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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

WATER DISTRICT #1 WATER REPORT - April 4, 2006

Snowpack levels are above average for the first time since the start of the 1999 irrigation season. Combined with the unexpectedly large reservoir carryover at the end of the 2005 season, there should be a reasonably good water supply for this year. It's not guaranteed the reservoirs will fill to 100%, but the probabilities are really high at this point.

THIS IS IMPORTANT! Canal managers are reminded to call Water District #1 (525-7172) at least 24-hours prior to turning in their canal, and before making any significant changes during the irrigation season. The 24-hour notice is needed to properly manage reservoir releases, control river flows, and to provide notification to the water district to start Hydromet transmitters and begin collecting daily readings for canals. **Don't be responsible for causing too much or too little water in the river because you didn't notify us of your canal changes in advance!** Canals below American Falls should continue to notify the Bureau of Reclamation concerning canal changes to coordinate releases from American Falls Reservoir.

There have been some changes to the Water District #1 personnel since last irrigation season. Ron Carlson has retired. Lyle Swank has been elected Watermaster of Water District #1. Lyle has also been hired by the Idaho Department of Water Resources as regional manager for the Eastern Regional Office. Wendy Murphy has recently submitted her resignation. She'll continue working part-time for Water District #1 up until her last day on June 30, 2006.

The IDWR has made historical water right accounting data and canal diversion data much more accessible to the general public through the Internet. You can now retrieve current and several years of historical data for diversions, reservoir, or streamgaging stations. The process may be a little difficult for those who may not be familiar with mapping software, however, this is the first step by IDWR to answer the call for making accounting data more available and accessible. This is IDWR's first version of the Internet accounting data retrieval program. Improvements to the process and additional information are expected in the future. To access the data currently available, follow these basic steps on your computer:

- Enter the Internet address <http://maps.idwr.idaho.gov/wraccounting/>
- After reading the disclaimer click "OK" to retrieve a map of Idaho showing points for all diversions, reservoir, and streamflow gaging stations.
 - Activate the "zoom tool" (magnifying glass with a + sign) in the upper left hand corner of the screen by placing your cursor on the tool and clicking with your left mouse key.
 - Then drag your cursor across the approximate area where your canal is located while holding your left mouse key down. The box created when dragging your cursor on the map will be the area that will be "zoomed in".

- When the map refreshes after “zooming in”, you can further “zoom in” by repeating the previous step, “zoom out” by activating the “zoom out tool” (magnifying glass with a – sign) and clicking on the map, or you can move up, down, to the left, or to the right on the map after activating the “pan tool” (hand) and then holding your left mouse key down while moving the map up, down, left, or right.
- You can see the definition of the various types of colored points by clicking on the “Legend” box on the right-hand side of the screen.
- Once you’ve zeroed in on the area where your canal is located, activate the “identify tool” (the box with an “i” surrounded by a black circle) and then left click on a point on the map.
- After clicking on a point, a “Query/Selection” box will appear in the upper portion of the screen displaying the name of the station(s) you selected. Click on the SITEID to retrieve information for that station.
- You can then choose to retrieve historical discharge data or accounting information (daily discharge, natural flow, storage flow, water rights, etc.).
- If you choose historical data, a drop-down menu will appear in the upper left- hand portion of the screen. Click on the year for which you wish to retrieve data.

There currently isn’t any water right accounting data available yet for the 2006 season. Water District #1 is still reviewing, correcting, and entering all daily diversion, streamflow, and reservoir data collected during the non-irrigation season. In addition, we are waiting for the results of the upcoming SRBA Water Court hearing on April 18th to determine whether or not modifications to the accounting program will be necessary as a result of regulating water rights in Basin 21 (Henrys Fork and Falls River) based on the recommended claims contained in the Basin 21 Director’s Report. In the meantime, we are currently filling the 1939-Palisades and 1935-Island Park reservoir storage rights.

S N O W - P R E C I P I T A T I O N U P D A T E

Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites
As of TUESDAY: APRIL 4 , 2006

BASIN	ELEV.	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT			TOTAL PRECIPITATION		
Data Site Name	(Ft)	Current	Average	% Avg	Current	Average	% Avg

IDAHO							
HENRYS FORK, TETON BASINS							
BLACK BEAR	8170	49.7	40.0	124	-M	41.4	*
GRASSY LAKE	7265	39.0	36.3	107	-M	36.9	*
ISLAND PARK	6290	18.1	15.3	118	24.1	19.4	124
LEWIS LAKE DIVIDE	7850	41.9	36.0	116	39.5	37.6	105
MADISON PLATEAU	7750	28.3	25.6	111	33.0	27.4	120
PHILLIPS BENCH	8200	35.1	29.5	119	34.7	29.8	116
PINE CREEK PASS	6720	20.6	15.7	131	27.7	21.1	131
WHISKEY CREEK	6800	16.3	17.5	93	23.7	21.5	110
WHITE ELEPHANT	7710	38.2	29.3	130	40.1	31.0	129

Basin wide percent of average				117	119		
SNAKE BASIN ABOVE PALISADES							
BASE CAMP	7030	20.6	17.8	116	25.4	22.0	115
BLIND BULL SUM	8900	29.2	28.4	103	21.8	22.8	96
COTTONWOOD CREEK	7600	30.1	24.1	125	31.7	28.2	112
EAST RIM DIVIDE	7930	11.4	13.5	84	11.8	12.4	95
GRANITE CREEK	6770	21.4	18.3	117	23.6	20.3	116
GRASSY LAKE	7265	39.0	36.3	107	-M	36.9	*
GROS VENTRE SUMMIT	8750	12.7	14.4	88	13.0	13.2	98
GUNSIGHT PASS	9820	12.3	-M	*	14.7	-M	*
LEWIS LAKE DIVIDE	7850	41.9	36.0	116	39.5	37.6	105
LOOMIS PARK	8240	20.0	17.4	115	20.0	17.8	112
PHILLIPS BENCH	8200	35.1	29.5	119	34.7	29.8	116
SALT RIVER SUMMIT	7600	16.9	14.6	116	19.6	19.3	102
SNAKE RIVER STATION	6920	21.4	18.8	114	26.1	22.8	114
SPRING CREEK DIVIDE	9000	31.8	27.2	117	-M	27.1	*
THUMB DIVIDE	7980	19.8	19.1	104	19.2	19.4	99
TOGWOTEE PASS	9580	25.1	25.5	98	26.0	25.3	103
TWO OCEAN PLATEAU	9240	35.6	28.9	123	29.0	28.4	102
WILLOW CREEK	8450	36.7	30.9	119	40.7	33.1	123

Basin wide percent of average				112	108		
WILLOW, BLACKFOOT, PORTNEUF BASINS							
SEDGWICK PEAK	7850	-M	23.0	*	28.5	23.3	122
SHEEP MTN.	6570	18.2	13.8	132	21.5	16.7	129
SLUG CREEK DIVIDE	7225	19.6	17.8	110	25.1	21.0	120
SOMSEN RANCH	6800	15.3	13.0	118	19.5	16.8	116
WILDHORSE DIVIDE	6490	23.2	17.4	133	24.8	21.0	118

Basin wide percent of average				123	121		

-M = Missing data
 * = Data may not provide a valid measure of conditions.
 Units = inches for the Current and Average Snow Water Equivalent and
 Total Precipitation values

