



## **Judge's Rejection of Salmon Recovery Plan**

### **Tops Summer Seminar Agenda Items**

A recent ruling by a federal district court judge in Oregon striking down the current salmon recovery plan and making removal of four Snake River dams a consideration in a new plan that must be done in two years will be center stage at the annual Summer Water Law and Resource Issues Seminar June 13-14 at the Sun Valley Resort in Sun Valley.

“The ruling is a hugely important issue for all Idaho water users and was reported in nearly every newspaper in the country. We have organized a special presentation on June 13 so that seminar attendees can hear in detail just what is in the 150-page opinion issued by Judge Michael Simon and what it means for Idaho water users,” said Norm Semanko, IWUA Executive Director and General Counsel.

Other topics on the agenda include an examination of the Idaho Water Sustainability Plan and groundwater flow model updates and an update from Idaho's Adjudication Court.

Conflicts over who gets water will feature presentations on the results of the Rangen Delivery Call appeals, an update on the conflict in the Treasure Valley over refill and flood control releases and a look at the Wood River Basin water delivery calls.

The annual summer seminar provides attendees a critical look into the latest developments affecting or involving national, regional and local water and environmental issues. IWUA organizers traditionally develop a variety of speakers and panels that include top subject matter experts from around the nation, during the two-day seminar.

Other panel discussions set for the seminar include:

- New Federal Policy on Mitigating Project Impacts;
- Washington, D.C. Federal Legislative Update; and
- A litigation update on Sage Grouse and Waters of the US

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**August 3-5 NWRA Western Water Seminar – Sun Valley Resort - Sun Valley, ID**

**November 3-4 IWUA 33rd Water Law Seminar – The Riverside Hotel - Boise**

**November 14-16 NWRA Annual Convention – Hotel del Coronado – San Diego, CA**

# **IDWR issues curtailment order to 160 ground water users; Must join mitigation plans or face shutoff**

The Director of the Idaho Department of Water on May 18<sup>th</sup> ordered the curtailment of approximately 160 ground water rights that divert from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), according to an IDWR news release. The May 18 curtailment order becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. June 3, 2016.

The curtailment order is in response to the Surface Water Coalition's 2005 water delivery call and affects ground water rights on the ESPA junior to Feb. 8, 1989, that are not protected by one of four approved mitigation plans.

The May 18 curtailment order was issued almost one month after IDWR Director Gary Spackman issued an order predicting a 44,200 acre-foot shortfall to senior priority surface water rights in the ESPA and a May 3 deadline for junior water users to establish their ability to mitigate for the shortfall or face curtailment.

Curtailed ground water rights can resume diversion by either joining a ground water district or seeking protection under the Idaho Ground Water Appropriator's (IGWA) existing mitigation plan, or by submitting and receiving approval of their own mitigation plan.

## **Corps of Engineers: Increased Arrowrock Dam Height Fails To Meet Cost vs Benefits Test**

Studies conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that raising the height of Arrowrock Dam to provide enhanced flood protection while increasing water supply does not meet benefits vs cost requirements.



The findings were presented to members of the Idaho Water Resource Board's Water Storage Committee during a special meeting May 18 in Boise.

Over the past several years, the Corps, in partnership with the Board, worked together on the feasibility study to evaluate an array of alternatives to reduce flood risks and increase the amount of water available for use in the Boise River Basin.

The Boise River Feasibility Study team conducted detailed hydrologic and economic modeling and analysis and prepared cost estimates for the alternatives. Based on preliminary results, the solution for both flood risk and water supply needs appeared to be a raise of Arrowrock Dam.

Several potential dam height raises were considered.

However, the results of more detailed economic benefits-and-cost analyses indicate that the dam-raise alternatives do not generate enough economic benefits to exceed the project costs over a 50-year period of analysis. For the Corps to recommend a solution for this study the benefit-to-cost ratio must exceed 1.0 -- the benefit-to-cost ratio for a dam-raise alternative was a 0.7.

# Port of Lewiston Provides Critical Shipping Access That Helped Spokane Company Bid & Win Project

In April, personnel from the Port of Lewiston, American Alloy and subcontractors worked diligently for two days using a 250-ton crane to get a newly built, 105,000-pound unit for the US Navy ready for shipment



downriver by barge to Bremerton, Washington. Port officials say it is the first of several units that are being manufactured at the Port of Lewiston dock and shipped to the US Navy in Bremerton, Wash.

