Water District 1 Report – April 29th, 2026

Cool temperatures over the past week significantly slowed the pace of snowmelt, which reduced system natural flow. The cooler weather was not enough to slow irrigation demand, however, and water right priorities have continued to decline as a result. April 19 was the last day of accrual to a reservoir water right, and it remains to be seen whether any additional accrual will occur when the remaining high-elevation snow melts.

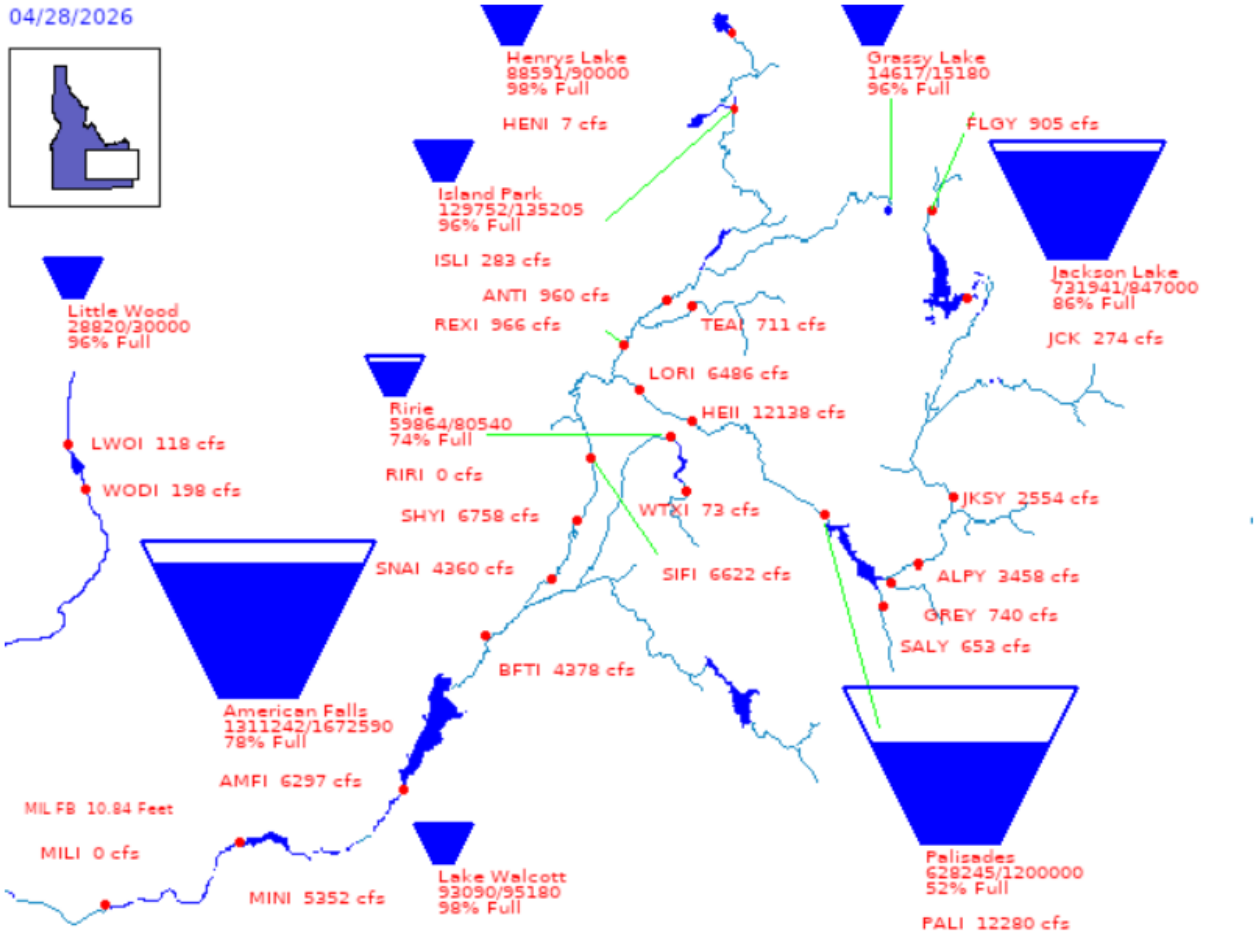
We have been fluctuating with a priority split at Blackfoot, with natural flow and diversions above Blackfoot at similar levels. A Snake River priority split at Blackfoot occurs when diversions above Blackfoot exceed natural flow above Blackfoot. When that happens, the priority splits at the 1900 level: the priority above Blackfoot drops below that level, while the priority below Blackfoot plateaus at 1900 because all natural flow above Blackfoot is being diverted by senior water rights above Blackfoot. We are seeing historically low priority cuts for this time of year, and the closest analog year for current priorities is 1992. At present, we are projecting an **1892** priority for the Snake River above Blackfoot and a **1900** priority for the Snake River below Blackfoot. Managers should understand that priorities are highly dynamic this time of year and may fluctuate significantly in either direction as the remaining snow melts. Priorities are projected and updated each weekday.

