



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# Water Management 101

Jackson, Wyoming  
September 14, 2023



# Why Are We Here Today?

- Commitment to deliver a 101 course.
- To provide details on the Bureau of Reclamation operating systems
  - Who?
  - When?
  - What?
  - Why?
  - Where?
  - How?



# Agenda

- Overview of Reclamation and the Snake River Basin
- Project Authorizations and Multiple Interests
- Hydropower and Facility Operation & Maintenance (O&M)
- Water Management Overview
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Questions & Wrap-Up





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Bureau of Trust  
Funds  
Administration  
(BTFA)



# What Does the Bureau of Reclamation Do?



# Priorities

- Ensure continued delivery of water and power benefits (meeting legal and contractual requirements)
- Operate and maintain projects in a safe and reliable manner
- Comply with laws, regulations and policy, including environmental
- Further Secretary's Indian Trust responsibilities
- Plan for future
- Enhance business operations



# Stakeholder Communication & Coordination

Hydropower  
BPA, Reserve  
Power, Idaho  
Power, others

Stakeholders  
Irrigation  
Districts, Water  
Master,  
Committee of  
Nine

Technical Partners  
Army Corps of  
Engineers, National  
Weather Service,  
NRCS

Others

Resource  
Protection  
National Park  
Service, BLM,  
USFS

Shoshone-  
Bannock  
Tribes

*Upper Snake  
River  
Operations*

Recreation Partners  
Counties  
State  
Local  
Private  
Transportation

Emergency  
Management  
Teton County,  
WY

State Agencies  
Fish and Game,  
Dept. Env. Quality,  
Transportation

Private  
Fishing  
Rafting  
Entertainment  
News





All female survey crew, 1918, Minidoka Project, Idaho.

