

WATER REPORT – February 6, 2018

The reservoir system content has remained relatively steady at 87% full since the last water report was issued on January 2, 2018. A total of 457,000 acre-feet of water has spilled past Milner Dam during the past five weeks averaging 7,180 cfs or 14,200 acre-feet of spill per day. All water rights are currently being filled (including all recharge water rights) until Milner spill ceases. Spill should continue for at least the next month as the BOR is passing inflows and holding reservoir system contents relatively steady until flood control requirements cause additional water to be released. Milner spill probably won't stop until diversion demand exceeds inflows and/or the BOR begins to fill the empty space in American Falls Reservoir and/or the BOR begins to refill reservoir space evacuated for flood control later this spring.

While most of the lower valley locations have lost all their snow cover from warm temperatures, snow water equivalent remains above average at most SNOTEL sites in the Snake River and Henrys Fork Basins in the higher elevations. Snowpack in the *Snake River Basin above Palisades* is currently at 121% according to the most recent SNOTEL update report. The snowpack for the *Henrys Fork/Teton Basins* is 113% of the median amount. The *Willow/Blackfoot/Portneuf Basins* are not following the same patterns as the basins to their north and east. Snowpack in the *Willow/Blackfoot/Portneuf Basins* currently registers 71% of the median level for this date.

It's a little too early to forecast a great water supply for the upcoming season based solely on above-average high elevation snowpack at this time. Precipitation totals since October 1st at the same high elevation sites have been closer to normal, and some sites are reporting below-average precipitation totals since the beginning of the 2018 water year. Lack of snow, below-average precipitation, and warm temperatures at lower elevations usually results in earlier and higher than average diversion demand at the beginning of the irrigation season and can sometimes result in failure to refill reservoir space evacuated for flood control in the spring. Precipitation and temperature patterns occurring over the next few months will greatly influence whether we receive a great, good, or fair water supply for the upcoming irrigation season.

The Idaho Water Users Association (IWUA) is hosting *Ditchrider Workshops* in Idaho Falls on February 14th, in Rupert on February 15th, and in Meridian on February 16th. The IWUA is also hosting *Applicator Recertification Workshops* in Meridian on March 7th and in Rupert on March 8th. Please see the www.iwua.org website or call Karen Edwards at 208-344-6690 for more information concerning the workshops.

CALENDAR

A Committee of Nine meeting will be held March 5, 2018, beginning 2 PM at Keefer's Convention Center, Shilo Inn, 780 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls, ID.

The Water District #1 Annual Meeting will be held March 6, 2018, beginning 9AM at Keefer's Convention Center, Shilo Inn, 780 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls, ID.

Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites

Provisional data, subject to revision

Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00) for Tuesday, February 06, 2018

