENTAL POOL
PRIVATE LEASE AGREEMENT
This agreement (if for in-basin) must be submitted by May 1st of the year that it will affect to be considered for approval by the committee.

_____ (lessor) agrees to lease _____ acre-feet of storage to _____(lessee) for the 20____ irrigation season at a price of $_____ according to the rules and regulations contained in the Water District #65 Rental Pool Procedures.

Description of Lease:

Name of River or Stream from which lease is diverted:_____
Canal or Pump Name and location: _____
Place of Use description: _____
Water Right Appurtenant to Lands: _____

An Idaho Water Resources Board surcharge (10% of the purchase price) plus a per acre-foot administrative fee set by the Rental Pool Committee for the year listed above must be received by Water District #65 prior to the approval of the storage lease).

If this is an out-of-basin lease and the reservoir storage system fails to fill in the season following the year leased, the lessor's storage allocation shall be reduced by the amount leased to offset any impacts to other spaceholders' storage accruals according to the approved Water District #65 Rental Pool Procedures pursuant to Idaho Code Section 42-1765. The lessor understands the net effect of this rule is to make an amount of the lessor's space (equal to the amount leased) last-to-fill in the reservoir system for the irrigation season following the lease.

If the leased storage is diverted by a diversion outside the area regulated by Water District #65, the applicant, by signing this agreement agrees to report to the Watermaster of the water district containing the diversion, the daily amounts of leased storage diverted during the year. The Watermaster of that district must then report to the Water District #65 Watermaster the daily rental diverted by November 15th. Failure to report the daily rental diversion may result in the rental not being delivered in Water District #65's final rental delivery records.

_____ _____
Lessor Signature Date Title, Canal Company

_____ _____
Lessee Signature Date Canal Company or Diversion Name

==========

(official use only)
Date Lease Accepted by Watermaster: _____
Watermaster Signature: _____

WATER DISTRICT #65 RENTAL POOL
ASSIGNMENT OF STORAGE TO THE COMMON POOL

20__ IRRIGATION SEASON

Mail or Deliver to: Watermaster, Payette River
Water District No. 65, State of Idaho
102 North Main
Payette, Idaho 83661

Dear Watermaster:

_____holds a contract for stored water from
(Name of Organization or Individual)

_____. _____hereby
(Name of Reservoir) (Name of Organization of Individual)

assigns_____acre-feet of storage space/ water to the Payette River Water District NO. 65 Rental Pool, for the 20__ irrigation season.

This assignment is made pursuant to Rental Pool Rules and procedures approved by the Idaho Water Resource Board. By this assignment you are made agent of this organization / individual for the rental, delivery, and collection of monies for the above-described water. This assignment is made with the understanding that if this water is not rented from the Rental Pool in the above-referenced year, the storage space / water will revert to the assigning organization / individual at the end of the irrigation season in that year.

This space / water is to be made available for out-of-basin use YES____ NO_____

Dated this _____day of _____ 20__

_____, by _____
(Name of Organization or Individual) (Signature)

_____ _____
(Address of Organization or Individual) (Title)

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)

From: David Hoekema, Hydrologist

Date: March 20, 2026

Subject: Water Supply Update

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

David Hoekema will provide the IWRB with a Water Supply presentation update.

Attachments:

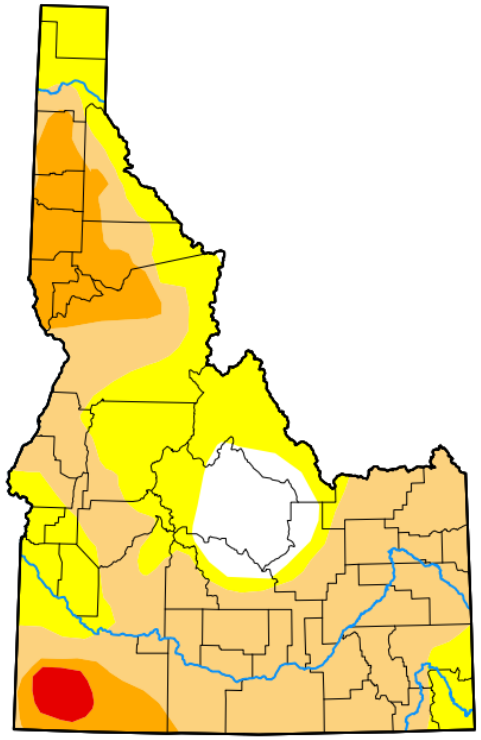
- *PowerPoint Presentation*

IWRB Water Supply Update

David Hoekema
Idaho Department of Water Resources

U.S. Drought Monitor

Idaho



March 10, 2026

(Released Thursday, Mar. 12, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	6.94	93.06	62.80	13.28	1.43	0.00
Last Week *03-03-2026*	6.94	93.06	62.80	13.28	1.43	0.00
3 Months Ago *12-09-2025*	8.33	91.67	71.48	22.85	4.78	0.00
Start of Calendar Year *01-06-2026*	8.97	91.03	53.05	2.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year *09-30-2025*	0.00	100.00	90.28	48.69	13.54	4.11
One Year Ago *03-11-2025*	57.05	42.95	10.99	0.30	0.00	0.00

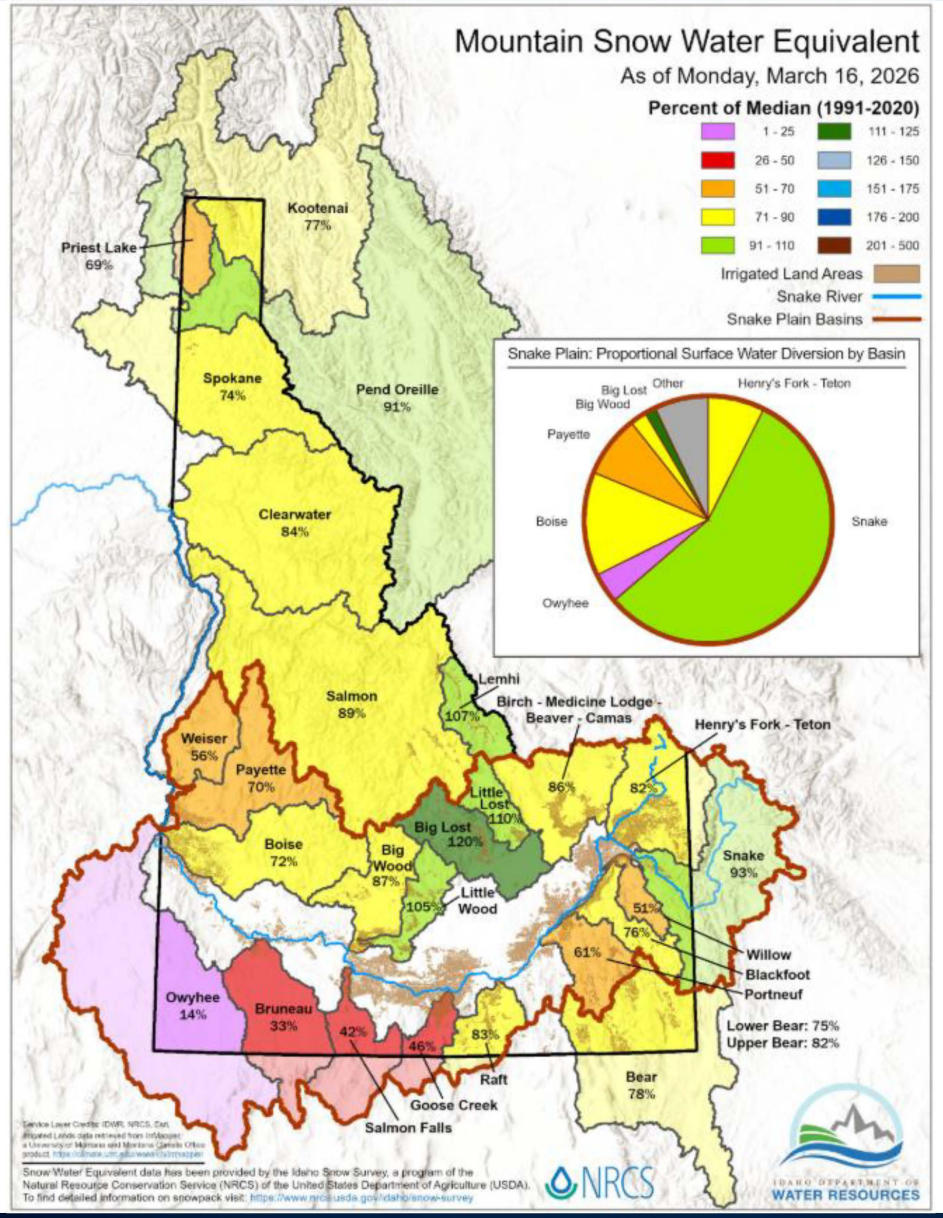
Intensity:

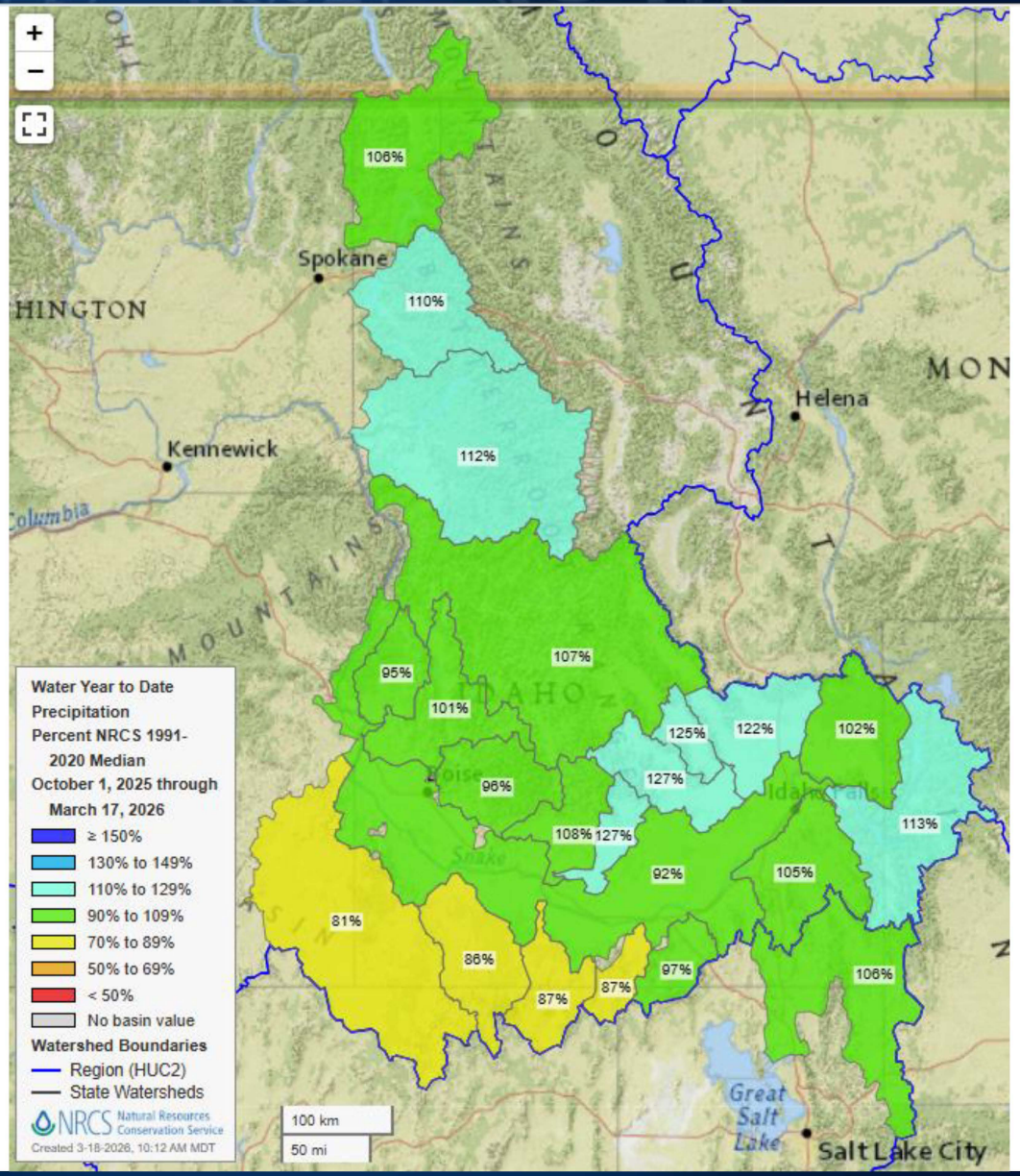
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

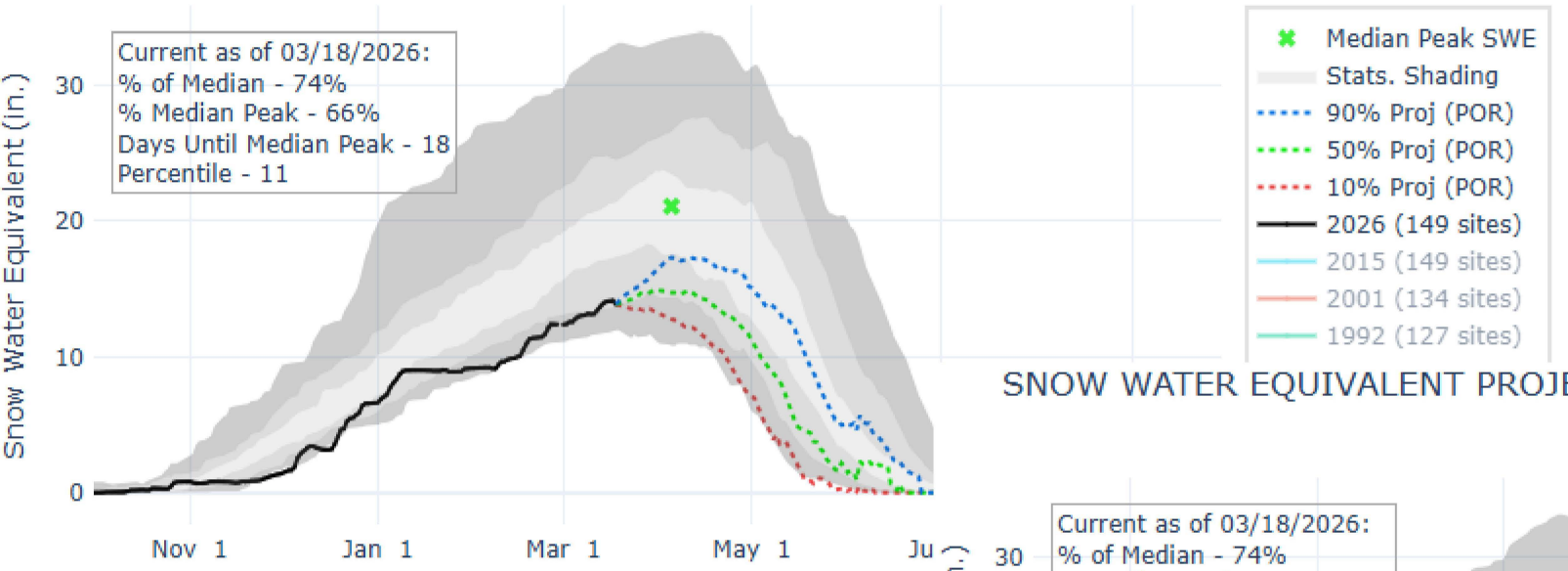
Author:
Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

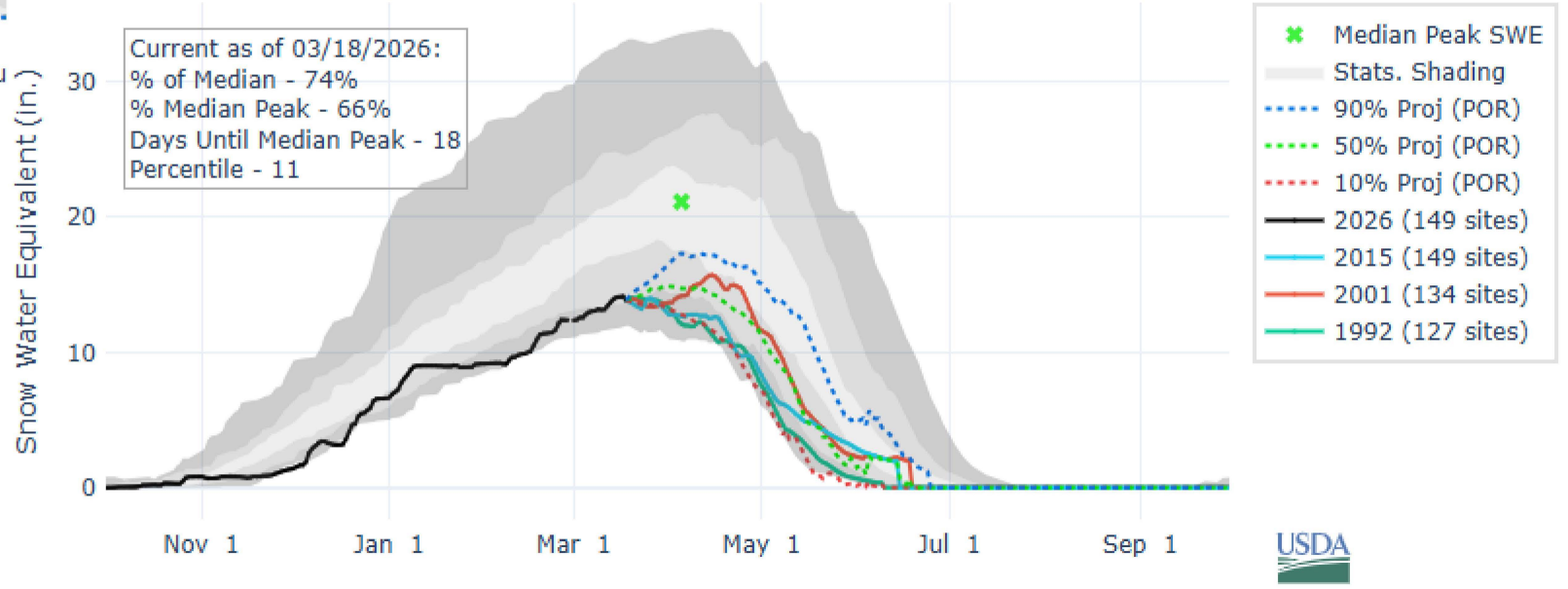

Mountain Snow Water Equivalent
As of Monday, March 16, 2026
Percent of Median (1991-2020)
1 - 25
26 - 50
51 - 70
71 - 90
91 - 110
111 - 125
126 - 150
151 - 175
176 - 200
201 - 500
Irrigated Land Areas
Snake River
Snake Plain Basins
Snake Plain: Proportional Surface Water Diversion by Basin
Big Lost
Other
Henry's Fork - Teton
Big Wood
Payette
Boise
Snake
Owyhee
Priest Lake 69%
Kootenai 77%
Spokane 74%
Pend Oreille 91%
Clearwater 84%
Salmon 89%
Lemhi 107%
Birch - Medicine Lodge - Beaver - Camas
Henry's Fork - Teton
Weiser 56%
Payette 70%
Boise 72%
Big Wood 87%
Little Lost 110%
Big Lost 120%
Little Wood 105%
86%
82%
Snake 93%
51%
76%
61%
Willow
Blackfoot
Portneuf
Lower Bear: 75%
Upper Bear: 82%
Owyhee 14%
Bruneau 33%
42%
46%
83%
Raft
Goose Creek
Salmon Falls
Bear 78%
Snow Water Equivalent data has been provided by the Idaho Snow Survey, a program of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
NRCS
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES


Water Year to Date Precipitation
Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median
October 1, 2025 through March 17, 2026
≥ 150%
130% to 149%
110% to 129%
90% to 109%
70% to 89%
50% to 69%
< 50%
No basin value
Watershed Boundaries
Region (HUC2)
State Watersheds
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
Created 3-18-2026, 10:12 AM MDT
100 km
50 mi
Spokane
Kennewick
Helena
Salt Lake City
Great Salt Lake
106%
110%
112%
107%
95%
101%
125%
122%
102%
96%
127%
108%
127%
113%
92%
105%
81%
86%
87%
87%
97%
106%

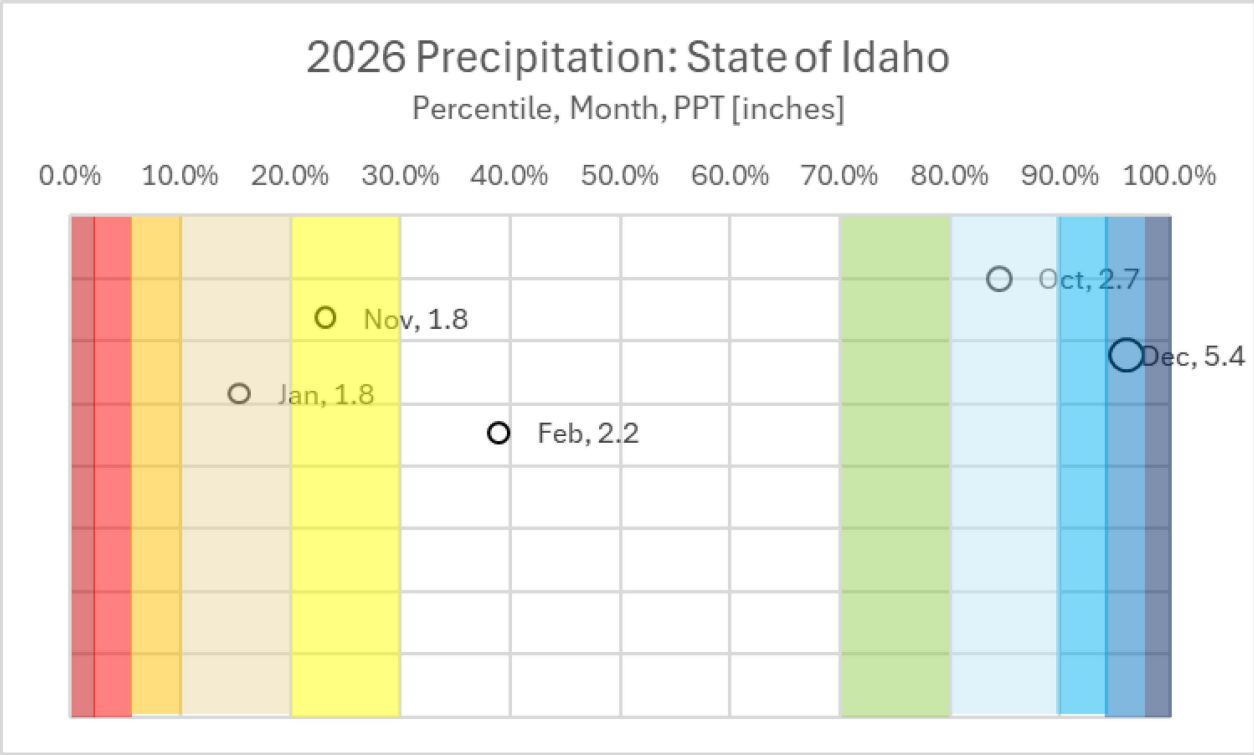
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT PROJECTION IN STATE OF IDAHO

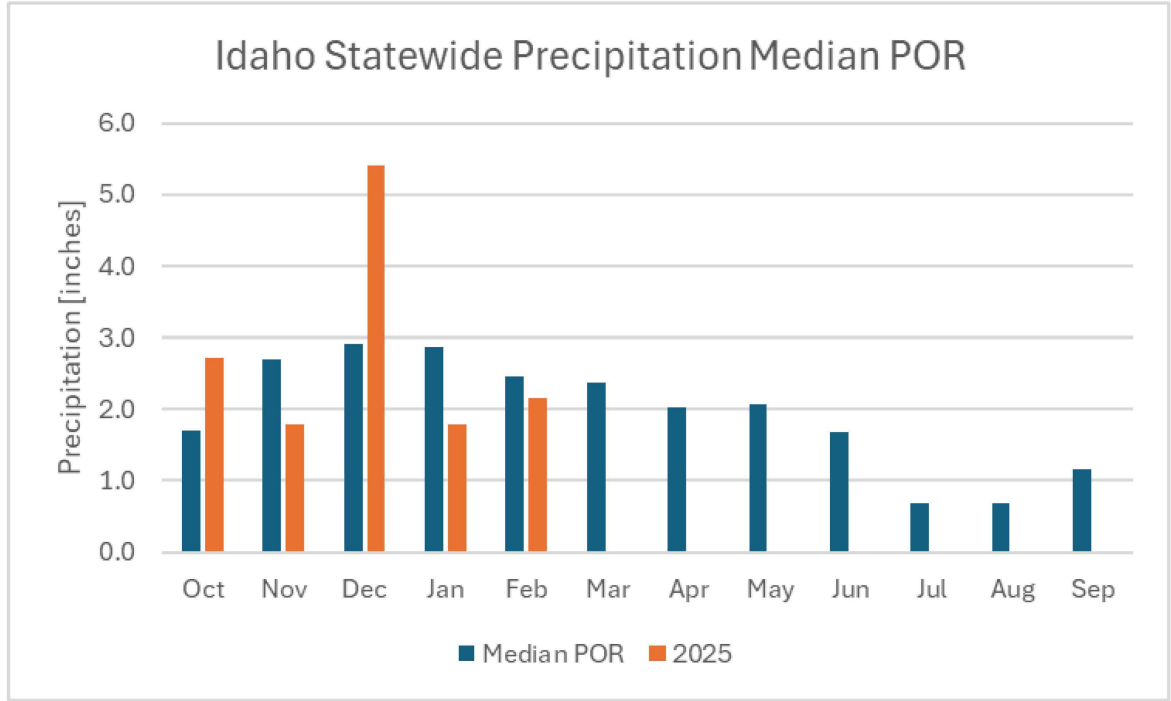


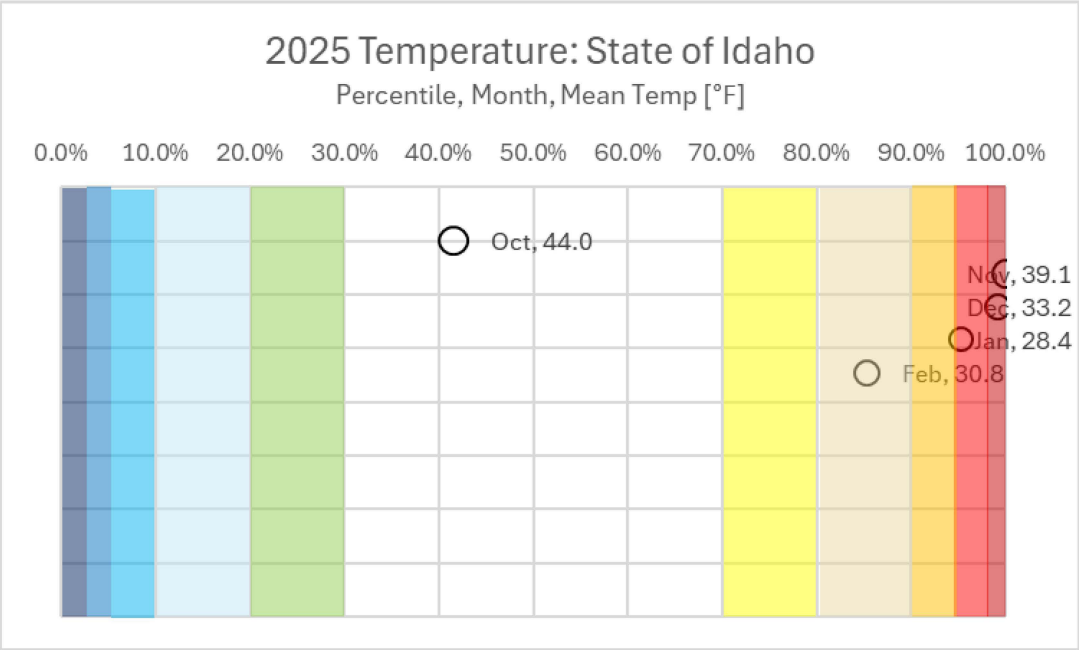
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT PROJECTION IN STATE OF IDAHO