**DEVELOP**  
**MANAGE**  
**PROTECT**



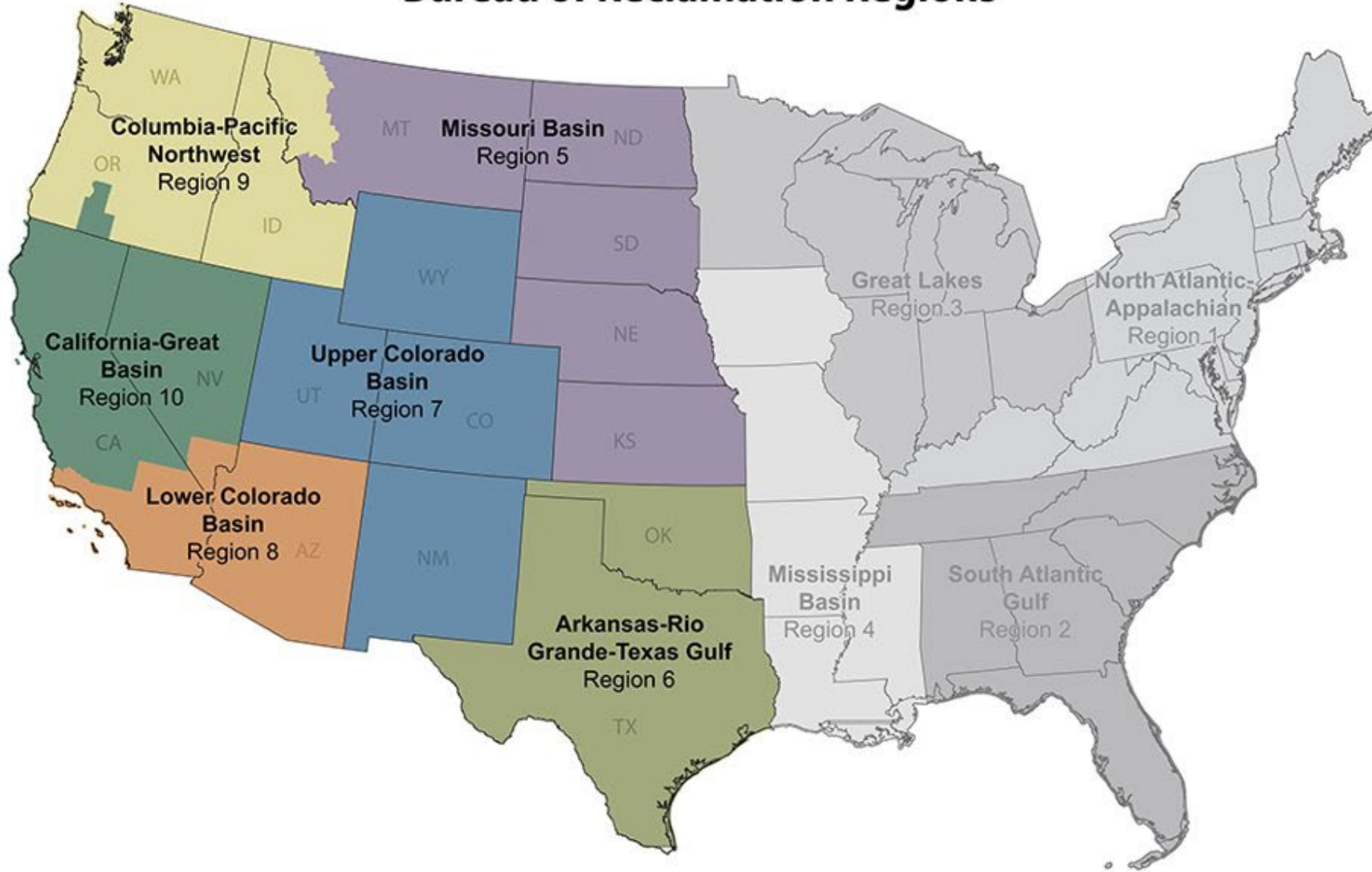
Irrigating the arid west

**Largest water supplier in the U.S.**  
**Second largest producer of hydropower in the U.S.**





## Bureau of Reclamation Regions

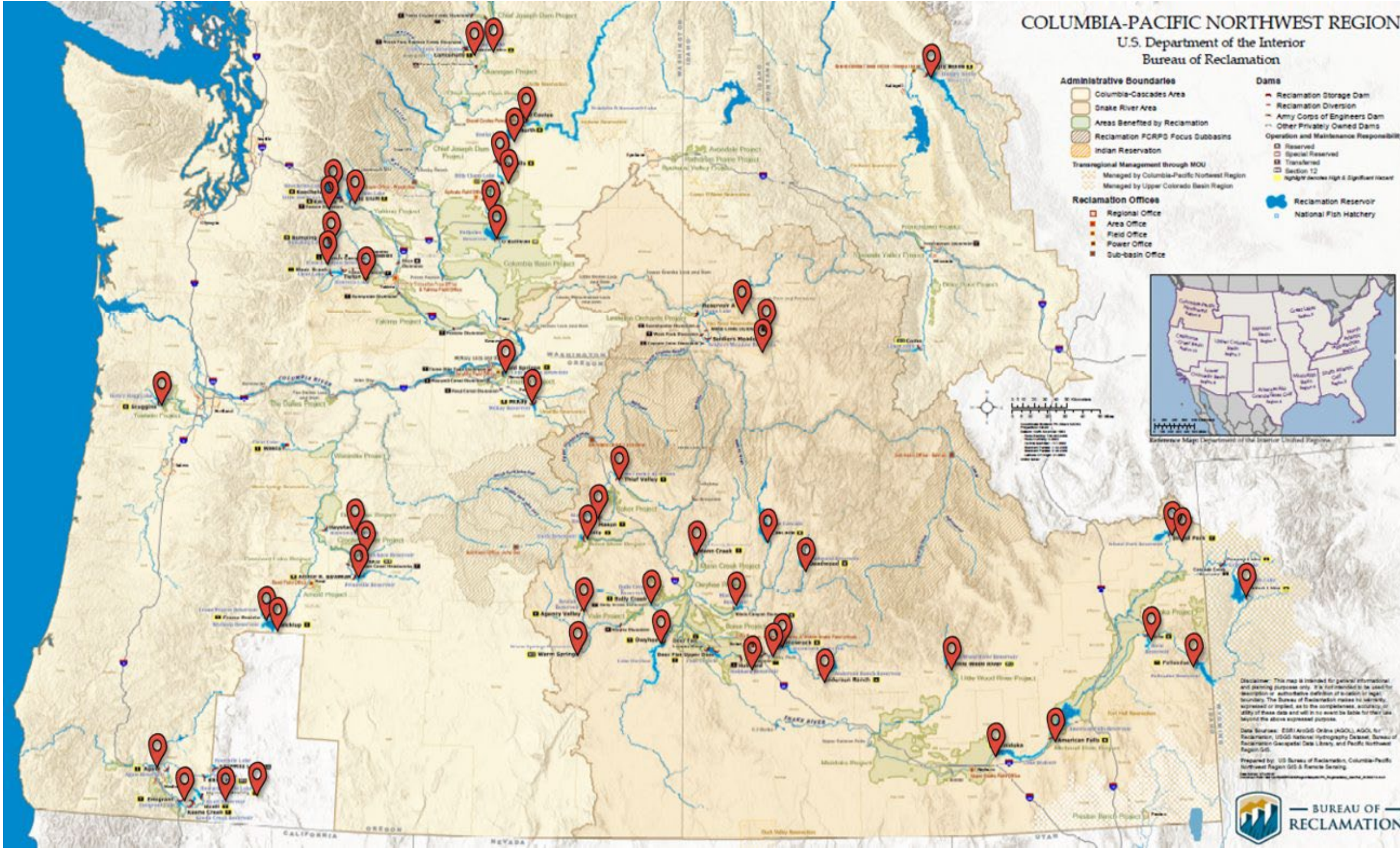


- Western US
- Six Regions
- Columbia-Pacific NW



# C-PN Reservoirs & River Systems

<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/maps/pnmap.pdf>





### UPPER SNAKE FIELD OFFICE Areas of Responsibility

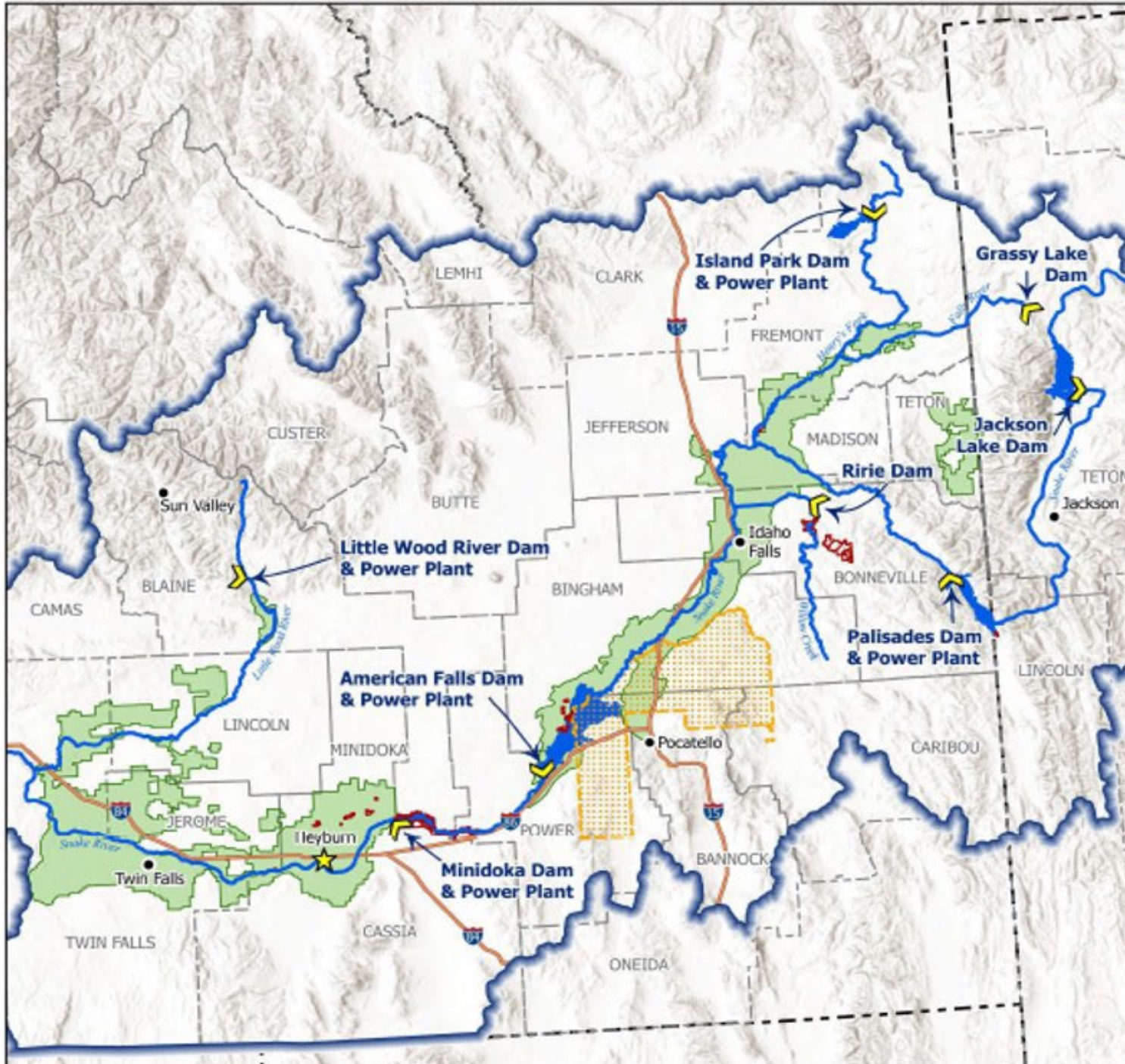
- Upper Snake Field Office
- Reclamation Dam
- IDFG/USFWS Wildlife Management Areas
- Reclamation Reservoirs
- Areas Benefited by Project
- Fort Hall Reservation
- USFO Operational Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary



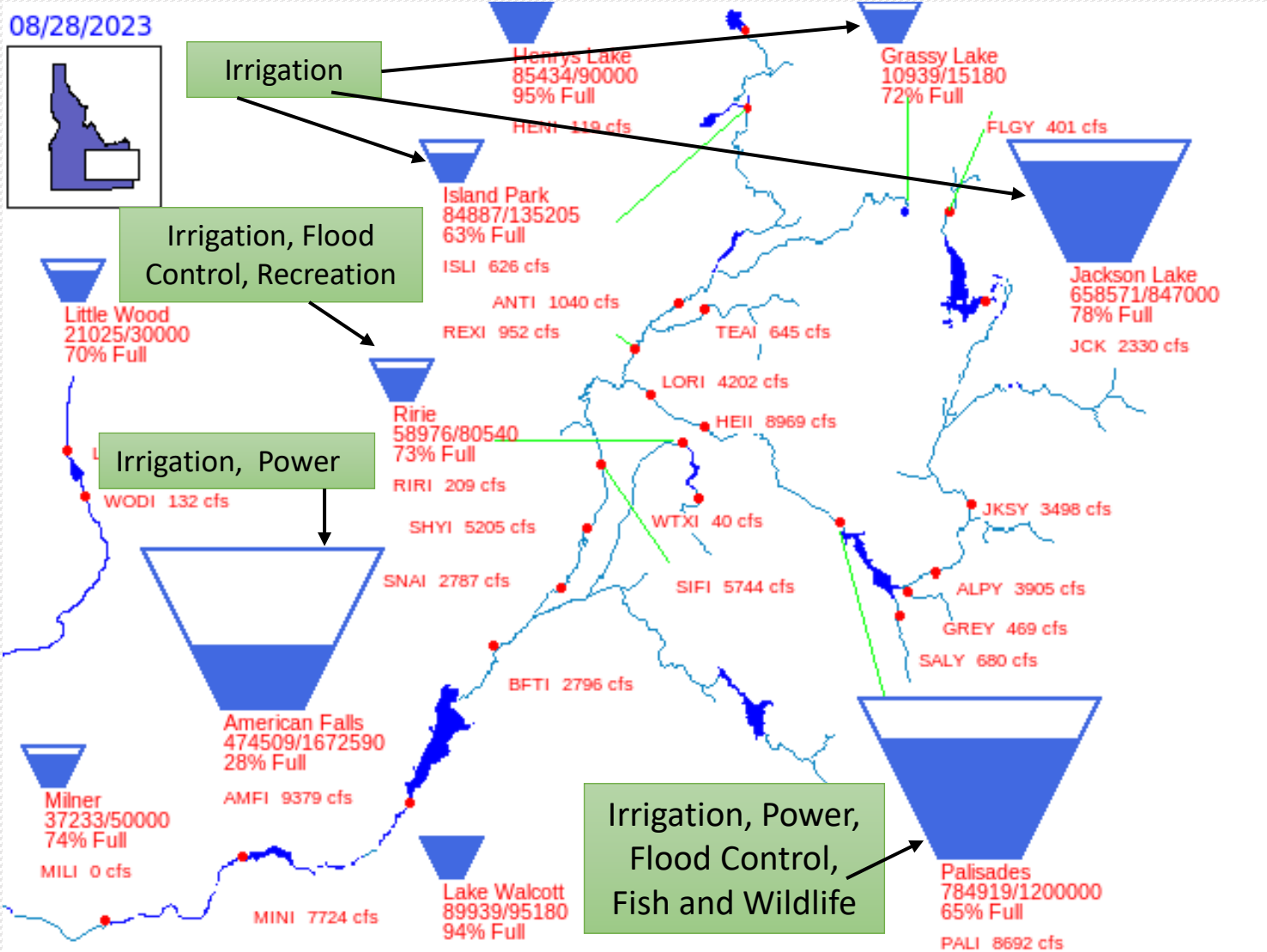
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# Minidoka Project Authorities



Minidoka Dam	Irrigation and Power
Jackson Lake Dam	Irrigation
American Falls Dam	Irrigation and Power
Island Park Dam	Irrigation
Grassy Lake Dam	Irrigation

**In 1950 – Palisades Project- authorized the upper Snake River system to be operated for Flood Control**

Palisades Project	Irrigation, Power, Flood Control, Fish and Wildlife
Ririe Project	Irrigation, Flood Control, Recreation
Michaud Flats Project	Irrigation
Little Wood Project	Irrigation and Flood Control
Teton Basin Project	Irrigation, Power, Flood Control, Fish and Wildlife, Recreation