Light precipitation over the past week added a small amount of snow at the highest elevations. Analog years with similar snow conditions remaining — including 1992, 2001, 2007, and 2015 — suggest that peak unregulated runoff above Heise has likely not yet occurred. It remains uncertain, however, what effect that runoff will have on water right priorities given the strength of current diversion demand. When that runoff does occur, it is possible that priorities at Blackfoot reconnect at a level above 1900, that a small amount of additional accrual to reservoir water rights occurs, or that diversion demand captures most of the additional flow with slight changes to priorities. Current snow water equivalent is 61% of median for the Snake River above Heise, 54% of median for the Henrys Fork–Teton, and 10% of median for the Willow–Blackfoot–Portneuf.

Flow augmentation below Milner may begin as early as next week. Palisades Powerhead space is the only supply available for flow augmentation this year.

Canal managers should notify WD1 or the Bureau of Reclamation of anticipated changes in diversion rates, as the system is being actively managed to optimize reservoir and river conditions.

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



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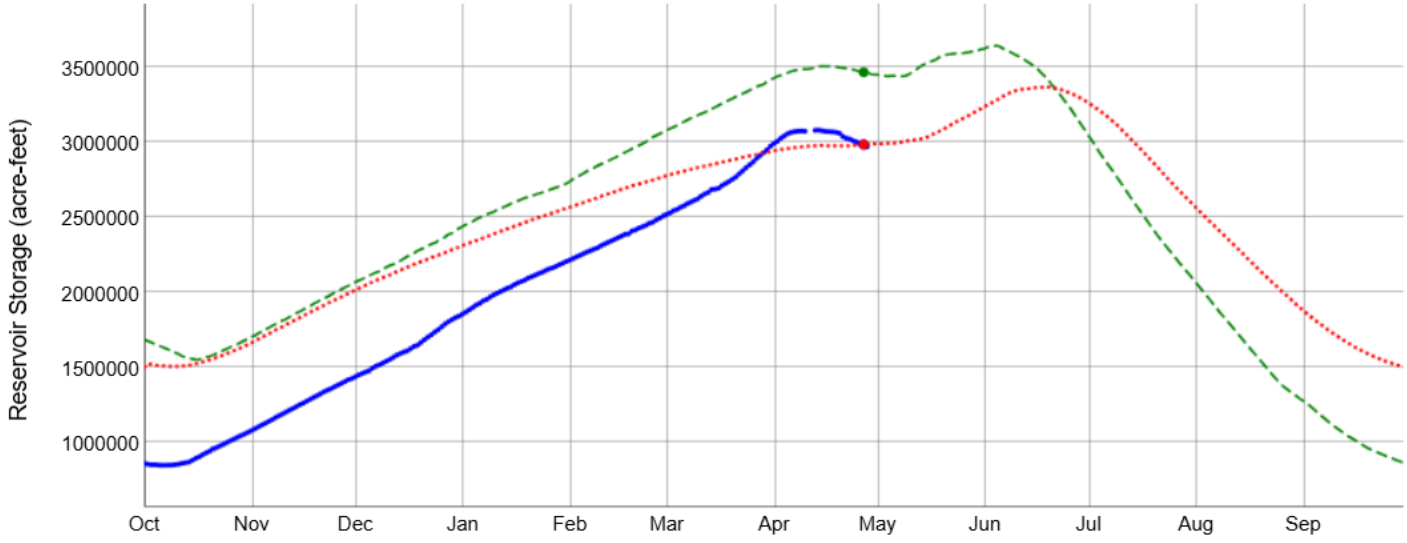
Previous Year: 3464765
Average: 2983329.92



