Water District 1 Report – May 6th, 2026

As temperatures have warmed over the past few days, the pace of snowmelt has increased. This has provided a modest boost to natural flow, with a corresponding improvement in water right priorities above Blackfoot. With above-average temperatures forecast for next week, it is possible that continued snowmelt will further improve priorities. The current projected priorities are **January 9, 1895**, above Blackfoot and **October 11, 1900**, below Blackfoot. Priorities can change daily, and managers are encouraged to monitor them at waterdistrict1.com to manage supplies as efficiently as possible. More than 200,000 acre-feet of storage has been diverted so far this year.

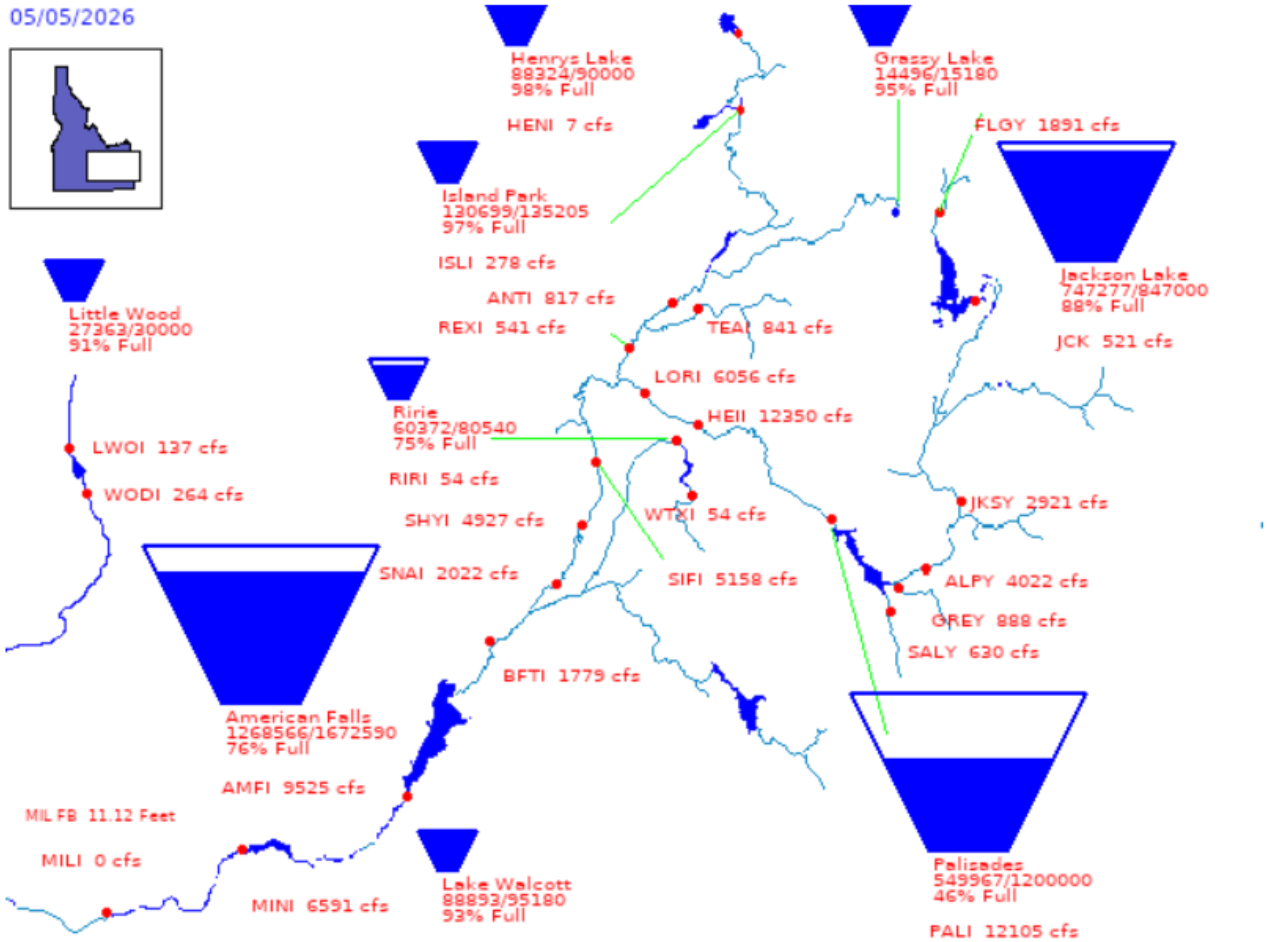
Water right priorities above Blackfoot have been setting new record lows for late April and early May. There is still remaining snowpack to melt, however. Current snow water equivalent values are 55% of median for the Snake River above Heise, 52% for the Henrys Fork–Teton, and fully melted out for the Willow–Blackfoot–Portneuf. Unregulated inflows at Heise were approximately 8,300 cfs yesterday, with the peak so far this year occurring on April 2 at approximately 10,000 cfs. Current analog years for remaining snowpack are 1992, 2001, 2007, and 2015. Peak unregulated flow at Heise in those years was approximately 14,000 cfs, 26,000 cfs, 18,000 cfs, and 20,000 cfs, respectively. This suggests that peak unregulated inflows have likely not yet occurred and could increase by as much as 10,000 cfs from current levels. Temperatures will play a critical role in how this develops. Higher seasonal temperatures will pull the remaining snow off more quickly and likely produce a higher peak, while below-average temperatures would slow the melt, resulting in a more muted peak but a longer duration of inflow.

