

Water District 1 Report – April 21st, 2026

Irrigation demand has started strong this year and has been enough to match or exceed natural flow recently. As a result, reservoir water rights have fallen out of priority, and irrigation water rights have slowly been cut. After the American Falls 1921 water right filled on April 6, the Palisades 1939 and Island Park 1935 rights were able to accrue some storage until those rights were cut on April 11. Since April 11, irrigation water right priority cuts have gradually progressed, with the current priority date being delivered basinwide now at **March 26, 1903**. Current water right priorities are updated each weekday, and managers are encouraged to follow projected priorities closely in managing early-season storage use.

It is not unusual to see periods early in the season when irrigation demand exceeds runoff, as has occurred this year. These periods are often followed by a restoration of water right priorities when the final push of snowmelt arrives. With high-elevation snowpack still remaining, it is likely that natural flow will increase again as that snow melts. Whether that increase in natural flow will be sufficient to restore reservoir priorities and allow additional accrual to Jackson 1913, Palisades 1939, and Island Park 1935 will depend largely on the level of irrigation demand at that time.

Unregulated inflows above Heise have peaked at approximately 10,000 cfs so far this year, with that peak occurring on April 1. Remaining snowpack is comparable to conditions observed in 1992, 2001, and 2007. In each of those years, unregulated flows at Heise ultimately peaked above 10,000 cfs, suggesting that peak unregulated flows at Heise may still lie ahead. Irrigation demand this year is tracking similarly to 2015.

River and Reservoir Ops, Rental Pool – Wednesday 4/22 at IDWR Eastern Regional office starting at 10 am or virtually at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87535911905?pwd=KEycxDEugwfQsN7ww7uCJPvMHZCPSK.1>

Meeting ID: 875 3591 1905

Passcode: 276564

Nez Perce Subcommittee – Wednesday, 4/22 at IDWR Eastern Regional office starting at 1 pm or virtually at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87535911905?pwd=KEycxDEugwfQsN7ww7uCJPvMHZCPSK.1>

Meeting ID: 875 3591 1905

Passcode: 276564

Committee of Nine – Thursday, 4/23 at 10 am at the Pocatello Airport and virtual at

