

(Tuesday, January 11)

Subject: 2022 Upper Snake River and Reservoir Operations Update

Purpose: The purpose of these updates is to provide information regarding Reclamation's operations and basin conditions as the season progresses. The operations outlined in this update are based on the best data available at the time and are subject to change as new information becomes available. For additional information and resources, please visit our website at <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/uppersnake/>.

Highlights

**** January 2022 forecasts of potential volumetric runoff.**

South Fork above Heise Reservoirs

**** Jackson Lake Dam:** The reservoir is 19% full and storing approximately 163,611 acre-feet. The current storage is 491,081 acre-feet lower than last year on this date, and 32% of normal. The reservoir is currently targeting a release of 280 cubic feet per second (cfs). Reclamation's inflow forecast for Jackson Lake during the January-July period is 822,000 acre-feet, which would be 95% of normal.

**** Palisades Dam:** The reservoir is 22% full and storing approximately 262,842 acre-feet. The current storage is 495,977 acre-feet lower than last year on this date, and 39% of normal. The current release target is 900 cfs. The coordinated runoff forecast for the Snake River above Heise during the January-July period is 3,500,000 acre-feet, which would be 91% of normal.

Henry's Fork and Willow Creek Reservoirs

**** Island Park Dam:** The reservoir is 77% full and storing approximately 104,588 acre-feet. The current storage is 7,577 acre-feet lower than last year on this date, and 108% of normal. The current release target is 225 cfs. Reclamation's expected runoff forecast for the January-July period above Island Park Dam came in at 237,000 acre-feet, which would be 83% of normal.

**** Ririe Dam:** The reservoir is 55% full and storing approximately 44,439 acre-feet. The current storage is 1,567 acre-feet lower than last year on this date, and approximately 114% of normal. The current release is 0 cfs. The coordinated runoff forecast for the January-June period above Ririe Dam came in at 62,000 acre-feet, which would be 94% of normal.

Mainstem Snake River Reservoirs above Milner

American Falls Dam: The reservoir is 49% full and storing approximately 819,819 acre-feet. The current storage is 228,846 acre-feet lower than last year on this date, and 81% of normal. The gauge below the dam is estimating a discharge of approximately 400 cfs which is typical for this type of year and reservoir levels.

Minidoka Dam/Lake Walcott: Lake Walcott is 94% full and releasing approximately 411 cfs. The releases from Minidoka Dam are being diverted for state managed recharge and there are zero releases to the Snake River below Milner Dam.

Upper Snake Reservoir System: At the end of the day on January 10th, storage in the federal reservoir system above Milner Dam amounted to 1,494,510 acre-feet, which is 37% of system capacity and 63% of normal. Comparatively, the reservoir system is 1,215,263 acre-feet lower than last year. Over the last two weeks, system storage has increased at an average rate of approximately 9,768 acre-feet per day.

****Little Wood Dam:** The reservoir is 31% full and storing approximately 9,273 acre-feet. The current storage is 1,767 acre-feet lower than last year on this date, and approximately 60% of normal. Releases from the dam are at 0 cfs. The coordinated runoff forecast for the January-July period above Little Wood Dam came in at 122,000 acre-feet, which would be 137% of normal.

Table of January 1st Forecasts:

CURRENT MONTHLY FORECAST SUMMARY

JAN 1, 2022

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	1991-2020 AVERAGE (KAF)	NORMAL SUBSEQUENT CONDITIONS	
			FORECAST (KAF)	PERCENT NORMAL
*** HEISE	JAN-JUL	3866	3500	91%
** JACKSON LAKE	JAN-JUL	869	822	95%
** ISLAND PARK	JAN-JUL	285	237	83%
** TETON	JAN-JUL	424	356	84%
*** RIRIE	JAN-JUN	66	62	94%
*** LITTLE WOOD	JAN-JUL	89	122	137%

* PCA Forecast

** Average of some or all of the following: PCA, MLR, RFC

*** Coordinated with USACE

For additional information, please contact the individuals below, or call the Upper Snake River and Reservoir Operations line at 208-670-0761.

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Reservoir levels, reservoir discharge, and river flows can be monitored on the USBR Hydromet page here:

<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/>

The Upper Snake “teacup” diagram which provides a graphical overview of system conditions can be accessed here: <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/burtea.html>