PROVISIONAL DATA - Subject to change

AWS Plot | SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN SNAKE RIVER ABOVE HEISE

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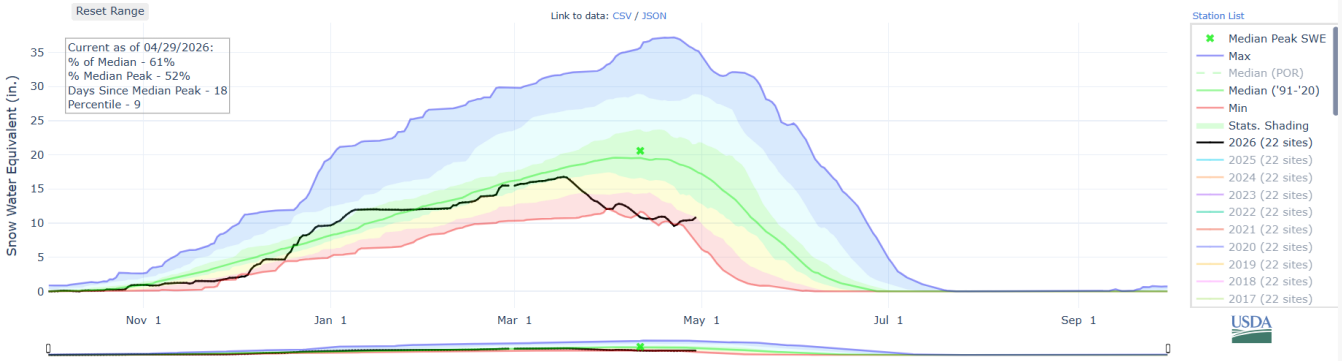
Add Title | Active Only | Greyscale Stats. | Clear Controls | Clear Annotation | Fullscreen



AWS Plot | SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN HENRYS FORK-TETON

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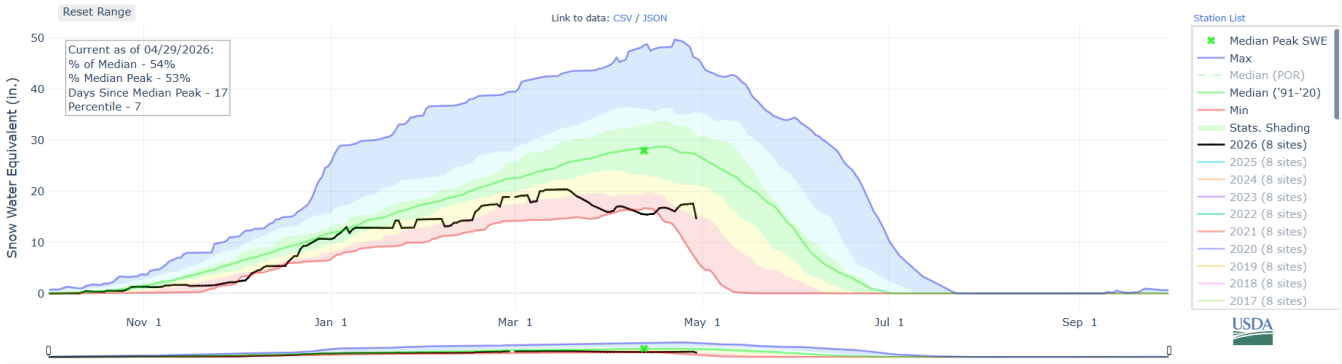

AWS Plot | SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN WILLOW-BLACKFOOT-PORTNEUF