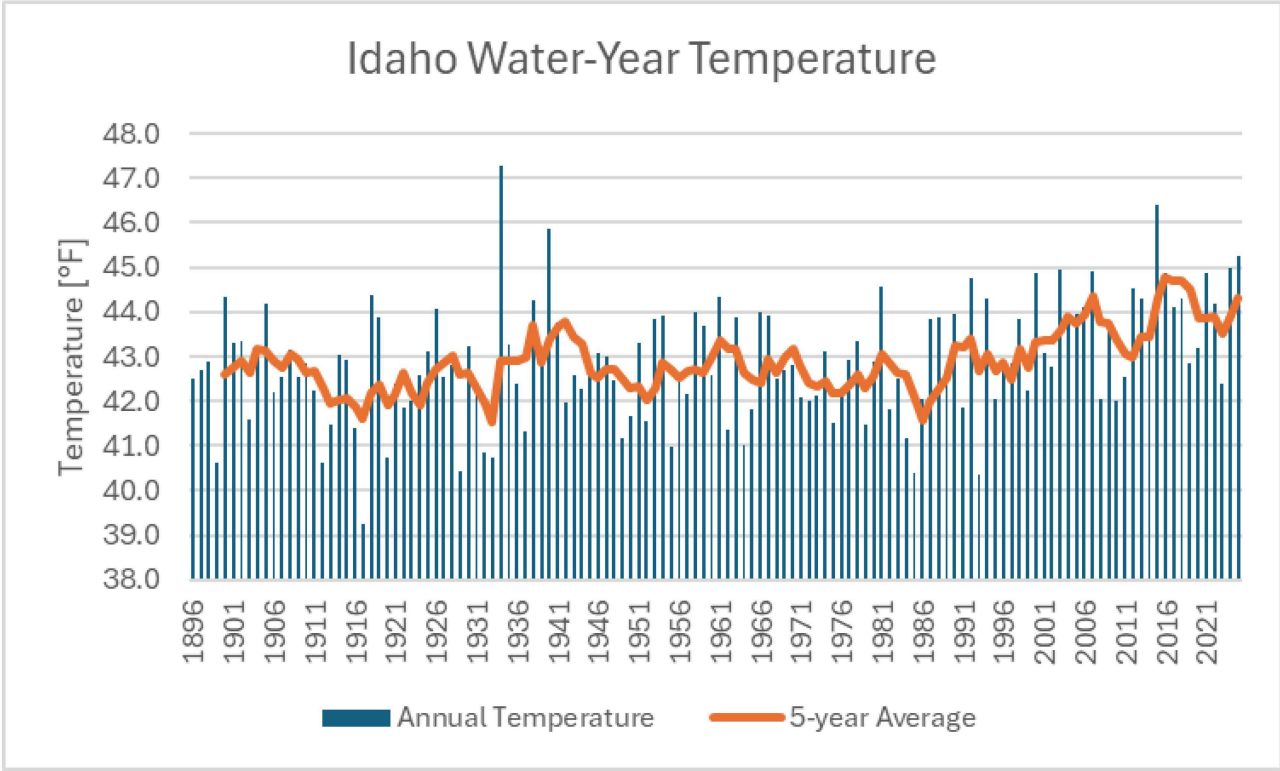


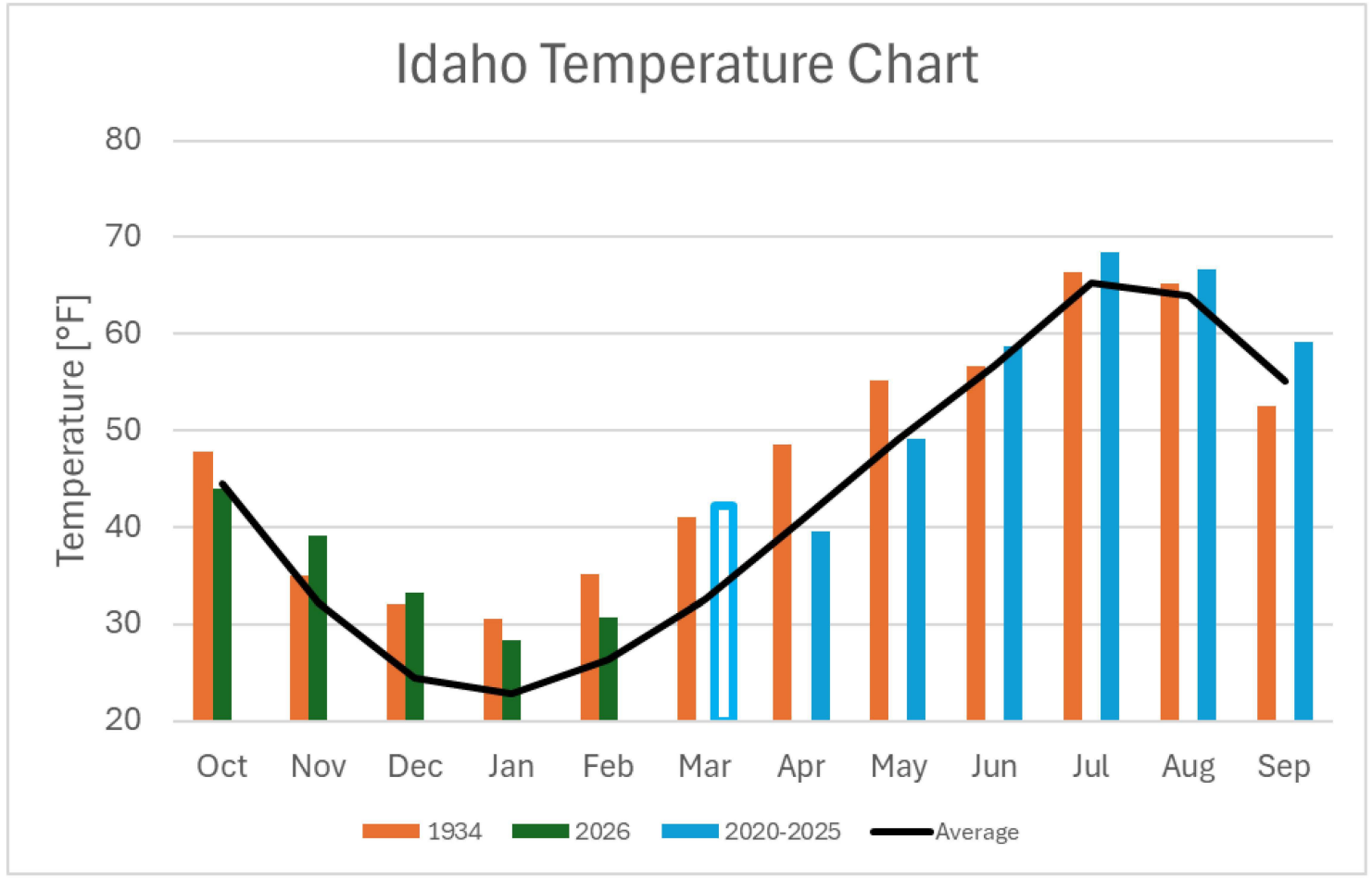
USDA


2026 Precipitation: State of Idaho
Percentile, Month, PPT [inches]
0.0%
10.0%
20.0%
30.0%
40.0%
50.0%
60.0%
70.0%
80.0%
90.0%
100.0%
Oct, 2.7
Nov, 1.8
Dec, 5.4
Jan, 1.8
Feb, 2.2

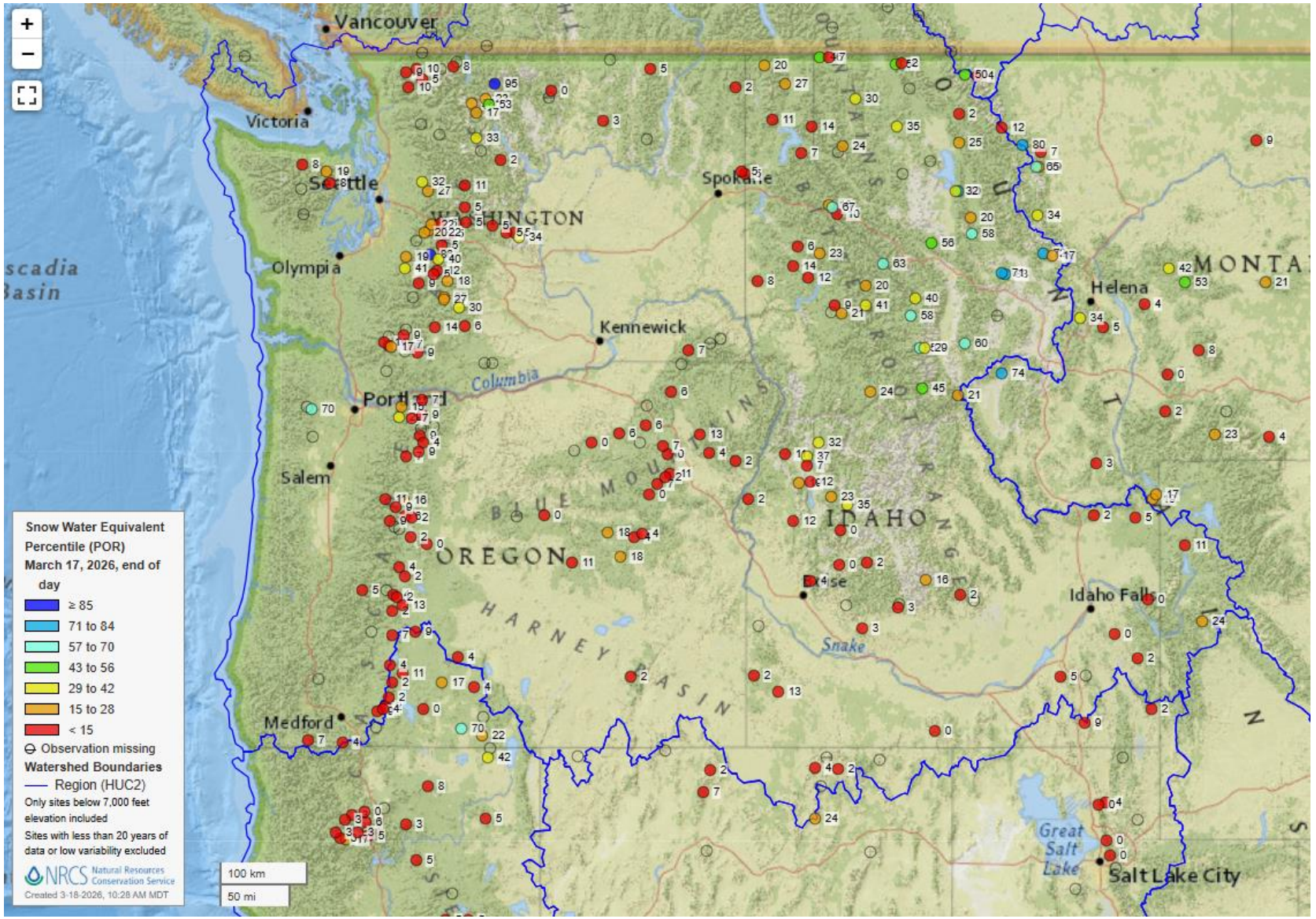

Idaho Statewide Precipitation Median POR
Precipitation [inches]
6.0
5.0
4.0
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Median POR
2025


2025 Temperature: State of Idaho
Percentile, Month, Mean Temp [°F]
0.0%
10.0%
20.0%
30.0%
40.0%
50.0%
60.0%
70.0%
80.0%
90.0%
100.0%
Oct, 44.0
Nov, 39.1
Dec, 33.2
Jan, 28.4
Feb, 30.8

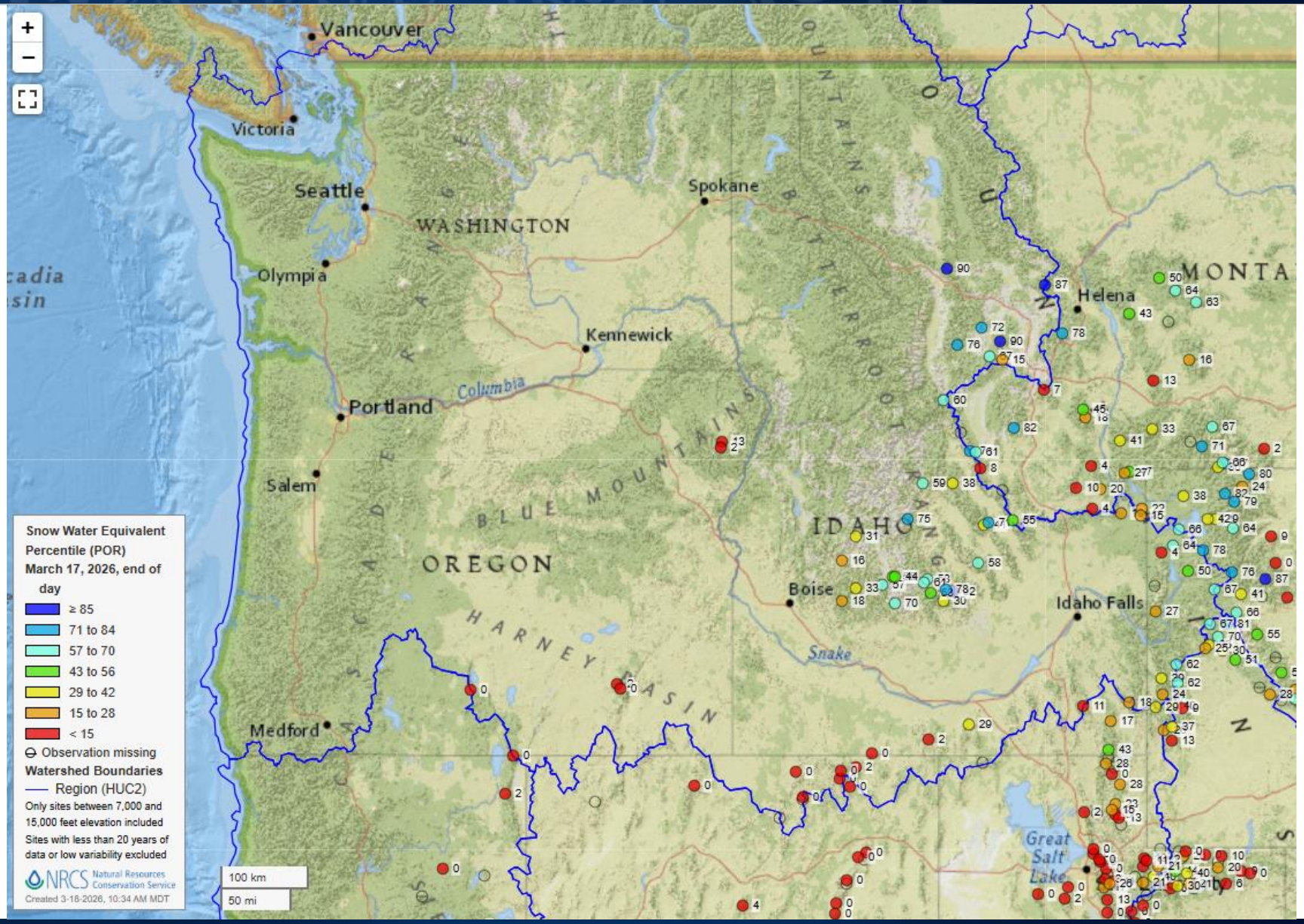

Idaho Water-Year Temperature
Temperature [°F]
48.0
47.0
46.0
45.0
44.0
43.0
42.0
41.0
40.0
39.0
38.0
1896
1901
1906
1911
1916
1921
1926
1931
1936
1941
1946
1951
1956
1961
1966
1971
1976
1981
1986
1991
1996
2001
2006
2011
2016
2021
Annual Temperature
5-year Average


Idaho Temperature Chart
Temperature [°F]
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
1934
2026
2020-2025
Average

