

(Friday April 6th, 2018)

Subject: 2018 Upper Snake River Operations Update

Purpose: The purpose of this Operations Update is to provide information regarding Reclamation's operations as the season progresses. The operations identified are based on the best available data at the time and are subject to change as new information becomes available. For additional information and resources, please visit our website at: <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/upperSnake/> .

## Summary

Relatively high forecasted snow accumulation above Palisades Dam in the near term on top of already high runoff volume forecasts may require additional discharge increases from Jackson Lake Dam and Palisades Dam next week for flood control purposes. Depending on how future precipitation patterns look after next week and how much precipitation actually accumulates over the next week will fine tune operational decisions in the short term. The only planned flow changes at this time are the following:

- **American Falls Dam** discharge will be increased Monday (4/9) at 1 pm to go from the current 15,000 cfs to 17,000 cfs.
- **Minidoka Dam** discharge will be increased early on Tuesday (4/10) to go from the current 15,400 cfs to 17,400 cfs.
- **Milner Dam** discharge will be increased Tuesday (4/10) in the morning hours to go from the current 13,000 cfs to approximately 15,000 cfs.

## Jackson Lake Dam

- Current Discharge = 1,500 cfs. Reclamations April through July runoff volume forecast for Jackson Lake Dam is 929,000 acre-feet which is 121% of the 1981-2010 average. Current flood control targets for Jackson Lake Dam in the early May time frame are in the 600,000 acre-feet range (71% full). As April progresses flood control targets will be rechecked and adjusted based on additional precipitation and weather outlooks. The lower gates at Jackson Lake Dam will be exercised on April 24<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>. On these two days outflows will rise and fall as necessary to test all the lower gates. This gate exercising is part of a regularly scheduled gate maintenance program.
- Current Storage = 656,000 ac-ft (77% full)
- Current inflow (5-day average) = 726 cfs (1981-2010 average = 600 cfs)

### Palisades Dam

- Current Discharge = 16,000 cfs. Reclamations coordinated April through July runoff volume forecast for the full drainage above Heise, ID (including Palisades Dam and Jackson Lake Dam), is 3,700,000 acre-feet which is 114% of the 1981-2010 average actual runoff. Current flood control targets for Palisades Dam in the early May time frame are in the 600,000 acre-feet range (50% full). As April progresses flood control targets will be rechecked and adjusted based on additional precipitation and weather outlooks. Current snow water equivalent (SWE) readings above Palisades Dam show an average of 126% of the median SWE to date.
- Current Storage = 853,000 (71% full)
- Current Local Inflow below Jackson Lake Dam = 4,000 cfs (1981-2010 average = 3,000 cfs)

### American Falls Dam

- Current discharge = 15,000 cfs. Discharge will be increased by 2,000 cfs on Monday (4/9) to go to 17,000 cfs. Reclamation will maintain some space in the reservoir to handle fluctuations in local inflows through the high runoff time period with a target of filling the reservoir in the early May time frame.
- Current Storage = 1,564,000 ac-ft (94% full).

### Minidoka Dam

- Current discharge = 15,400 cfs. Discharge will be increased by 2,000 cfs on Tuesday (4/10) to go to 17,400 cfs.
- Current Storage = 88,400 ac-ft (93% full).

### Milner Dam

- Current power plant flow rate = 5,700 cfs. Current flow rate through the spillway = 7,300 cfs. Total discharge from Milner Dam = 13,000 cfs. Total discharge will be approximately 15,000 cfs on Tuesday (4/10) after increases from Minidoka Dam reach Milner Dam.

### Grassy Lake Dam

- Current discharge = 0 cfs.
- Current Storage = 13,900 ac-ft (91% full).

### Ririe Dam

- Current discharge = 0 cfs. Reclamations April through June runoff volume forecast for Ririe Dam is 52,000 acre-feet which is 83% of the 1981-2010 average.
- Current Storage = 59,000 ac-ft (73% full).
- Current Inflow (5-day average) = 137 cfs (1981-2010 Average = 115 cfs)

### Island Park Dam

- Current Discharge = 490 cfs. Reclamations April through July runoff volume forecast for Island Park Dam is 223,000 acre-feet which is 103% of the 1981-2010 average.
- Current Storage = 119,500 ac-ft (88% full).

### Little Wood Dam

- Current discharge = approximately 480 cfs. Reclamations April through July runoff volume forecast for Little Wood Dam is 74,000 acre-feet which is 96% of the 1981-2010 average.
  - Current Storage = 25,800 ac-ft (86% full).
  - Current Inflow = 220 cfs (1981-2010 Average = 330 cfs)
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