Idaho Hydrologic Update
for October 2019

Sugar Creek near Stibnite drains the legacy Cinnabar mine site in Valley County. Concentrations of mercury in the creek are highest during runoff from storms, but the remote location makes sampling difficult. To address this problem, we installed an automatic sampler at USGS 13311450. The unit will collect water samples during storm events when the creek reaches a designated stage. Samples will be analyzed for mercury concentrations as part of a study with USGS biogeochemist JoAnn Holloway to characterize the regional impact of legacy mining in the context of framework geology.

We have completed two new aquifer monitoring wells near the Materials and Fuels Complex at the Idaho National Laboratory. One of the wells was equipped with a multilevel monitoring system that lets us collect water samples from discrete levels of the eastern Snake River Plain aquifer. Both wells were part of an INL seismic study to determine the viability of building a Versatile Test Reactor at the INL.

With our partners from the Idaho Department of Water Resources, we conducted a seepage study in the Big Lost River basin in Custer and Butte Counties. The study will improve our understanding of surface water-groundwater interactions and will help to inform our development of a hydrogeologic framework of the basin's aquifer system.

More >

Idaho Hydrologic Update
for October 2019

Idaho Falls Hydrologic Technician Selected for USGS Hydrologic Data Advisory Committee

Hydrologic Technician Ryan Moore of our Idaho Falls Field Office has been selected to join the USGS Hydrologic Data Advisory Committee (HDAC). The committee, which includes water data professionals from across the country, provides information and guidance to continually improve all aspects of USGS hydrologic data operations. HDAC chairperson Megan Poff wrote of Ryan, "HDAC was very impressed with your qualifications and dedication to the USGS mission." Congratulations, Ryan!

USGS Participates in 12th Annual Boise Watershed Watch

Stephen Hundt, Tyler King (shown here), JoJo Mangano, and Tim Merrick helped citizen scientists monitor the health of the Boise River watershed on October 5 during the 12th Annual Watershed Watch. The event, sponsored by the City of Boise, matched 100 citizen volunteers with water-resource professionals from federal, state, and local agencies to collect data and test water samples. Results from this year's event will be made available at boisewatershedwatch.org.

usgs.gov/idahowater
208.387.1300
Director: Kyle Blasch
Deputy Director: Christian Schmidt
Assistant Director: Dave Evetts
Public Information Officer: Tim Merrick