With respect to priorities above Blackfoot, the current difference between diversions and natural flow is approximately 2,000 cfs. For system reservoir storage water rights, the difference between diversions and natural flow is currently approximately 10,000 cfs. In practical terms, an increase in natural flow of around 2,000 cfs may reconnect the river at Blackfoot and restore the 1900 priority water right systemwide. An increase of around 10,000 cfs may restore reservoir storage water rights and allow additional accrual to Jackson 1913, Island Park 1935, Grassy Lake 1936, and Palisades 1939. When the remaining high-elevation snow melts, it appears likely that the 1900 priority will be restored. Whether flows will be sufficient to restore the 1913 priority remains much less certain.

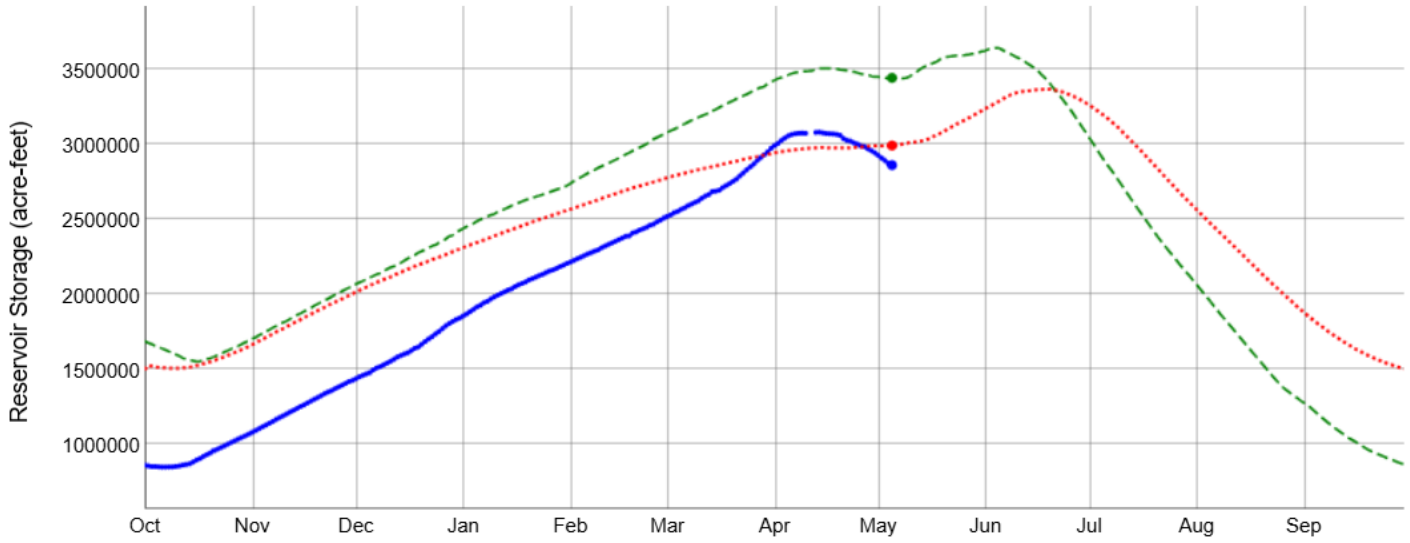
Flow augmentation below Milner began today at 1,700 cfs, with a plan to increase to 3,400 cfs tomorrow and hold that rate for the next couple of weeks. The Bureau of Reclamation does not yet have a firm number for the amount of Palisades Powerhead storage it plans to use for flow augmentation this year, but the current estimate is approximately 90,000 acre-feet. The early timing of these releases is intended to provide maximum benefit to migrating species.

