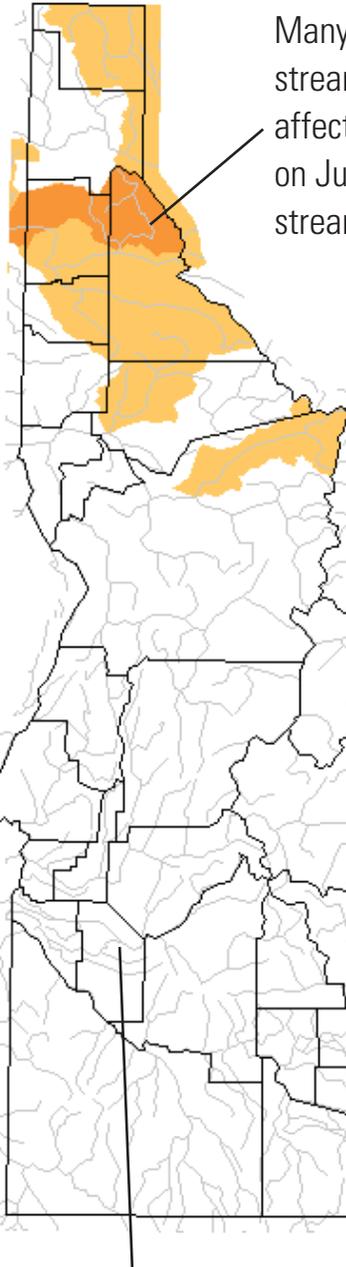


# Idaho Hydrologic Update for July 2019



Many of our streamgauge stations in the panhandle are reporting below-normal streamflow as the U.S. Drought Monitor showed [moderate to severe drought](#) affecting Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties. For example, on July 18 [USGS 12411000](#) on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River reported streamflow at 57 percent of the station's 68-year median flow for that date.

Explanation - Percentile classes			
Low	≤5	6-9	10-24
Extreme hydrologic drought	Severe hydrologic drought	Moderate hydrologic drought	Below normal



On June 27, we celebrated 70 years of hydrologic monitoring at the Idaho National Laboratory and the 60th anniversary of our [INL Project Office](#). We hosted leaders from the U.S. Department of Energy and the USGS Water Mission Area, as well as staff from the offices of U.S. Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch.



Center Director Kyle Blasch presented student hydrologist Taylor Dudunake with a scholarship award from the USGS Water Resources Retirees Association. Taylor is pursuing graduate studies in hydrology at the University of Idaho.

[More >](#)



# Idaho Hydrologic Update for July 2019

## Using Environmental DNA to Monitor for Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels could drastically affect Idaho water resources and water infrastructure. The USGS is piloting the integration of environmental DNA sampling at streamgauge stations for biosurveillance of invasive species. One step in this pilot study



is occurring here in Idaho. Scientists from the [USGS National Innovation Center](#) are deploying a robotic sampler at [USGS 13032500](#), Snake River near Irwin, to monitor outflow from Palisades Reservoir. The robot, called an environmental sample processor (ESP), is on loan from the [Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute](#). The ESP collects and processes water samples in-situ and applies molecular probe technology to analyze the samples for environmental DNA of aquatic invasive species and fish parasites. Meanwhile, hydrologic technicians from our Idaho Falls Field

Office are collecting water samples at the Irwin streamgauge and from the reservoir to augment and validate the ESP's analyses. These combined efforts will better establish how well a downstream USGS streamgauge represents conditions in an upstream reservoir.



[usgs.gov/idahowater](https://usgs.gov/idahowater)

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