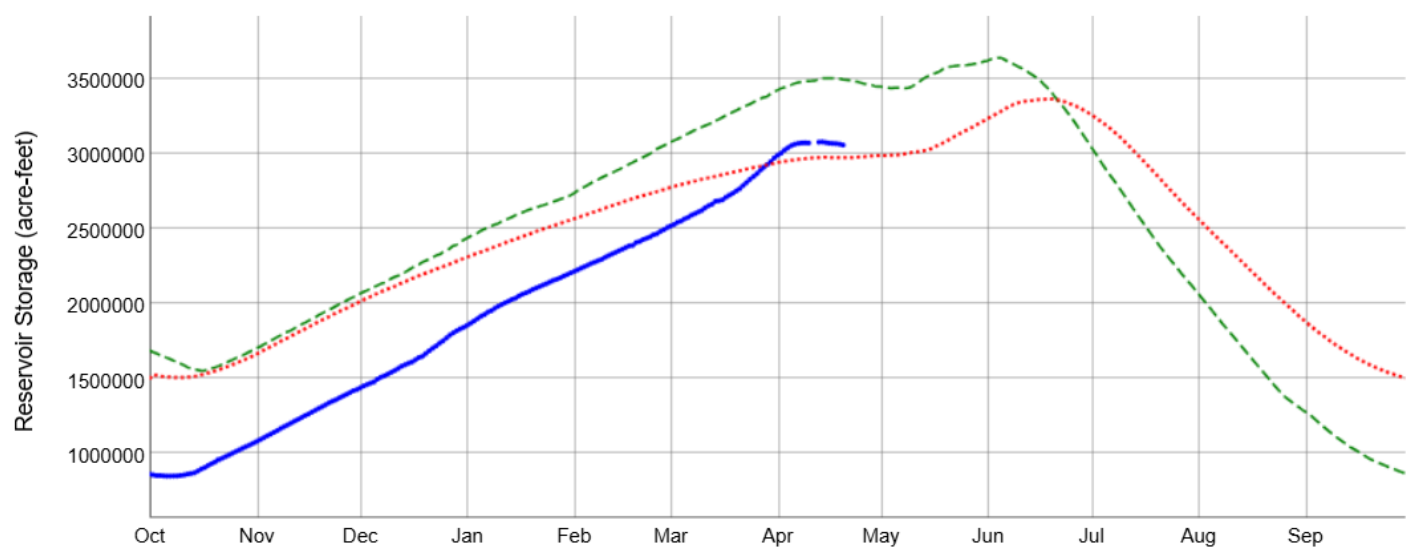
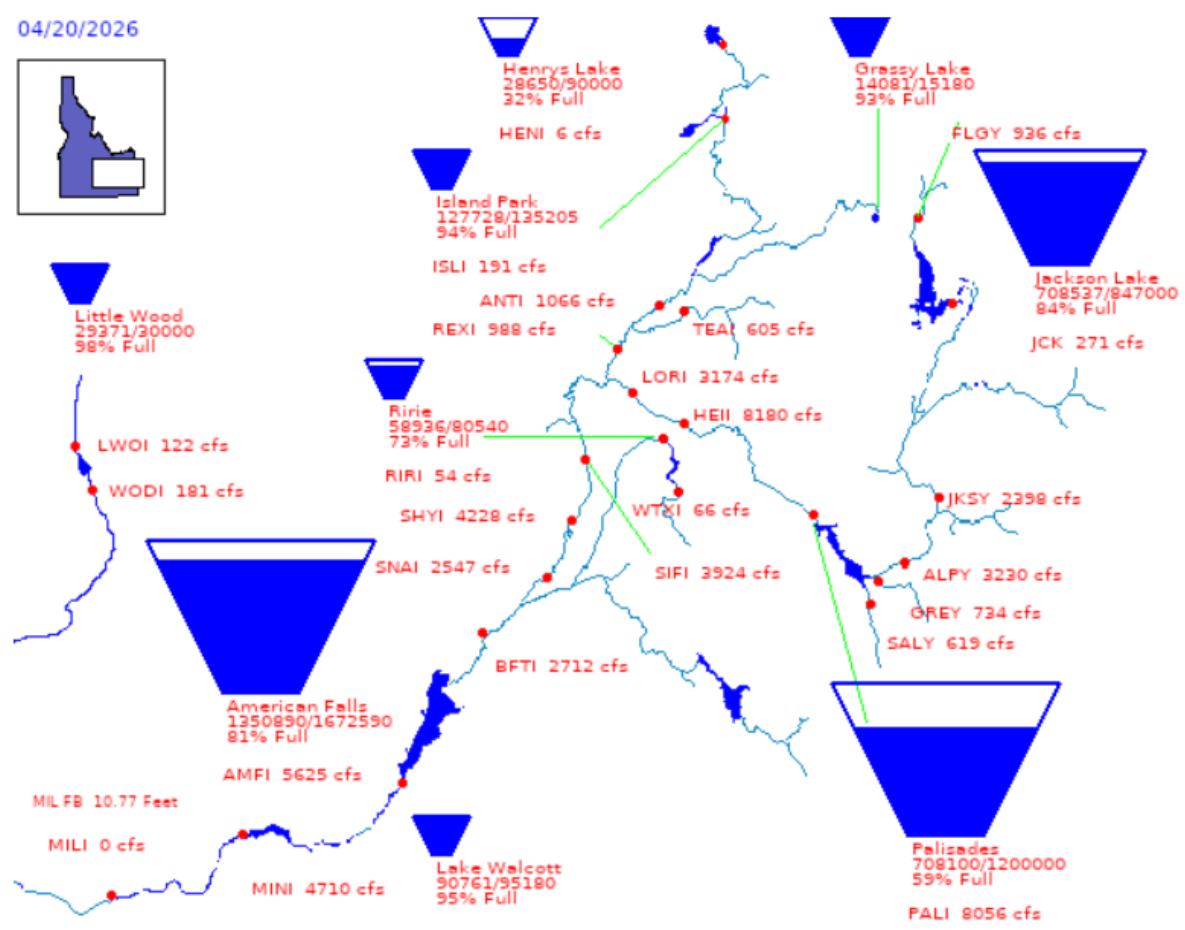
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Meeting ID: 871 0746 5010

Passcode: 330352

Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region Major Storage Reservoirs in the Upper Snake River Basin