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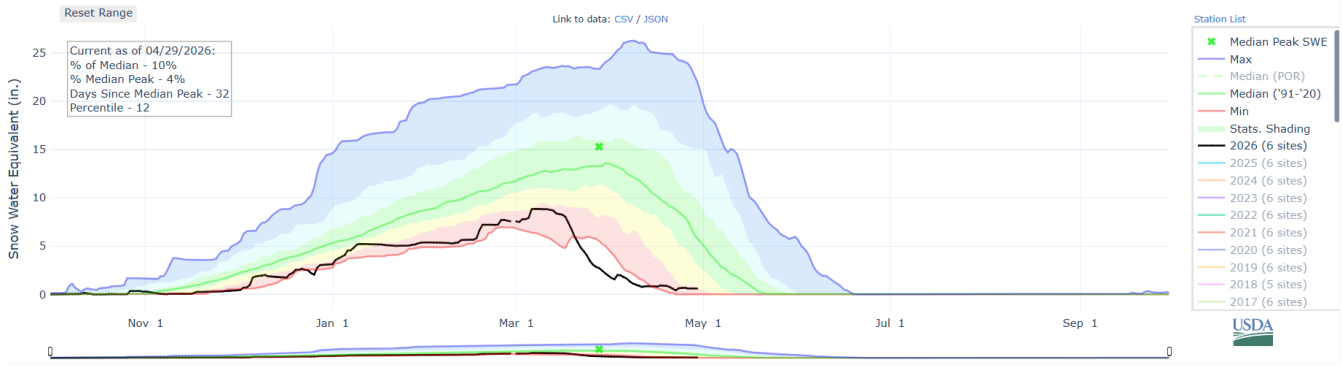

