

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: May YEAR: 2009
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE Troy Lindquist Service Hydrologist
DATE: June 12, 2009	
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

X	An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.
----------	--

The region received below normal amounts of precipitation for the month of May. Out of the 40 reporting stations with climate data only 9 received 100% or more of normal precipitation for the month. Despite the below normal precipitation, a couple of daily records were established. Burley received .61" of rain on May 3rd which broke the old record of .59" set in 1993. Pocatello received .60" of rain on May 24th which broke the old record of .49" set in 1953.

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

Precipitation was 66.35% of normal for 40 of 48 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. Stanley received 180.2% of normal precipitation, topping the list of 9 stations reporting at or above normal precipitation. Thirty-one stations were below normal with Howe reporting the least at 2.8% of normal.

Reservoirs

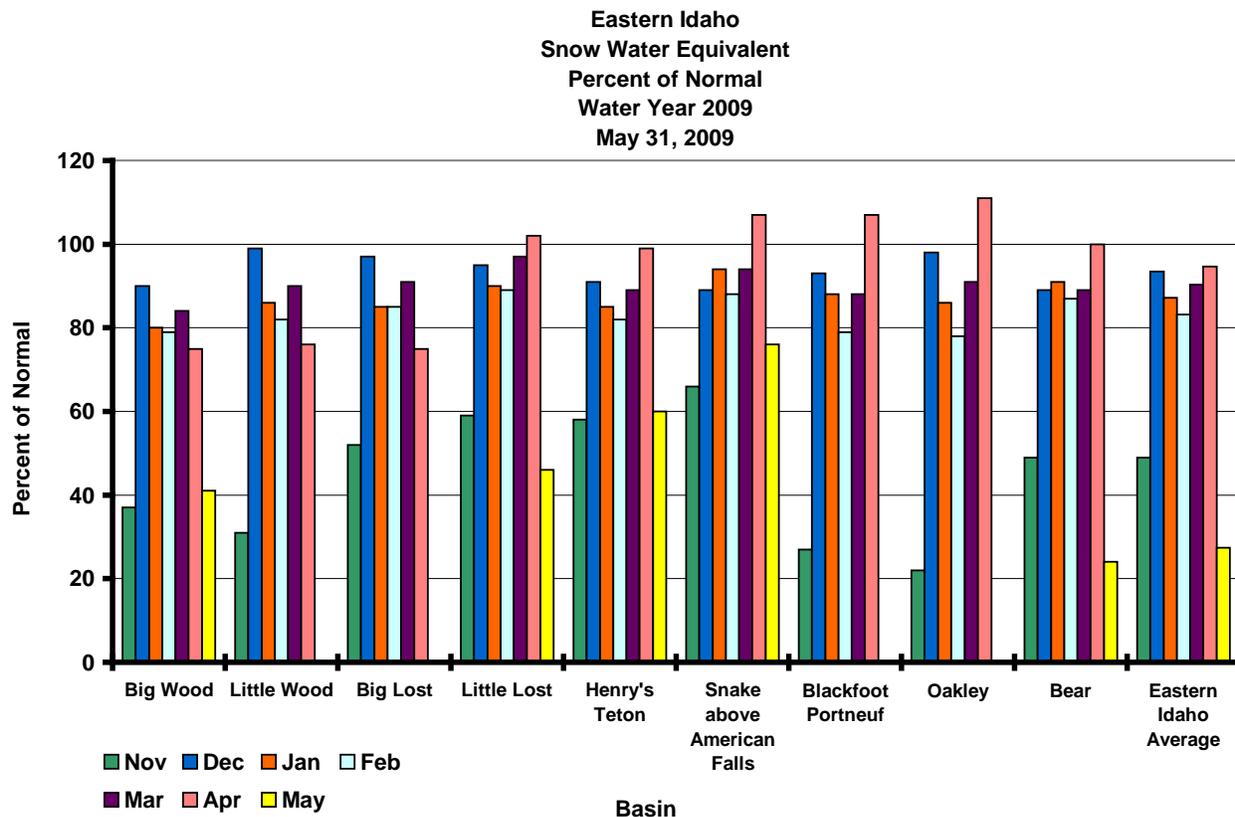
The Upper Snake River reservoir system was at 79 of capacity², up 2% from May 6, 2009¹.

Reservoir	% Capacity April 30 ³	% Capacity June 1 ⁴	Percent Change	% of Average ⁴	% of Last Year ⁴
American Falls	98	97	-1	109	127
Bear Lake	32	37	5	49	110
Blackfoot	41	50	9	61	129
Henry's Lake	100	99	-1	101	101
Island Park	93	93	0	95	92
Little Wood	94	99	5	109	132
Mackay	71	86	15	109	109
Magic	45	57	12	70	105
Oakley	39	42	3	71	77
Palisades	56	67	11	91	109
Ririe	80	100	20	114	113
Lake Walcott	96 ¹	101 ²	5	n/a	n/a
Milner	108 ¹	98 ²	-10	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), May 6, 2009; (2) BOR June 9, 2009; (3) NRCS, April 30, 2009; (4) NRCS, May 31, 2009.