American Alloy, a Spokane manufacturing company of 85 employees, is responsible for bringing this exciting project to Lewiston. Owner Garret Guinn, a Coast Guard Academy graduate and veteran, has built a strong company that has high ratings with the government and is regularly chosen for projects.

Access to the Port of Lewiston, the most inland seaport on the West Coast, played a significant role in

American Alloy's ability to win this project to construct units the US Navy will use in the decommissioning of Los Angeles-class submarines. The units are far too big to ship by road or rail. In the past, the Navy has been limited to companies located in the Puget Sound area.

“Having access to the river and a high quality commercial dock at the Port of Lewiston allowed us to bid on the project,” said Guinn. “And, by having competitive contractors in the Inland Northwest, it may actually save the government money in the long term by creating competition for this type of work.”

The on-going project has provided an economic boost for the local economy. Several local companies are contracting with American Alloy to complete the work and provide equipment. These include: Well Connected Electric, Mike's Plumbing, Heating & Air, K&G Construction, United Rentals and Carlton Container Rental.

Additional units are under construction and will soon ship from the Port of Lewiston. Port officials are excited to see these exports occurring on the river and hope the project will raise awareness about the Port and everything it has to offer manufacturers.

“This project really helps illustrate why the Port of Lewiston exists and why it is critical to our region's economic vitality,” said Port Commission President Mike Thomason. “Our river system is critical to local farmers for shipping commodities like grain, peas and lentils, but it is also a tremendous asset for manufacturers looking to import and export goods.”

The Port's recently expanded 275-foot dock is capable of handling a variety of roll on/rolls off and heavy pick cargos. Also, barging is an environmentally friendly solution for product transport. Barging limits transportation impacts on the driving public and requires far less fuel than truck or rail, thereby reducing CO2 emissions.

## **ANNUAL WATER SAFETY CAMPAIGN NOW UNDERWAY; NEW SPANISH LANGUAGE COMPONENT ADDED**

### ***-ST. LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM JOINS THE DRIVE-***

IWUA's annual water safety outreach campaign began May 23<sup>rd</sup> with two new 30-second radio commercials airing on radio stations across the southern half of the state and for the first time the campaign includes a Spanish language component airing in all three geographical areas.

Two English and two Spanish language commercials will run on radio stations in the Treasure Valley, Magic Valley and Eastern Idaho areas through August. Funding for the program comes from IWUA members and the Association itself.

Additionally, St. Luke's Health Services donated \$2,000 to help pay for the Spanish radio campaign in the Treasure and Magic Valley areas where St. Luke's has medical facilities. The decision to include Spanish language commercials that will air on the top Spanish language radio stations was made by the Rural and Urban Affairs committee during the annual general meeting in January.

The English language spots will air a total of 1,866 times over the course of the campaign. That will include: 800 times in the Treasure Valley; 534 times in the Magic Valley; and 532 times in Eastern Idaho. Depending on the area, the commercials will air over the next three months.

The new Spanish commercials will air a total of 894 times on Spanish language stations in the three regions.

The commercials will also be available for listening on the IWUA website: [www.iwua.org](http://www.iwua.org).

The canal safety program is an effort of the Association's Rural and Urban Affairs Committee headed by Chairman Jay Barlogi of the Twin Falls Canal Company.

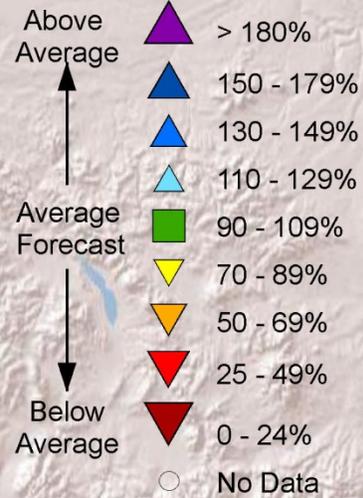
## **Idaho Water Supply Forecast**

Idaho's disappearing snow... Here is a summary of what happened and what to watch during the rest of the runoff season. The warm dry February started setting the stage for this year's early melt. Snow surveyors were measuring higher than normal snow densities as the snowpack started settling in February. Then came March's abundant precipitation across most of the state that delighted skiers, farmers and river runners. April brought below normal precipitation across most of the state and amounts that were only a third of normal in the headwaters of the Snake River in Wyoming.

