

(Friday, July 9)

Subject: 2021 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

**\*\*This update provides an overview of the latest projections for the reservoir system as well as the outlook for releases below Milner over the next few weeks. Updates will continue to be provided as the season progresses.**

### **South Fork above Heise Reservoirs**

**Jackson Lake Dam:** Storage content in the reservoir is approximately 689,000 acre-feet, which is 150,000 acre-feet lower than last year on this date, and 88% of normal. Releases from the dam have been increased to approximately 5,250 cubic feet per second (cfs) to further supplement downstream reservoirs. The current release has been drafting the reservoir at a rate of 3.5-5.0 inches per day, which is expected to continue into September. With the continuation of dry conditions, our latest projection of reservoir levels indicate Colter Bay boat ramp will likely to be impacted in late July. Additionally, the probability of impacts to Signal Mountain boat ramp have increased and are now estimated to occur in early to mid-September. Similarly, the probability of impacts to Leek's Marina have increased and are estimated to occur in mid-September when the reservoir is less than 10% full. The embedded website links at the end of update can be used to monitor reservoir levels and boat ramp access.

**Palisades Dam:** Storage content in the reservoir is approximately 923,750 acre-feet, which is 260,000 acre-feet lower than last year on this date, and 97% of normal. Releases from the dam have been increased to approximately 16,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) to further supplement downstream reservoirs. At this release rate, the reservoir is projected to draft at a rate of 12-17,000 acre-feet per day through August which corresponds to approximately 12-24 inches of pool elevation per day. With the continuation of dry conditions, our latest projections indicate Blow Out boat ramp is likely to be impacted in early August. Similarly, impacts to Calamity boat ramp have increased in likelihood and are estimated to occur in mid-September when the reservoir is drafted below 7% of capacity. The embedded website links at the end of this document can be used to monitor reservoir levels and boat ramp access.

### **Mainstem Snake River Reservoirs above Milner**

**American Falls Dam:** The current pool elevation is approximately 4,324.80 feet, which corresponds to 410,380 acre-feet of storage content. At these levels, the only operational boat ramp is Westside which extends to an elevation of 4,312'. Even with the significant upstream releases, our projections indicate the Westside boat ramp may be impacted as early as late July. The embedded website links at the end of this document can be used to monitor reservoir levels and boat ramp access.

**\*\*Milner Dam:** Since April 1<sup>st</sup>, approximately 191,200 acre-feet of storage has been delivered below Milner for the Salmon Flow Augmentation Program. The remaining volume of approximately 3,700 acre-feet will be delivered through Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. On July 12<sup>th</sup>, releases below Milner will transition to delivering Idaho Power's 43,000 acre-feet of primary storage and will be increased to Idaho Power's requested delivery rate of 1,500 cfs. A plan for reducing flows below Milner Dam will be sent prior to the completion of Idaho Power's primary storage delivery in approximately 2 weeks.

**Upper Snake Reservoir System:** As of July 8<sup>th</sup>, storage in the federal reservoir system above Milner amounted to 2,283,572 acre-feet, which is 72% of average and 1,519,600 acre-feet lower than last year. For

the first 7 days of July, provisional accounting data indicates total natural flow above Milner amounted to 50% of normal for the period and system storage was depleted at an average rate of 37,000 acre-feet per day.

[Jackson Lake Boat Ramps](#)

[Palisades Reservoir Boat Ramps](#)

[American Falls Reservoir Boat Ramps](#)

[Island Park Reservoir Boat Ramps](#)

[Upper Snake Total System Storage \(Federal\)](#)

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>