Snowpack

Snowpack across the region was below normal by the end of the May. The Snake River above American Falls and the Henry's Fork and Teton Basins retained the greatest percentage of normal snowpack. Warmer spring temperatures melted out some of the basins. A basin SWE summary is below.

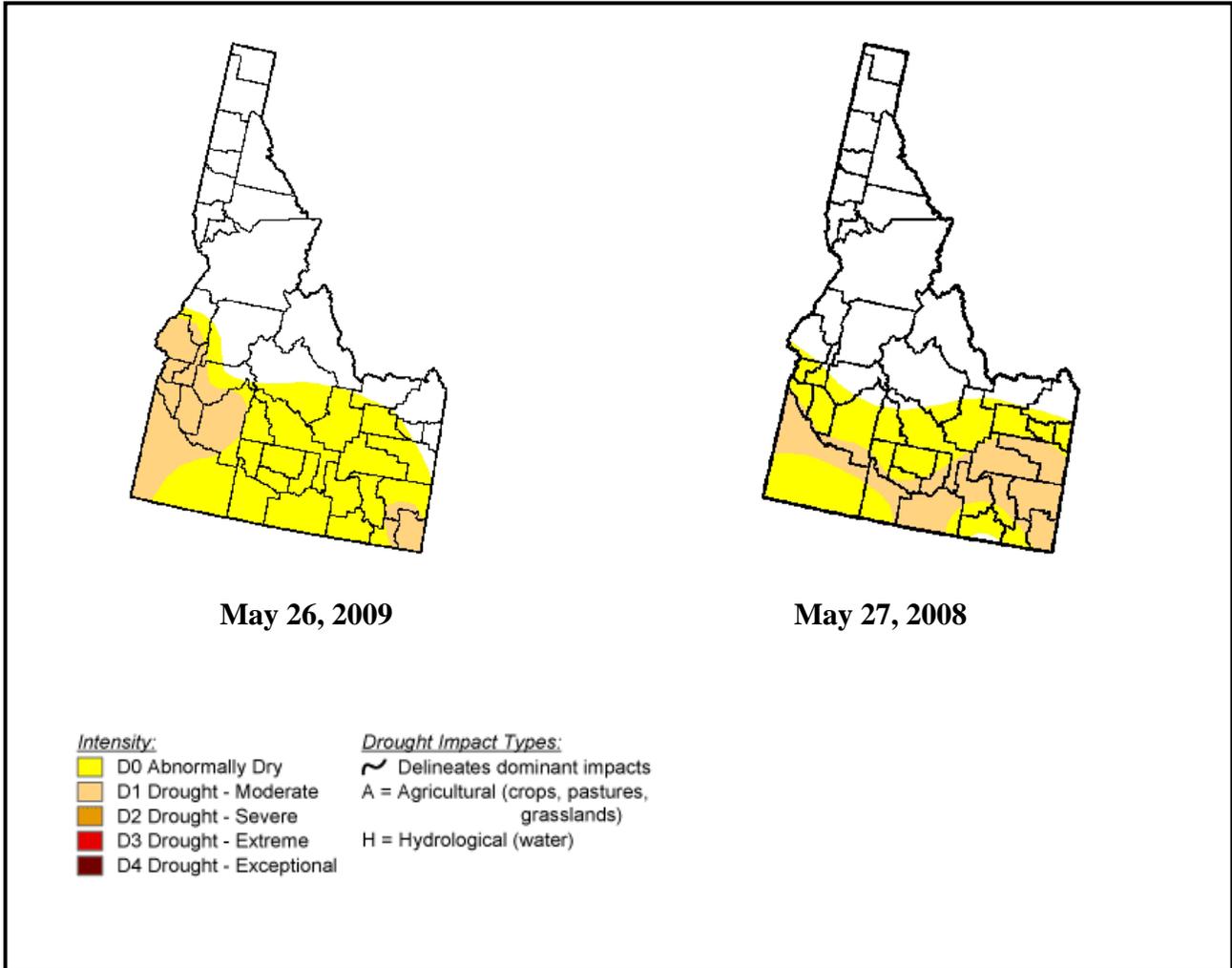


River Levels

Warmer spring temperatures and precipitation late in the month brought significant rises to some rivers and streams across the HSA. Bankfull level was reached at a few locations but in general the rivers remained below bankfull.

Drought

Much of eastern Idaho was under abnormally dry conditions with a small portion of the area under moderate drought conditions. Below is a comparison between this year and last.



May 2009 Hydrologic Product Summary

Flash Flood Watch issued on May 2 for the Castle Rock Burn Area in Blaine County.

Several Hydrologic Statements were issued May 6 through May 10, and May 15 through May 26 for increased snowmelt and the resulting river rises.

Flood Watch issued on May 23 for the Henry's Fork near Rexburg.

cc: Daniel Matusiewicz, Western Region WFO Hydrology Program Manager
Harold Opitz, Hydrologist in Charge, Northwest River Forecast Center
Hydrometeorological Information Center
Rick Dittman, Meteorologist in Charge, Pocatello, Idaho
Jay Breidenbach, Service Hydrologist, Boise, Idaho
Northwest River Forecast Center
Pocatello WFO Forecasters and HMTs