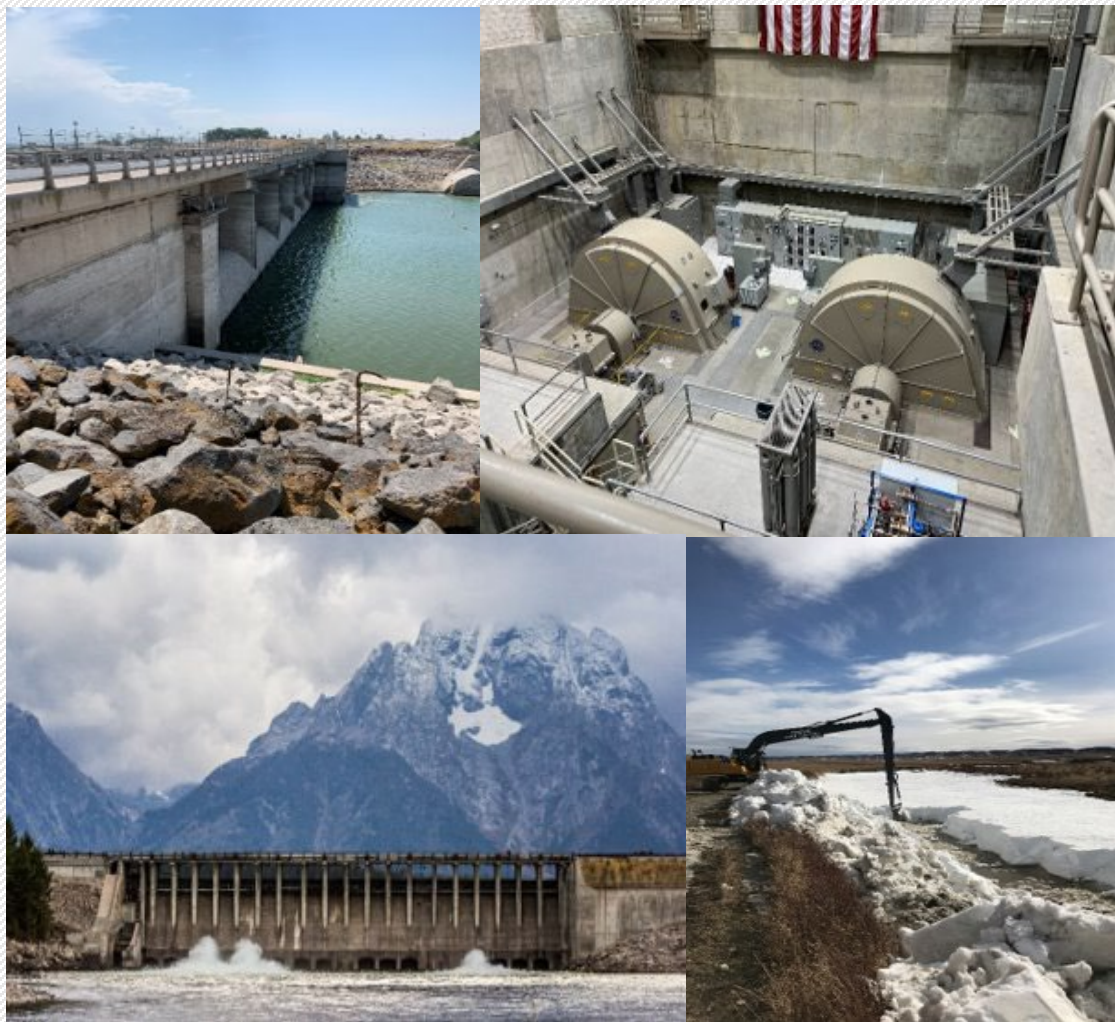


# Multiple Interests

- Water Supply
- Protect Infrastructure
- Power Generation
- Fish and Wildlife
- Recreation



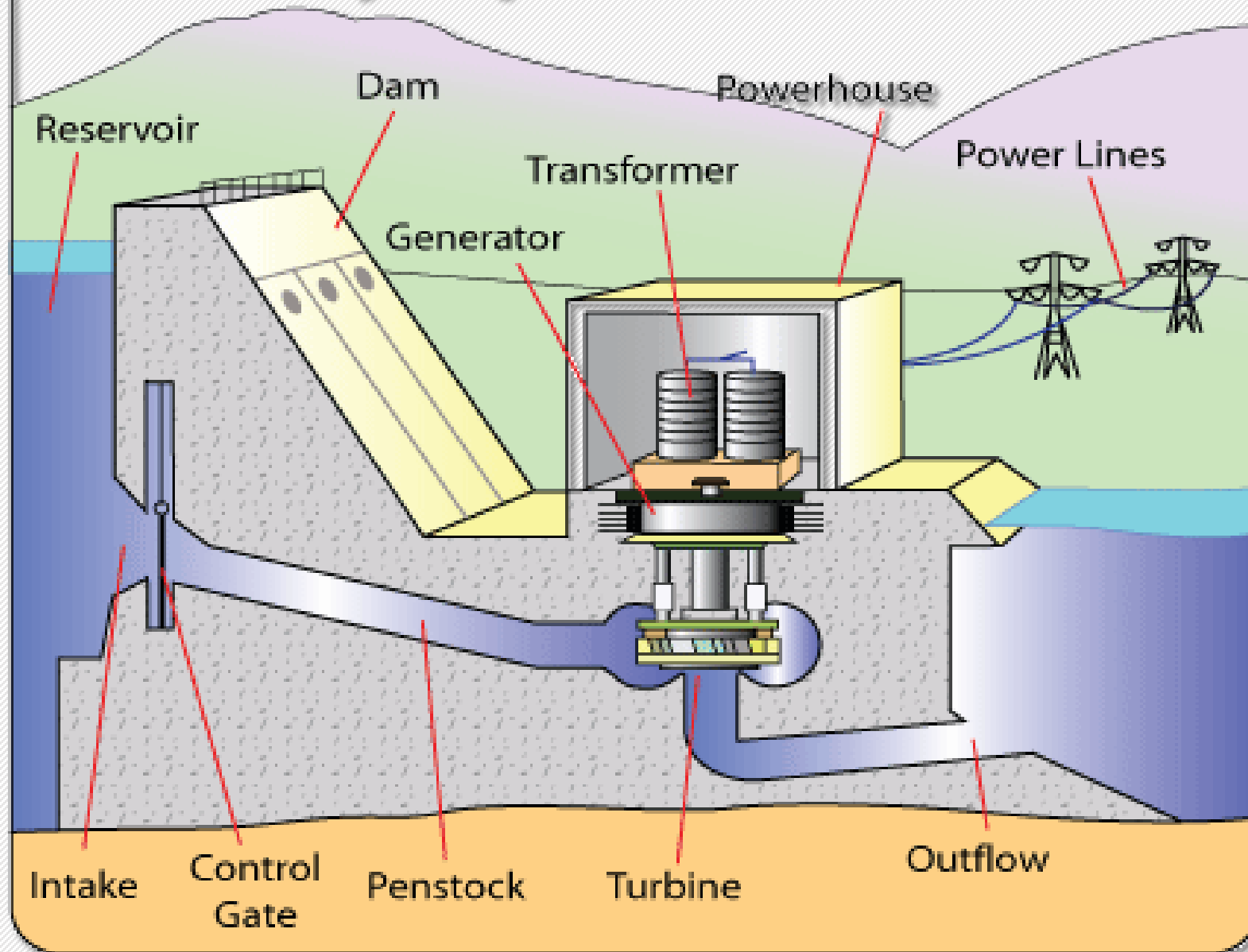
# Hydropower and Facility O&M Programs



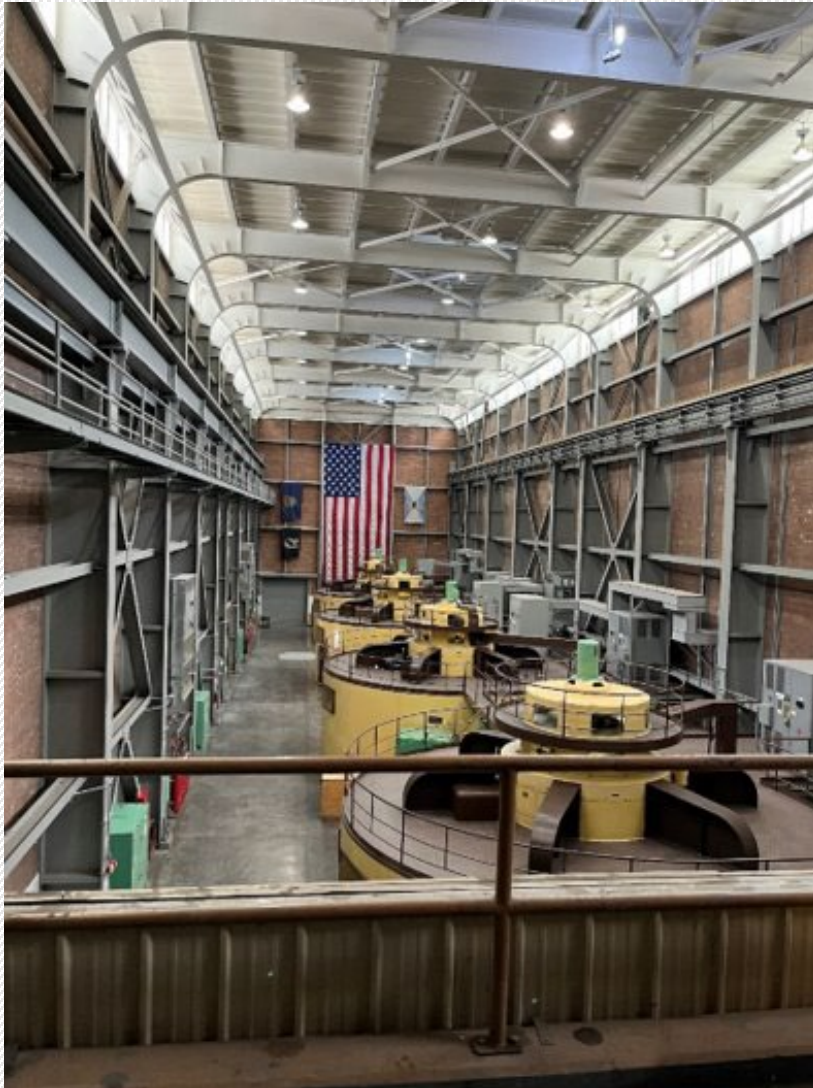
- Safety of Dams
- Hydropower
- Maintenance
- Repair/Replace
- Heavy Equipment
- Construction
- Land Survey
- Water Delivery
- Infrastructure
- Snow Survey
- Design
- Inspections
- Planning
- Facilities