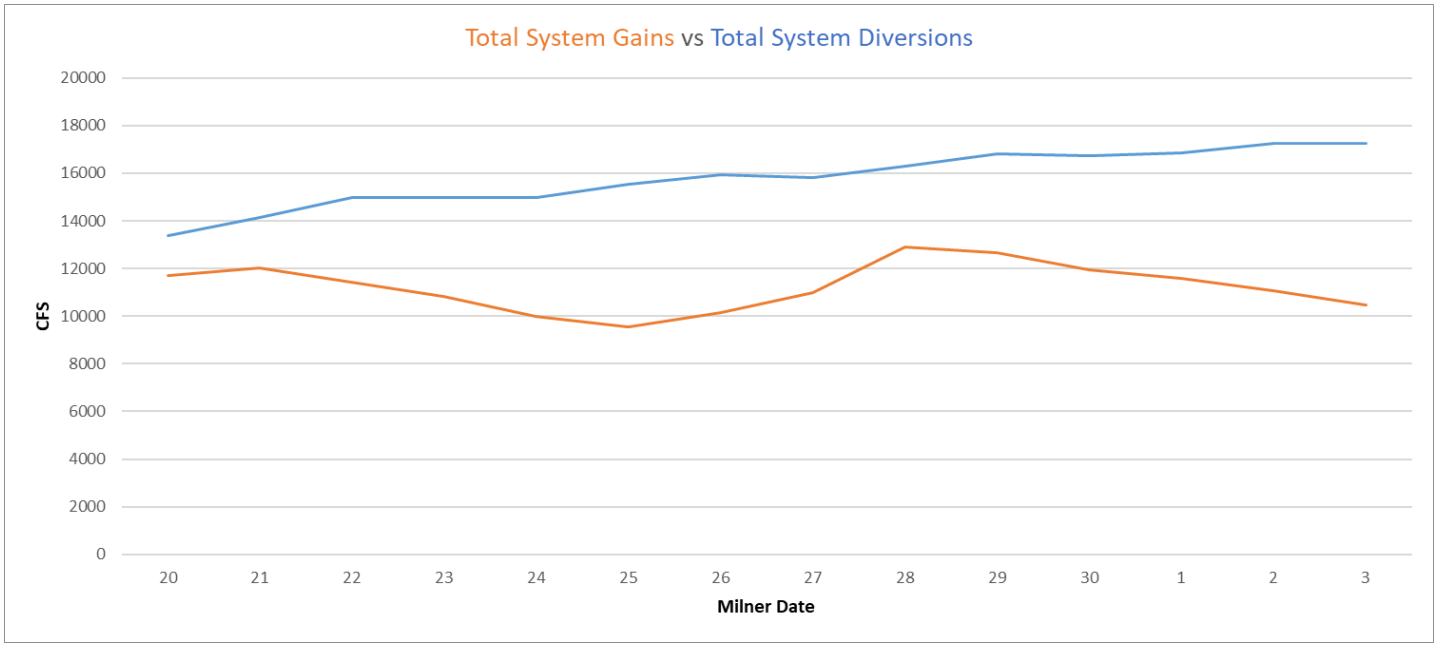
Total System Gains vs Total System Diversions
20000
18000
16000
14000
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
CFS
20
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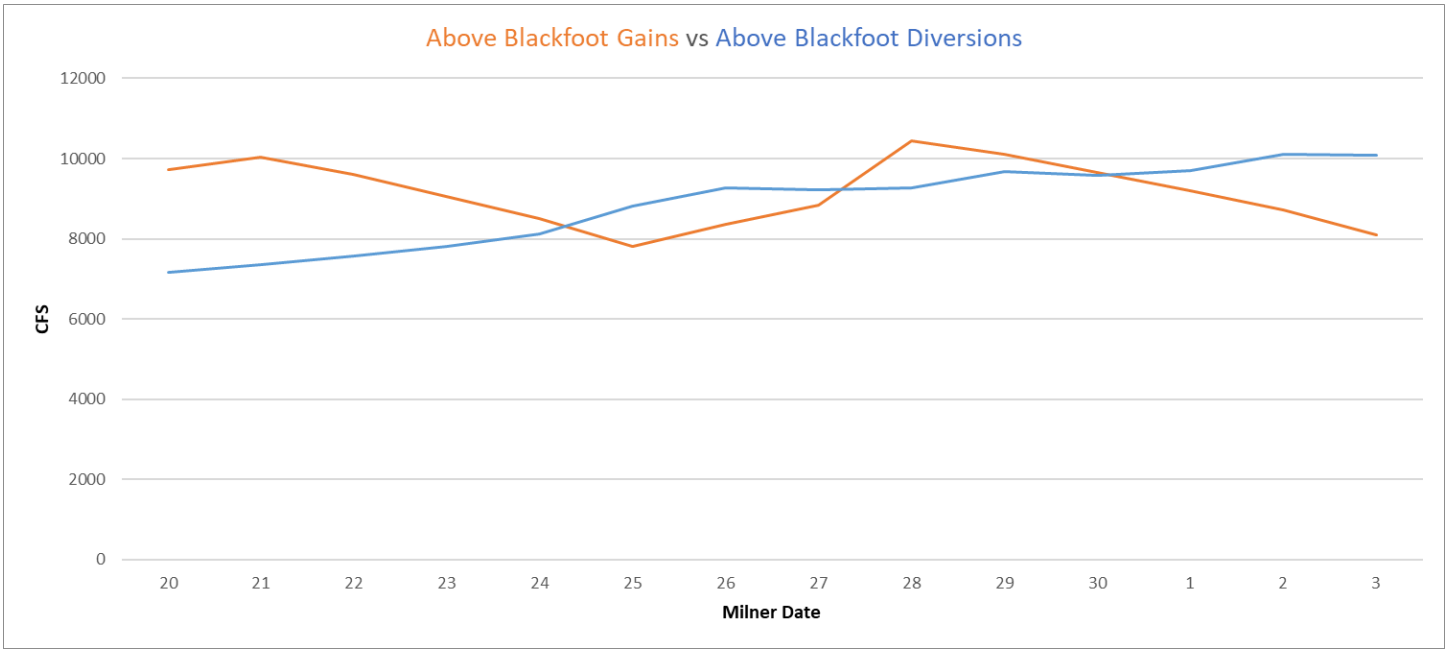
30
1
2
3
Milner Date


Above Blackfoot Gains vs Above Blackfoot Diversions
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
CFS
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
1
2
3
Milner Date