

(Friday June 7, 2019)

Subject: 2019 Upper Snake River Operations Update

Purpose: The purpose of these Operation Updates is to provide information regarding Reclamation's operations 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/> .

Summary

The Upper Snake reservoir system is currently 90% full (3,647,015 acre-feet out of 4,045,695 acre-feet). Warm temperatures over the last few days accompanied by precipitation today in the Snake River headwaters are leading to increased inflow over the weekend. Inflows are forecasted to recede through the first part of next week with some precipitation arriving late next week potentially increasing inflows somewhat next weekend. Inflow forecasts and flood control requirements will determine what flow changes at Jackson Lake and Palisades Reservoir are made next week. Jackson Lake and Palisades Reservoir continue to track their flood control requirements with the target of refilling the reservoirs in late June. American Falls Reservoir is currently drafting by approximately 2,700 cfs. Potential increases from Palisades Dam next week are not likely to keep American Falls Reservoir full as irrigation demand continues to increase, therefore the likelihood of spilling excess water past Milner Dam in the short term is very low.

Jackson Lake's discharge is currently 2,000 cfs. Discharge may increase next week and will depend on inflow forecasts and flood control targets.

Palisades' discharge is currently 9,000 cfs. The June through July Heise volume runoff forecast is 1,950 KAF (108% of average). The likelihood of some increases in discharge from Palisades Dam next week look fair with flow in the Blackfoot reach of the Snake River dropping as irrigation demand increases accompanied with warm temperatures and some precipitation in the forecast late next week.

Ririe's discharge is currently 275 cfs. The reservoir is full and passing inflow.

Island Park's discharge is currently 1,280 cfs. The reservoir is full and passing inflow.

American Falls Reservoir's discharge is currently 9,000 cfs. Outflow is only meeting downstream irrigation demand, with no flow currently passing by Milner Dam.

Minidoka's discharge is currently 7,500 cfs and is only meeting downstream irrigation demand.

Milner Dam's discharge is currently 0 cfs. Flow from Milner Dam will likely resume within the next 3 weeks depending on when flood control operations are complete at Palisades Dam.

Little Wood Reservoir discharge is currently 1,000 cfs. Inflow is forecast to drop at a moderate pace over the next week. As the reservoir is right near the full level, outflow will follow inflow down until inflow drops below downstream irrigation demand.

Facility	% Full	Storage (acre-feet)	June – July Runoff Forecast % of Normal	Yesterday's Inflow (cfs)	Estimated Outflow (cfs)	Next anticipated discharge change
Jackson Lake	89%	752,007		7,800	2,000	Not scheduled
Palisades	76%	912,245	108%	20,100	9,000	Not scheduled
Ririe	100%	81,239		300	275	Not scheduled
Island Park	100%	135,924		1,280	1,280	Not scheduled
Grassy Lake	100%	15,370		66	66	Not scheduled
American Falls	99%	1,658,659		6,300	9,000	Not scheduled
Minidoka	96%	91,571		8,100	7,500	Not scheduled
Milner	0.5 feet below full			7,500	0 *River QD	Not scheduled
Little Wood	99%	29,703		956	1,000	Not scheduled

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>