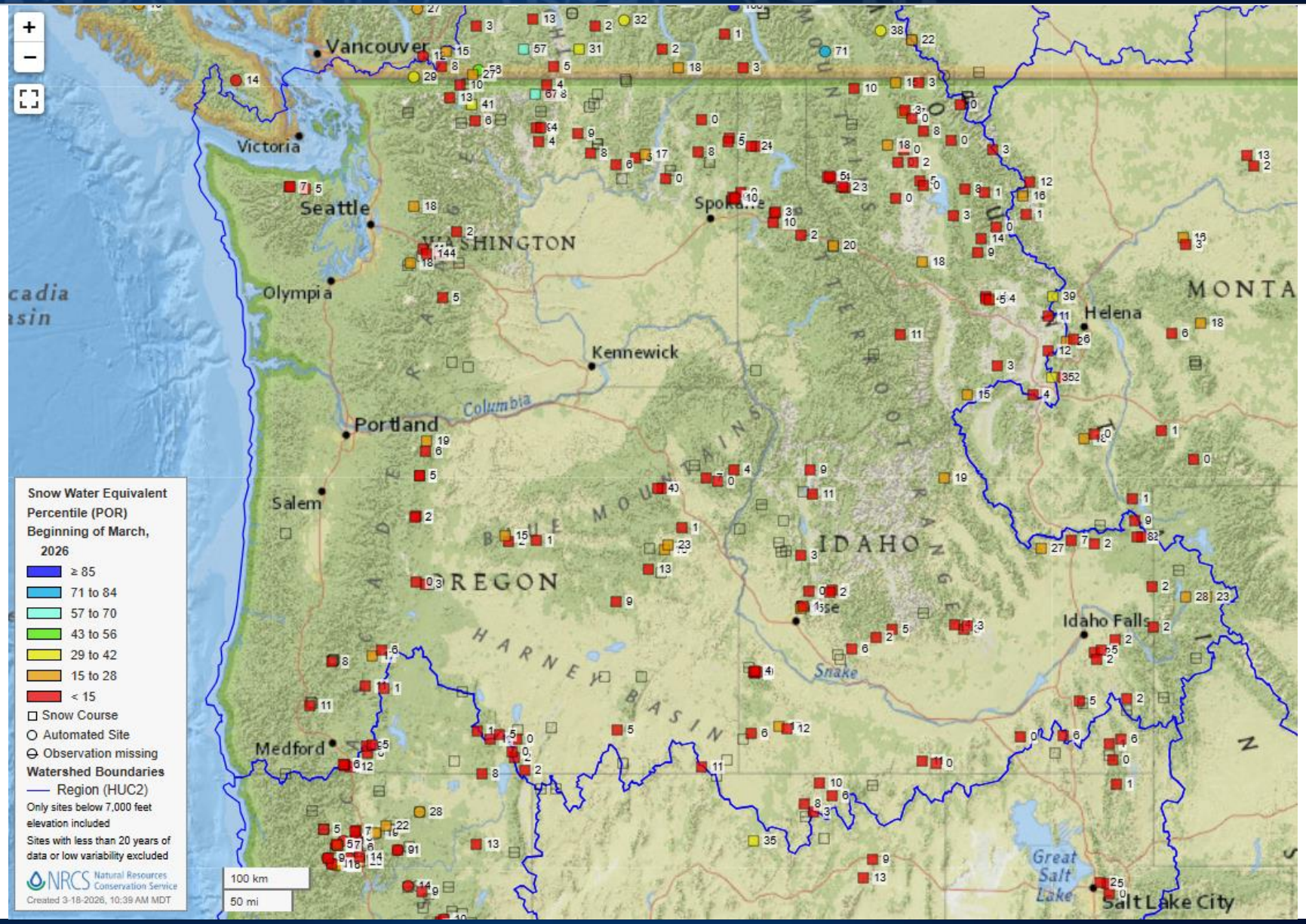
SNOTEL < 7,000 feet



SNOTEL > 7,000 feet

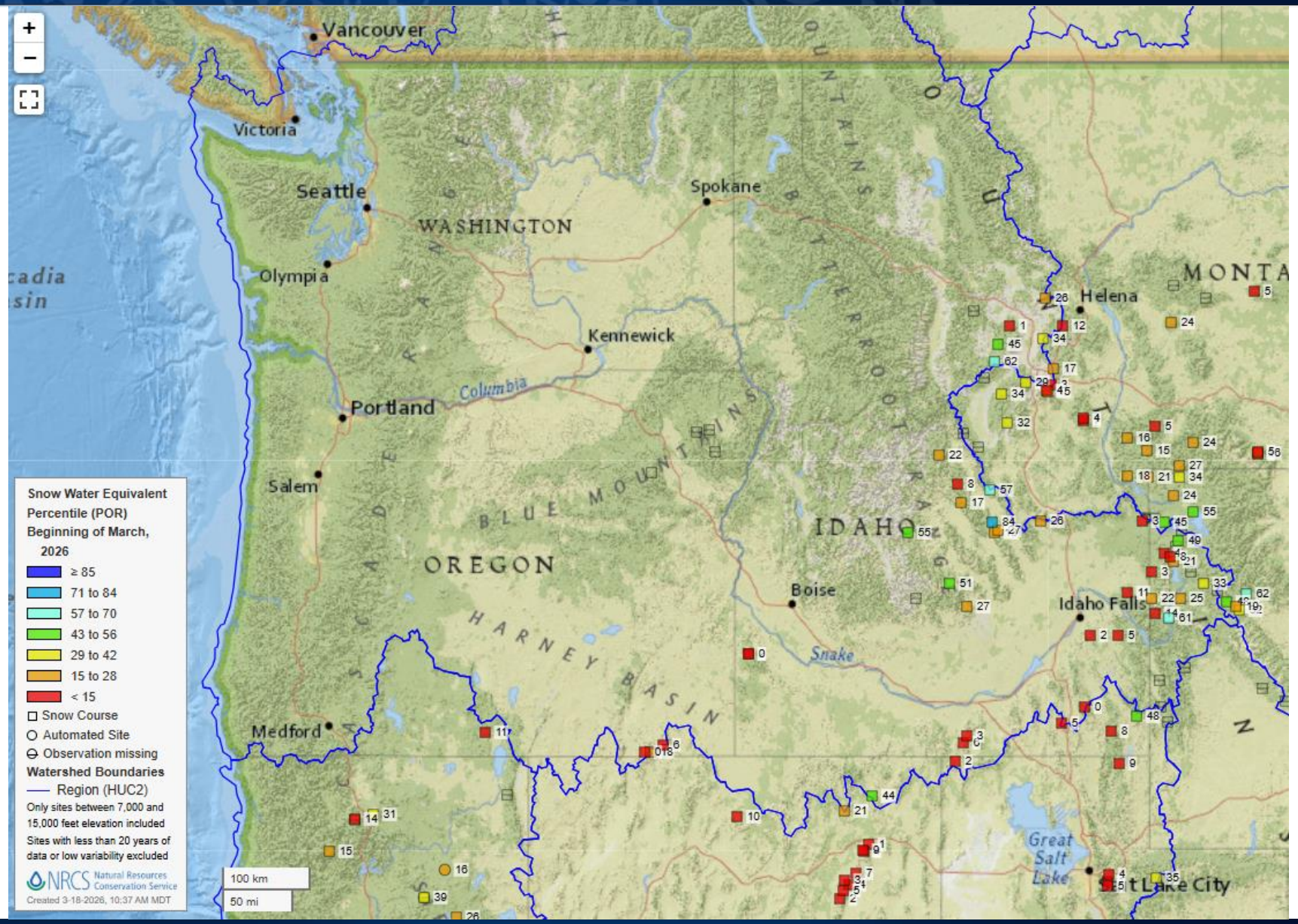


Snow Course < 7,000 feet

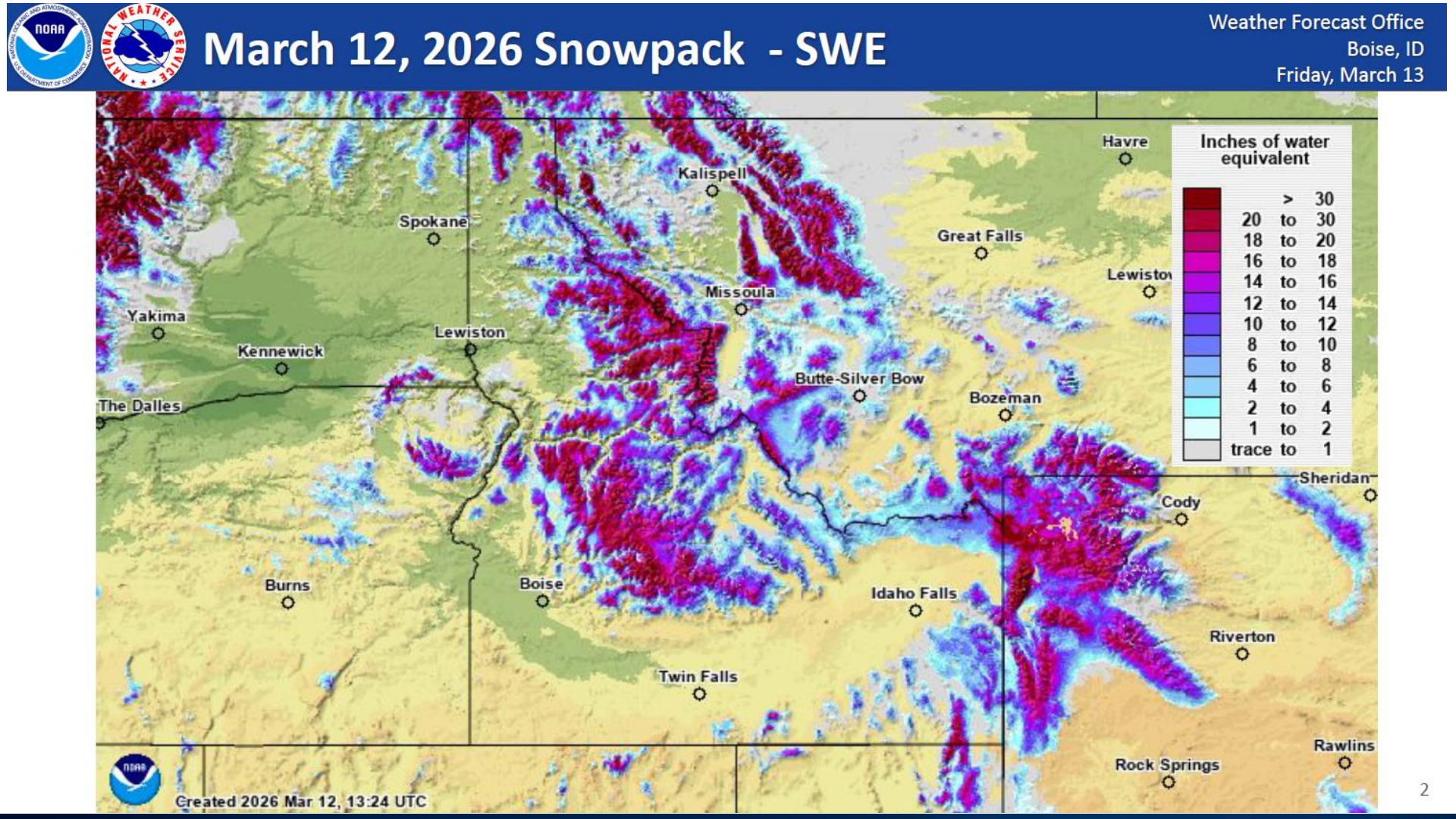


Snow Course > 7,000 feet

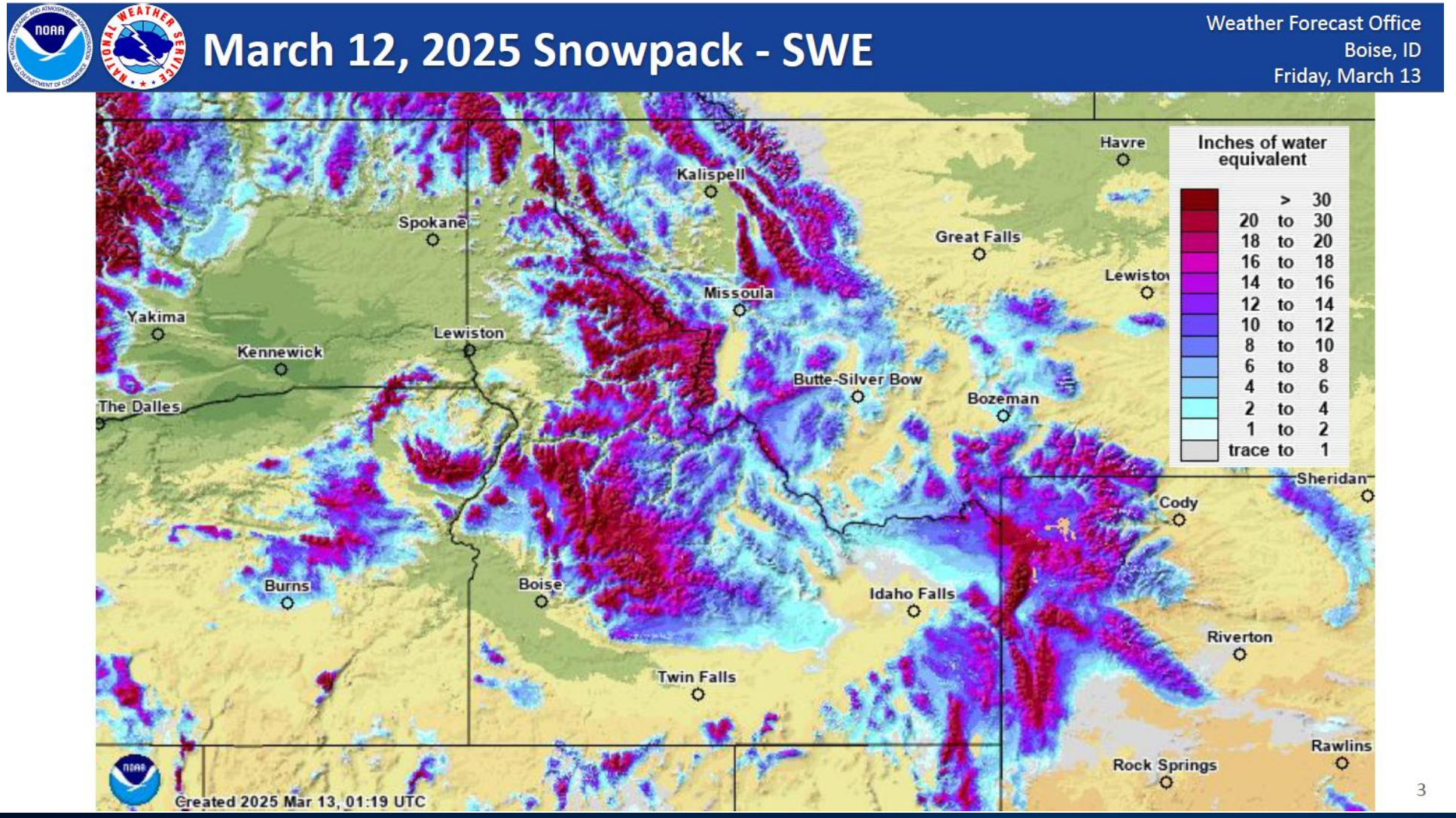
James Church on Mt. Rose, NV



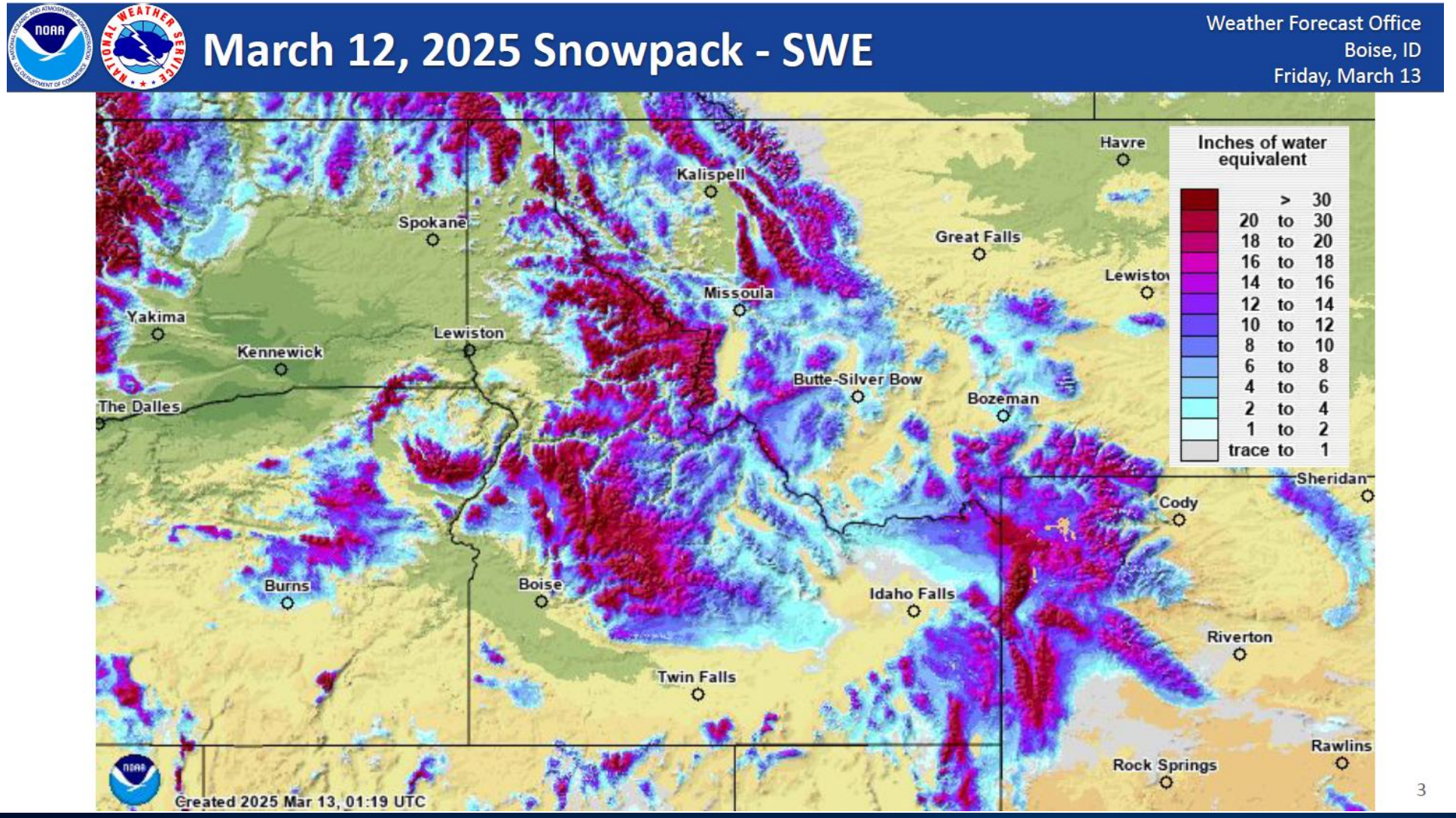
Snowpack Analysis by NOAA



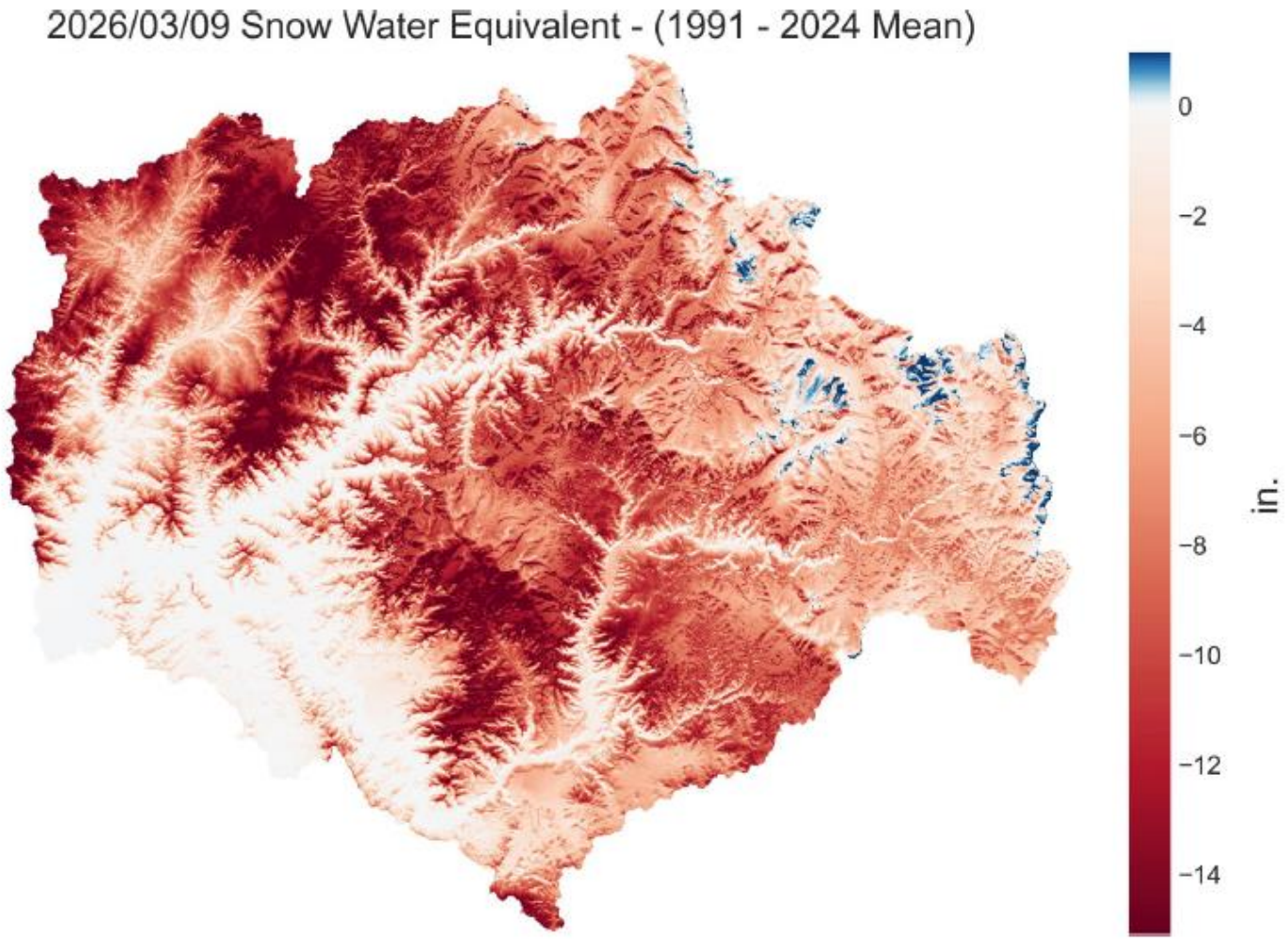
Snowpack Analysis by NOAA

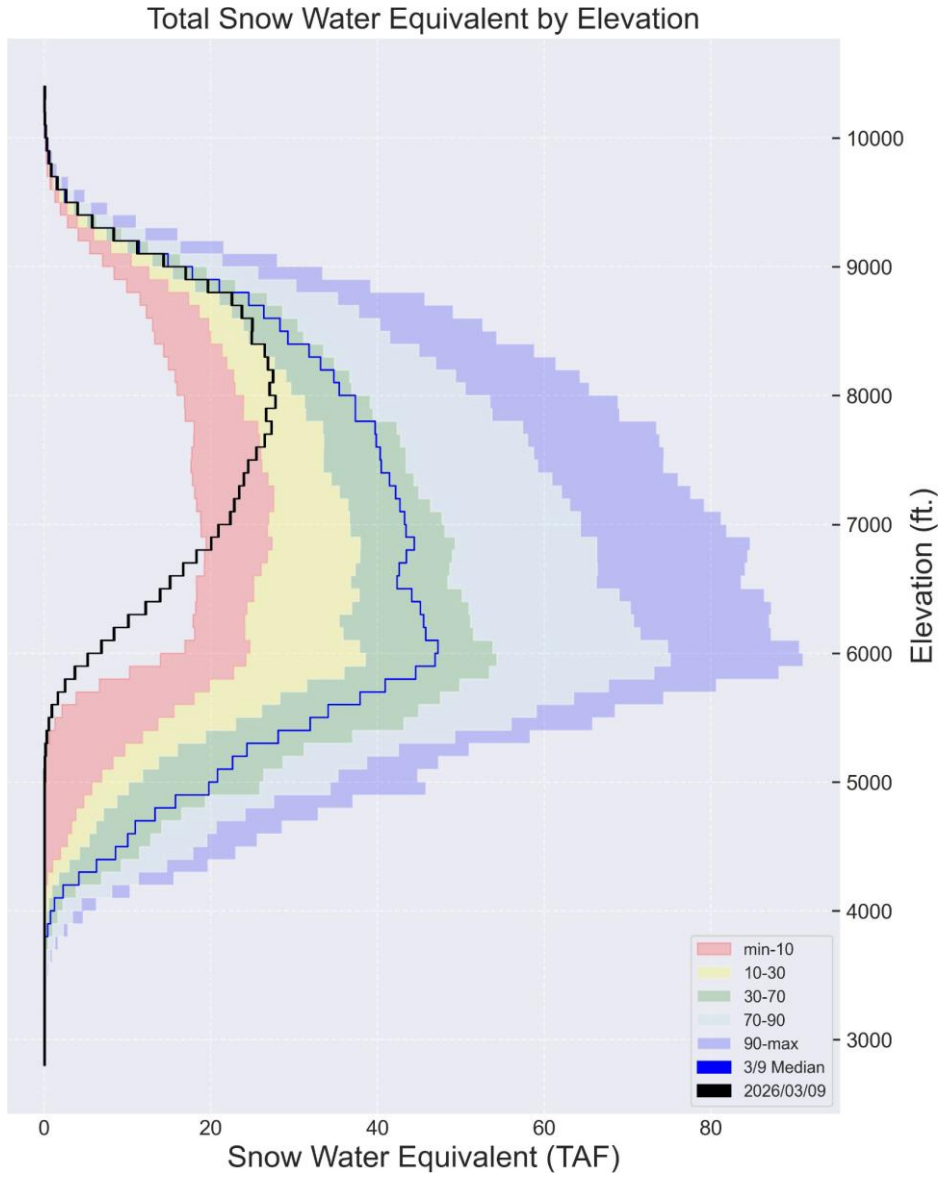


Snowpack Analysis by NOAA



Snowpack Analysis by M3: Boise Basin



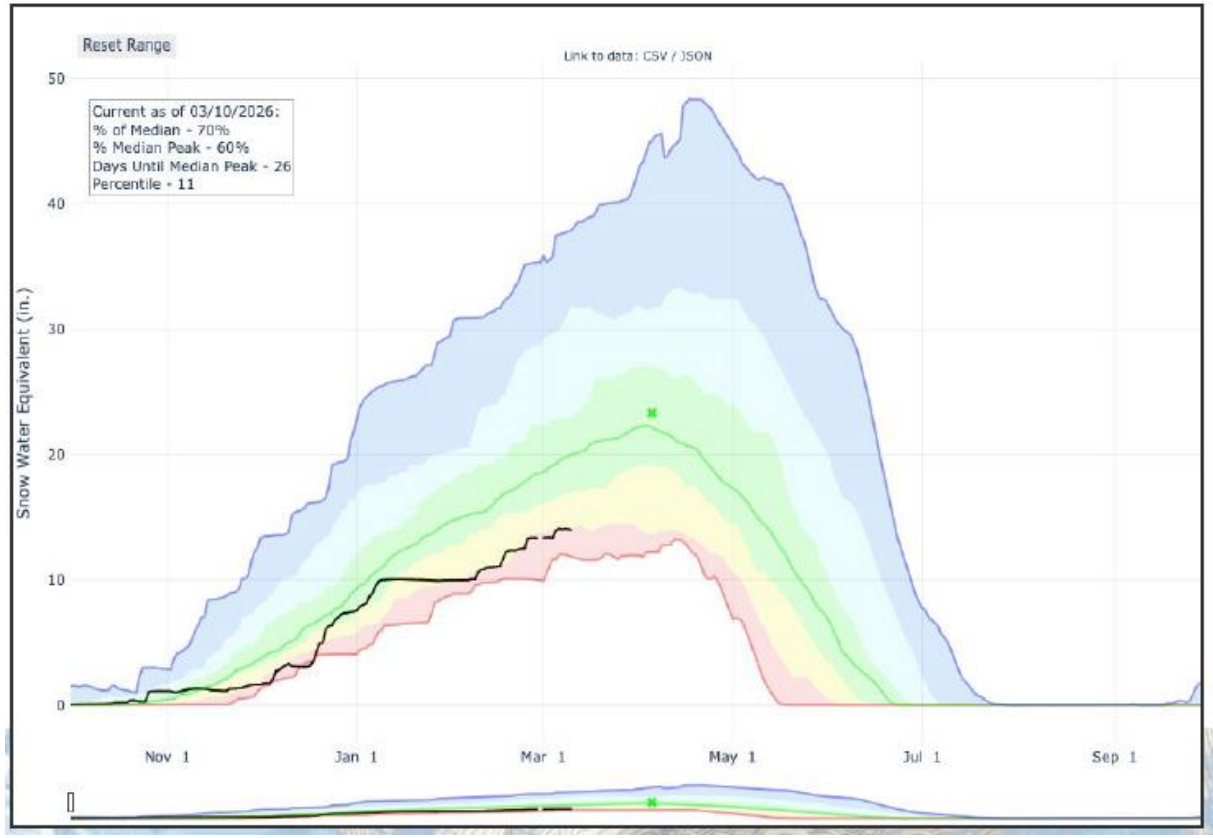


Snowpack Analysis by M3: Boise Basin

SNOTEL:

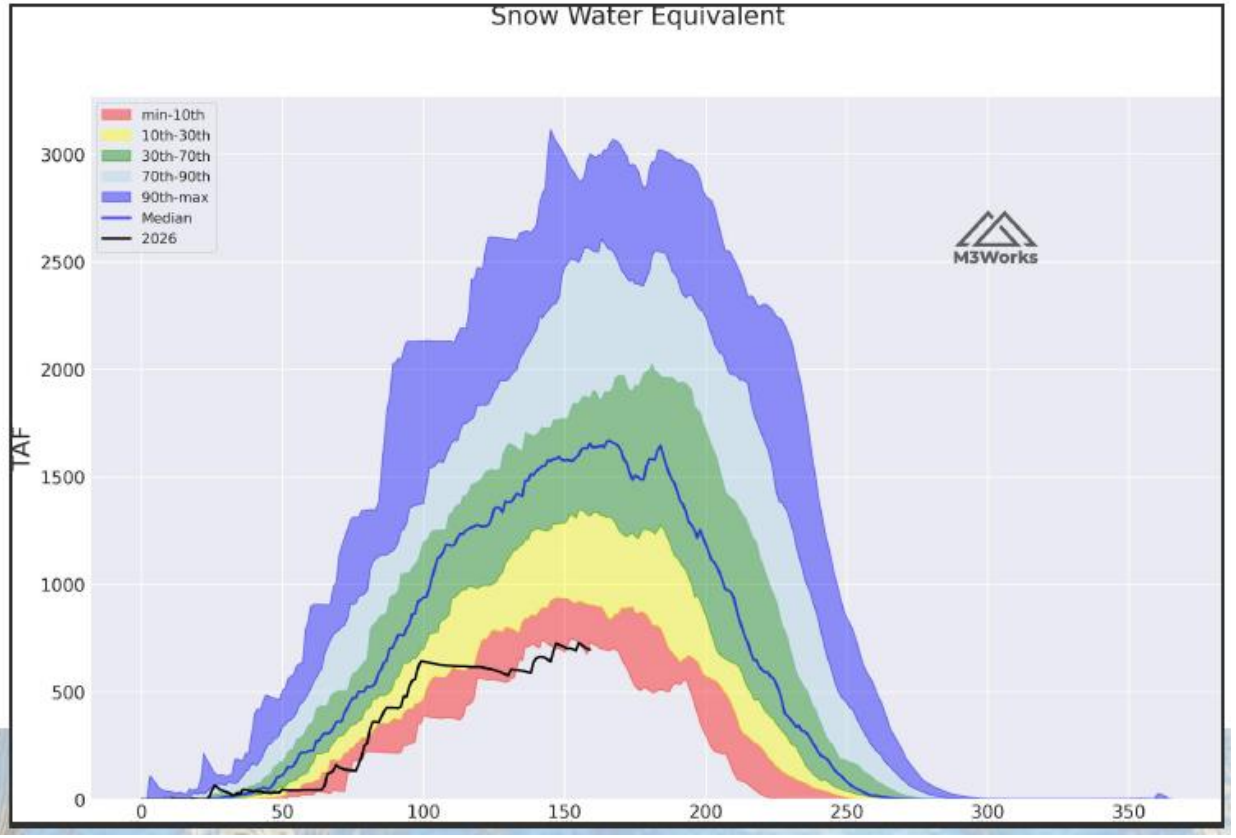
~**70%** of median

57% with Snow Courses

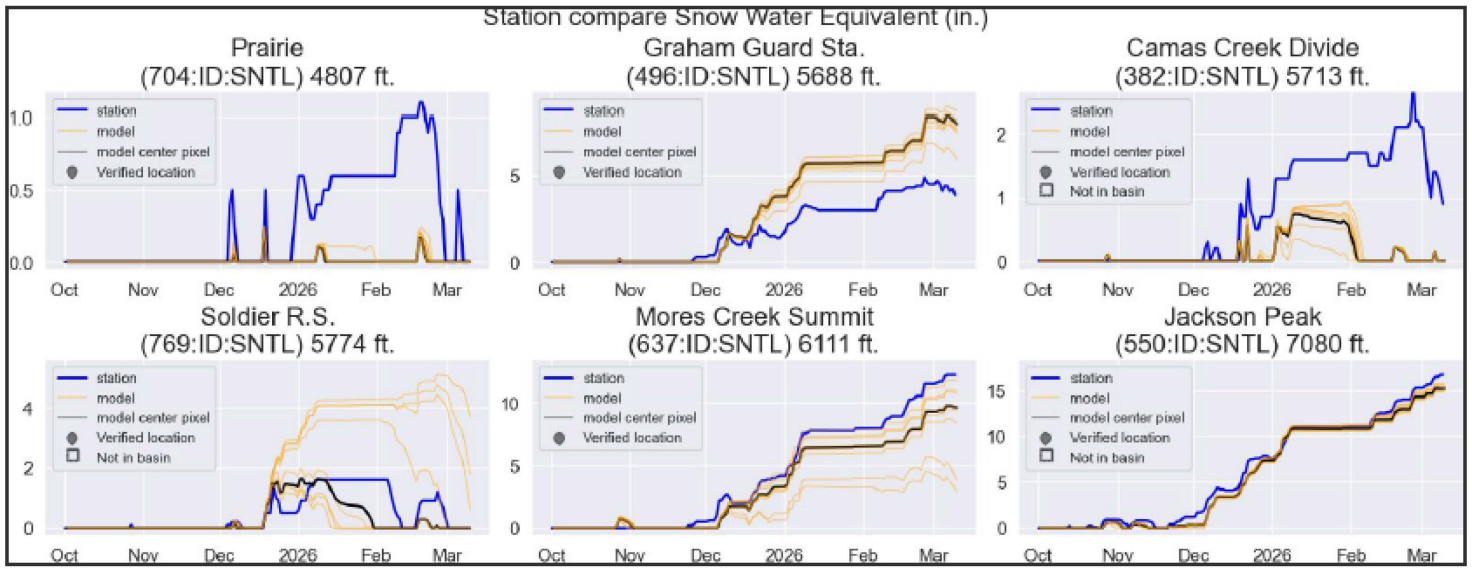


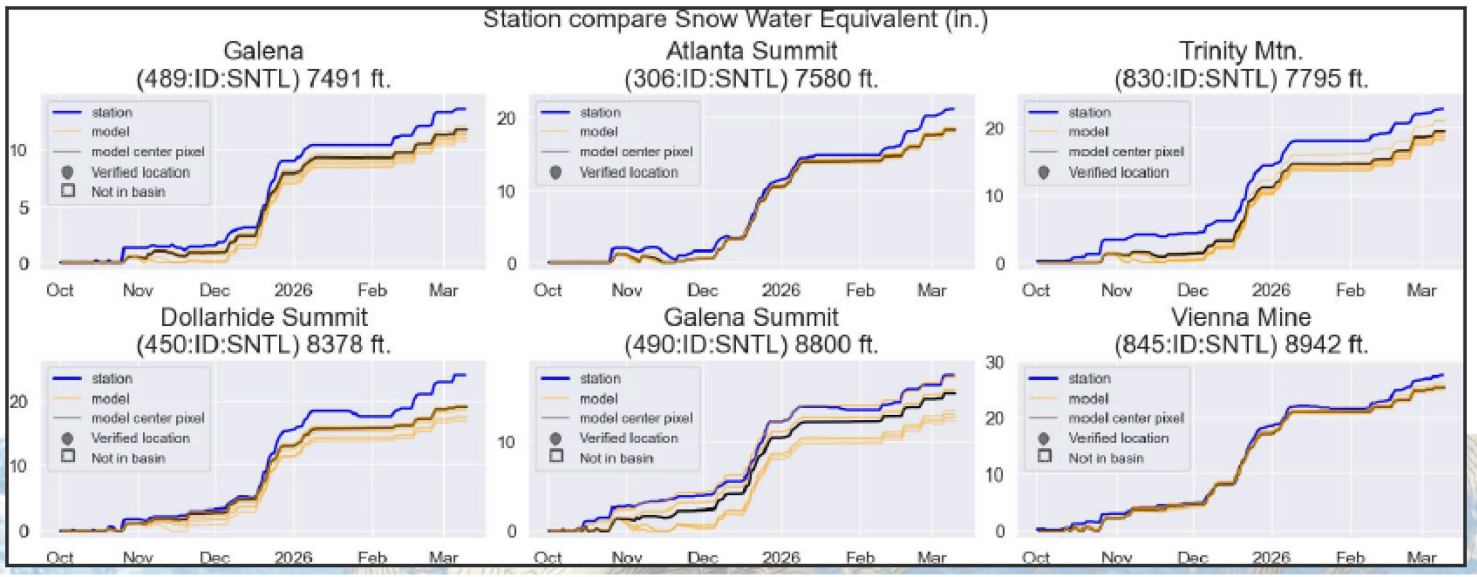
iSnobal:

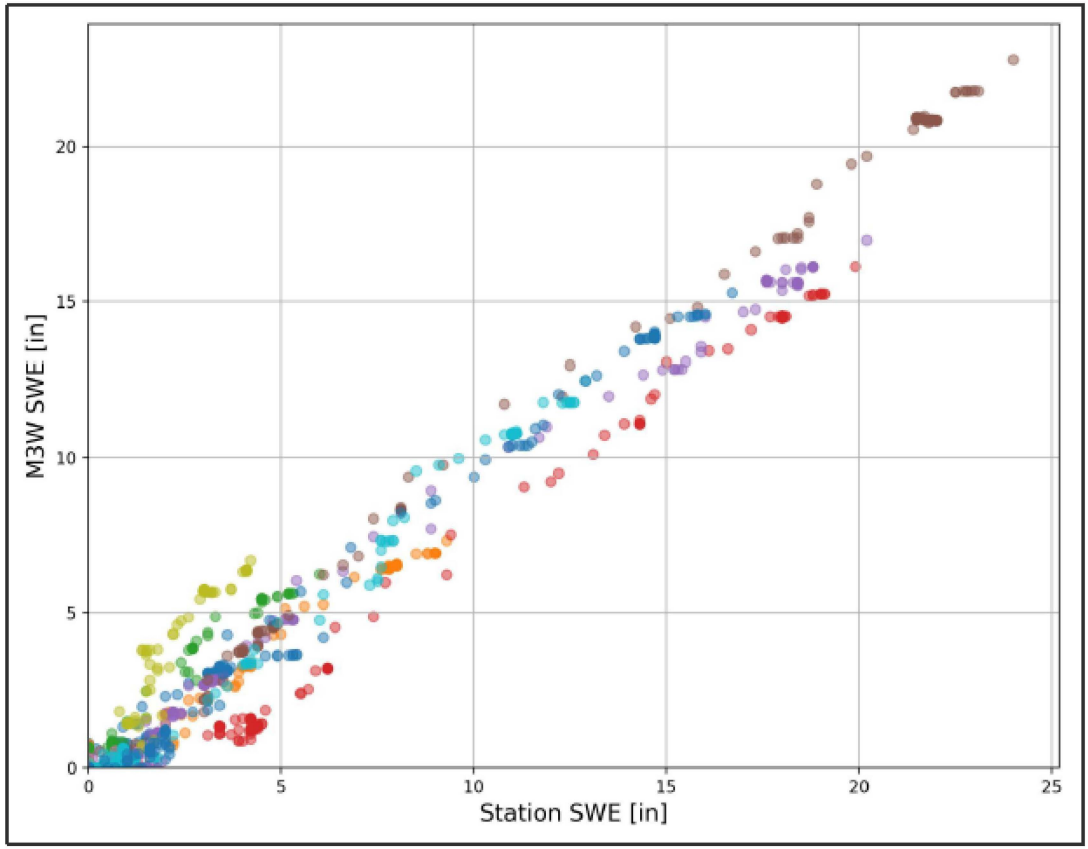
~**43%** of median



Validation

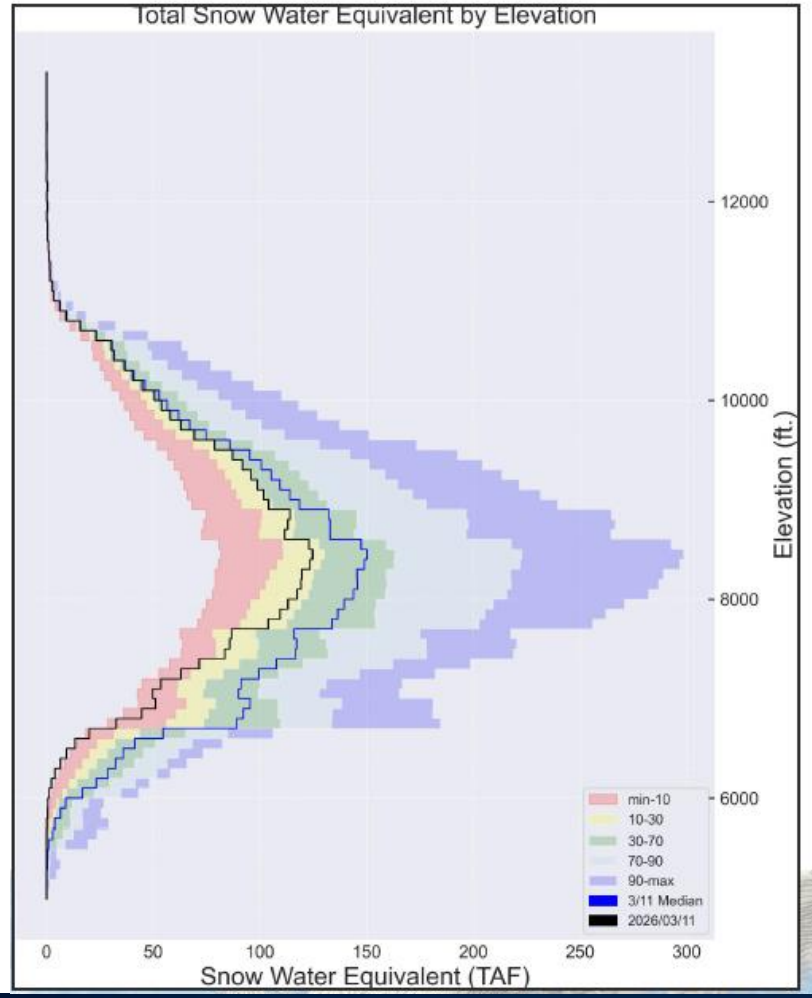

Station compare Snow Water Equivalent (in.)
Prairie
(704:ID:SNTL) 4807 ft.
Graham Guard Sta.
(496:ID:SNTL) 5688 ft.
Camas Creek Divide
(382:ID:SNTL) 5713 ft.
Soldier R.S.
(769:ID:SNTL) 5774 ft.
Mores Creek Summit
(637:ID:SNTL) 6111 ft.
Jackson Peak
(550:ID:SNTL) 7080 ft.
station
model
model center pixel
Verified location
Not in basin
Oct
Nov
Dec
2026
Feb
Mar


Station compare Snow Water Equivalent (in.)
Galena
(489:ID:SNTL) 7491 ft.
Atlanta Summit
(306:ID:SNTL) 7580 ft.
Trinity Mtn.
(830:ID:SNTL) 7795 ft.
Dollarhide Summit
(450:ID:SNTL) 8378 ft.
Galena Summit
(490:ID:SNTL) 8800 ft.
Vienna Mine
(845:ID:SNTL) 8942 ft.
station
model
model center pixel
Verified location
Not in basin
Oct
Nov
Dec
2026
Feb
Mar

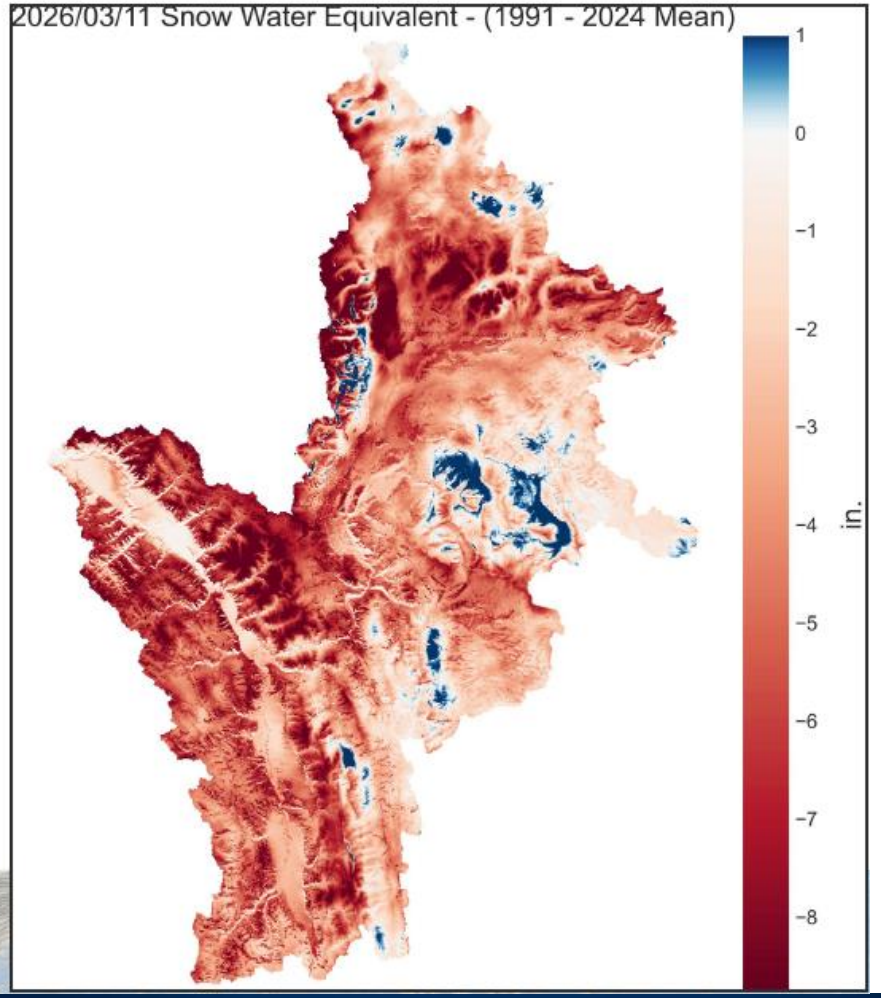

M3W SWE [in]
Station SWE [in]

Snowpack Analysis by M3: Snake Basin

By Elevation

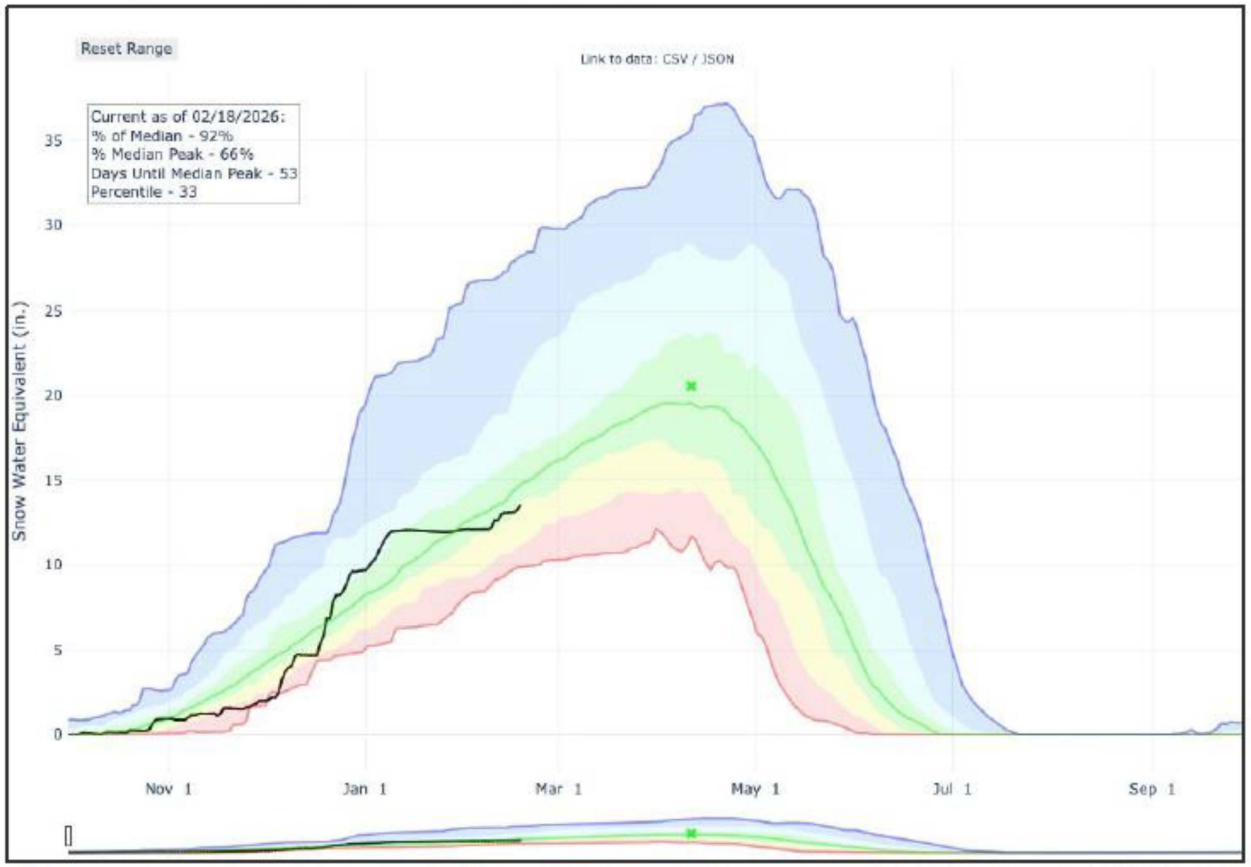


Spatial

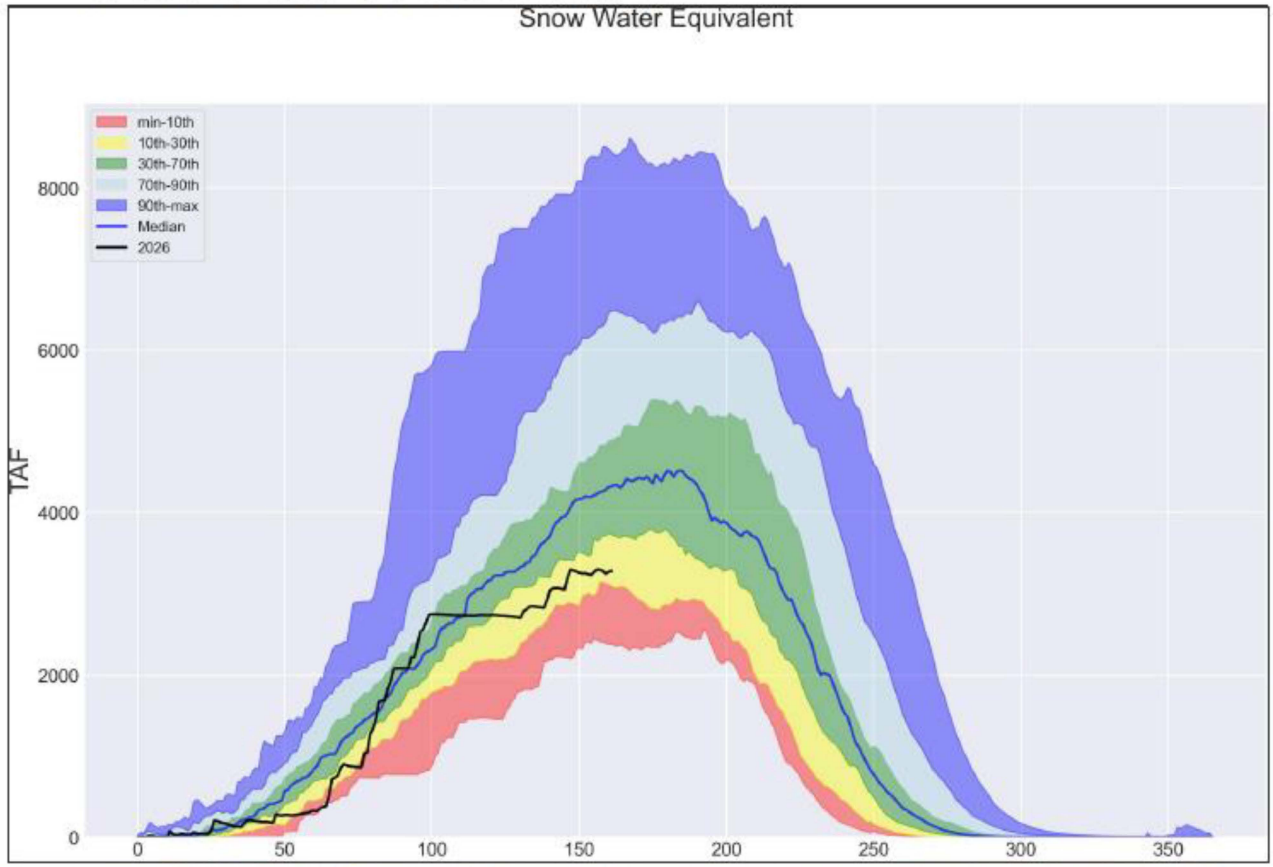


NRCS and M3W-iSnobal Normals

SNOTEL:
~**94%** of median

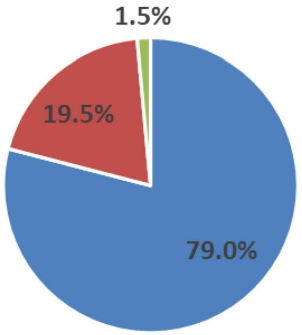


M3W-iSnobal:
~**76%** of median



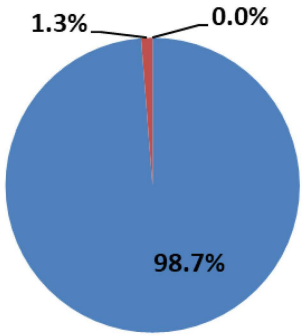
PRELIMINARY

Kootenai Basin [9,806 mi²]

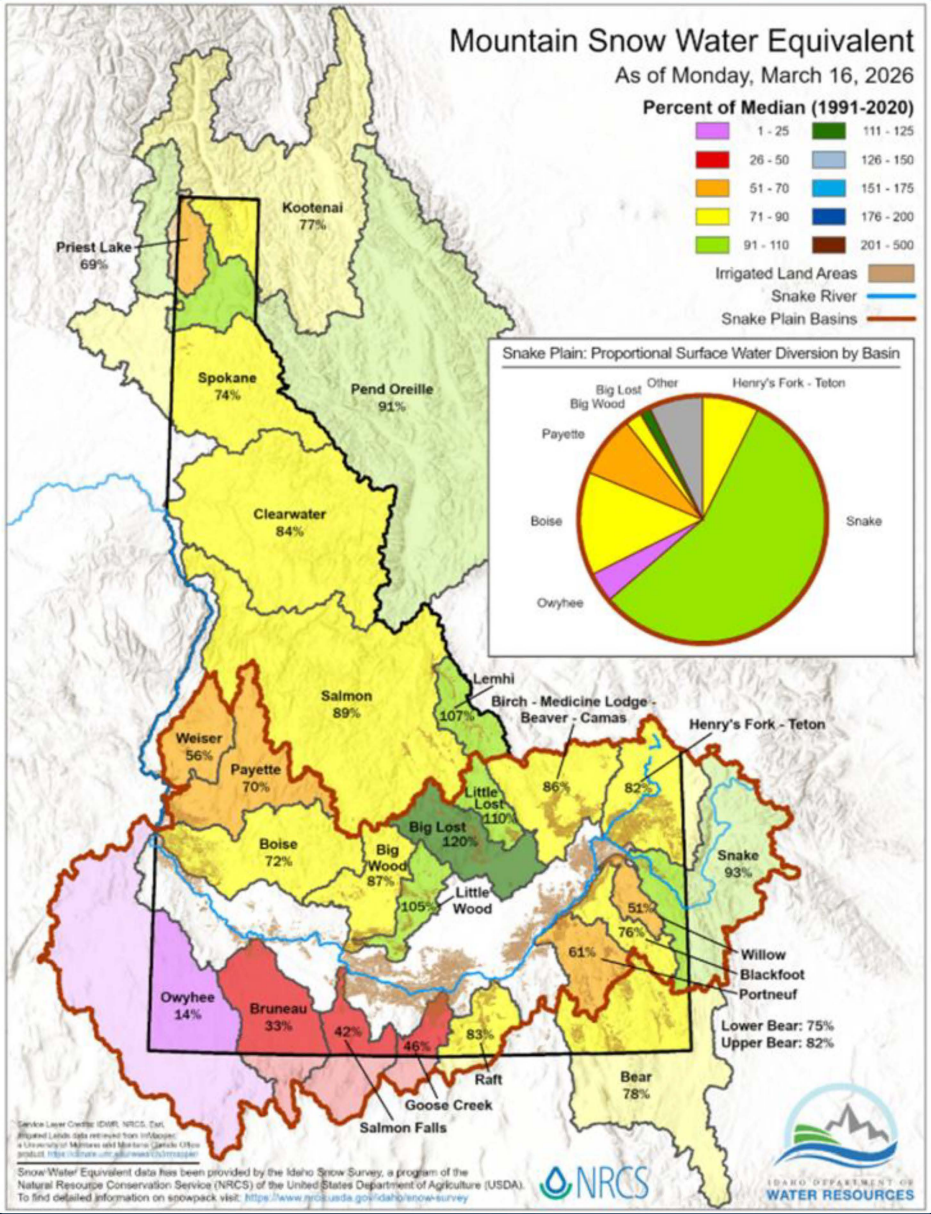


- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)

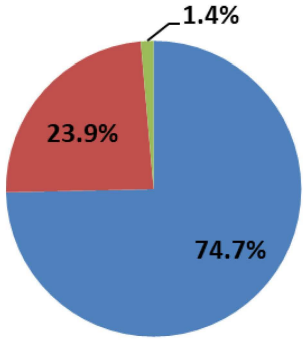
Spokane Basin [3,089 mi²]



- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)

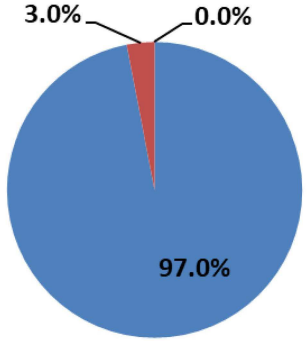


Pend Oreille Basin [21,511 mi²]



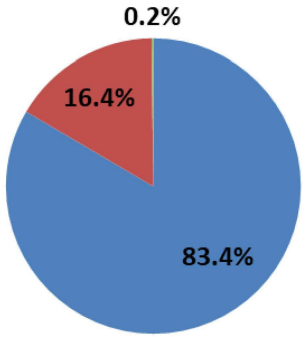
- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)

Priest Basin [608 mi²]



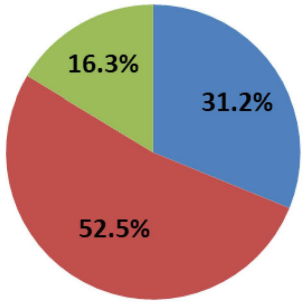
- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)

Clearwater Basin [7,447 mi²]