| Basin Site Name | Elev (ft) | Snow Water Equivalent | | | Year-to-Date Precipitation | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | | Current (in) | Median (in) | Pct of Median | Current (in) | Average (in) | Pct of Avg |
| HENRY'S FORK, TETON BASINS | | | | | | | |
| BLACK BEAR | 8170 | 28.7 | 24.0 | 120 | 27.5 | 25.6 | 107 |
| GRAND TARGHEE | 9260 | 34.8 | 24.3 _R | 143 | 22.2 | 21.5 _R | 103 |
| GRASSY LAKE | 7265 | 21.4 | 21.2 | 101 | 24.7 | 24.7 | 100 |
| ISLAND PARK | 6290 | 9.6 | 10.2 | 94 | 12.0 | 12.8 | 94 |
| LEWIS LAKE DIVIDE | 7850 | 25.6 | 20.6 | 124 | 27.2 | 23.8 | 114 |
| PHILLIPS BENCH | 8200 | 16.5 | 16.2 | 102 | 17.5 | 18.7 | 94 |
| PINE CREEK PASS | 6720 | 7.5 | 9.8 | 77 | 14.5 | 14.8 | 98 |
| WHITE ELEPHANT | 7710 | 17.2 | 16.6 | 104 | 17.7 | 19.5 | 91 |
| Basin-wide percent of average | | 113 | | | 101 | | |
| SNAKE BASIN ABOVE PALISADES | | | | | | | |
| BASE CAMP | 7030 | 13.2 | 11.0 | 120 | 14.8 | 14.4 | 103 |
| BLIND BULL SUM | 8650 | 23.5 | 14.6 | 161 | 14.2 | 13.3 | 107 |
| COTTONWOOD CREEK | 7670 | 15.1 | 13.6 | 111 | 17.1 | 16.4 | 104 |
| EAST RIM DIVIDE | 7930 | 8.3 | 6.9 | 120 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 104 |
| GRANITE CREEK | 6770 | 12.4 | 11.1 | 112 | 15.0 | 14.0 | 107 |
| GRASSY LAKE | 7265 | 21.4 | 21.2 | 101 | 24.7 | 24.7 | 100 |
| GROS VENTRE SUMMIT | 8750 | 9.7 | 8.6 | 113 | 9.3 | 8.5 | 109 |
| GUNSIGHT PASS | 9820 | 10.8 | 8.6 _C | 126 | 11.0 | 9.2 _C | 120 |
| LEWIS LAKE DIVIDE | 7850 | 25.6 | 20.6 | 124 | 27.2 | 23.8 | 114 |
| LOOMIS PARK | 8240 | 11.5 | 9.9 | 116 | 12.3 | 11.6 | 106 |
| PHILLIPS BENCH | 8200 | 16.5 | 16.2 | 102 | 17.5 | 18.7 | 94 |
| SALT RIVER SUMMIT | 7760 | 6.8 | 8.2 | 83 | 8.6 | 11.0 | 78 |
| SNAKE RIVER STATION | 6920 | 13.2 | 11.5 | 115 | 17.6 | 15.9 | 111 |
| SPRING CREEK DIVIDE | 9000 | 17.9 | 15.2 | 118 | 17.3 | 15.9 | 109 |
| THUMB DIVIDE | 7980 | 12.7 | 9.7 | 131 | 13.3 | 12.5 | 106 |
| TOGWOTEE PASS | 9580 | 21.6 | 15.4 | 140 | 22.0 | 16.3 | 135 |
| TWO OCEAN PLATEAU | 9240 | 27.2 | 18.4 | 148 | 19.9 | 17.8 | 112 |
| WILLOW CREEK | 8380 | 21.8 | 18.0 | 121 | 24.4 | 22.3 | 109 |
| Basin-wide percent of average | | 121 | | | 107 | | |
| WILLOW, BLACKFOOT, PORTNEUF BASINS | | | | | | | |
| OXFORD SPRING | 6740 | -M | 7.4 | * | 6.3 | 11.4 | 55 |
| SEDGWICK PEAK | 7850 | 9.6 | 13.0 | 74 | 11.8 | 14.1 | 84 |
| SHEEP MTN. | 6570 | 5.1 | 9.2 | 55 | 8.6 | 11.1 | 77 |
| SLUG CREEK DIVIDE | 7225 | 8.8 | 9.3 | 95 | 13.1 | 13.9 | 94 |
| SOMSEN RANCH | 6800 | 6.4 | 9.2 | 70 | 11.1 | 11.4 | 97 |
| WILDHORSE DIVIDE | 6490 | 5.8 | 9.5 | 61 | 10.3 | 13.0 | 79 |
| Basin-wide percent of average | | 71 | | | 82 | | |

-M = Missing data.

N/A = Not available.

