

(Monday, September 14)

Subject: 2020 Upper Snake River 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**

**\*Upper Snake stakeholders have approved a late season supplemental rental pool, and Idaho Power has purchased approximately 20,000 acre-feet (af) for delivery below Milner Dam. Beginning on Tuesday, releases to the Snake River below Milner will be increased to approximately 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Additional details are included below.**

## **Operations Summary**

**Jackson Lake:** Jackson Lake's release will be reduced from approximately 1,200 cfs to 1,000 cfs this afternoon. Additional small adjustments to outflow over the next three weeks are likely as the reservoir is managed to achieve the winter requirement for 200,000 acre-feet of available capacity. Provisional inflow calculations, so far, for the month of September indicate below normal baseflow conditions.

**Palisades:** Releases have been reduced to approximately 6,750 cfs, which is slightly lower than historical averages. As is typical of this time of year, additional reductions relative to downstream conditions can be expected. Combined storage between Jackson and Palisades is approximately 1,354,254 acre-feet, which is 77,000 acre-feet less than last year and 126% of the base period average.

**American Falls:** Releases have been reduced to 7,900 cfs, which is near normal levels for this time of year. The reservoir is currently 30% full at a content of 503,799 acre-feet, which is 173,000 acre-feet more than last year and 106% of the base period average.

**\*Milner:** On Tuesday morning, releases to the river below Milner will be increased from 0 cfs to approximately 1,000 cfs. Delivery of Idaho Power's supplemental pool rental is expected to last for 10 days.

**Upper Snake Reservoir System:** Current storage in the 9 federal reservoirs is 52% of capacity at approximately 2,085,905 acre-feet, which is 49,000 acre-feet higher than last year and 125% of the base period average.

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>