# Inside a Hydropower Plant



# Federal Power Generation





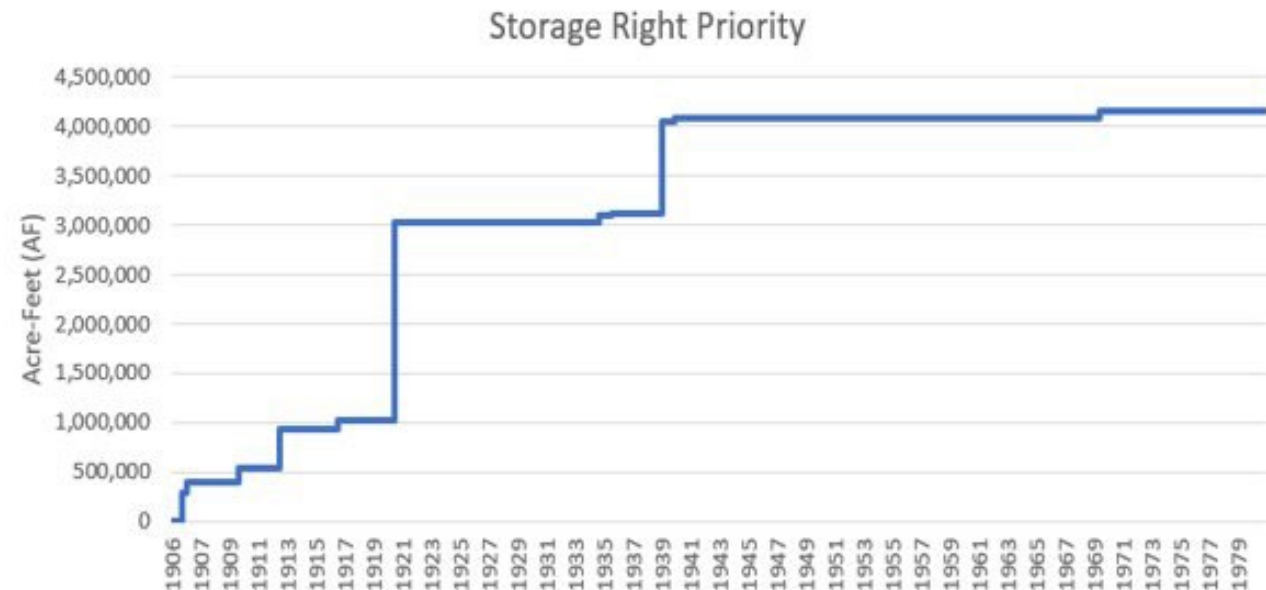
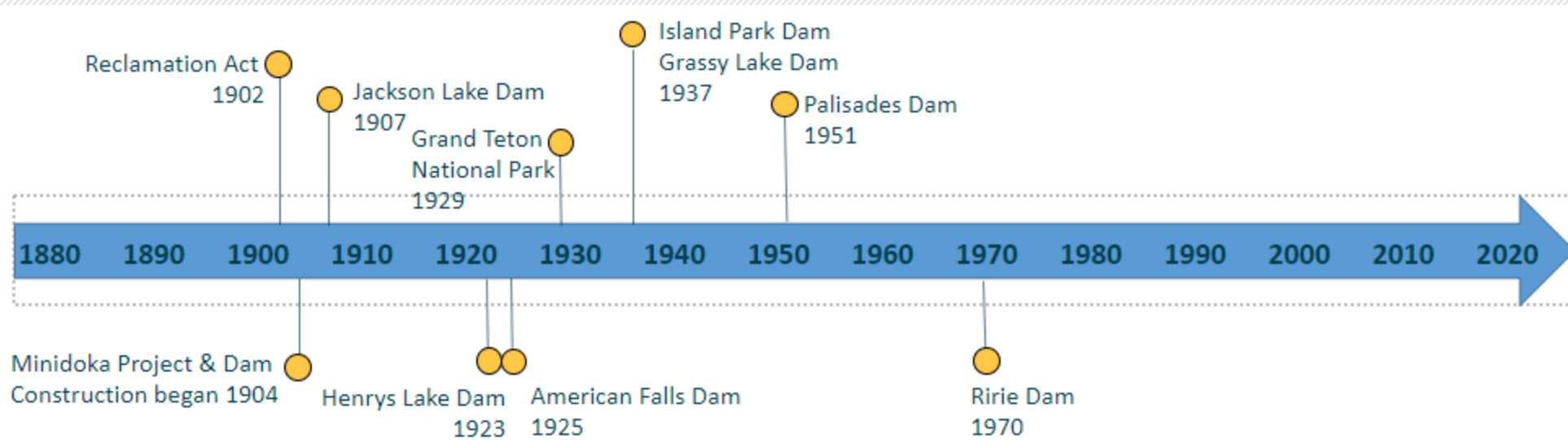
# MINIDOKA PROJECT

## Yearly Benefits of the Minidoka / Palisades Project

Irrigated Crops	\$1.2 Billion
Power Generated	~\$41 Million in 2021
Formal Flood Prevention	\$35 Million in 2021 ~\$2.6 Billion since life of Project
Recreation	\$62 Million and over 650,000 visits



# Upper Snake Storage Development





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# Water Management


## Upper Snake River Basin

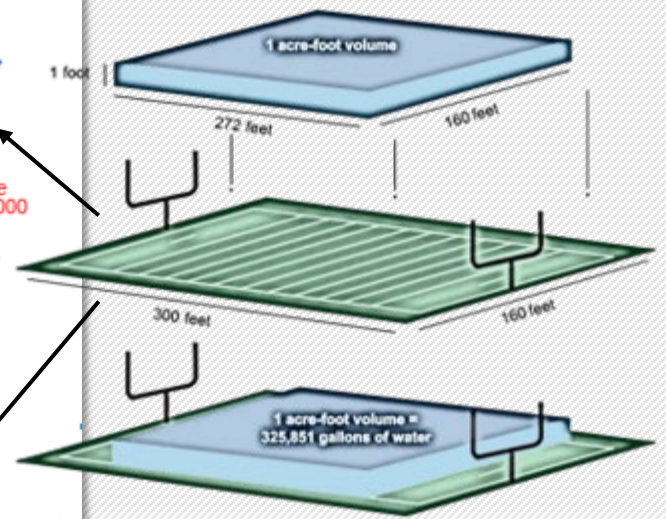
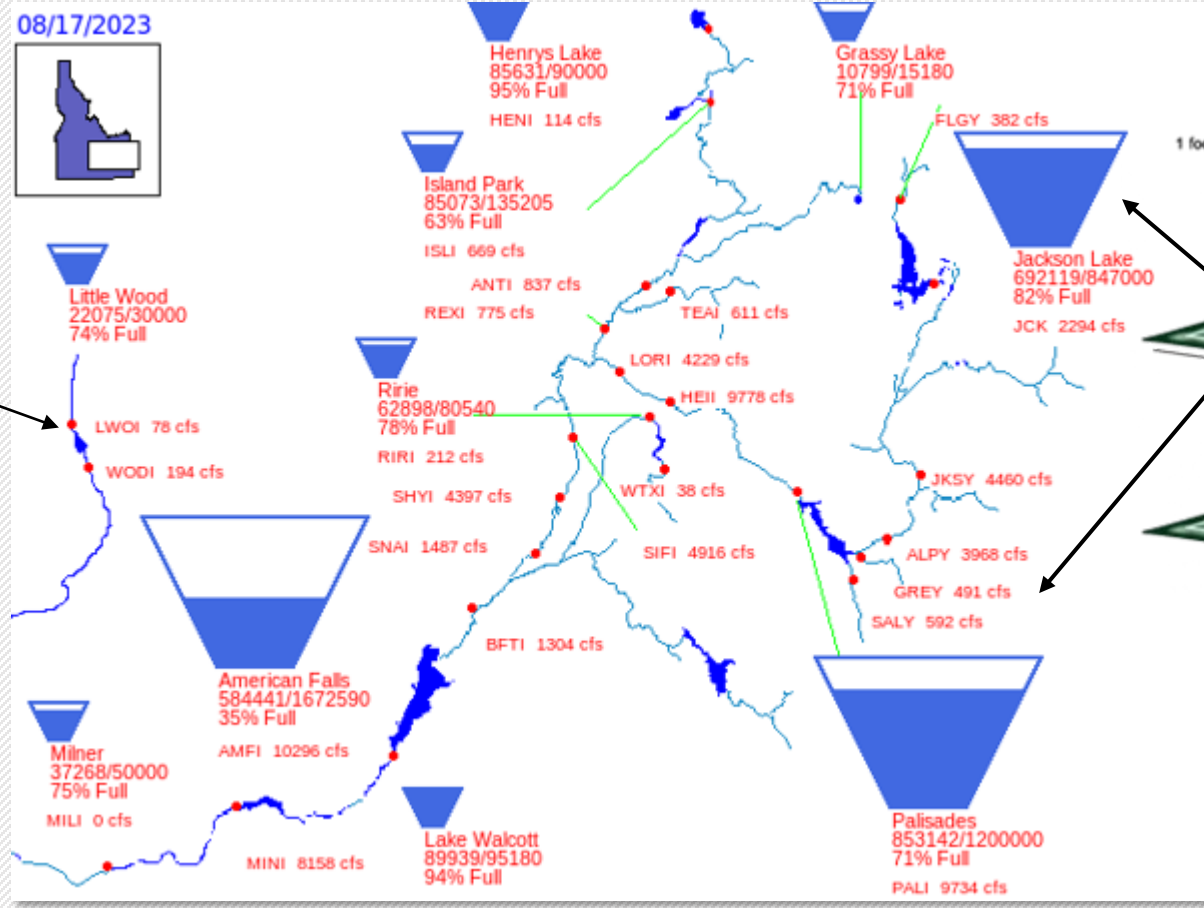
<b>Real Time River and Reservoir Management</b>	<b>Forecasting</b>
<b>Flood Risk Management</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>
<b>Refill</b>	<b>Coordination and Oversight</b>