The physical reservoir system is currently 71% full. Outflows from Jackson Lake have increased to manage fill. Releases from Palisades are being managed to deliver irrigation water and keep the Snake River connected at Blackfoot. Canal managers need to provide notice to WD1 or the Bureau of Reclamation of planned changes in diversion rates to help manage the system draft.

Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region
Major Storage Reservoirs in the Upper Snake River Basin



Current Year: 2860270
Previous Year: 3441500
Average: 2990751.23



PROVISIONAL DATA - Subject to change

AWS Plot | SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN SNAKE RIVER ABOVE HEISE

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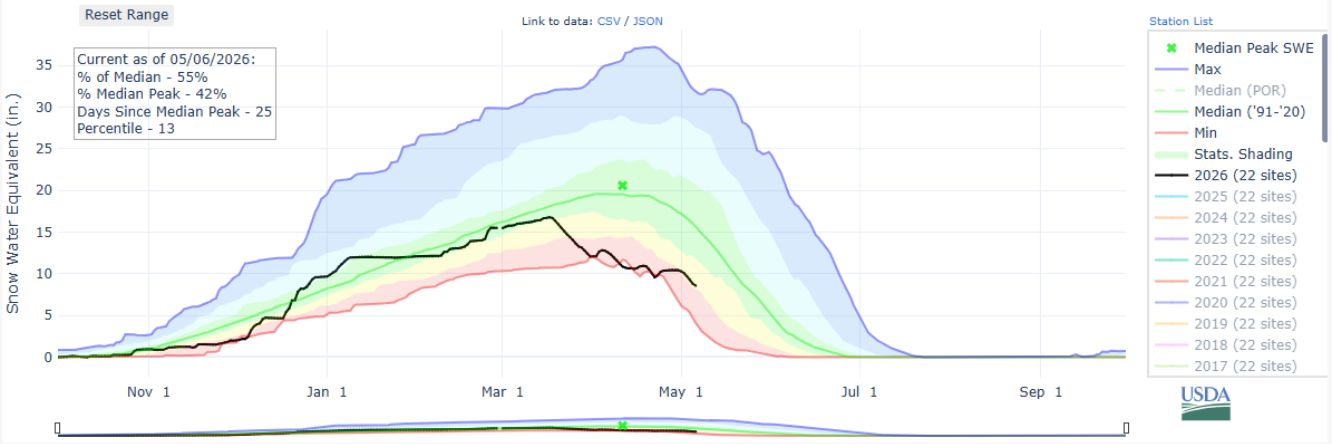
Add Title | Active Only | Greyscale Stats. | Clear Controls | Clear Annotation | Fullscreen



AWS Plot | SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN HENRYS FORK-TETON

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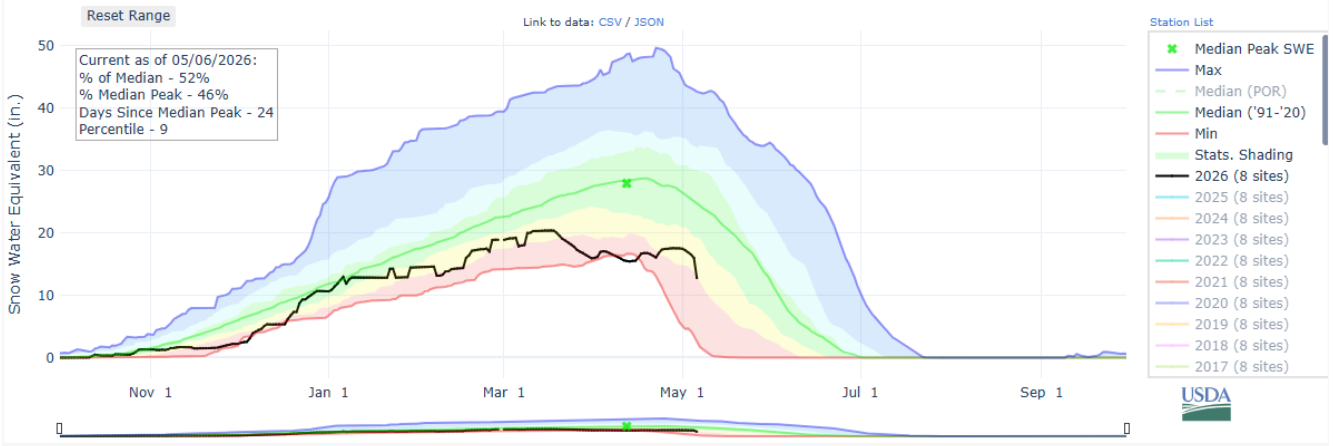