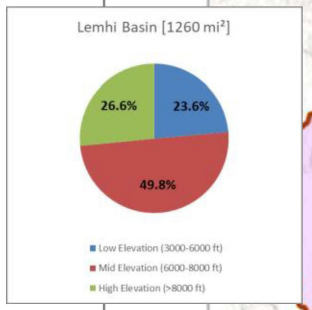


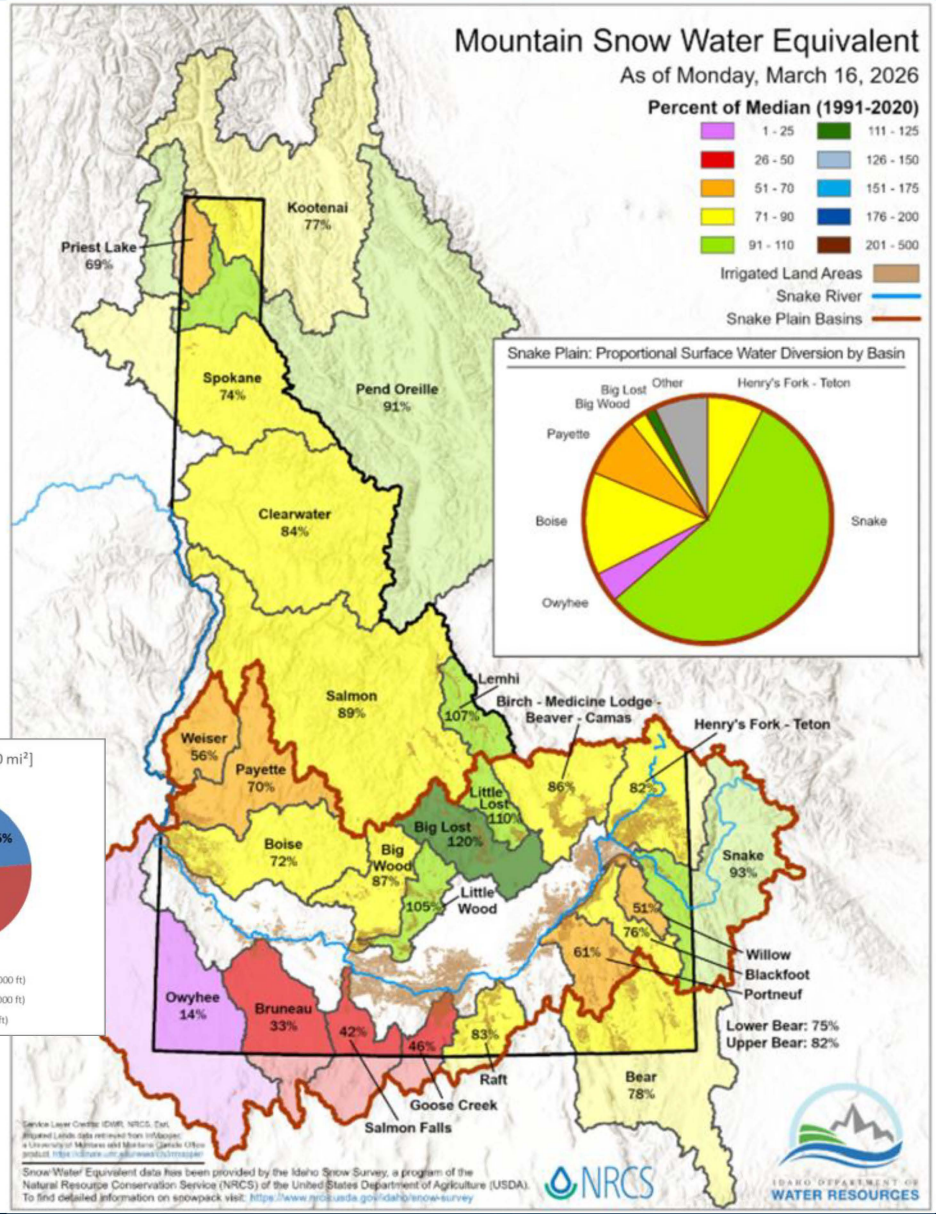
- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)

Salmon Basin [12,406 mi²]

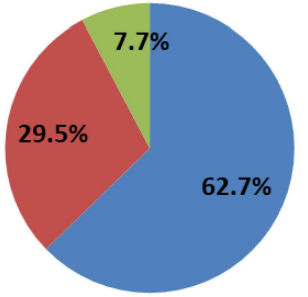


- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)



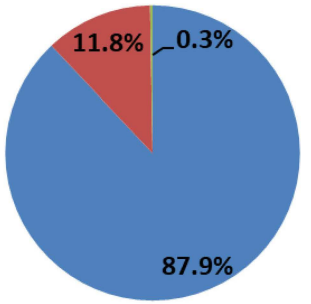


Boise Basin [3,105 mi²]



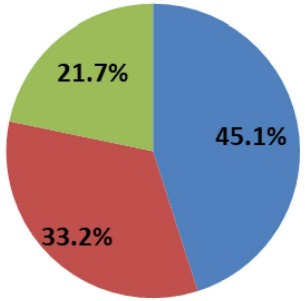
- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)

Owyhee Basin [10,865 mi²]



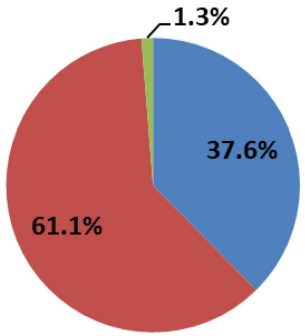
- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)

Big Lost Basin [2,452 mi²]

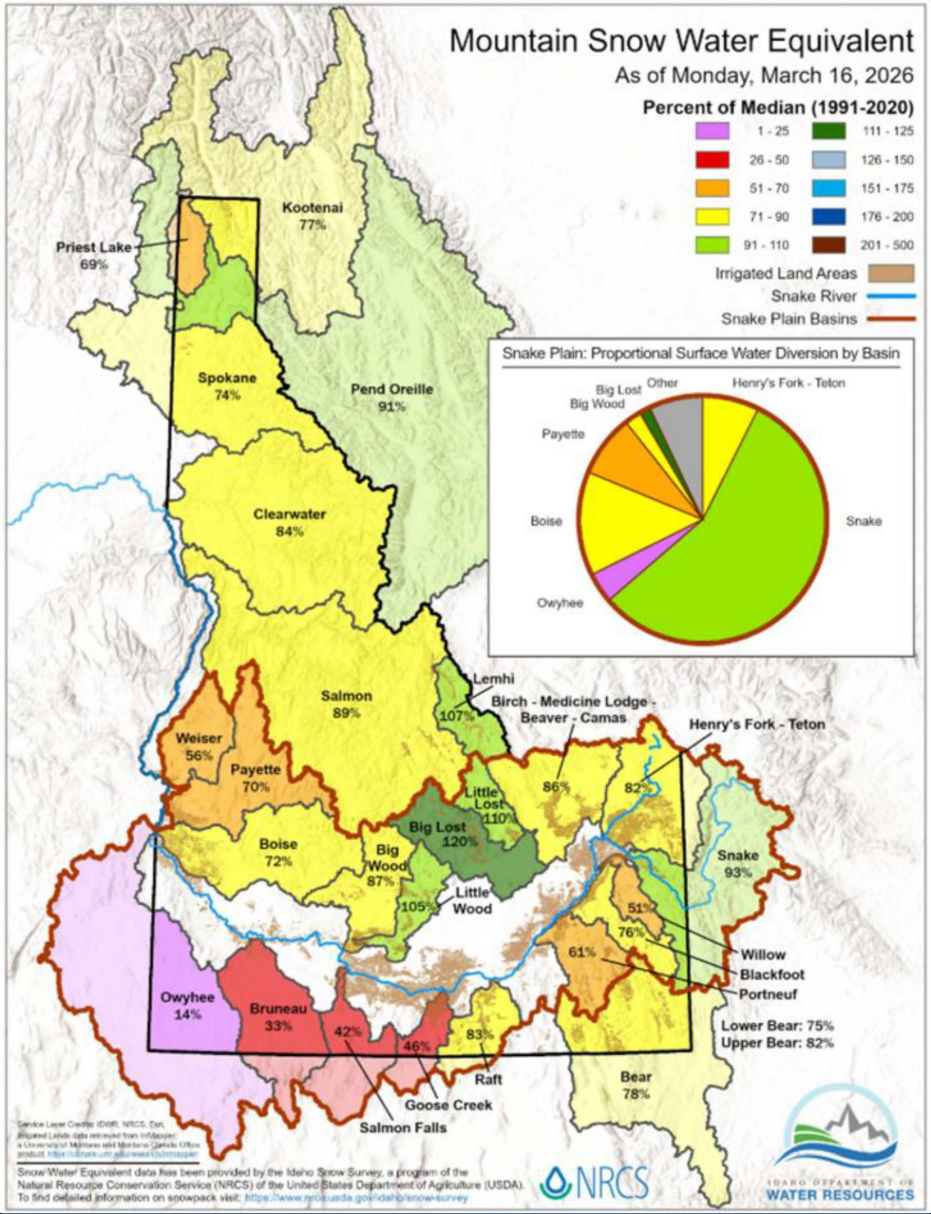


- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)

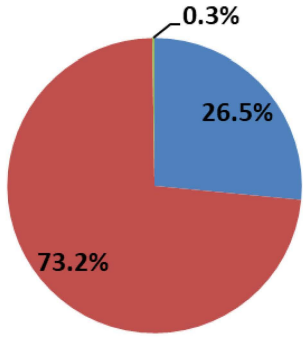
Salmon Falls Ck Basin [1,270 mi²]



- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)

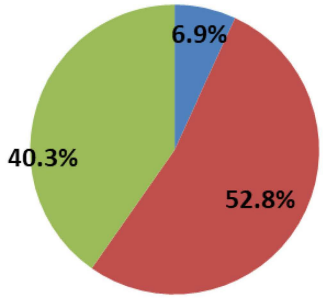


Willow Ck Basin [693 mi²]



- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)

Snake Basin [5,743 mi²]



- Low Elevation (3000-6000 ft)
- Mid Elevation (6000-8000 ft)
- High Elevation (>8000 ft)

Contact:

David Hoekema
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Hydrologist
(714) 697-3203 (Cell)
(208) 287-4830 (Office)
david.Hoekema@idwr.idaho.gov

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)

From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff

Date: March 20, 2026

Subject: Hydrology Section Projects

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Project Manager Ryan McCutcheon will provide the IWRB with a presentation update on Hydrology Section Projects.

Attachments:

- *PowerPoint Presentation*

IDWR Hydrology Section Projects Update

Presented by Ryan McCutcheon, Project Manager
Idaho Water Resource Board Meeting: March 26, 2026

1

Hydrology Section Projects

Basin Characterizations

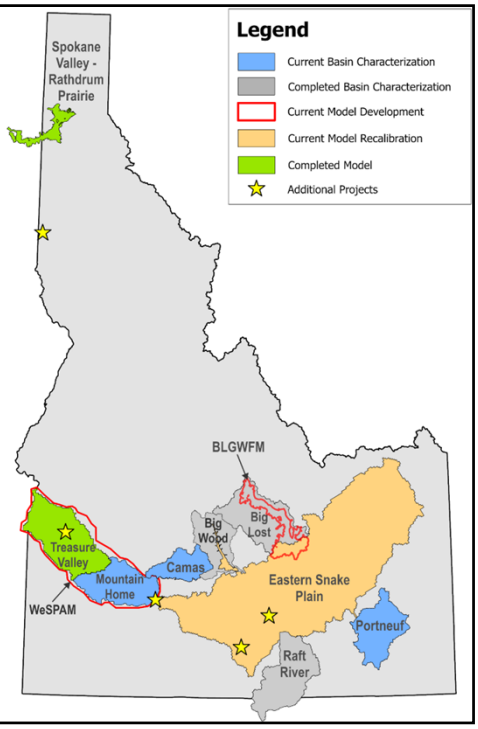
- Mountain Home, Camas Prairie, Portneuf
- Data collection for modeling efforts or addressing administrative questions

Groundwater Modeling Projects

- BLGWFM and WeSPAM
- Planning and administration

Additional Projects

- Focused work answering specific questions or collecting specific data



2

Basin Characterizations

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Mountain Home Basin Characterization

Project Period: 2022-2026
IWRB Funds: $700k
USGS Funds: $154k

Purpose: Collect necessary hydrologic data to develop a groundwater-flow model

- Request by Elmore County to expand Treasure Valley Model in 2021
- Project data and findings will inform WeSPAM

Spring/Fall groundwater level synoptics (2023)

3-D hydrogeologic aquifer model developed

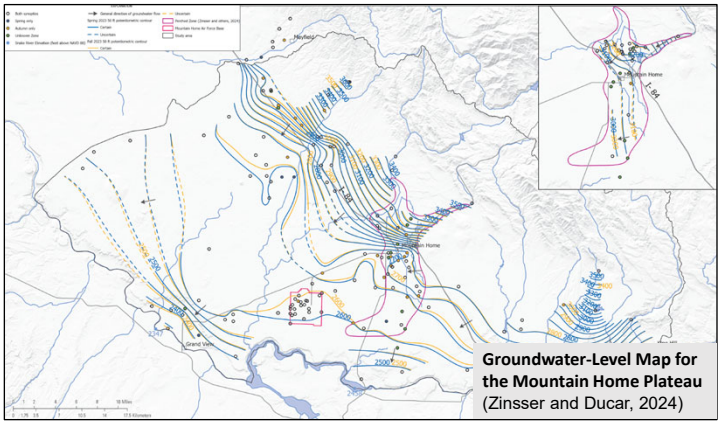
Aquifer budget developed for average year (2023)

5 monitoring wells drilled

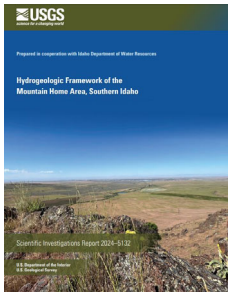
Borehole geophysics performed

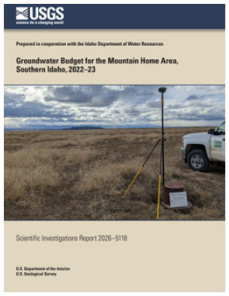
Stream gage installed (March 2026)

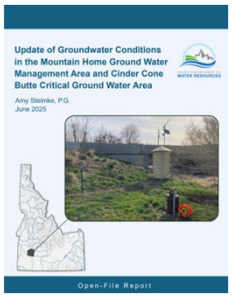
4



Groundwater-Level Map for the Mountain Home Plateau
(Zinsser and Ducar, 2024)







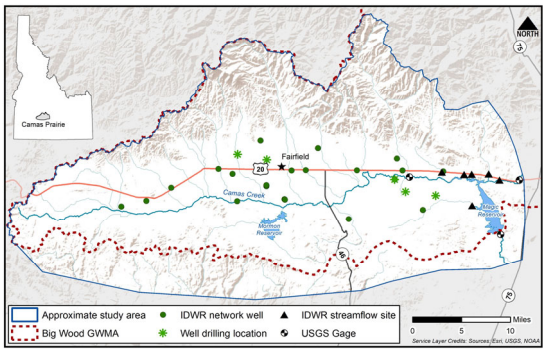
5

Camas Prairie Basin Characterization

Project Period: 2023-2027
IWRB Funds: $900k
USGS Funds: $113k

Purpose: Characterize the groundwater and surface water resources in the Camas portion of the BWRGWMA

- Collect data to assist with water issues (e.g., does groundwater pumping in the Camas affect surface water availability in Magic Reservoir?)
- Findings will help inform development of the BWRGWMA Plan



Public open house meeting in fall 2024 → 5 monitoring wells drilled in 2024 → Borehole and surface geophysics performed → Spring/Fall 2025 groundwater level synoptics completed → Tributary streamflow measured 2023-2025 → 3-D hydrogeologic aquifer model being developed → Water budgets being developed for wet, dry, and average years

6





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Portneuf Basin Characterization

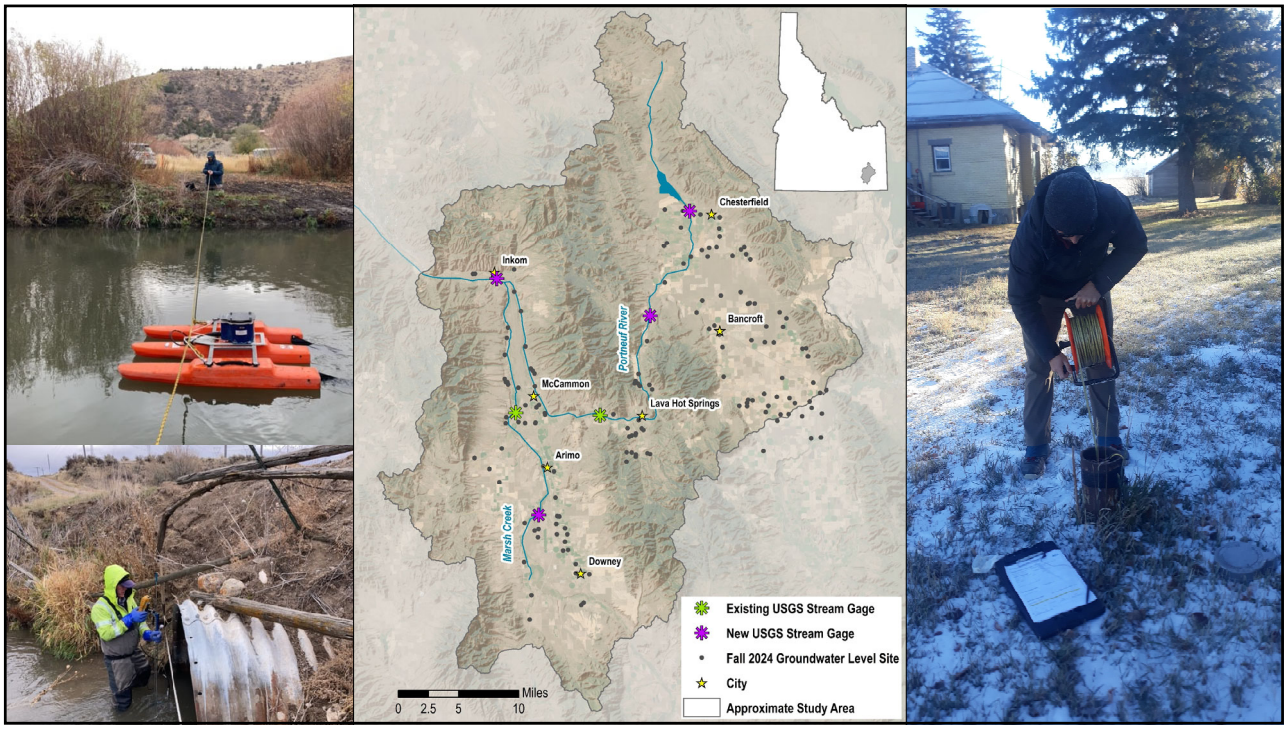
Project Period: 2023-2027
IWRB Funds: $700k
USGS Funds: $115k

Purpose: Characterize the groundwater and surface water resources in the Portneuf Basin

- Collect contemporary data to assist with water issues (e.g., groundwater-surface water interactions, aquifer extent, etc.)
- Findings will inform the expansion of the ESPA ACGWS to include the Portneuf Basin

Four stream gages installed spring/summer 2024 → Aquifer delineation completed → Seepage studies performed fall 2024, spring and fall 2025 → Groundwater level synoptics completed fall 2024, spring and fall 2025 → Aquifer budget being developed for a wet, dry, and average year → Conceptual hydrogeologic framework report being developed → Potential monitoring wells to be drilled

8



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Groundwater Modeling Projects

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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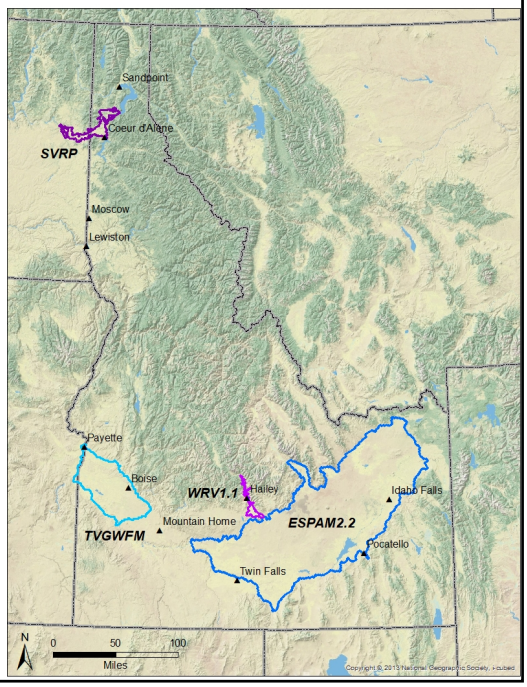
Published Groundwater Flow Models

- Spokane Valley - Rathdrum Prairie (*SVRP*)
  - USGS, WDOE, IDWR - 2007
- Wood River Valley Version 1.1 (*WRV1.1*)
  - IDWR and USGS - 2019
  - 2026 recalibration (WRV1.2)
- Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model Version 2.2 (*ESPAM2.2*)
  - IDWR - 2021
  - 2026 recalibration (*ESPAM2.3*)
- Treasure Valley (*TVGWFM*)
  - USGS and IDWR - 2023



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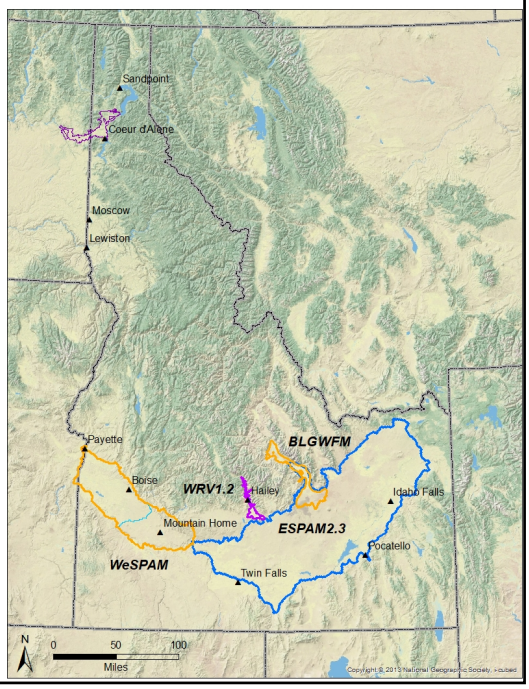
Groundwater Model Development

- Big Lost Groundwater Flow Model (*BLGWFM*)
  - USGS and IDWR - 2026
- Western Snake Plain Aquifer Model (*WeSPAM*)
  - USGS and IDWR - 2029
  - Will supersede TVGWFM



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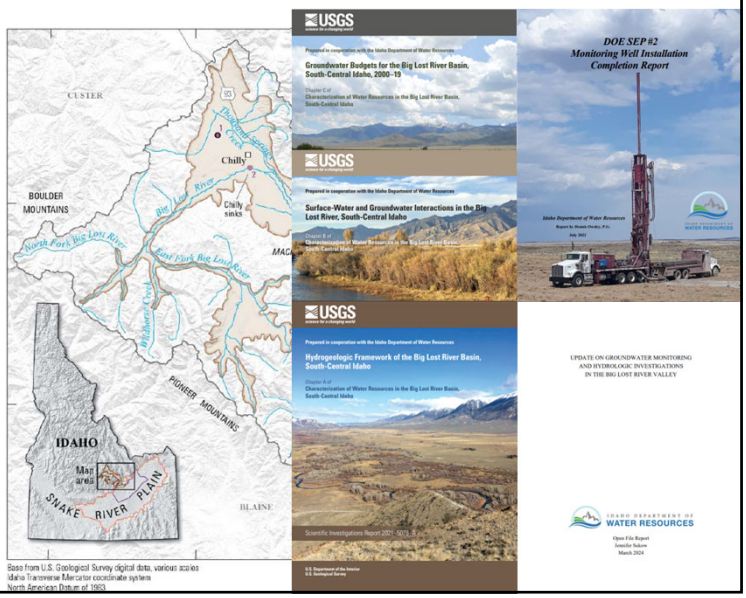
Big Lost Groundwater Flow Model

Project Period: 2022-2027
IWRB Funds: $480k
USGS Funds: $352k

Purpose: To inform water supply planning and management in the Big Lost Basin and Eastern Snake Plain

Scope of Work:

- Develop a transient numerical groundwater-flow model of the Big Lost River Valley
- Run modeling scenarios:
  - Changes in canal lining
  - Reduced groundwater pumping



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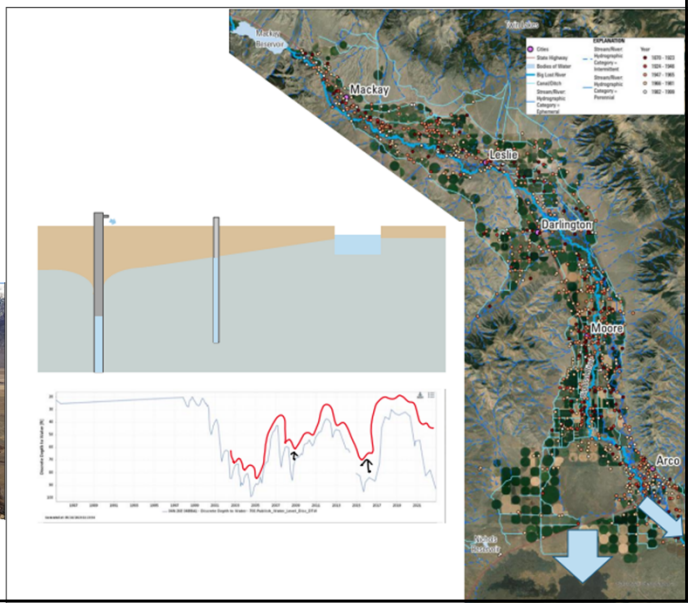
Big Lost Groundwater Flow Model

Approximate Model Timeline:

- Report to IDWR for review - March 2026
- Published model archive - June 2026
- Training - August 2026
- Published SIR - December 2026



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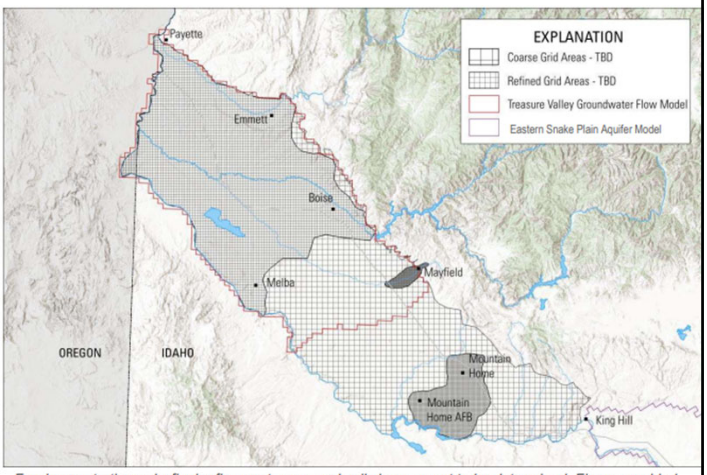
Western Snake Plain Aquifer Model (WeSPAM)

Project Period: 2025-2029
IWRB Funds: $850k
USGS Funds: $300k

Purpose: To inform water supply planning and management in the western Snake River Plain

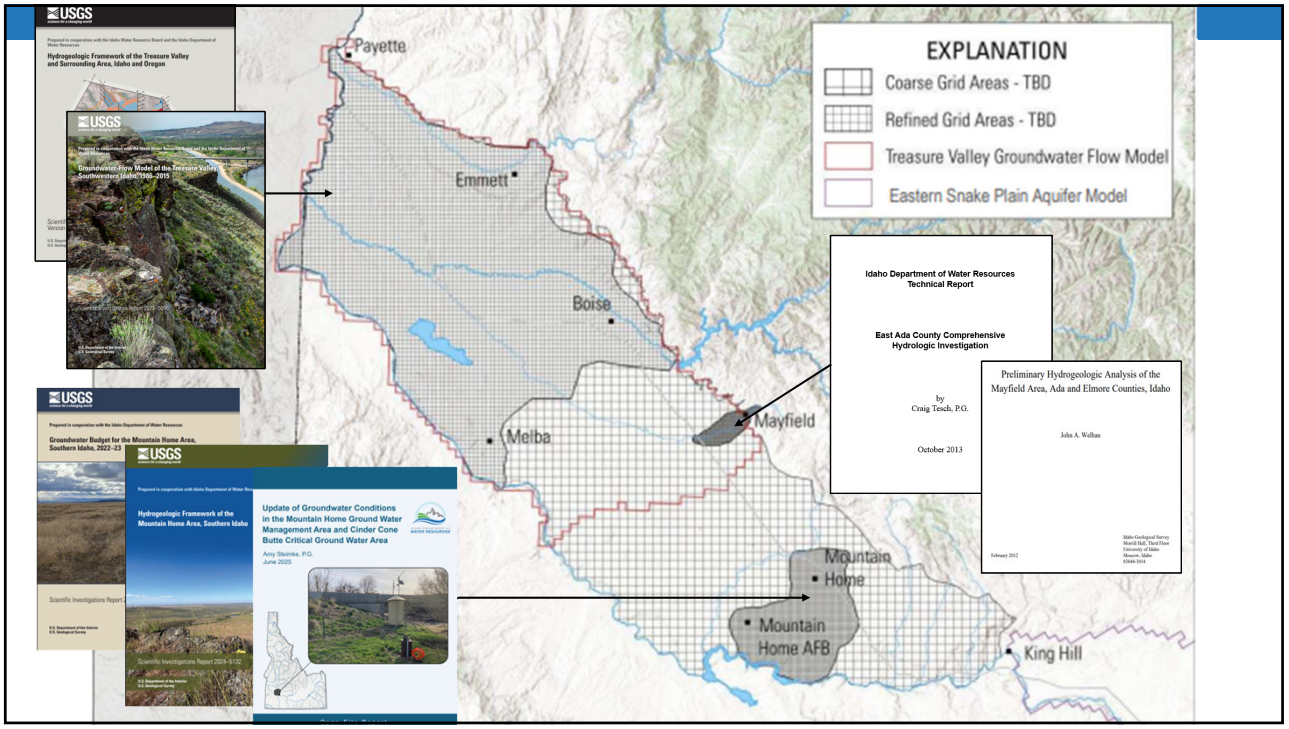
Highlights:

- Develop a transient numerical groundwater-flow model of the western Snake Plain
- Run two modeling scenarios
- MTACs were held in August 2025 and March 2026



For demonstration only, final refinement areas and cell sizes are yet to be determined. Figure provided by the USGS.