# Units of Measure

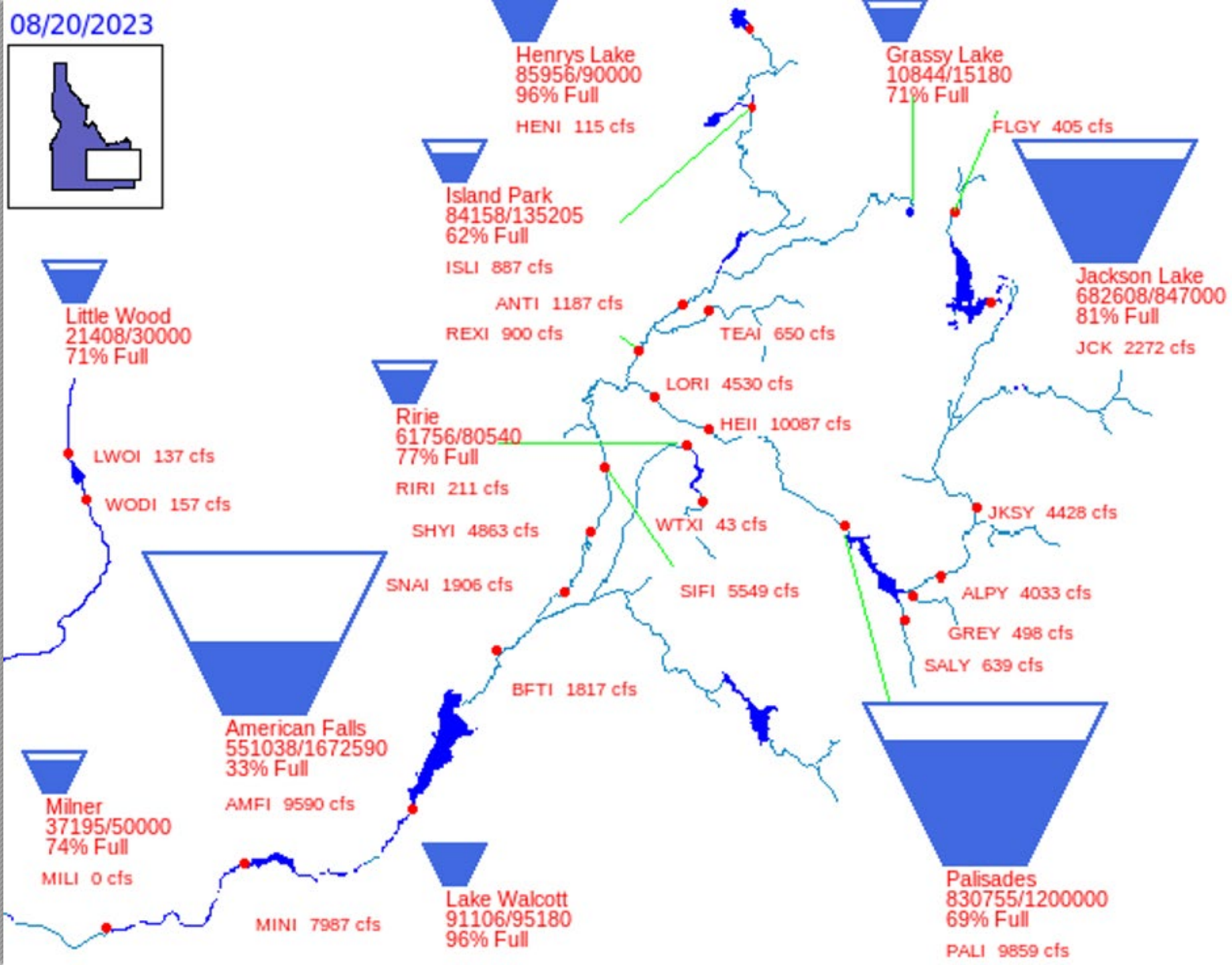
- Volume in a reservoir is measured in acre-feet
- Flow in a river is measured in cubic feet per second (cfs)
- 1 cfs for 1 day = about 2 acre-feet (1.98347 acre-feet)

## 1 acre-foot =

1 CFS = 



08/20/2023



# Water Storage and Delivery

Store excess runoff to supplement natural flow when it would otherwise be insufficient