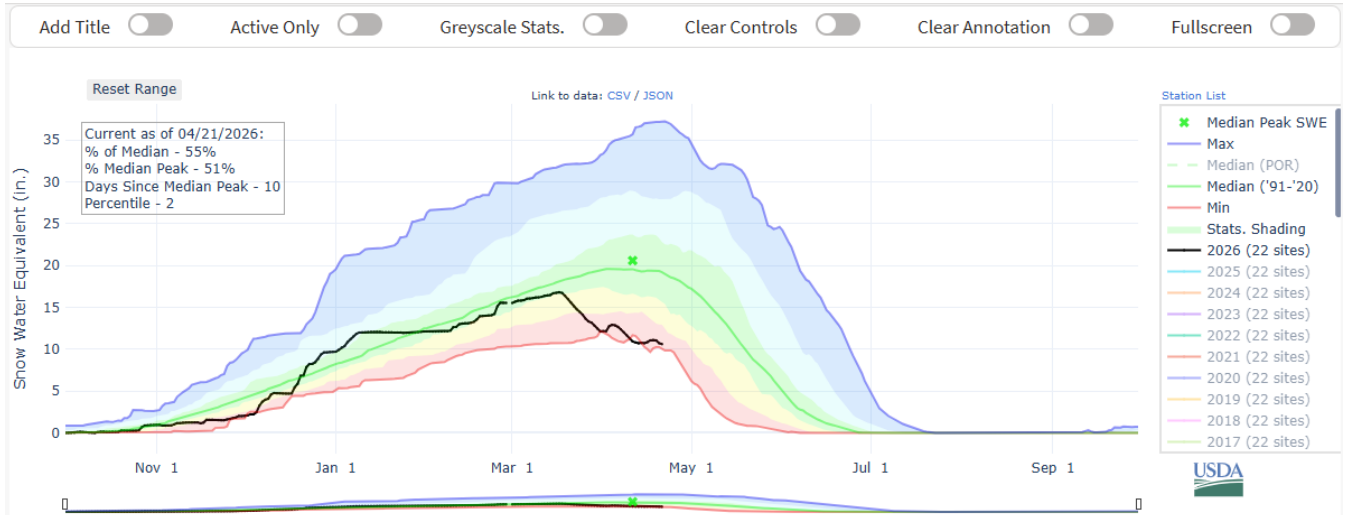
04/20/2026



PROVISIONAL DATA - Subject to change

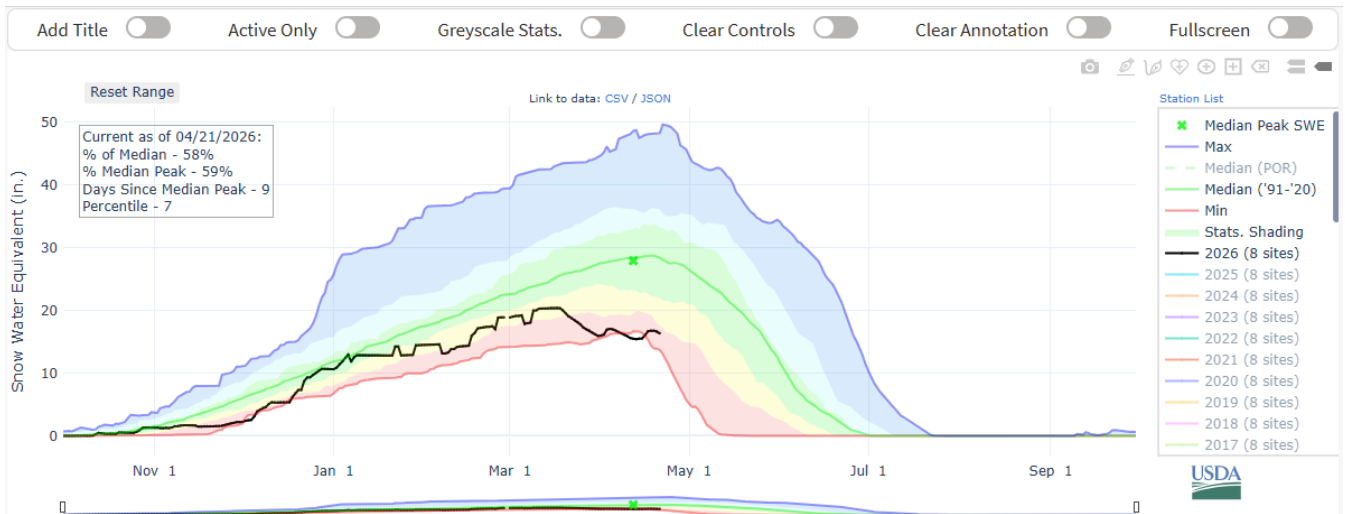
AWS Plot | SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN SNAKE RIVER ABOVE HEISE