15



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Additional Projects

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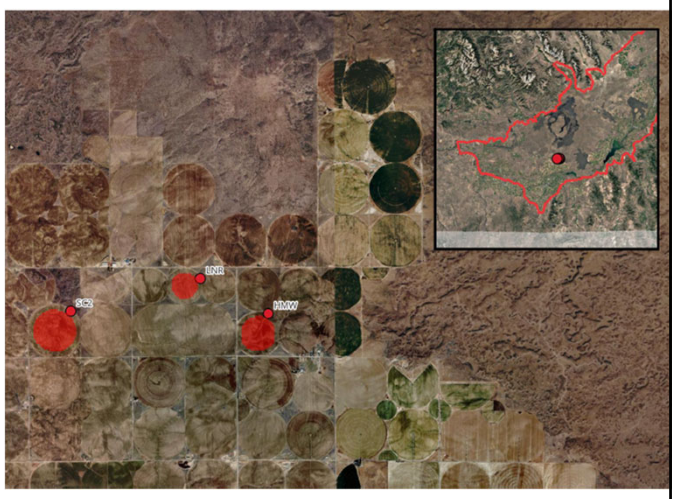
ET Ground-Truthing Project

Project Period: 2025-2028
IWRB Funds: $1,000,000
Contractor: Univ. of Idaho

Purpose: To improve the accuracy of ET estimates in Idaho

- ET on irrigated lands is the single largest outflow in the ESPA water budget
- METRIC data has historically been used for modeling (e.g., ESPAM), but is potentially overestimating ET
- More accurate ET data improves IDWR groundwater modeling



University of Idaho

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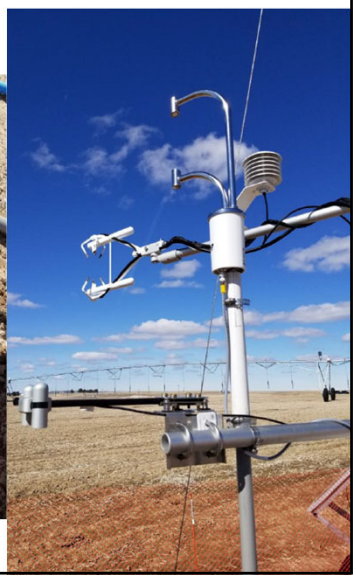
ET Ground-Truthing Project

Scope of Work:

- Monitor ET of a variety of crop types (e.g., alfalfa, beets, potatoes, barley) using eddy covariance towers
- Use the ground-truth data to re-calibrate METRIC or select the best OpenET models for Idaho

Updates:

- Collected and processed data for 2025 growing season
- Additional data collection planned for 2026 - 2027



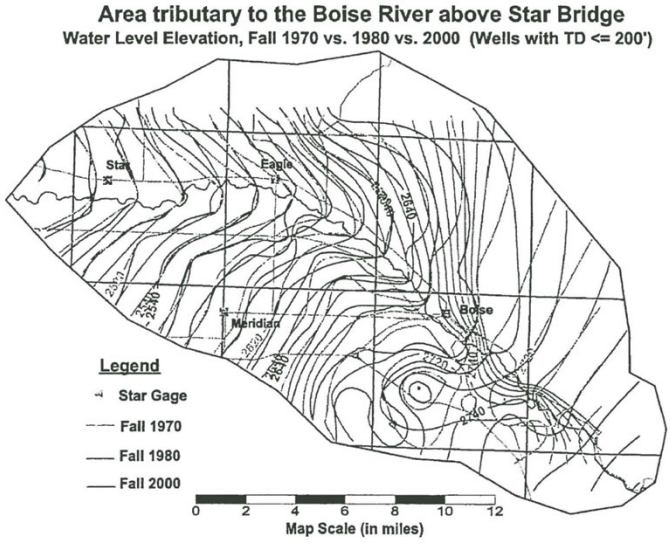
19

Star Bridge Project

Project Period: 2026-2027
IWRB Funds: $100k
Contractor: IWRRI

Purpose: To re-evaluate the boundary where groundwater is tributary to the Boise River upstream of Star Bridge

- Currently, all non-domestic applications for consumptive use of groundwater shallower than 200 feet within the bounded area are held without processing
- The boundary of the groundwater area tributary to the Boise River upstream of Star Bridge has not been evaluated since 2005



20

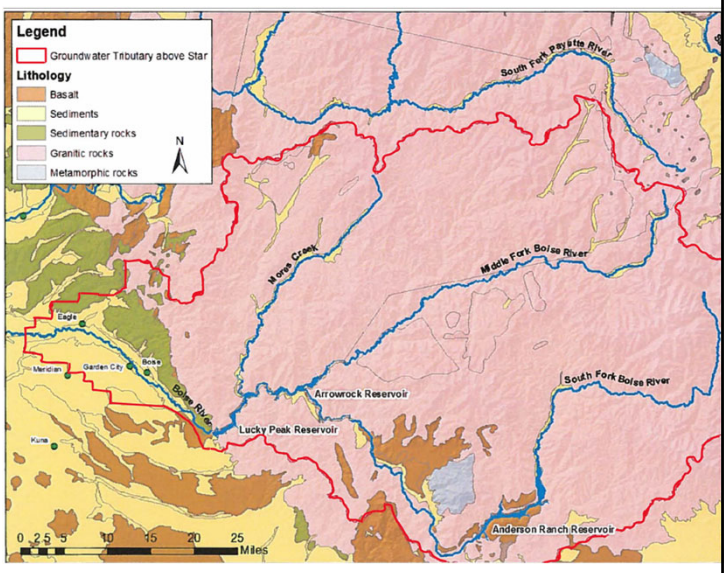
Star Bridge Project

Scope of Work:

- Evaluate the following factors:
  - Groundwater area tributary to the Boise River upstream of Star Bridge
  - Changes with season and time
  - Effects of pumping near the boundary
- Evaluate existing boundary using contemporary data and tools, including new TVGWFM
- Propose a new boundary

Updates:

- Held kickoff meeting with IWRRI
- Developed draft work plan



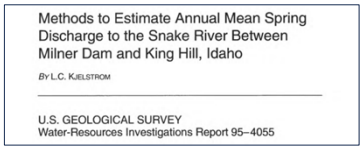
21

Estimating Spring Discharge to the Snake River, Milner Dam to King Hill (Kjelstrom)

Project Period: 2023-2027
IWRB Funds: $500k
USGS Funds: $274k

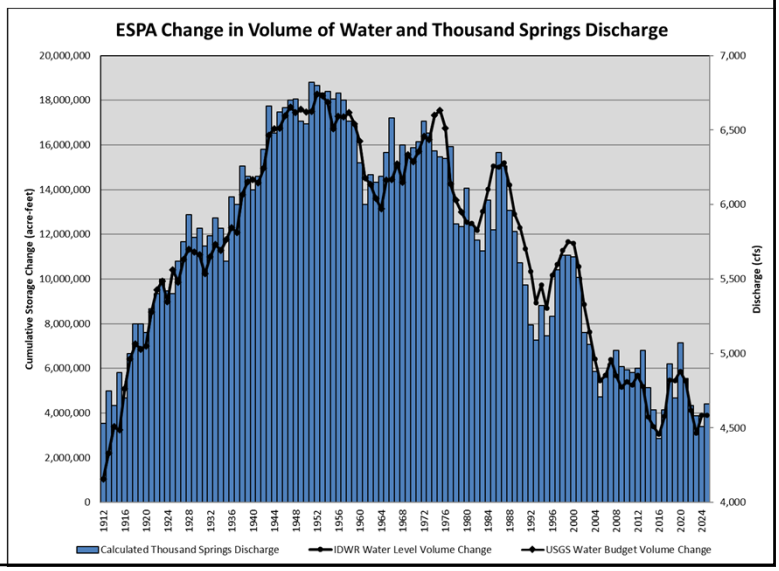
Purpose: To improve estimates of ESPA spring discharge between Milner Dam and King Hill

- Spring discharge characterization informs estimates of ESPA recharge, discharge, and storage
- Aids development and evaluation of groundwater management plans


Methods to Estimate Annual Mean Spring Discharge to the Snake River Between Milner Dam and King Hill, Idaho

By L.C. Kjelstrom

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Water-Resources Investigations Report 95–4055



22

Estimating Spring Discharge to the Snake River, Milner Dam to King Hill (Kjelstrom)

Scope of Work:

- Collect quarterly discharge measurements at springs
- Assess uncertainty of spring discharge estimates
- Develop updated regressions, if needed
- Automate integration of new data into spring discharge estimates

23

Mid-Snake Water Quality Monitoring

Project Period: 2019-present
IWRB Funds: $868k
USGS Funds: $852k

Purpose: To develop a macrophyte habitat suitability model within the Crystal Springs reach

- Nutrient concentrations in the Snake River contribute to macrophyte growth that is widely considered to be a nuisance
- Understanding the relationships between streamflow, water quality, and macrophyte growth helps resource managers to limit future growth

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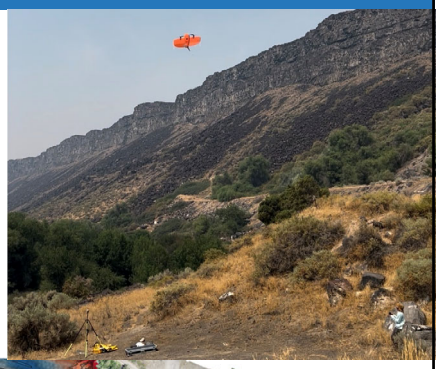
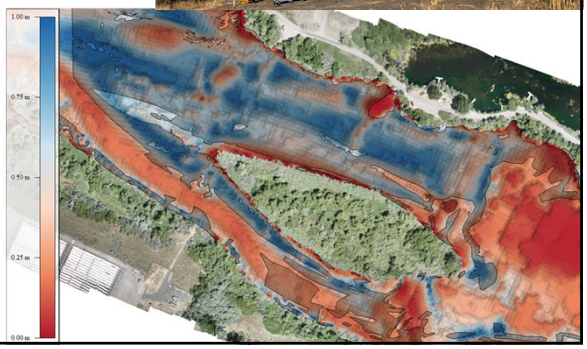
Mid-Snake Water Quality Monitoring



Scope of Work:

- Map macrophytes within the Crystal Springs reach
- Evaluate changes to stage, streamflow, water quality, and water velocity over time
- Develop a model to simulate streamflow and compute water depth and velocity
- Develop a macrophyte habitat suitability model



Updates:

- Continued annual macrophyte surveys
- Macrophyte habitat suitability model predicts flow conditions unsuitable for nuisance plant growth
- Draft report - May 2026

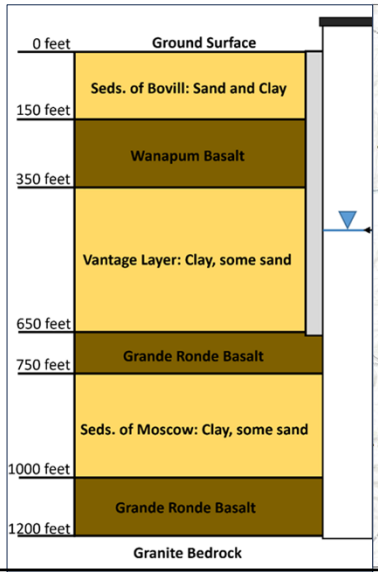
25

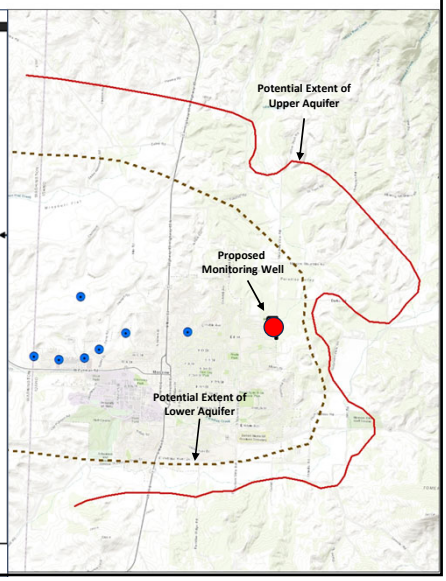
Palouse Basin Aquifer Monitoring

Project Period: 2026-2027
IWRB Funds: $200k

Purpose: To improve our understanding of the Grand Ronde Aquifer by drilling a new monitoring well in Moscow

- Groundwater levels in the Grand Ronde Aquifer have been declining since the 1930s
- Moscow and Pullman are evaluating options to stabilize groundwater levels
- Monitor deeper system and expand IDWR network





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Questions?
USGS Canyon Creek Gage (13159800)
IDWR Station 02S 06E 11DAC1

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MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board))

From: Mary Condon

Date: March 19, 2026

Subject: Grant Program Update – Grant Criteria

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider Revised Grant Criteria

Background:

The IWRB currently administers four grant programs: Aging Infrastructure, Flood Management, Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions, and Measuring & Monitoring. The Aging Infrastructure and Flood Management grant programs have both received dedicated appropriations supporting these programs in the Water Management Account (WMA). The Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions and the Measuring & Monitoring grants are budgeted and funded by the IWRB through the WMA without direct appropriations from Legislature.

Recent Operations:

Since 2019, nearly $120,000,000 has been awarded to 258 grant projects. In FY 2026, the number of grants awarded represent nearly one-third of all awards to date, with 73 projects funded. Additionally, IWRB staff continue to manage existing contracts awarded under grants for some as long as four years. The time spent assisting applicants, reviewing and scoring applications, drafting presentation materials, and developing contracts continues to grow for each contract manager assigned grant awards.

Current Concerns:

There are currently six grant contract managers, of which only two have been administering grant contracts on behalf of the Board for more than one year. New staff have both inherited active contracts from former staff, as well as assigned new awards. The lack of experience in grant management among new staff has resulted in developing a Grant Team with monthly meetings to discuss workflow processes, invoice questions, and brainstorm improvements. Many questions also arise that must be directed to the Department fiscal and legal staff, which has resulted in some feasible suggestions that the Grant Team can then propose to the Board to improve workflow.

Proposal:

The following PowerPoint presentation of the grant program covers details in funds awarded, contracts established, projects completed, and recovery of unused funds for future rounds. The presentation also highlights constraints contract managers are facing, including time spent on grants, with a conclusion focused on proposed corrections to grant criteria and application processing to improve workflow efficiency.

A copy of the proposed revised Flood Management grant criteria is attached for consideration ahead of the June application filing date. Additionally, a copy of the draft revisions to the Surface

Water Coalition Operation Efficiencies Program criteria is attached for consideration immediately, as there is not an application deadline. The draft revisions to the Aging Infrastructure grant criteria is attached for review by the Board but no action is required at this time.

Attachment(s):

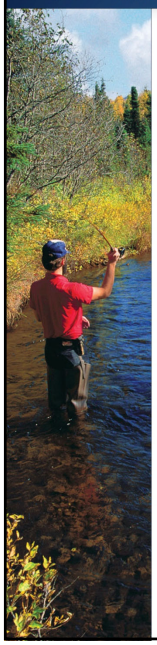
- *PowerPoint Presentation*
- *Flood Management Criteria – proposed revision*
- *Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiencies Program Criteria – proposed revision*
- *Aging Infrastructure Criteria – proposed edits for future revision*

Grant Program Update

Presented by Mary Condon

March 26, 2026

1



IDAHO
Water Resource Board

Total Grant Awards & Processing Summary
- Aging Infrastructure
- Flood Management
- Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions
- Measuring & Monitoring

FY24-FY26 Grant Awards

Grant Schedule

Criteria

2

IDAHO Water Resource Board

Grant Awards & Processing Summary

Grant	Total # Awarded	Rounds	Appropriations/ Budgeted		Total Active as of Jan 2026	Completed as of Jan 2026
Aging Infrastructure *FY22-FY26*	127	6	$75,000,000 +$22,000,000	A B	40	28
Flood Management *FY19-FY26*	89	9	$7,400,000	A	6	62
Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions *FY25-FY26*	26	2	$38,000,000	B	3	0
Measuring & Monitoring *FY25-FY26*	17	2	$815,102	B	2	0
Totals	**259**	**N/A**	**$143,215,102**		**51**	**90**

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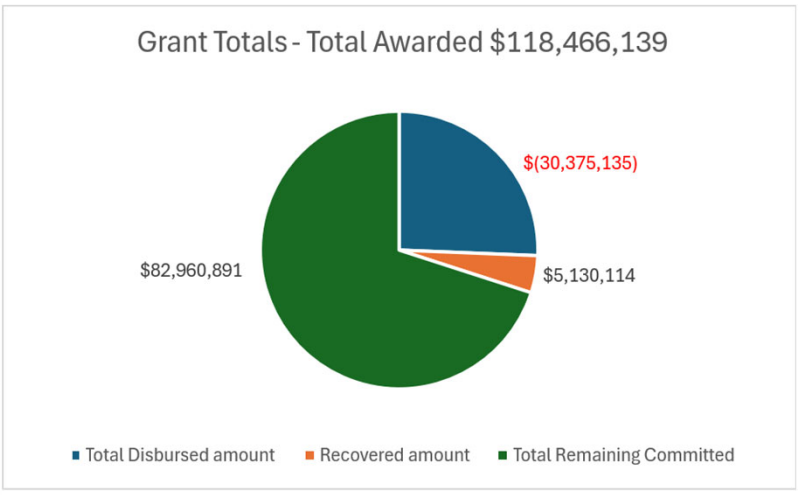
IDAHO Water Resource Board



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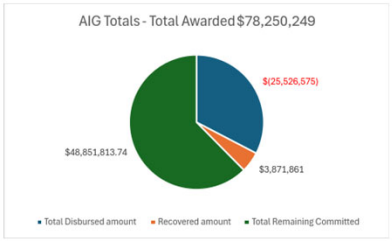
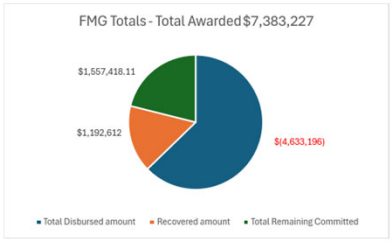
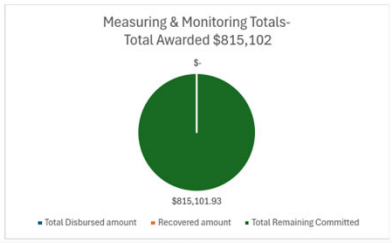
IDAHO Water Resource Board

Grant Totals
Funds Awarded, Disbursed, & Recovered







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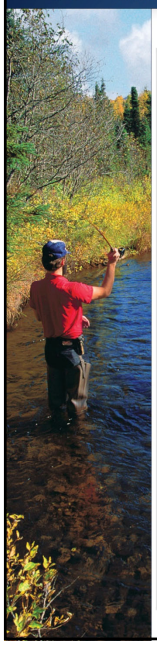

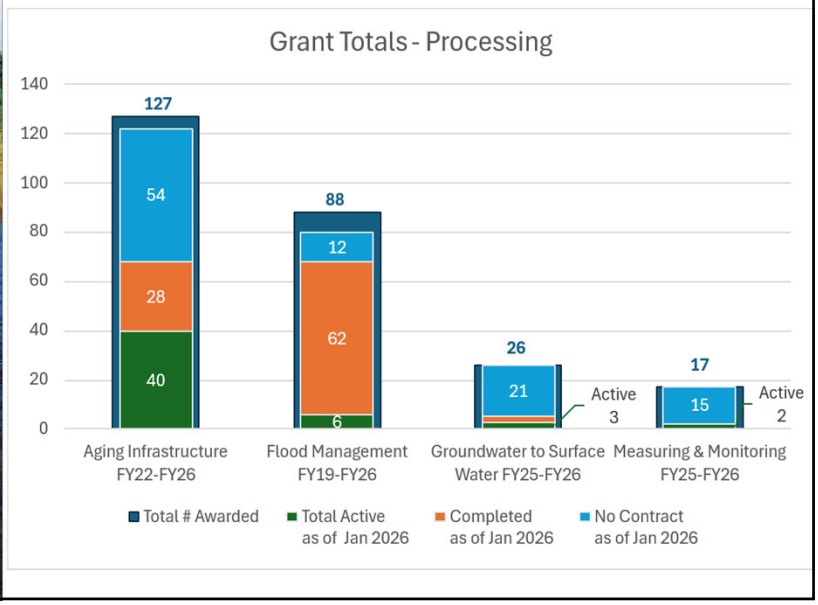

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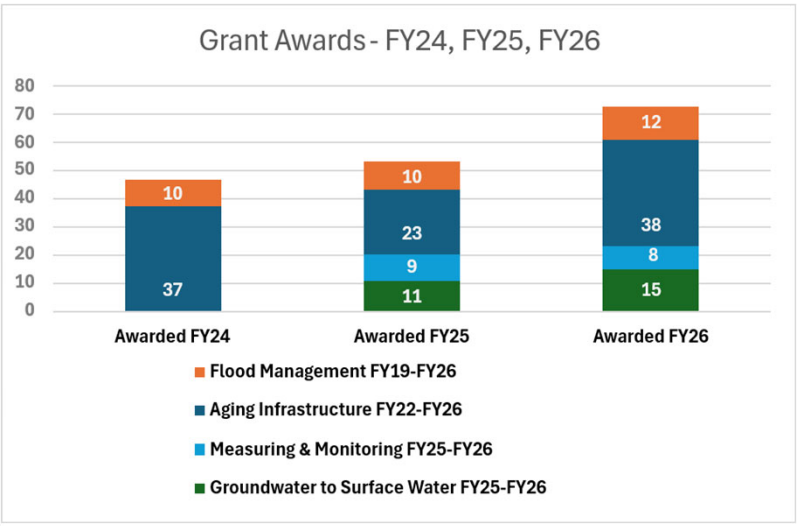

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IDAHO Water Resource Board

Grant Annual Award Cycle

Grant Program Timelines		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Flood Management Due First Friday in June **Supplemental Jan 2026**	Application Consultation								2nd				
	Staff Review & Ranking			D							D		
	Finance Committee & Board Meeting				R							R	
	Contract Development												
	Contract Mgt., Invoicing, Inspection						→						
Aging Infrastructure Due First Friday in August	Application Consultation												
	Staff Review & Ranking					D							
	Finance Committee & Board Meeting						R		R				
	Contract Development												
	Contract Mgt., Invoicing, Inspection								→				
Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions Due First Friday in August	Application Consultation												
	Staff Review & Ranking					D							
	Finance Committee & Board Meeting						R						
	Contract Development												
	Contract Mgt., Invoicing, Inspection								→				
Telemetry/ Measuring & Monitoring (Last Friday in September)	Application Consultation					2nd M&M						1st Tel	
	Staff Review & Ranking						D						D
	Finance Committee & Board Meeting		R						R				
	Contract Development												
	Contract Mgt., Invoicing, Inspection										→		

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IDAHO Water Resource Board




Grant Staff & Processing Times:

- Six FTEs assigned to manage 153 active awards (48 active contracts & 105 under development)

Task	Hours per Task	# of Staff	73 Awards + 6 Non For FY2026
Application Consultation	1	2	38 hrs
Staff Review & Ranking	.75	4	237 hrs
Meeting Material Preparation	2	4	24 hrs
Contract Development	4	6	292 hrs
Contract Management, Invoicing	.5	6	100 hrs*
Contract Close-out, Inspection	1	6	25 hrs**

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IDAHO Water Resource Board

Workflow Efficiency Hinderances:

- Grant Application Scoring
  - Lack some knowledge of proper evaluation for case-by-case
  - Ineligible entities or projects – need way to return without scoring
- Grant Contract Development
  - Slow response time from sponsors
  - Information can be hard to parse from application into drafts
- Grant Management
  - Improper invoicing
  - Evaluating In-Kind work & reasonable expenditures
- Grant Close-out
  - No close-out certificates
  - No response from sponsors and contracts get close to expiring or never initiated

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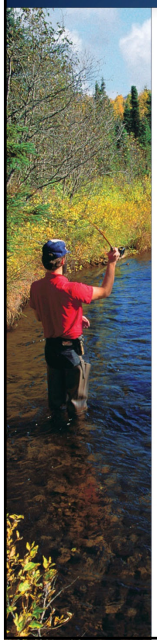
IDAHO Water Resource Board



Summary of Criteria Updates:

- Standardized criteria format and the grant program terms and conditions where possible
- Eligibility Requirements
  - Requiring up front additional information in the application to make the contracting phase more efficient
  - Applications that do not meet eligibility will not be scored and will be returned
  - Insurance requirement
- Reduce response time requirements from 1 yr to 90 days
- Clarified cost-reimbursement process
- In-kind funding documentation
- Notice of IPRO registration

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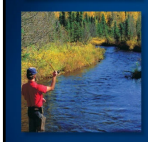
IDAHO Water Resource Board



Additional Specific Grant Criteria Updates:

- Flood Management - Next round June
  - Add “Municipalities” and “Soil and Water Conservation Districts to eligible entities
  - Remove “from non-state dollars” under matching funds
  - Remove 30% in-kind & 5% legal/admin limitation
  - Remove application deadline of first day of June
- Aging Infrastructure – Next round August
  - Add “Soil and Water Conservation Districts to eligible entities
  - Remove 5% legal/admin limitation (no limit on in-kind)
  - Add upfront requirement to break out costs associated with any seepage reduction portion of project
  - Add requirement to show how seepage reduction will not impact others
- Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions – Next round August
  - Add requirement to include groundwater rights that will be reduced with surface water

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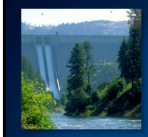
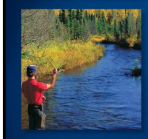
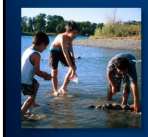
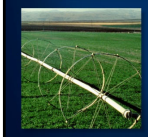
IDAHO Water Resource Board

Additional Criteria Updates:

- Surface Water (Coalition) Operation Efficiencies
  - Update title and reduce eligible entities and projects to SWC only
- Regional Water Sustainability Program
  - In work, present later

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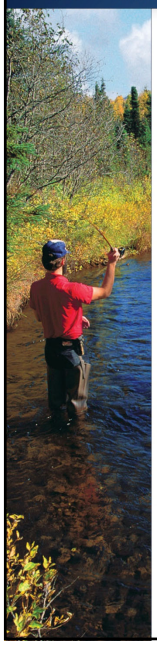
IDAHO Water Resource Board



Questions?