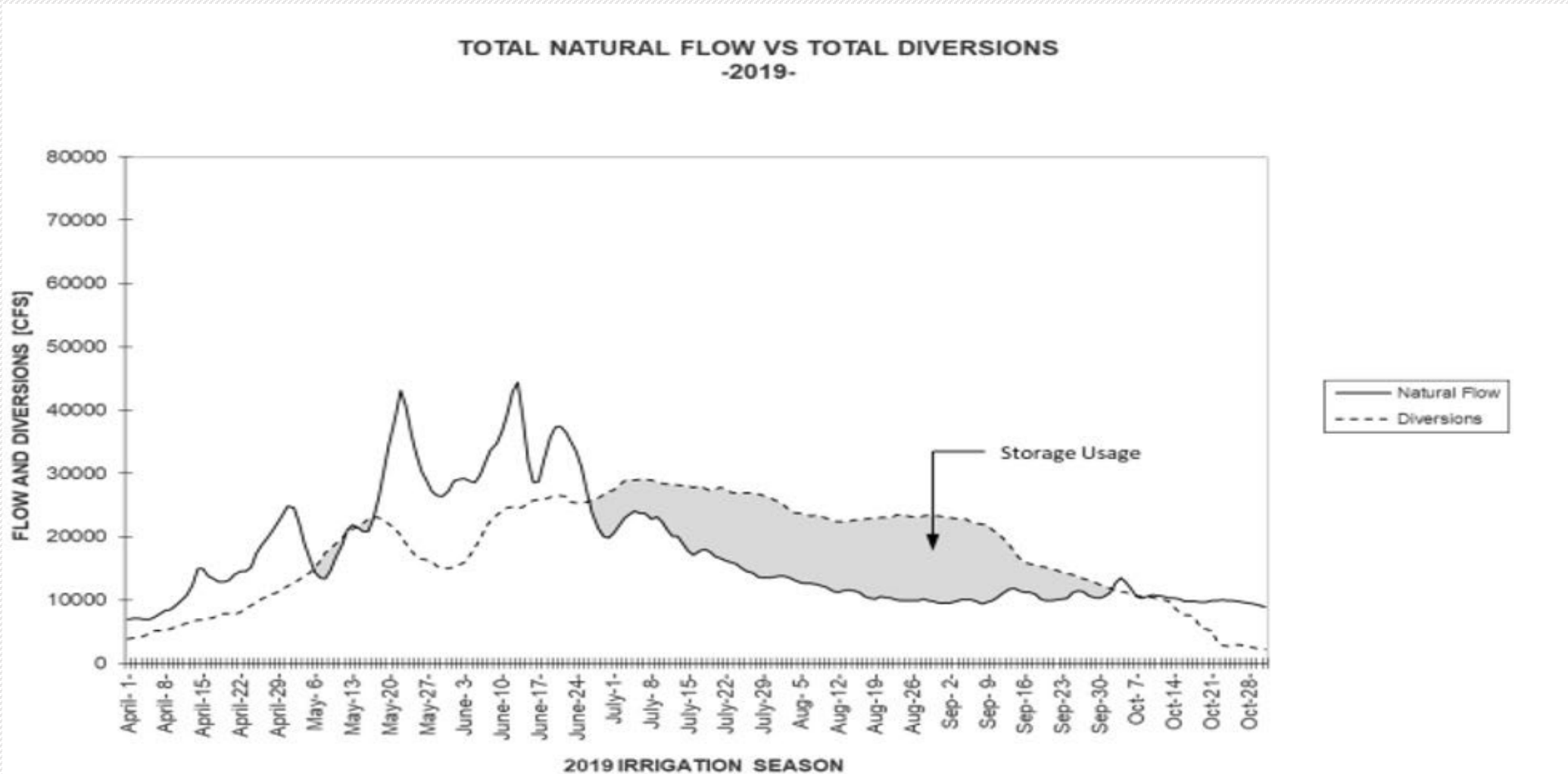


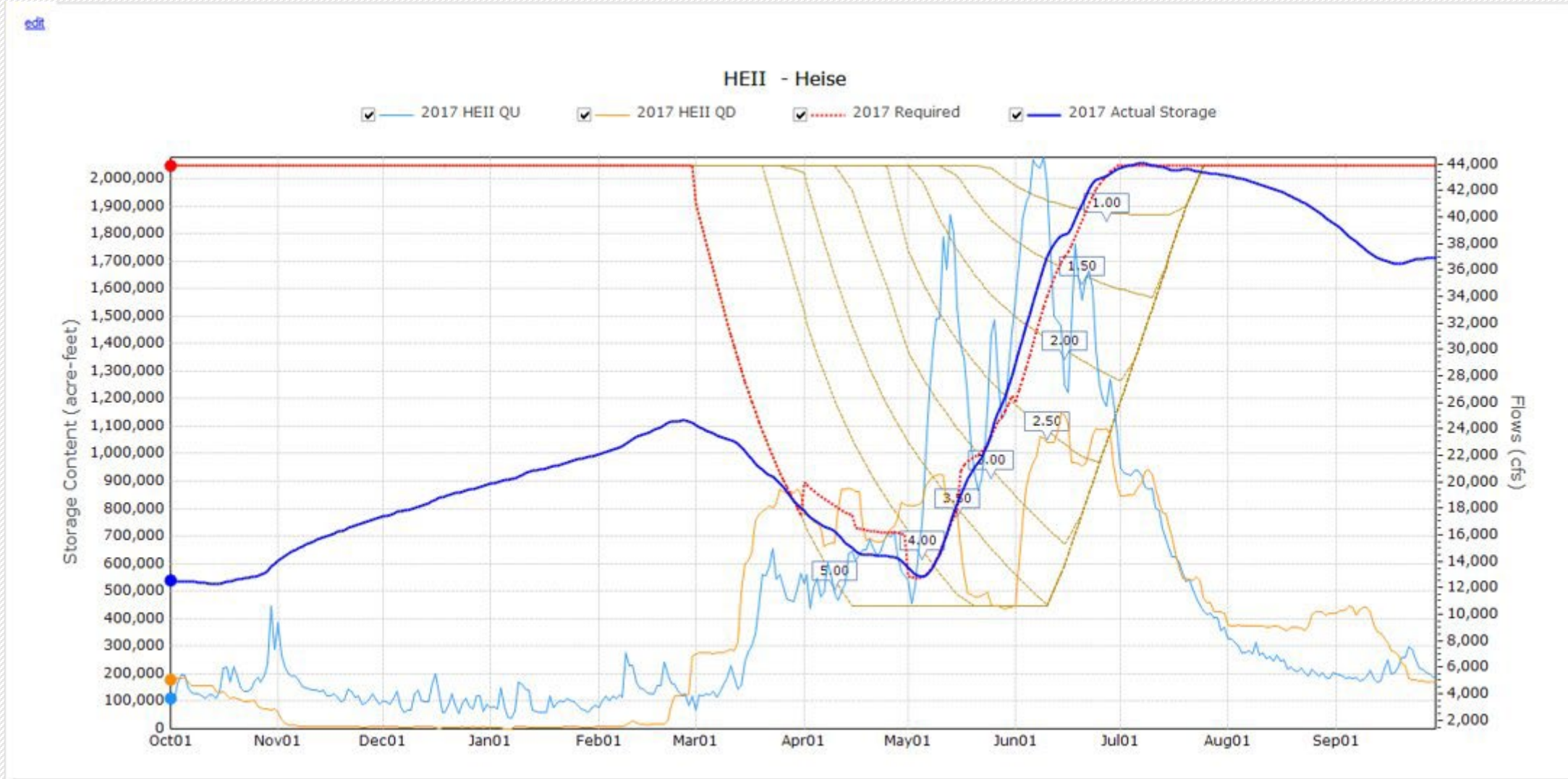
Figure 3. Natural Flow and Total Diversions



# Flood Risk Management

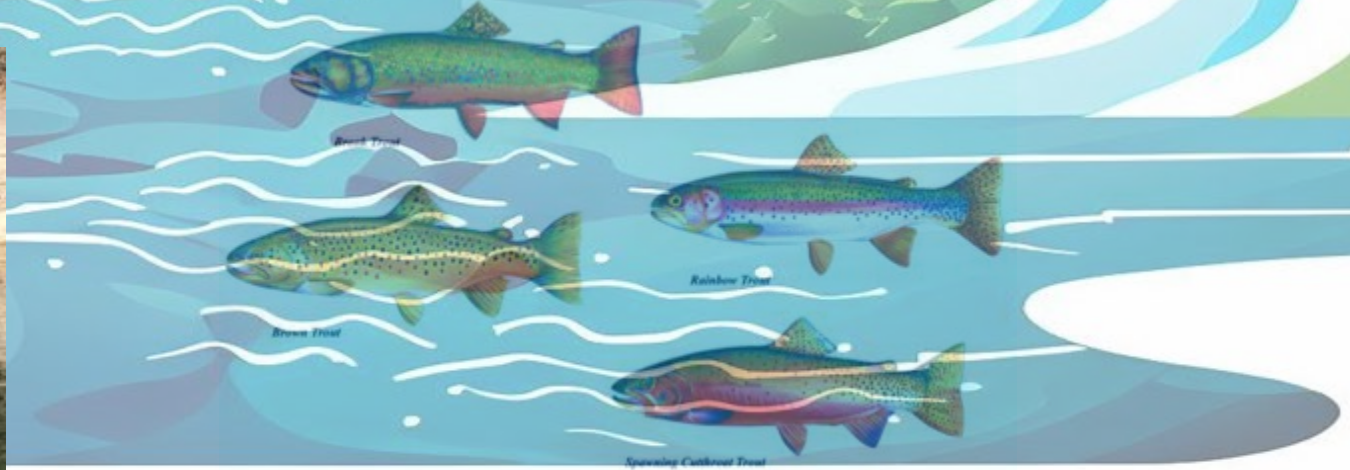
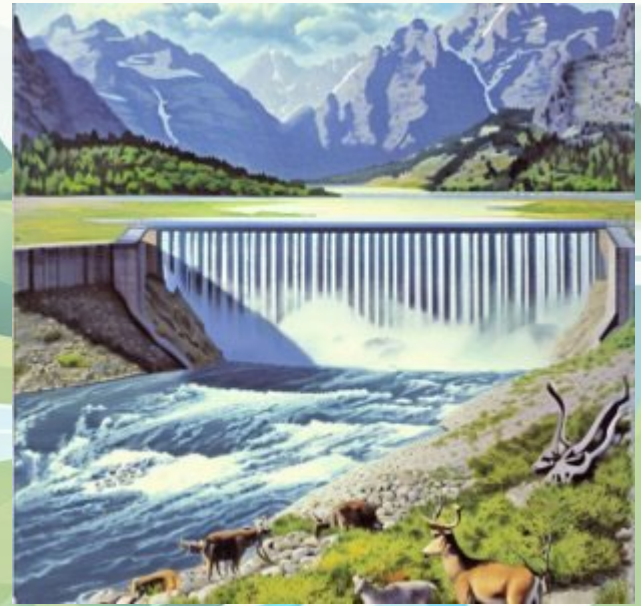


# Flood Risk Management





# Fish and Wildlife



# Upper Snake Flow Augmentation

- Flow Augmentation is one of several regional supplies of water used to help improve conditions for listed salmon and steelhead, specifically for out-migrating smolts.
- Upper Snake flow augmentation includes acquisitions from willing sellers and lessors.