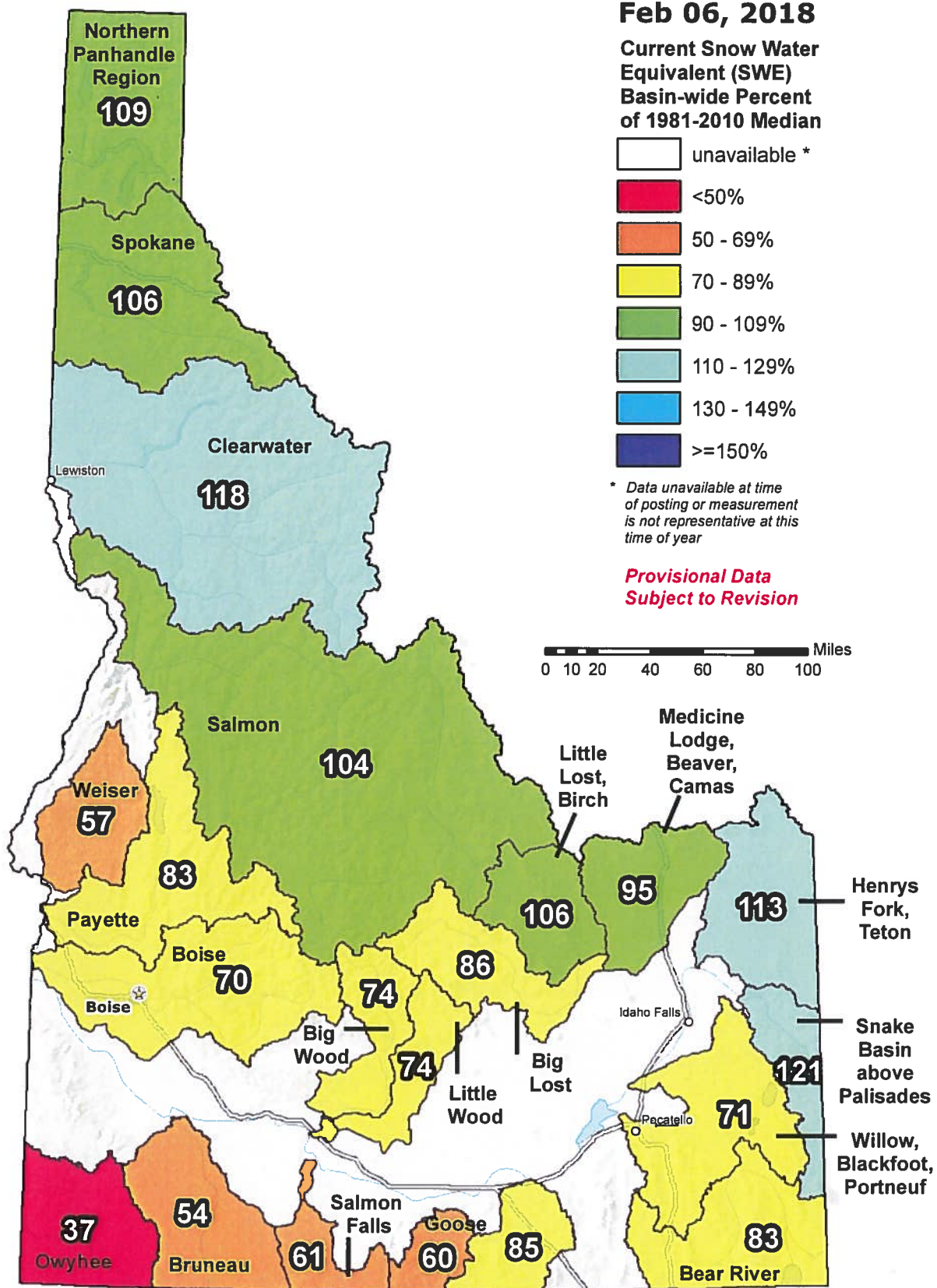
* = Analysis may not provide a valid measure of conditions.

C = Conditional, only 10-19 years of data available.

R = Rough, less than 10 years of data available.

Reference period for median and average conditions is 1981-2010.

Idaho SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:
 USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
 Portland, Oregon
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>