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March 2026

IWRB Flood Management Grant ~~Program~~ Criteria

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has developed these criteria for the Flood Management Grant ~~Funding Program provides~~to provide financial assistance on a competitive statewide basis to Flood Control Districts, Drainage Districts, Irrigation Districts, Canal Companies, Municipalities, Counties and other public entities interested in pursuing flood damaged stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, and flood prevention projects.

Eligible Projects: Pursuing flood damage repair and improvement projects can help prevent or reduce flood damage in Idaho's streams and rivers. To be considered for grant funding, entities must be able to provide evidence of flood damage, or evidence of conditions that create the risk of flooding in a stream channel and submit a funding request document outlining the proposed repairs and/or improvements to the stream channel.

Ineligible Projects:

- Projects that are already completed or underway by the application deadline

Eligible Entities: Flood Control Districts, Drainage Districts, Irrigation Districts, Canal Companies, Municipalities, ~~and~~ Counties, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Other public entities are eligible to apply.

Eligible Geographic Area: Statewide

Program Budget: No more than 50% of the total budget may be spent within a single IWRB district. This limit may be waived if there are no competing funding demands.

Funding Details:

- Funding Details: Up to $200,000 per project; one project per application
- ~~Applicant~~IWRB grant portion cannot exceed 50% of total project costs. Projects that include higher cost share amounts will be prioritized during project evaluations (see evaluation criteria)
- Eligible entity is responsible for providing permit documentation to IWRB staff
- Costs incurred prior to the grant award date are not eligible for reimbursement
- Project costs related to the installation of road appurtenances (road signs, guard rails, etc.) are not eligible for reimbursement
- ~~Funds may~~Reimbursement requests can be ~~reallocated if no response~~made once a cost-reimbursement contract is ~~received by~~established between the ~~applicant within a calendar year after~~awardee and IWRB

- Reimbursement of invoices will not surpass 50% of the ~~grant award date~~invoice amount submitted to Board Staff
- Contract term will not exceed 3 years after the grant funding award (date of IWRB Resolution) unless an extension is approved by ~~IWRB or authorized representative~~IWRB's contract manager

~~Matching~~ Funds **~~for Projects:~~**

- ~~Entities requesting funding for flood management grant projects must provide at least 50% matching cost-share funding with non-state dollars. Projects that include higher cost share amounts will~~may be ~~prioritized during~~ reallocated if a project ~~evaluations (see evaluation criteria).~~
- ~~In-kind services can be used for 30%~~is not completed within the term of the ~~total project's costs.~~ ~~Legal/Administrative in-kind services are limited to 5% of total project costs.~~
- ~~EXAMPLE: For a $100K project, applicant would have to provide at least $50K in matching cost share funding. Of the $50K,~~cost-reimbursement contract, or if no response is received by the ~~applicant could provide up to $30K in in-kind services, of which $5,000 could be in legal/administrative costs, and $20K in cash to meet~~awardee within 90 days after the ~~matching cost-share requirement.~~grant award date

Application Requirements: For the grant proposal to be considered, the following documents must be provided:

- A **cover letter**~~, on applicant's letterhead,~~ that is addressed to the IWRB~~, that includes a brief~~ and with the eligible entity's letterhead. The letter must contain a project summary and the project manager's contact information. The ~~project description should~~summary must include the funding request dollar amount and expected total project cost, as well as all other funding sources.
- ~~Grant~~An **application** ~~document that includes~~containing the following:
  1. Project purpose and description of urgency regarding repair or improvement
  2. Photographs and description of damage, if applicable
  3. Project location (county, water source, PLS and/or Lat/Long), including map
  4. Public Benefits achieved pursuant to IC § 42-1760(2)(d) (stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, other ecological benefits)
  5. Project timeline, including start and completion date
  6. Detailed cost estimates, including all labor and materials. In-kind work must be detailed and included in cost estimates.
  7. Entity's *relevant experience* or contractor's relevant experience completing stream channel repair or improvement projects
  8. Summary table that documents cost-share percentage for each funding source including in-kind work. If other grants are required to complete the project (USACE, NRCS, FEMA, etc.), include timelines for receiving those funds.
- Documentation that local stakeholders have been consulted. If the project is within an active Flood Control District, the ~~applicant~~eligible entity must include a letter of **support**.
- Conceptual **Design** Documents
- Addresses all **evaluation criteria** described below.
- **Required regulatory approval** and permit documents; if project has not yet received permit documents, note this in the ~~application document and provide permit timeline.~~application's project schedule.

- **Proof of liability** insurance for general construction, i.e., ICRMP.
- **Completed Applicant Information Sheet** provided by IWRB.

Evaluation Criteria: Projects that are determined not to be flood-related by staff will be declared ineligible and not scored. To maximize the effective and efficient use of available funds, the applications will be evaluated, scored *(125-point scale),* and ranked according to the following criteria:

First Time Applicant *(5 points)*

Application Professionalism and Clarity *(up to 20 points)*

- Cover letter and grant document are well-written and clearly state the goals and objectives of the project *(10 points)*
- Project map clearly shows the project location *(10 points)*

Effectiveness of Project *(up to 45 points)*

- Urgency of the project is explained *(10 points)*
- The benefits of the project are explained, and are measurable *(20 points)*
- Grant application considers alternatives solutions and explains why the chosen solution is most beneficial *(10 points)*

Readiness of Project *(70 points)*

- Description of applying entity and project leadership, documentation of expertise in subject matter of project *(10 points)*
- Documentation of project support from other stakeholders *(10 points)*
- The project schedule demonstrates the ~~applicant~~eligible entity has considered essential milestones *(10 points)*
- The cost estimate for the project budget is detailed and clearly accounts for all labor and material costs, including in-kind work *(10 points)*
- Projects that propose matching cost-share amounts above 50% will receive additional points in their score *(1 point for each additional 1% up to 20 additional points)*

Application Submission:

- Applications can be emailed to IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov. Applications that are emailed must be received by 11:59 pm on the application due date.
- Applications that are mailed must be received by 11:59 pm on the application due date. Mailing address:

  ATTENTION: GRANTS TEAM
  IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
  PO BOX 83720
  BOISE, ID 83720-0098
- Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise. Applications must be dropped off on weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Idaho Water Center is located at:

  IDAHO WATER CENTER
  322 E FRONT ST STE 648
  BOISE, ID 83702-7371

Grant Process:

- ~~Application deadline on the first Friday of June~~
- IWRB staff evaluate and score applications based on IWRB approved evaluation criteria
- IWRB staff present funding recommendations to IWRB Finance Committee
- Funding awarded at the ~~July~~ IWRB meeting
- IWRB staff will notify ~~project applicants~~ eligible entity of grant approval and will administer cost-reimbursement contracts

~~IWRB will reimburse grantees for~~**Additional Conditions of Award:**

Funding may be reallocated if:

- No response is received from the awardee within 90 days of the award dated resolution
- A proposed contract is not signed and returned within 60 days of issuance
- If the project ~~costs upon submittal of funding reimbursement~~is not completed within the award contract term
- The contract expires without a renewal or extension request from the awardee

Cost-Reimbursement Process:

- Awardee must be registered with the Idaho Secretary of State (SCO) in IPRO Supplier Portal and in PaymentWorks, See "Action Center" on the homepage of SCO at https://www.sco.idaho.gov/LivePages/scohome.aspx
- Funds will be distributed upon ~~applicant~~awardee submitting an IWRB acceptable funding reimbursement requests to the IWRB.
- ~~Applicant funding requests shall include a cover letter which shall include a description of the project activities, dates for performing the project activities, and contractor or supplier invoices~~
- Reimbursement of invoices will not surpass 50% of the invoice amount submitted to IWRB staff
- The IWRB and IDWR staff will review and upon approval, pay invoices in accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2302
- In-kind services, labor, and materials must be invoiced to ~~applicant~~IWRB to be eligible for reimbursement
- The IWRB shall determine the value of in-kind contributions of materials and labor
- Invoices should be sent to IdwrPayable@idwr.idaho.gov
- A certificate of project completion and a financial summary of the total project cost shall be ~~issued~~submitted by the ~~applicant~~awardee in order to receive final reimbursement

In-kind Matching Funds Documentation. In-kind matching contributions must be adequately documented and verifiable from the awardee's official records. Documentation must be sufficient to answer the following:

- Awardee must be able to demonstrate that the contribution is from an acceptable source.
- Awardee must be able to demonstrate what is being used as match is suitable for match.
- The IWRB shall determine the value of the in-kind contribution
  - Awardee is responsible for providing accurate documentation to support their in-kind valuation
  - Value shall be based on standard objective sources rather than best guesses
- Awardee must affirm that the information is correct and IWRB will review and may approve

Accounting records must be supported by source documentation such as vouchers, canceled checks, invoices, payroll, time and attendance records, contract and sub-grant award documents, or other required forms.

Force account labor and equipment. The use of the awardee's staff (labor) and/or equipment costs must be verifiable from the awardee's accounting system. For labor, the records must include: the name of each worker, dates worked, hourly rate of pay, number of hours worked specific to the grant activity, and the total cost for each worker. Documentation of equipment costs must include the type of equipment used, dates used, hourly rate value, number of hours used, how the hourly rate was determined and total cost.

Donated contract labor and volunteer services may be counted as matching share if they are an integral and necessary part of the approved work.

- Rates claimed for volunteer services must be consistent with those rates paid for similar work in other activities and must not include fringe benefits and overhead costs.
- Match must be documented and, to the extent feasible, supported by the same methods used by the awardee for its own employees.

At minimum this includes signed and dated time sheets filled out by volunteers working and approved by the supervisor with first-hand knowledge of the activity

IWRB Districts are as follows:

District No. 1: Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis and Idaho counties.
District No. 2: Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore and Owyhee counties.
District No. 3: Camas, Gooding, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia, Blaine, Lincoln, Minidoka, Lemhi, Custer and Butte counties.
District No. 4: Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bingham, Bonneville, Power, Bannock, Caribou, Oneida, Franklin and Bear Lake counties.

** No more than 50% of the total budget may be spent within a single IWRB district. This limit may be waived if there are no competing funding demands.*

March 2026

~~Memorandum~~

Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiencies Program ~~To: File~~

~~From: Justin Ferguson, Project Manager~~

~~Date: April 21, 2025~~

~~Re: DRAFT – Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program Administration Guidelines and Qualification Criteria~~

~~Program Description~~

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has allocated funding to help surface water entities throughout the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA) area implement innovative operational efficiencies in an effort to ~~improve~~ reduce the demand for surface water by Surface Water Coalition members. Applications for funding for this program will be accepted year- round.

~~Program Focus:~~

Projects considered under this program include purchasing and installing equipment, conducting efficiency studies, and/or other activities designed to improve operational efficiencies that result in reduction in the demand for surface water by Surface Water Coalition members.

Geographic Area

Limited to surface water diversions ~~within the Snake River Plain Aquifer Area of Common Groundwater Supply~~ of the Surface Water Coalition ~~are eligible for this program~~

Eligible Entities:

Members of the Surface Water Coalition

Funding Limit

Projects funded under this project are eligible for up to 100% funding per project.

Application Requirements:

Surface water operational efficiencies funding applications need to include the following criteria:

Efficiency Results Likely to Be Achieved

- What are the proposed project goals and how will the project improve operational efficiency. Please

provide sufficient details supporting how the efficiency results were determined.

-
- ~~Consideration will be given to potential impacts to the ESPA for the efficiency actions and will be reviewed on a case by case basis~~How this project will have no impact to incidental recharge in the ESPA
- Water savings due to operational efficiencies will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

Project Proposal Clarity & Implementation Schedule

- Project sponsor description: organization type, background, current operations, etc.
- Project description
- Proposed project narrative, project map (county, PLS or coordinates), scope of work (and supporting documents/designs if appropriate) & any other supporting information the applicant would like to include
- Cost estimate and budget
- Project implementation schedule

Additional Project funding sources

- If other funding sources are used to support the project, please provide a list with the agency and funding amount
- *Sponsor's contributions, IWRB grants, other state and federal grants, etc.*

How Does This Project Promote State and/or Local Priorities

- Demonstrate how this project will support the 2024 stipulated approved mitigation plan ("2024 ~~SWC agreement~~settlement agreement") between the Surface Water Coalition and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc.

~~**Eligible Entities:**~~

~~Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Lateral Ditch Users Associations, Reservoir Districts, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 42, chapter 18, Idaho Code), Municipalities, Counties and Water Districts~~

~~**Funding Limit**~~

~~Projects funded under this project are eligible for up to 100% funding per project.~~

Contract Terms

Funding for projects may be made in annual installments each fiscal year based on the amount of appropriations.

Application Process

Staff will review submitted applications and, when necessary, schedule a meeting with the applicant to discuss the information provided. For a request to be considered complete, all sections of the application must be filled out, with supporting documentation provided where necessary. All incomplete applications will be held for 30 days from receipt; incomplete applications past 30 days will be declined and returned to the applicant, at which time a new, complete application must be submitted.

Funding requests will be presented to an appropriate IWRB Finance Committee for a recommendation to the IWRB. Funding request applications that do not receive funding or do not receive a favorable recommendation will be declined and returned to the applicant. An unfavorable recommendation or incomplete application does not prevent applicants from re-applying.

Program Proposal Submission
Completed applications can be emailed to the Idaho Water Resource Board's Grants Team at IWRBGrants@IDWR.Idaho.gov. Physical copies must be postmarked by the application date and can be mailed to:

Idaho Department of Water Resources
Attn: IWRB Grants Team ~~– Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Team~~
P.O Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise, ID. The Idaho Water Center is located at:

322 E. Front Street Suite 648
Boise, ID 83702-7371

If you have questions about the application package or would like to schedule a meeting with the Grants Team, email us at ~~IWRBGrants@IDWR.Idaho.gov,~~ IWRBGrants@IDWR.Idaho.gov
~~Attention: Surface Water Ops Program.~~

IWRB Aging Infrastructure Grant Criteria

The Idaho legislature has appropriated to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) funding to be used for grants for water projects to ***rehabilitate or improve aging water infrastructure.***

Projects that rehabilitate or improve Idaho's water infrastructure support the Idaho economy, provide economic value, and ensure long-term water resource stability and sustainability. The IWRB has developed these criteria to provide financial assistance on a statewide competitive basis through grants to eligible entities interested in pursuing eligible projects to rehabilitate or improve aging water infrastructure.

Eligible Projects: The IWRB defines an aging water infrastructure project as any new project, or new phase of an improvement project intended to repair, maintain, replace, or improve existing infrastructure that supports irrigation water delivery, storage, drainage, treatment, and use of water for irrigation. Water efficiency projects that reduce incidental recharge will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Ineligible Projects:

- Projects that are already completed or underway by the application deadline
- Municipal drinking or wastewater systems

Eligible Entities: Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Lateral Ditch Users Associations, Reservoir Districts, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 50, Chapter 18, Idaho Code), Municipalities, Counties, Water Districts, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Eligible Geographic Area: Statewide

Program Budget: No more than 50% of the total budget may be spent within a single IWRB district. This limit may be waived if there are no competing funding demands.

Funding Details:

- Funding Details: Up to $2,000,000 per project; one project per application
- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed 50% of total project costs
- ~~Legal/Administrative services are limited to 5% of total project costs~~
- Costs incurred prior to the grant award date are not eligible for reimbursement
- Reimbursement requests can be made once a cost-reimbursement contract is established between the ~~applicant~~ awardee and IWRB
- Reimbursement of invoices will not surpass 50% of the invoice amount submitted to Board Staff~~.~~

- Contract term will not exceed 3 years after the grant funding award (date of IWRB Resolution) unless an extension is approved by IWRB's contract manager
- Funds may be reallocated if a project is not completed within the term of the cost-reimbursement contract, or if no response is received by the awardee~~pplicant~~ within ~~a calendar year~~90 days after the grant award date

Application Requirements: For the grant proposal to be considered, the following must be provided:

- A **cover letter** that is addressed to the IWRB and with the ~~applicant's~~ eligible entity's letterhead. The letter must contain a project summary and the project manager's contact information. The summary must include the funding request dollar amount and expected total project cost, as well as all other funding sources.
- An **application** containing the following:
  1. Project purpose and description of urgency regarding repair or improvement
  2. Photographs and description of damage, if applicable
  3. Project location (county, water source, PLS and/or Lat/Long), including map
  4. Public Benefits achieved pursuant to IC § 42-1760(2)(d) (protects existing water rights and uses, consider effects on other water uses including environmental quality, provides water for future development, improving aging water storage and infrastructure)
     - Water efficiency projects that reduce incidental recharge within a groundwater management area (GWMA) or critical groundwater area (CGWA) must show that the project will not reduce return flows to others or harm other water rights and the project is not inconsistent with the State Water Plan. Project locations within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) GWMA that reduces incidental recharge must additionally show how the project will support aquifer stabilization efforts
  5. Project timeline, including start and completion date
  6. Detailed cost estimates, including all labor and materials. In-kind work must be detailed and included in cost estimates.
     - Water efficiency projects that reduce incidental recharge within a GWMA or CGWA must break out costs not associated with reductions to incidental recharge separately to be considered for partial funding
  7. Entity's relevant experience or contractor's relevant experience completing stream channel repair or improvement projects
  ~~1.~~8. Summary table that documents cost-share percentage for each funding source including in-kind work. If other grants are required to complete the project (USACE, NRCS, FEMA, etc.), include timelines for receiving those funds.
- Addresses all **evaluation criteria** described below.
- **Required regulatory approval** and permit documents; if project has not yet received permit documents, note this in the application's project schedule.
- **Proof of liability** insurance for general construction, i.e., ICRMP.
- **Completed Applicant Information Sheet** provided by IWRB.

Evaluation Criteria: Grant applications submitted by eligible entities for eligible projects will be evaluated, scored (*120-point scale),* and ranked according to the following criteria. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be scored and will be returned. Project scoring will be used to prioritize funding. Applications shall discuss how the project under consideration meets the evaluation criteria.

Project Details *(up to 50 points)*

- Eligible entity~~Project applicant~~: Description of the ~~applicant~~ eligible entity that includes organization type, background, revenue sources, and current operations. *(10 points)*
- Project proposal: Description of the project, where it will occur, and its benefits. Include pictures of the existing infrastructure (if applicable), and detailed map(s) of the project area that have a legend, county, and coordinate or PLS (Township, Range, Section) information. *(10 points)*
- Project schedule: The project's timeline of important milestones, such as obtaining funds, permitting, and construction. The time to complete the project is irrelevant, grading only pertains to the quality of the schedule. *(10 points)*
- Plans and specifications: Relevant drawings and material specifications for construction. *(10 points)*
- Project team: The organization(s) and personnel involved in completing the project. Provide the roles, time commitment, and relevant experience. *(10 points)*

Urgency of Project *(up to 20 points)*

- Urgency of the project (e.g., infrastructure age, infrastructure function) *(20 points)*

Public Interest of Project *(up to 30 points)*

- Economic values supported by the existing and/or additional infrastructure. This includes consideration of the communities, irrigated acres, provision of water for future development and economic activity served by the water infrastructure. *(15 points)*
- Uses/benefits identified in Section 42-1760(2)(d), Idaho Code. *(15 points)*:
  -water quality
  -fish and wildlife
  -recreation
  -hydropower
  -water supply stability and sustainability
  -drought resiliency
  -public safety
  -other benefits to the citizens of the State
  -Water efficiency projects that reduce incidental recharge within a groundwater management area (GWMA) or critical groundwater area (CGWA) must show that the project will not reduce return flows to others and the project is not inconsistent with the State Water Plan. Project locations within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) GWMA that reduce incidental recharge must additionally show how the project will support aquifer stabilization efforts

Budget Planning and Cost-Effectiveness *(up to 20 points)*

- Cost-effectiveness of the project compared to other options explored by the ~~applicant~~eligible entity. *(10 points)*
- Cost estimate describing all foreseen costs of materials and labor, as well as justification for those costs. Include all sources of funding for the project and their amounts. *(10 points)*

Application Submission:

- Applications can be emailed to IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov. Applications that are emailed must be received by 11:59 pm on the application due date.
- Applications that are mailed must be received by 11:59 pm on the application due date. Mailing address:

  ATTENTION: GRANTS TEAM
  IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
  PO BOX 83720
  BOISE, ID 83720-0098

- Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise. Applications must be dropped off on weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Idaho Water Center is located at:

  IDAHO WATER CENTER
  322 E FRONT ST STE 648
  BOISE, ID 83702-7371

Grant Process:

- IWRB staff evaluate and score applications based on IWRB approved evaluation criteria
- IWRB staff present~~s~~ funding recommendations to IWRB Finance Committee
- Funding awarded at the IWRB meeting
- IWRB staff will notify ~~project applicants~~ eligible entity of grant approval and will administer cost-reimbursement contracts
- ~~**IWRB will reimburse grantees for project costs upon submittal of funding reimbursement request**~~

Additional Conditions of Award:

Funding may be reallocated if:

- No response is received from the project awardee within 90 days of the award dated resolution
- A proposed contract is not signed and returned within 60 days of issuance
- If the project is not completed within the award contract term
- The contract expires without a renewal or extension request from the awardee

Cost-Reimbursement Process:

- Awardee must be registered with the Idaho Secretary of State (SCO) in IPRO Supplier Portal and in PaymentWorks, See "Action Center" on the homepage of SCO at https://www.sco.idaho.gov/LivePages/scohome.aspx
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MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)

From: Matt Anders, Planning & Project Supervisor

Date: March 26, 2026

Subject: ESPA Managed Recharge Update

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) Managed Recharge of Natural Flow

The 2025-2026 IWRB recharge season started on October 18th. A summary of recharge activities to date is provided below and can also be accessed at the webpage: https://iwrbrecharge-idwr.hub.arcgis.com/.

The physical carryover in the Upper Snake Reservoir System was 1,154,000 acre-feet on October 31st. The US Bureau of Reclamation is currently in its normal wintertime operations, releasing approximately 425 cfs from Minidoka Dam. A summary of recharge operations is presented in Table 1 and Figure 1. Relatively high diversion rates occurred when managed recharge began, due to normal adjustments as operators transitioned from irrigation deliveries to recharge diversions.

The IWRB diverted 100% of the water available for managed recharge from October 18th to November 30th. The IWRB chose to divert approximately 50% of the water available for managed recharge from December 1, 2025, to February 15, 2026. The remaining available water was allowed to flow past Milner Dam during this time period for other beneficial uses. The IWRB began diverting 100% of the water available for managed recharge starting on February 16th.