AWS Plot | SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN WILLOW-BLACKFOOT-PORTNEUF

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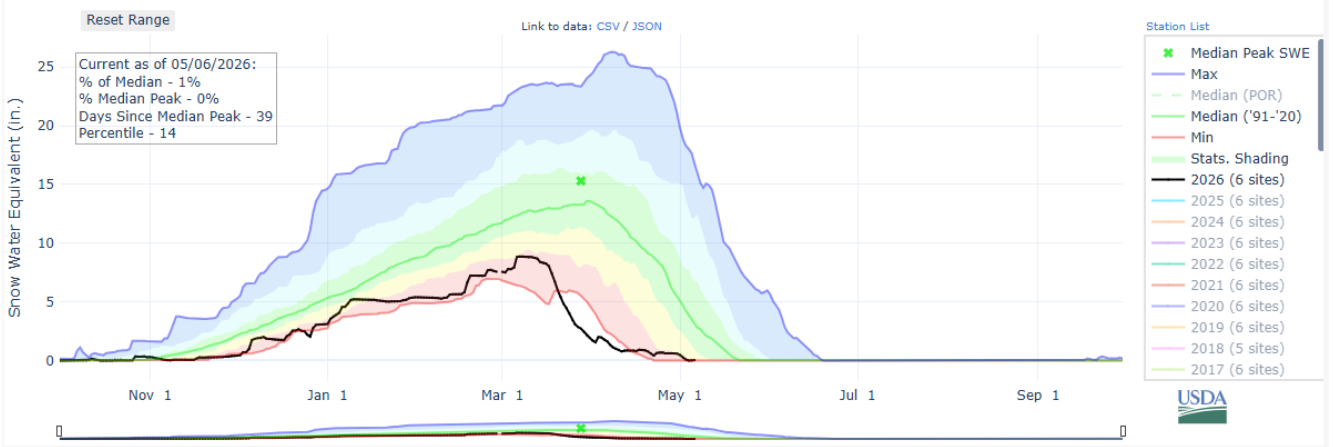
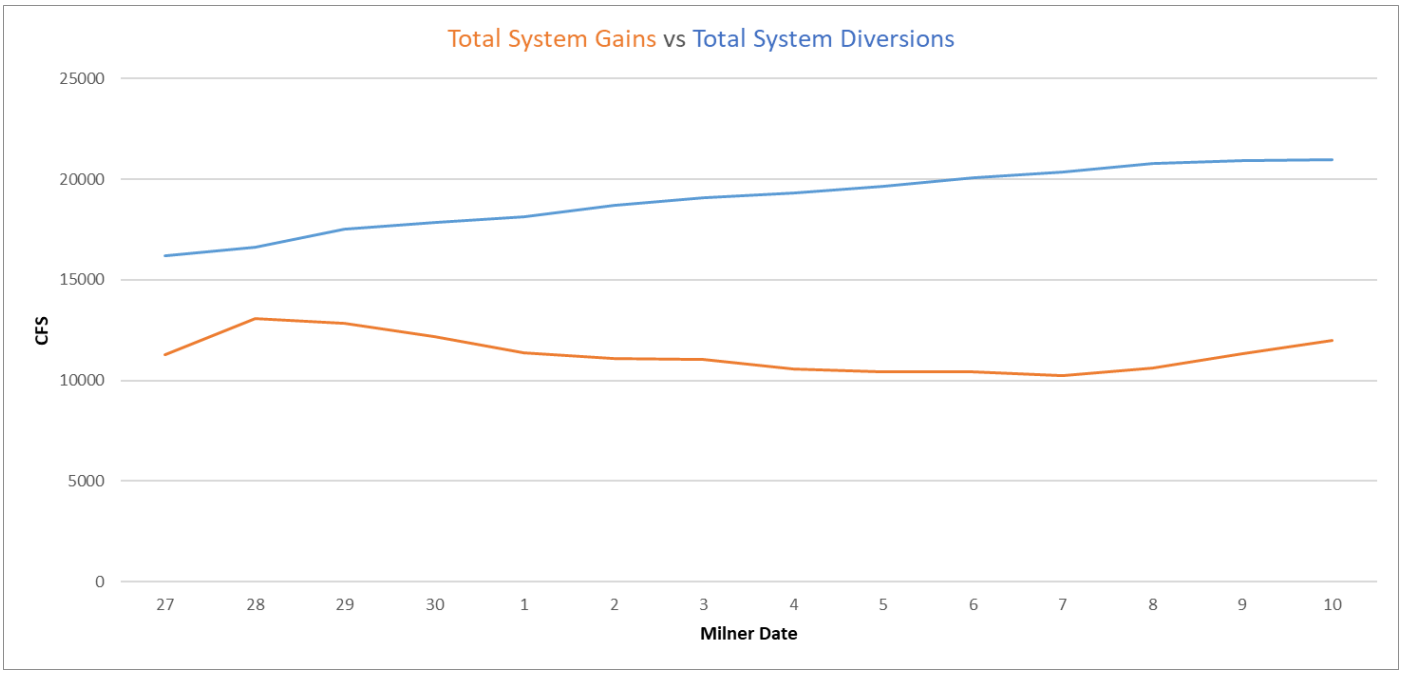
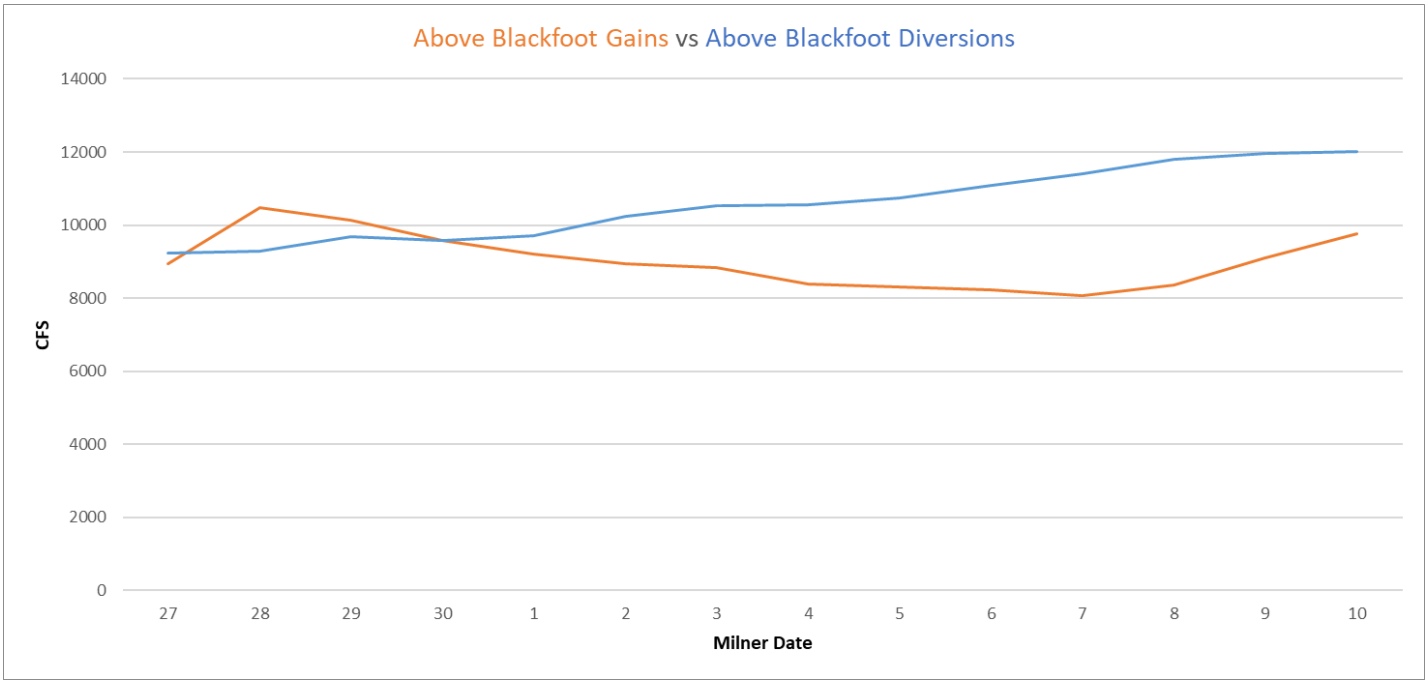