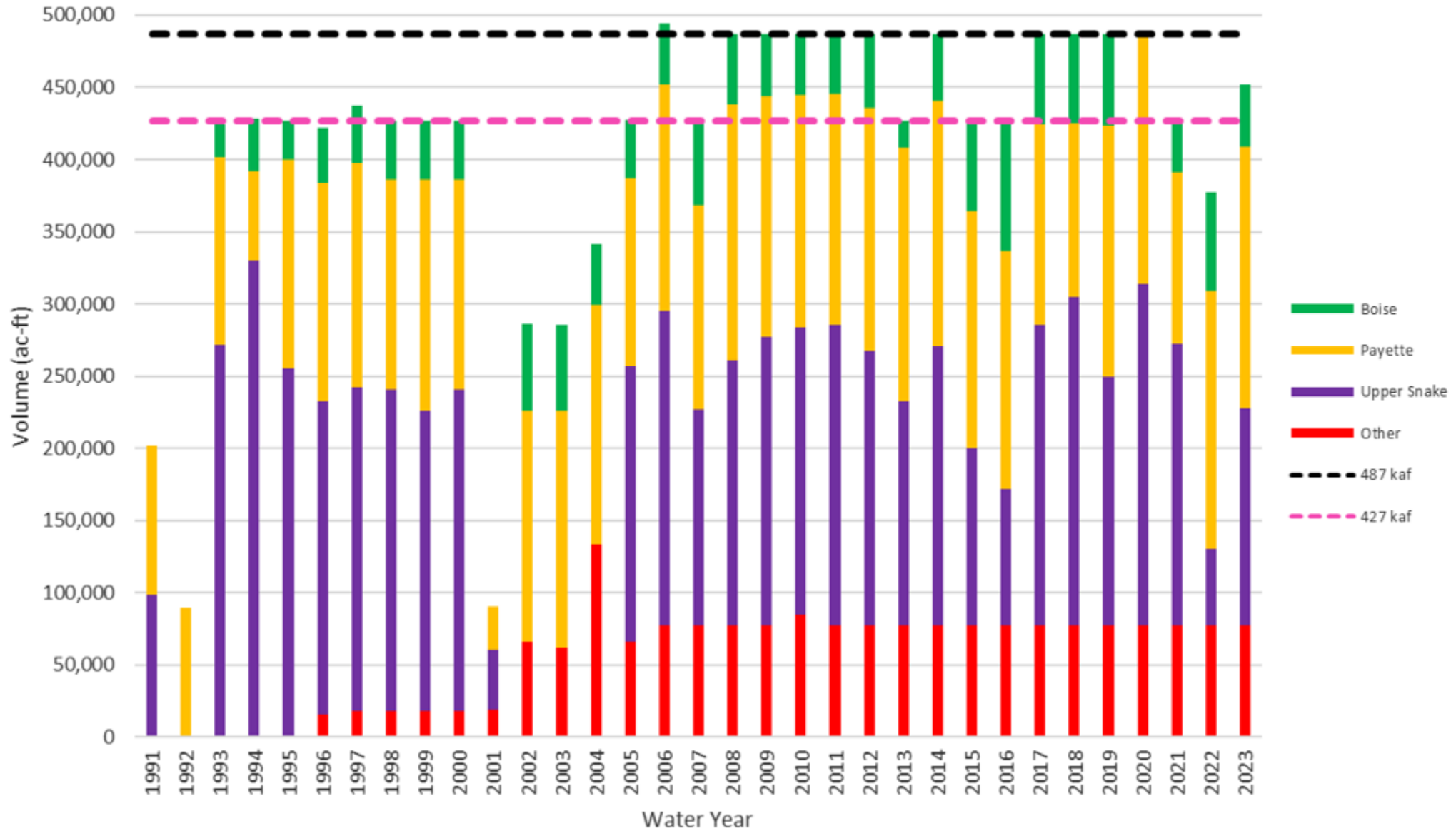


# Basic Tenets of Flow Augmentation

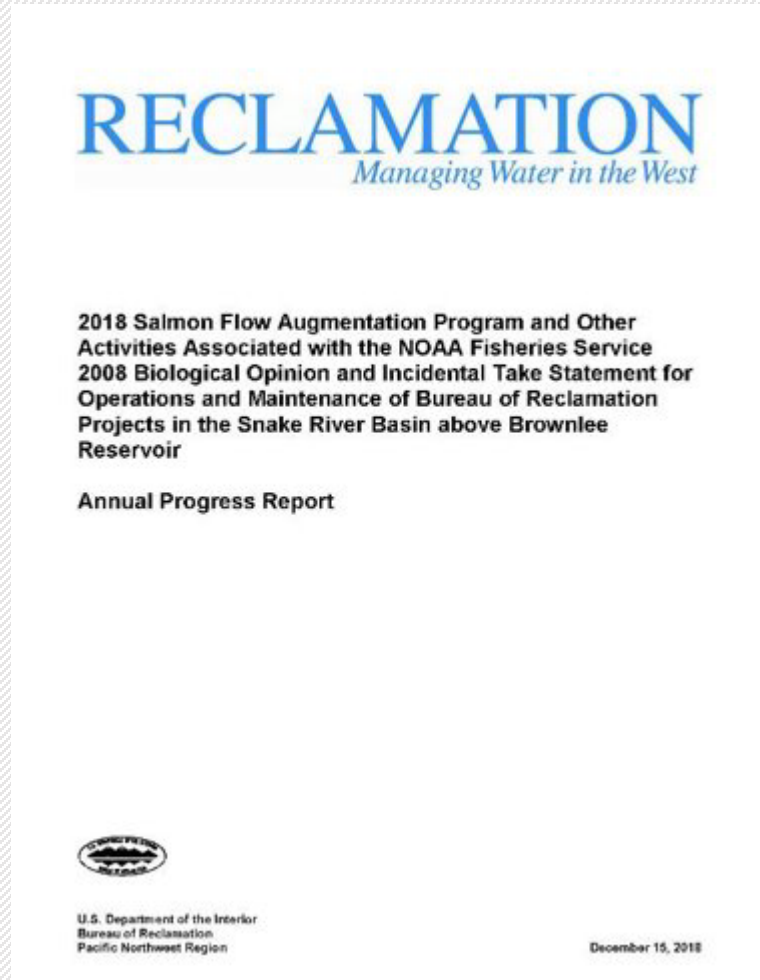
- Flow augmentation must be water that would otherwise not be there.
- Flood control releases cannot be counted as flow augmentation.
- Must occur between Apr 3 – Aug 31.
- Must be able to clearly report on the volumes and timing.



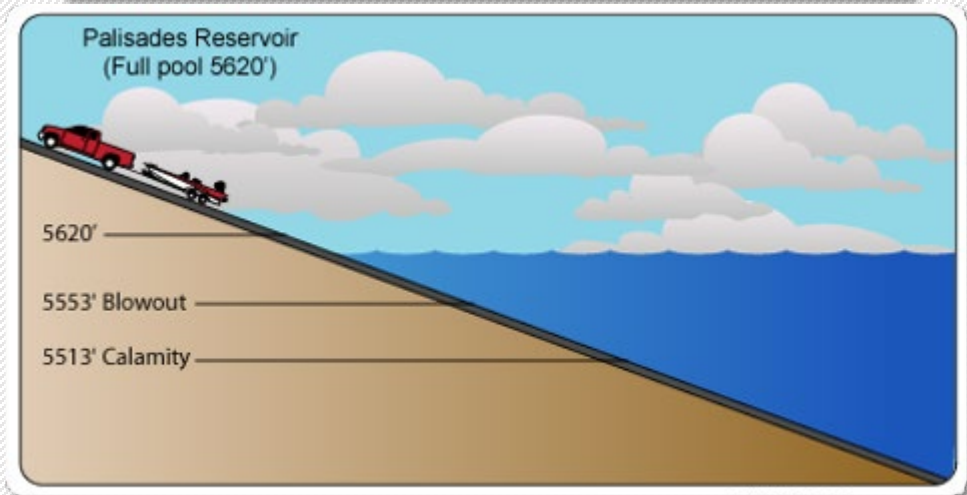
## Upper Snake above Brownlee Flow Augmentation Volumes 1991-2023