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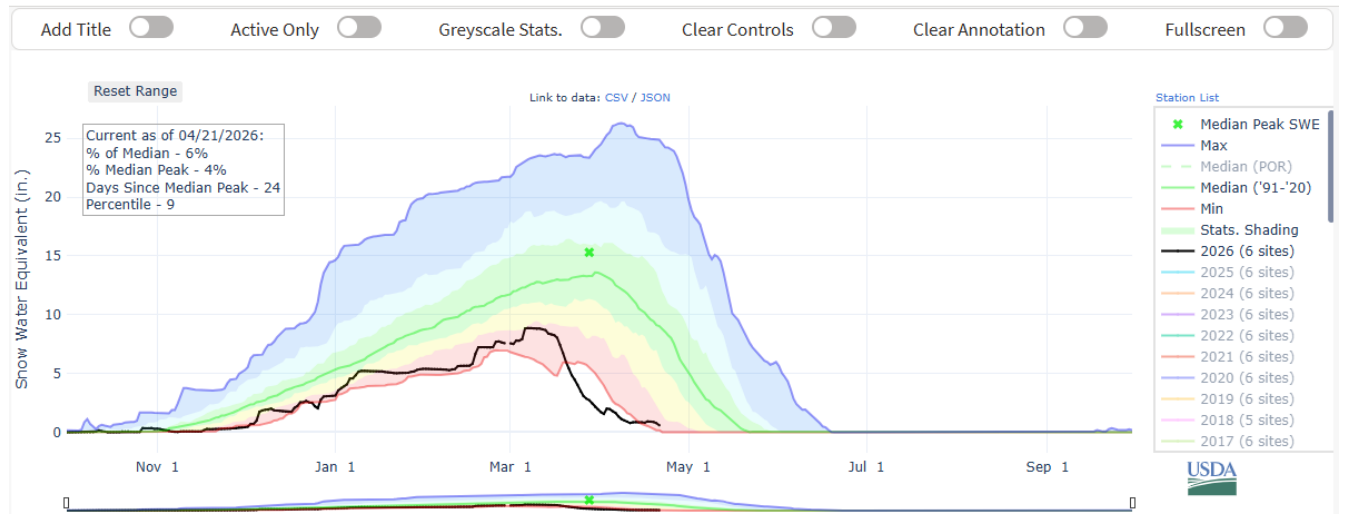
AWS Plot | SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN HENRYS FORK-TETON

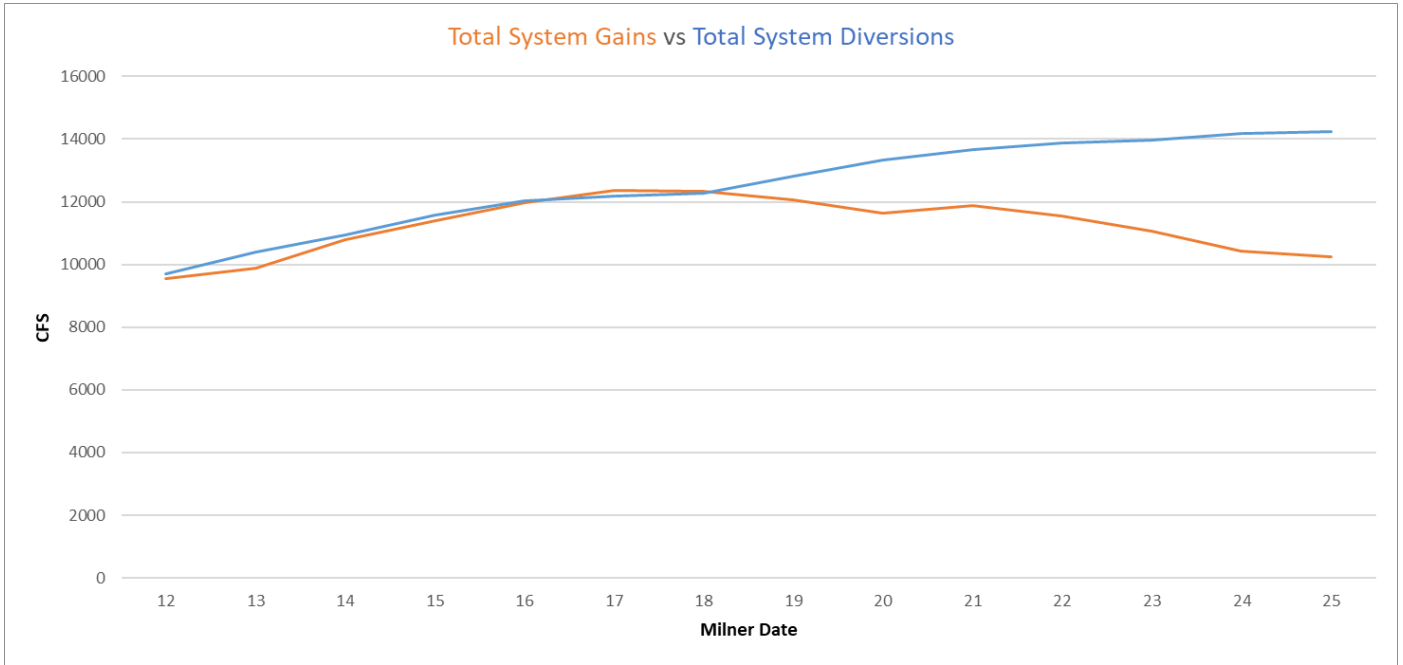
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AWS Plot | SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN WILLOW-BLACKFOOT-PORTNEUF

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As a general rule, reservoir storage water rights accrue storage when **Total System Gains** exceed **Total System Diversions**. Conversely, when **Total System Diversions** exceed **Total System Gains**, reservoir storage water rights fall out of priority, resulting in curtailment of irrigation water rights.