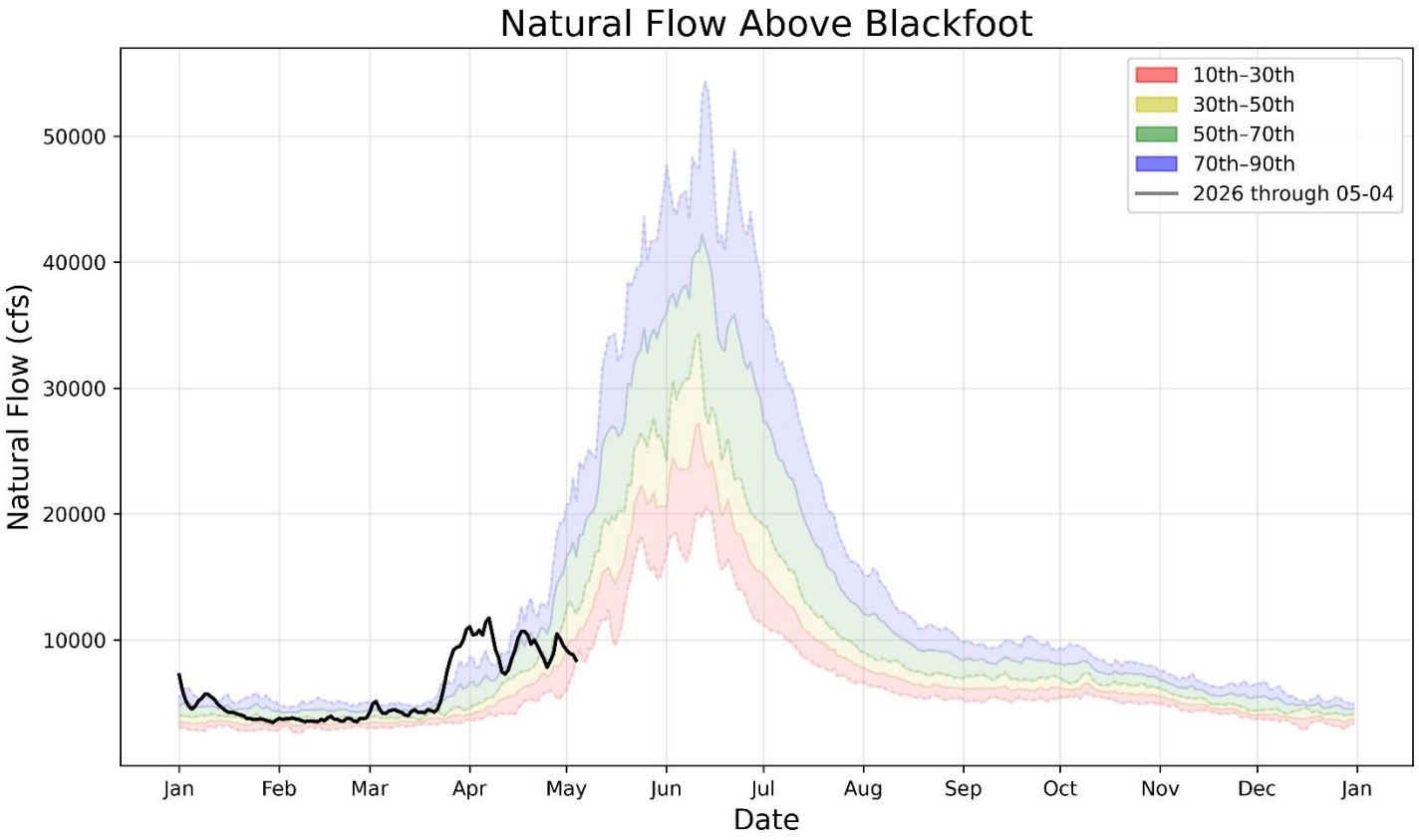
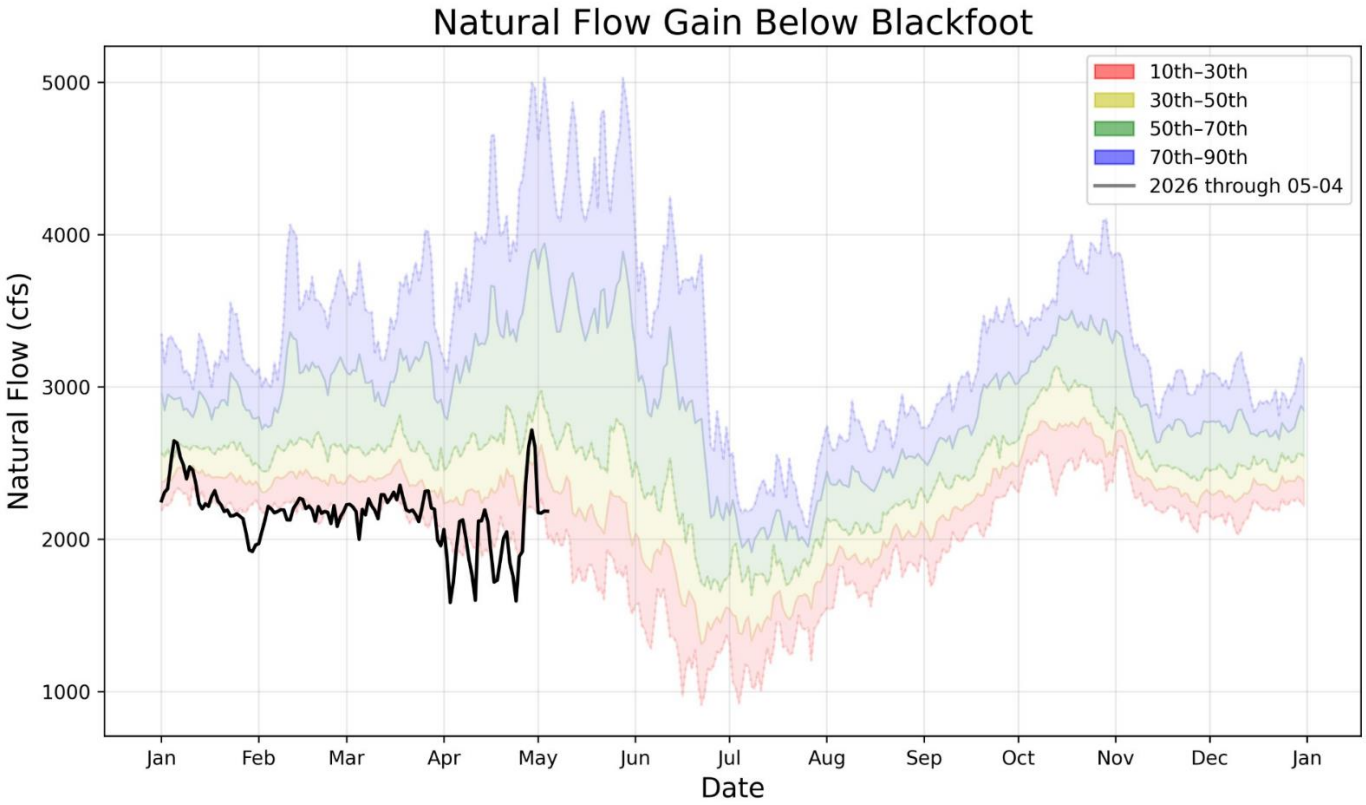



Total System Gains vs Total System Diversions
25000
20000
15000
10000
5000
0
CFS
27
28
29
30
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
Milner Date


Above Blackfoot Gains vs Above Blackfoot Diversions
14000
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
CFS
27
28
29
30
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
Milner Date


Natural Flow Above Blackfoot
10th–30th
30th–50th
50th–70th
70th–90th
2026 through 05-04
Natural Flow (cfs)
50000
40000
30000
20000
10000
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date


Natural Flow Gain Below Blackfoot
10th–30th
30th–50th
50th–70th
70th–90th
2026 through 05-04
Natural Flow (cfs)
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Date