IWRB Storage Managed Recharge of Storage Water for the Coalition of Cities

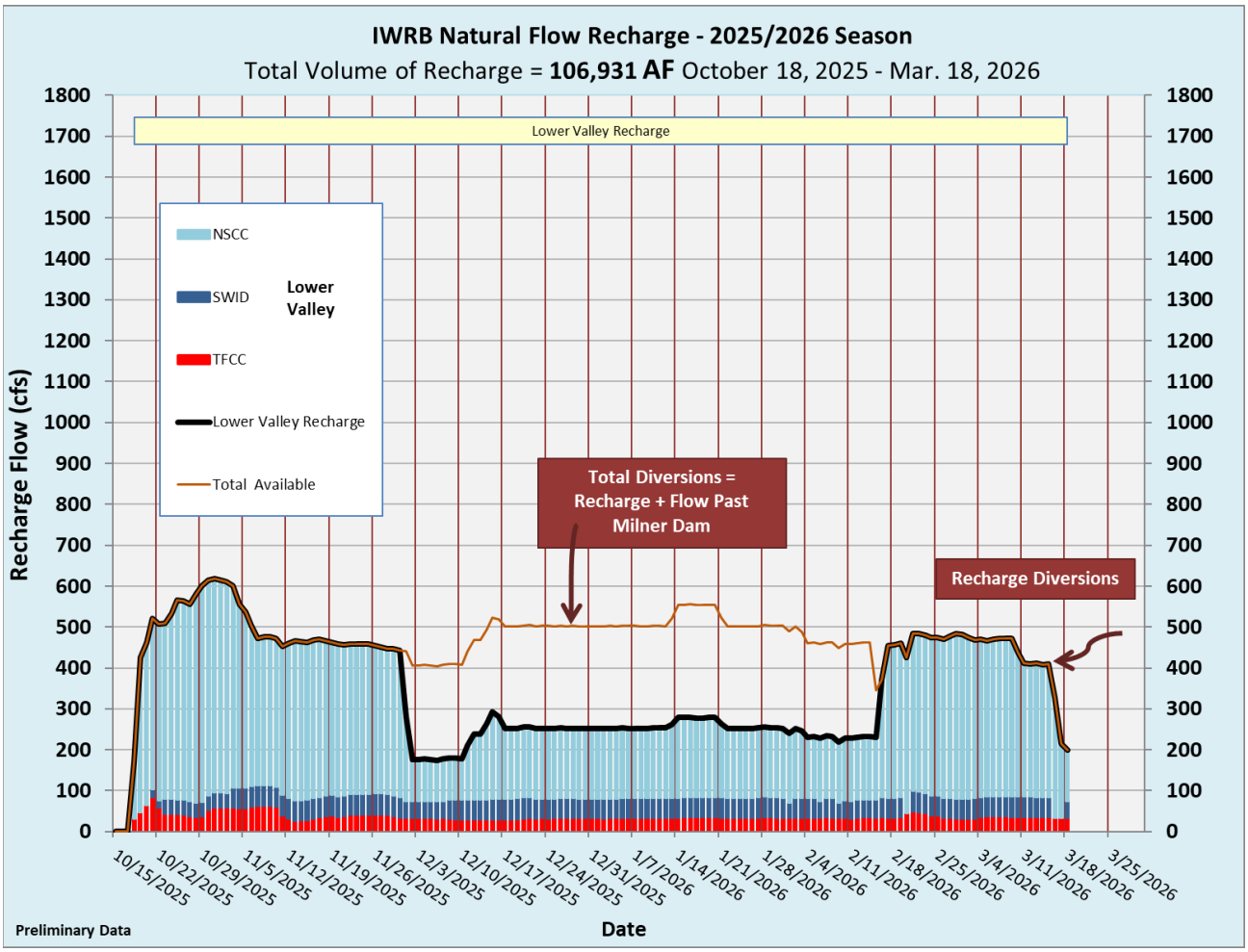
The IWRB will not recharge storage water for the Coalition of Cities during the 2025-2026 recharge season.

Table 1. IWRB 2025-2026 Managed Recharge Summary

Water Source	Area	Start Date	# Days	Current Rate (cfs)*	Average Rate (cfs)*	Total Recharged (AF)*
Snake River	Lower Valley	October 18	152	199	355	106,931

* As of March 18, 2026. Reported rates and volumes are preliminary and subject to change.

Figure 1. IWRB 2025-2026 Managed Recharge Daily Recharge



Attachment(s):

- *2026 Milner Bypass Summary Memo*
- *PowerPoint Presentation*

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)

From: Matt Anders, Planning & Projects Section Supervisor

Date: March 26, 2026

Subject: 2025-2026 Implementation of the Agreement Not to Divert at Milner Dam

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Agreement Not to Divert

Idaho Power Company (IPCo) and the Idaho Water Resources Board (IWRB) signed an agreement in 2026 that the IWRB would not divert a portion of the "Water Available" under water rights 1-7142 and 1-10609 for managed recharge at Milner Dam. The IWRB recognized the opportunity to increase the established managed recharge goal to 350,000 acre-feet (AF) while maintaining a balance between stabilization of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) and the value of hydropower to Idaho's economy. This balance is consistent with objectives in the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan. The cooperative agreement enabled both parties to address resource management and planning objectives related to managed aquifer recharge and hydropower.

The agreement defined the IWRB "Recharge Average" as being measured based upon the volume diverted under the recharge water rights owned by the IWRB. The IWRB's Recharge Average will be calculated as a 15-year rolling average on an annual basis beginning with water year 2016. "Annual Basis" is defined in the agreement as the water year from October 1st to September 30th.

The agreement states that the "Water Available" that shall not be diverted is as follows:

Recharge Average (AF)	IWRB Portion of Available Water	Time Period
≤250,000	100%	Entire recharge season
>250,000 and <350,000	50%[2]	December 1 – February 15
≥350,000	40%[2]	December 1 – March 1
>355,000[1]	40%[2]	November 1 – April 1

[1] For 3 consecutive years

[2] Or 200 cfs, whichever is greater.

Recharge Average

The IWRB calculated the Recharge Average for the 2016-2025 water years. Additional water years will be added to this average until fifteen years are available, at which time a 15-year rolling average will be utilized to calculate the Recharge Average.

Water Year[1]	IWRB Natural Flow Recharge (AF)
2016	66,897
2017	317,714
2018	413,800
2019	310,132
2020	450,323
2021	130,463
2022	157,586
2023	146,943
2024	384,610
2025	127,906
Average	250,637

[1] Example: Water Year 2016 is October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2016

Implementation of the Agreement in 2026

The IWRB and IPCo implemented the agreement for the 2026 water year based on a Recharge Average of 251,000 AF. Staff representing the Idaho Water Resource Board, Idaho Power Company, Northside Canal Company, Twin Falls Canal Company, and Southwest Irrigation District held weekly coordination meetings during this time. The group managed diversions so that the water level in the pool upstream of Milner Dam (Milner Pool) was roughly the same at the start and end of the non-divert period, ensuring that water available during this period was not stored in the Milner Pool.

Non-Divert Period	December 1, 2025 – February 15, 2026
% of Available Water Diverted by IWRB	50%
% of Available Water Diverted by IPCo	50%
Volume of Available Water Diverted by IWRB	37,127 AF
Volume of Available Water Diverted by IPCo	37,074 AF

Managed Aquifer Recharge Program Update

Matt Anders
Water Planning and Projects Section

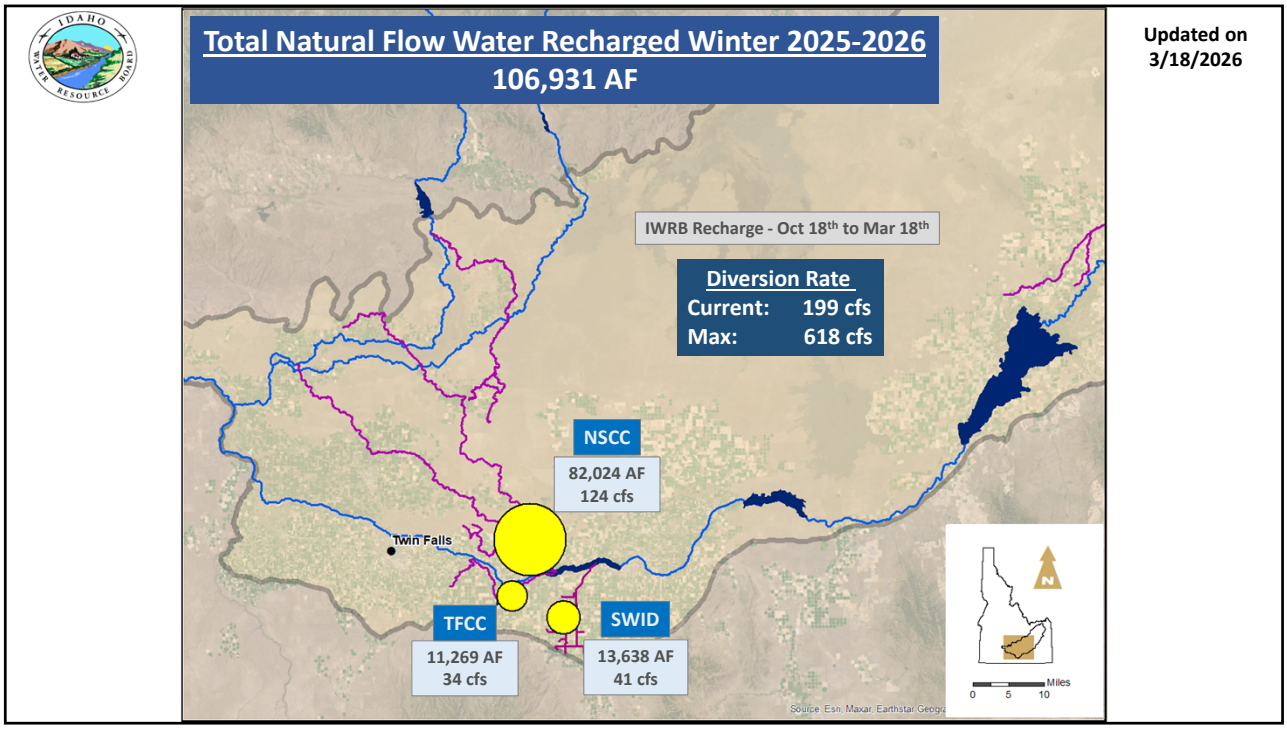
March 26, 2026

1

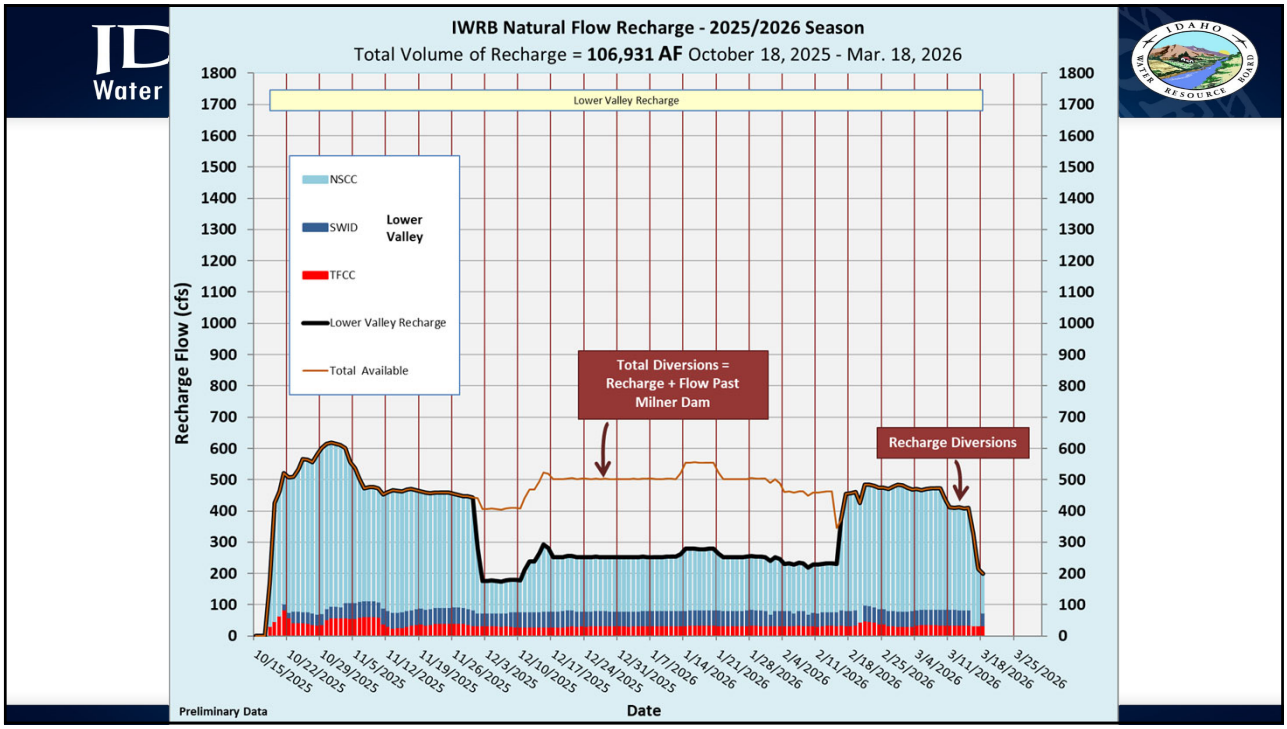
IDAHO
Water Resource Board

2025-2026 Recharge Update

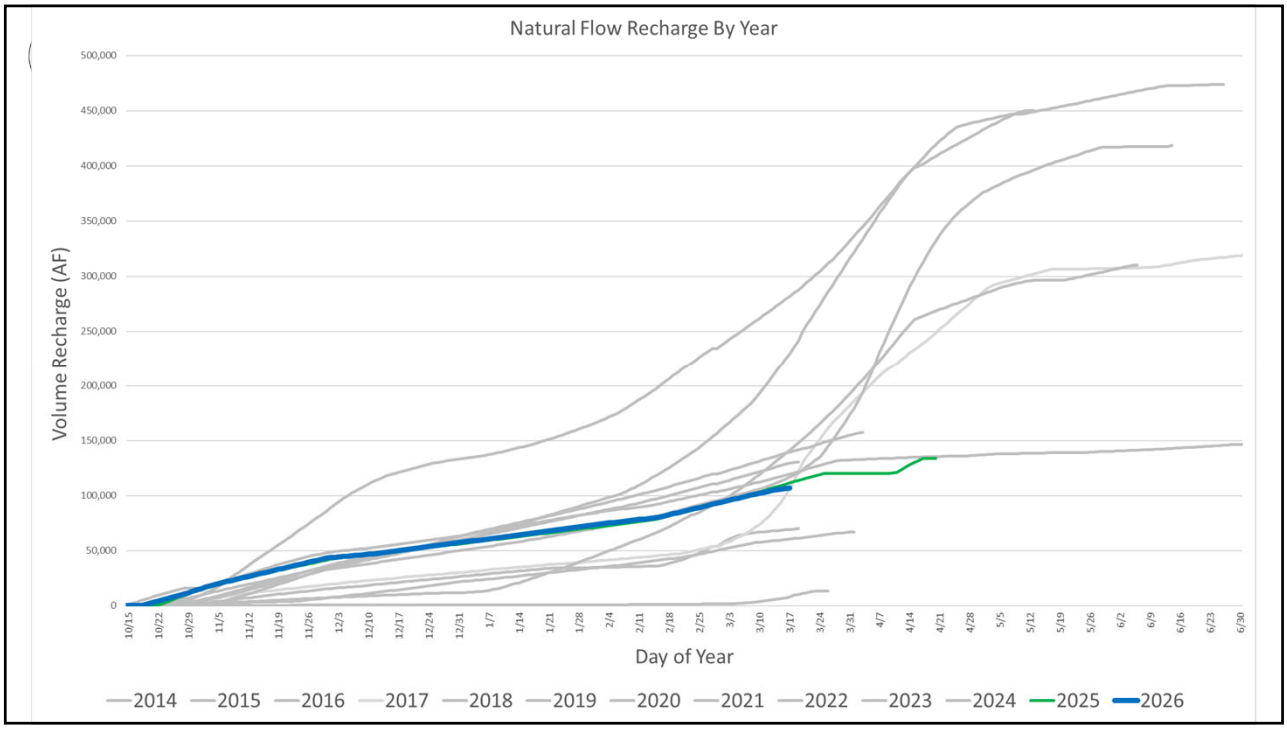
2


Total Natural Flow Water Recharged Winter 2025-2026
106,931 AF
Updated on 3/18/2026
IWRB Recharge - Oct 18th to Mar 18th
Diversion Rate
Current: 199 cfs
Max: 618 cfs
NSCC
82,024 AF
124 cfs
Twin Falls
TFCC
11,269 AF
34 cfs
SWID
13,638 AF
41 cfs
Miles
0 5 10

3


IWRB Natural Flow Recharge - 2025/2026 Season
Total Volume of Recharge = 106,931 AF October 18, 2025 - Mar. 18, 2026
Lower Valley Recharge
NSCC
SWID
TFCC
Lower Valley Recharge
Total Available
Lower Valley
Total Diversions = Recharge + Flow Past Milner Dam
Recharge Diversions
Recharge Flow (cfs)
Date
Preliminary Data

4



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IDAHO
Water Resource Board

2026 Milner Non-Divert Agreement

6

IDAHO Water Resource Board

IWRB-IPCo Milner Non-Divert Agreement

- Agreement Time Period = 5 years
- Recharge Average = 15-Year rolling average of recharge totaled by water year (10/1 to 9/30)

Recharge Average Per Year (AF)	IWRB Portion of Available Water	Time Period
≤250,000	100%	Entire Season
>250,000 and <350,000	50%*	December 1 – February 15
≥350,000	40%*	December 1 – March 1
>355,000 For 3 consecutive years	40%*	November 1 – April 1

* Or 200 cfs, whichever is greater

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IDAHO Water Resource Board

2026 Implementation of Non-Divert Agreement

- 2016-2025 Recharge Average — 251,000 AF
- Bypass Period — December 1st - February 15th
- IWRB Portion of Available Water — 50%
- IPCo Portion of Available Water — 50%
- Volumes
  - IWRB Recharge — 37,127 AF
  - IPCo Bypass — 37,074 AF
- Preliminary Forecast - Assuming ~120,000 AF in 2025-2026
  - Average for 2016-2026 will be — ~240,000 AF
  - Recharge needed in 2026-2027 to average 250,000 AF — ~380,000 AF

8

IDAHO Water Resource Board

Questions?

9

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Nick Banish, Cloud Seeding Program Manager

Date: March 26, 2026

Subject: Cloud Seeding Program | *2025-2026 Season: March Program Update*

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

2026 Cloud Seeding Summary:

Suboptimal conditions for cloud seeding persisted throughout January, February and the beginning of March, linked to warmer than normal temperatures and less than normal precipitation for most basins. Fewer storms meant fewer opportunities to conduct cloud seeding. Compared to the end of 2025, the beginning of 2026 saw more weather that was conducive to seeding by ground generator operations than by aircraft.

***Basin-by-Basin Perspective**:*

Boise River Basin:

- Ground generator hours in the Boise Basin were about 1.5-fold greater than the January average and about 91% of the February average.
- Aircraft hours were about 47% of the January average and about 12% of the February average.
- For January, cloud seeding operation days were 80% of average. For February, operation days were 66% of average.

Wood River Basin:

- Ground generator hours in the Wood River Basin were about 1.25-fold greater than the January average and about 77% of the February average.
- January and February aircraft hours were 85% and 100% of average, respectively.
- For January, cloud seeding operation days were 55% of average; for February, operations days were 83% of average.

Upper Snake River Basin:

- Ground generator hours in the Upper Snake Basin were about 1.5-fold greater than the January average and about 81% of the February average.
- High Country Resource Conservation and Development (HCRCD) generator hours for January and February were 213 and 357, respectively, and comparable to runtimes reported for these months in 2024-2025.

- January and February aircraft hours were 57% and 0% of average, respectively.
- For January, cloud seeding operation days were 66% of average; for February, operations days were 42% of average.

Bear River Basin Program:

- Cloud seeding operations with drones occurred on five days in January. These operations consisted of a total of 75 flights with a total drone runtime of 26 hours, releasing 7,876 grams of seeding material.
- Cloud seeding operations with drones occurred on eight days in February. These operations consisted of a total of 31 flights with a total drone runtime of 10 hours, releasing 1,575 grams of seeding material.
- Through February, UAS systems flew a total of 127 hours across 27 operations consisting of 322 flights.
- To date, several unambiguous seeding signatures observed by radars.

Update on the Clearwater River Basin Feasibility Study:

- The purpose of this Feasibility Study is to assess the potential to augment snowpack and streamflow in the Clearwater Basin, Central Idaho.
- Determine whether seeding with silver iodide by traditional methods (ground generators, aircraft) is a cost-effective water resources management option in this region.
- The Scope of Work has two components, a *Feasibility Study,* where work will:
  - Determine characteristics of winter storms; identify the frequency of conditions for seeding by traditional methods; map areas with high frequency of suitable conditions (abundance of supercooled liquid water, temperature regime); and determine the characteristics of storms impacting 1-2 specific mountain barriers that show the highest potential for seeding.
  - The second component, a *Benefits Analysis* will use the outcomes of the *Feasibility Study* to determine an estimated volume of water added to the basin from cloud seeding.
- The cost of the Clearwater River Basin Feasibility Study is estimated to be $175,000. This cost is proposed to be covered by the Secondary Fund Cloud Seeding Reserve Fund.
- Contracting process is currently underway and will take about 1 month to complete.

Attachment(s):

- *PowerPoint Presentation*

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2025/2026 Cloud Seeding Program Activity

- Last session, we looked at November, December #s
- Less than adequate conditions for cloud seeding persisted through the first couple months of 2026
- Some improvement in departure from average for aircraft and generator hours

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Boise River Basin

January

	Month-to-date (Jan 1-31)			
	Max	Mean	Min	2026
Number of Generator Hours	626	233	32	363
Number of Flight Hours	37	17	4	8
Number of BIPs	226	81	6	38
Number of EJs	1757	559	68	286
Number of Total Days Where Seeding Occured	19	10	6	8
Number of Days That Ground Seeding Occured	16	7	3	7
Number of Days That Airborne Seeding Occured	16	8	4	4

- **Generator hours:** 1.5-fold greater than long-term January average
- **Aircraft hours:** 47% of normal
- **Cloud Seeding Days:** 80% of average

February

	Month-to-date (Feb 1-28)			
	Max	Mean	Min	2026
Number of Generator Hours	481	222	13	203
Number of Flight Hours	23	8	0	1
Number of BIPs	68	26	0	0
Number of EJs	709	218	0	91
Number of Total Days Where Seeding Occured	16	9	2	6
Number of Days That Ground Seeding Occured	14	7	2	5
Number of Days That Airborne Seeding Occured	9	5	0	1

- **Generator hours:** 91% of Feb. average
- **Aircraft hours:** ~ 12% of average
- **Cloud Seeding Days:** 66% of Feb. average

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Wood River Basin

January

	Month-to-date (Jan 1-31)			
	Max	Mean	Min	2026
Number of Generator Hours	220	131	31	166
Number of Flight Hours	13	7	2	6
Number of BIPs	67	29	4	8
Number of EJs	768	263	60	173
Number of Total Days Where Seeding Occured	15	9	5	5
Number of Days That Ground Seeding Occured	14	6	3	5
Number of Days That Airborne Seeding Occured	11	6	2	3

- **Generator hours:** 1.25-fold greater than long-term January average
- **Aircraft hours:** 85% of normal
- **Cloud Seeding Days:** 55% of average

February

	Month-to-date (Feb 1-28)			
	Max	Mean	Min	2026
Number of Generator Hours	289	126	8	98
Number of Flight Hours	10	3	0	3
Number of BIPs	29	11	0	0
Number of EJs	287	80	0	212
Number of Total Days Where Seeding Occured	11	6	2	5
Number of Days That Ground Seeding Occured	11	6	2	4
Number of Days That Airborne Seeding Occured	5	3	0	1

- **Generator hours:** 77% of Feb. average
- **Aircraft hours:** On track with Feb. average
- **Cloud Seeding Days:** 83% of Feb. average

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Upper Snake River Basin

January

	Month-to-date (Jan 1-31)			
	Max	Mean	Min	2026
Number of Generator Hours	996	450	259	**658**
Number of Flight Hours	34	14	5	**8**
Number of BIPs	230	63	2	**40**
Number of EJs	664	296	0	**211**
Number of Total Days Where Seeding Occured	17	9	6	**6**
Number of Days That Ground Seeding Occured	16	8	5	**5**
Number of Days That Airborne Seeding Occured	9	4	2	**3**

- **Generator hours:** ~ 1.5-fold greater than January average
- **Aircraft hours:** 57% of average
- **Cloud Seeding Days:** 66% of average

February

	Month-to-date (Feb 1-28)			
	Max	Mean	Min	2026
Number of Generator Hours	713	340	24	**278**
Number of Flight Hours	25	11	2	**0**
Number of BIPs	122	38	0	**0**
Number of EJs	845	202	0	**0**
Number of Total Days Where Seeding Occured	15	7	2	**3**
Number of Days That Ground Seeding Occured	12	6	2	**3**
Number of Days That Airborne Seeding Occured	9	3	1	**0**

- **Generator hours:** 81% of Feb. average
- **Aircraft hours:** 0 hours (average = 11)
- **Cloud Seeding Days:** 42% of Feb. average

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The Bear River Basin

January	
Unmanned Aerial System Flights	
Total Flights	75
Operations	5
Total Hours	26.8
Total AgI Released	7,876 grams

February	
Unmanned Aerial System Flights	
Total Flights	31
Operations	8
Total Hours	10.0
Total AgI Released	1,575 grams

- Through February, UAS systems flew a total of 127 hours across 27 operations consisting of 322 flights
- Several unambiguous seeding signatures observed by radars

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Clearwater River Basin Feasibility Study

- Assess the potential to augment snowpack and streamflow in the Clearwater
- Is seeding with silver iodide (AgI) a cost-effective option?
- Currently in Contracting Process (1 month)
- Cost estimate: $175,000 from Secondary Fund, Cloud Seeding Reserve

Feasibility Study	Benefit Analysis
• Determine characteristics of winter storms • ID frequency of conditions for traditional methods • Map areas with high frequency of right conditions • Determine the characteristics of storms impacting 1-2 specific mountain barriers	• Conduct a benefit analysis for an assumed program design given outcome of feasibility study • Apply range of precipitation enhancement percentages to climate model to estimate water added to basin

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MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff

Date: March 20, 2026

Subject: Administrative Rules Update

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Resource Protection Bureau Chief Erik Boe will provide a briefing on administrative rule making efforts.

Attachments:

- *None*

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff

Date: March 20, 2026

Subject: Potential Legislation of Interest

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Deputy Attorney General Garrick Baxter will provide a verbal briefing on potentially relevant legislation.

Attachments:

- *None*

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)

From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff

Date: March 20, 2026

Subject: Non-Action Items for Discussion

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

This item is presented to provide an opportunity for discussion of non-action items and general Board updates.

Attachments:

- *None*