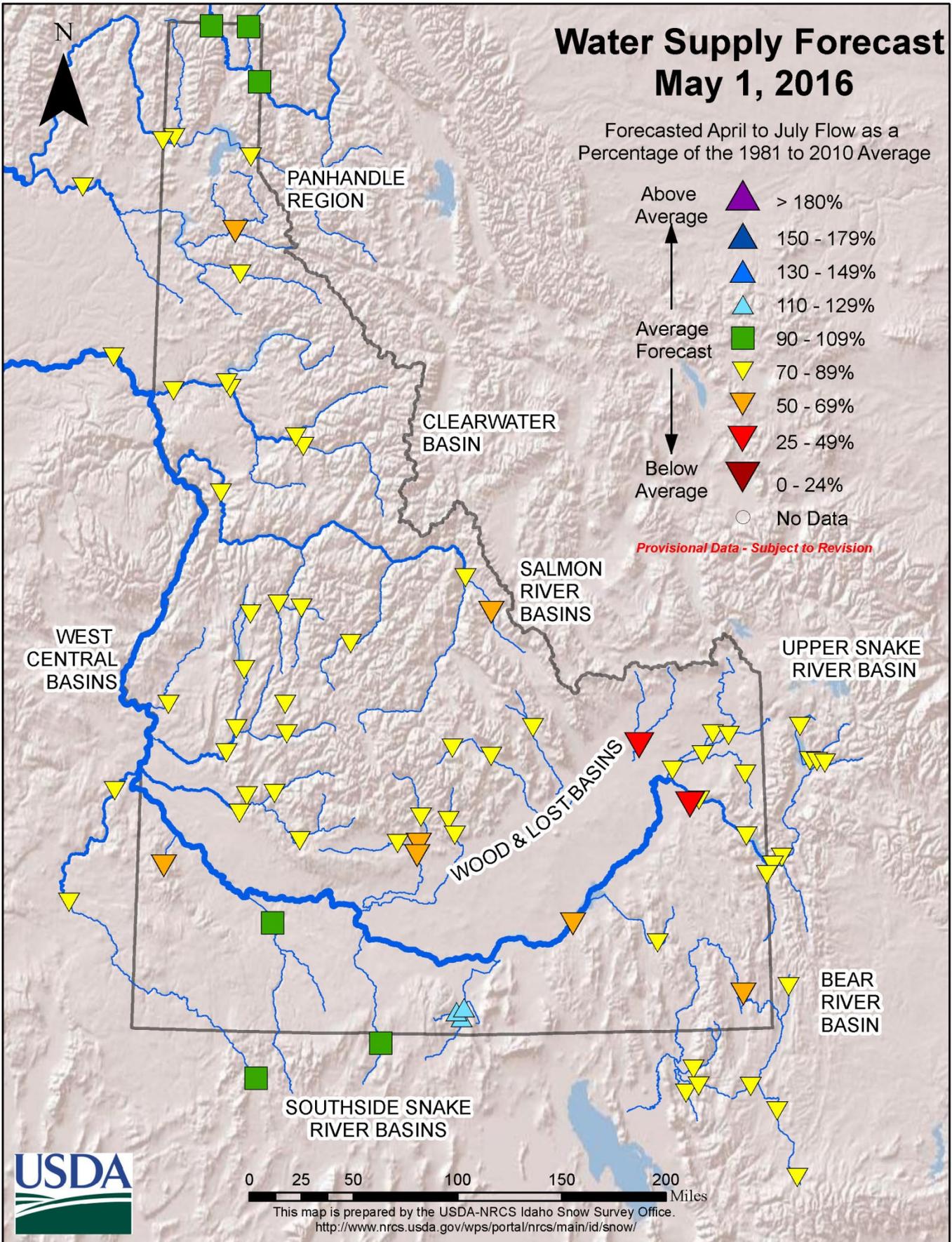
The good news was the amount of snow and rain that fell across Idaho's southern basins; the storms seemed to be centered over the Bruneau basin which received 156% of average precipitation. The bad news was April temperatures were above average across the state and Pacific Northwest as a whole, with monthly temperatures that were 3-10 F above normal. The May 1, 2016 forecast is reproduced on the following page. For more water supply information visit the NRCS Snow Survey website at:

# Water Supply Forecast May 1, 2016

Forecasted April to July Flow as a Percentage of the 1981 to 2010 Average



*Provisional Data - Subject to Revision*



This map is prepared by the USDA-NRCS Idaho Snow Survey Office.  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/id/snow/>