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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR  
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U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Snake River Area Office  
24 Broadway Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Rick Wells (208) 334-1461

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LOWER PAYETTE RIVER FLOW

The flow of the Payette River below Black Canyon Dam near Emmett, Idaho, will be decreased from the current level of 1,150 cubic-feet-per-second to 250 cfs between Oct. 25 and Oct. 30 in order to conduct an underwater inspection of the downstream side of the Black Canyon Dam.

Discharge from the dam will be reduced to zero on Oct. 27 for a period of four to six hours. Upon completion of the inspection, the river flow will be increased to 500 cfs. The dam discharge will be gradually increased on subsequent days and a flow of approximately 1,150 cfs will be fully restored by Nov. 1.

The river flow is being gradually decreased prior to the inspection in order to give fish the opportunity to adjust to low flow conditions. A gradual increase in dam discharge subsequent to the inspection is also planned to reduce adverse impacts to fish. Inflow from bank storage and some seepage will maintain a limited flow in the river during the brief inspection period. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game provided assistance in planning the adjustments in dam discharge rates in order to minimize impacts to fish.

Underwater inspections of the downstream side of the dam are required every six years in order to monitor the structural condition of the dam.