# Reporting Requirements



# Recreation and Various Partnerships

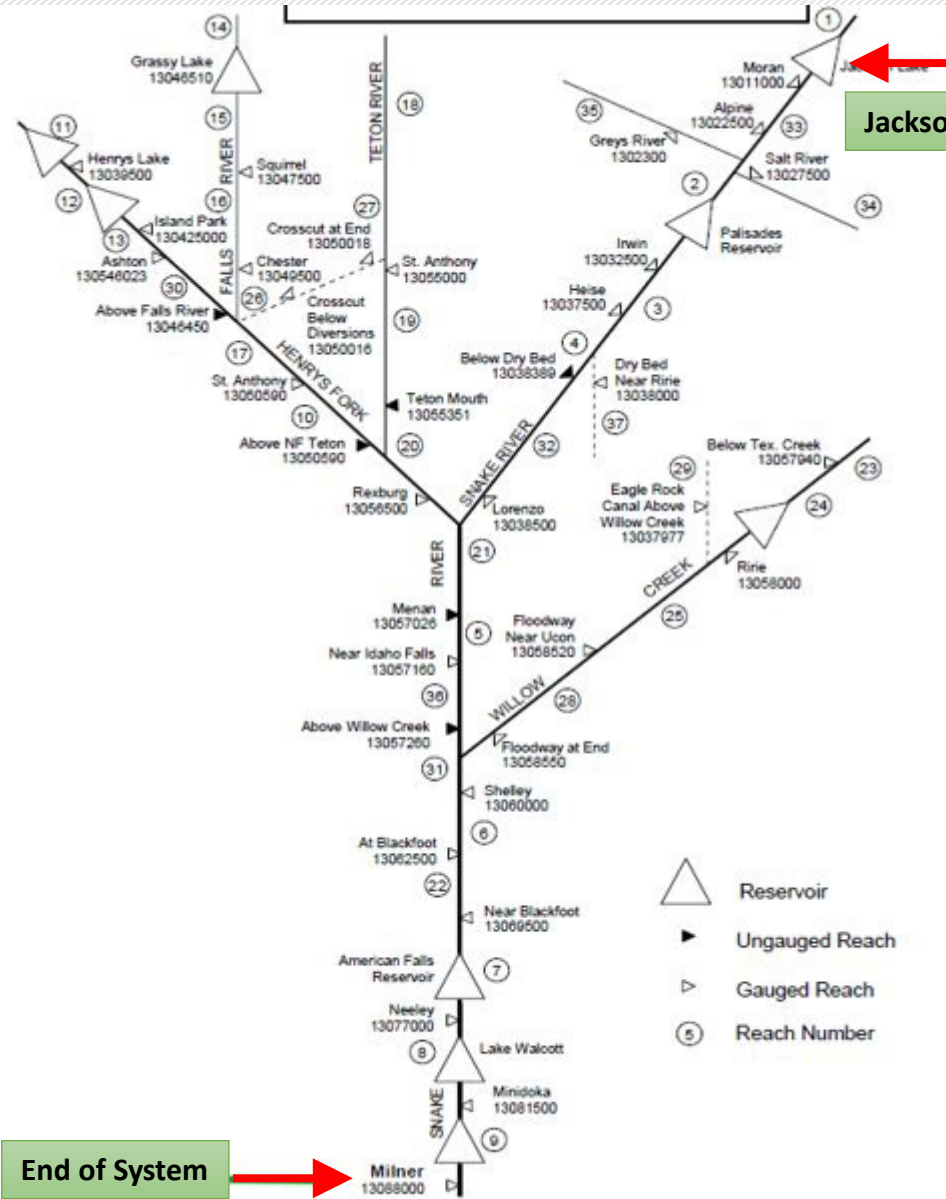


Not To Scale  
Provisional Hydromet Data

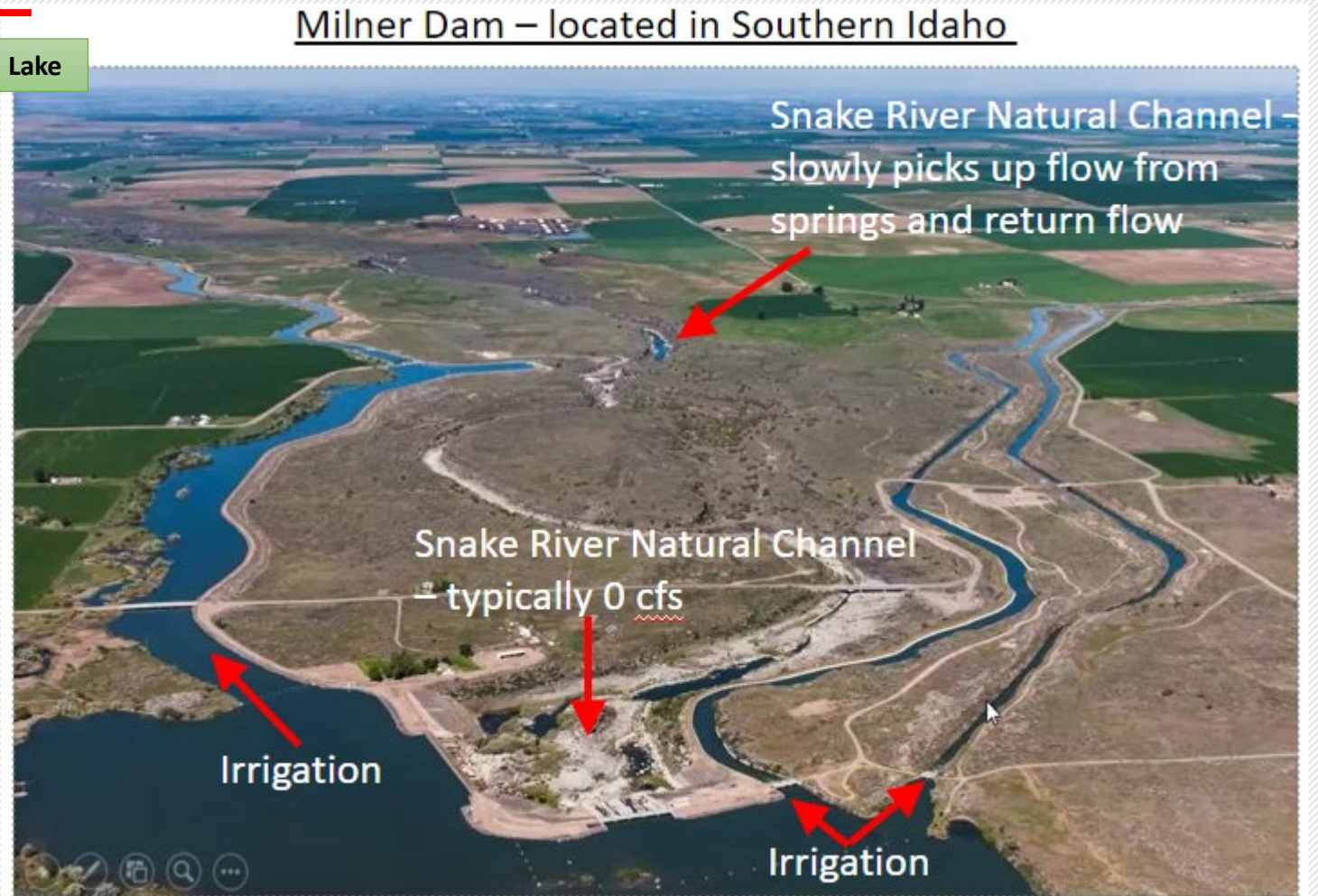
<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/recreation/index.html>



# Milner Two River Principle



Milner Dam – located in Southern Idaho



Milner Dam



# Lower System - Snake River



American Falls Dam

**Storage capacity: 1,672,590 acre-feet  
112 MW generation capacity (non-federal)**



Minidoka Dam

**Storage capacity: 95,200 acre-feet  
28 MW generation capacity**





# Palisades Dam



Palisades Dam

- Storage capacity: 1,200,000 acre-feet
- 176 MW hydropower capacity



# Jackson Lake Dam

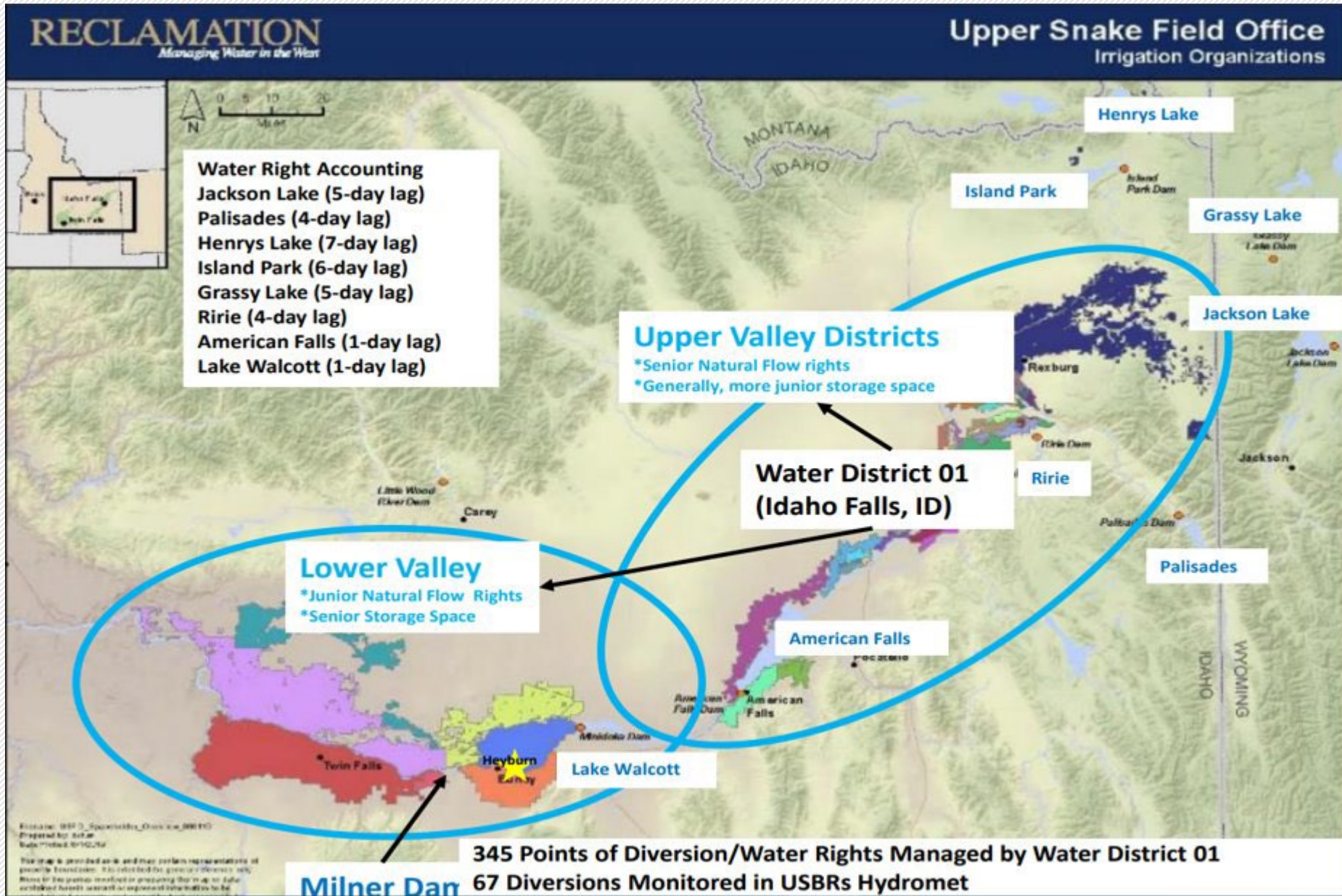


Jackson Lake Dam

- Storage capacity: 847,000 acre-feet
- 200,000 acre-feet winter flood control space



# Water Rights and Delivery



Questions?



# For More Information

## Snake River Area Office

Lanie Paquin - Area Manager

208-383-2246

[mpaquin@usbr.gov](mailto:mpaquin@usbr.gov)

## Public Affairs

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208-378-5020

[mcoffey@usbr.gov](mailto:mcoffey@usbr.gov)

## Upper Snake Field Office

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## Snake River Operations Web Sites

Upper Snake water information site -

<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/uppersnake/index.html>

USBR HydroMet - <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/>

Northwest River Forecast Center - <http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>

NRCS SNOTEL Data - <http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/>

