

# Fall 2025 Pacific Northwest Water Summit

**November 4, 2025**

**Boise State University**

**Student Union Building, Jordan Ballroom**

## Morning Session 1: Upper Snake River Basin Panel

Moderators: David Hoekema and TBA

Time	Title and Presenters
8:30 a.m.	Boise State Welcome and Logistics ( <b>Jim McNamara, Kevin Feris</b> )
8:40 a.m.	Water Year 2025 in Review and 2026 Outlook <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Snowpack (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS])</li><li>• Climate (NOAA National Weather Service [NWS])</li><li>• Forecasts (NWS Northwest River Forecast Center [NWRFC])</li><li>• Reservoir Operations (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation [USBR])</li><li>• Flood Control Operations (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE])</li></ul>
9:40 a.m.	<i>A Machine Learning Approach to Estimating Agricultural Return Flows: A Case Study of the Twin Falls Canal Company in Idaho</i> <b>Mojtaba Sadegh</b> , Department of Civil Engineering, Boise State University
9:55 a.m.	<i>Towards Better Constraining the Snow Water Supply of the Upper Snake River Basin under Changing Forest Landscapes</i> <b>Otto Lang</b> , Department of Geosciences, Boise State University
10:10 a.m.	<i>Monitoring Headwater Conditions and Beaver Rewilding Impacts Using Satellite-Based Time Series</i> <b>Nick Kolarik</b> , Human Environment Systems, Boise State University
10:25 a.m.	Morning Coffee Break

## Morning Session 2: Middle Snake River Panel

Moderators: Erin Whorton and TBA

Time	Title and Presenters
10:45 a.m.	Water Year 2025 in Review and 2026 Outlook <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate (<b>Troy Lindquist</b>, NWS)</li><li>• Forecasts (NWRFC)</li><li>• Boise River Forecast (M3works)</li><li>• Reservoir Operations (<b>Ryan Hedrick</b>, USBR)</li><li>• Flood Control Operations (<b>Jon Roberts</b>, USACE)</li></ul>
11:45 a.m.	<i>Climatic Controls on Stream Wetting and Drying</i> <b>Anna Bergstrom</b> , Department of Geosciences, Boise State University
12:00 p.m.	<i>Using InSAR and Machine Learning for Snow Depth Retrieval over the Central Mountains of Idaho</i> <b>Ibrahim Alabi</b> , Department of Geosciences, Boise State University

## Lunch Break and Student Poster Session

12:15–1:45 p.m.: Lunch provided for registered attendees (vegan/GF options provided)

## Afternoon Session 1: Frontiers in Water Research

Moderators: Lejo Flores and Jim McNamara

Time	Title and Presenters
1:45 p.m.	<i>The Headwaters Hydrology Project: Next-Gen Operational Streamflow and Soil Moisture Modeling with ML</i> <b>Zach Hoylman</b> , Montana Climate Office, University of Montana
2:05 p.m.	<i>Variations in Groundwater Vulnerability in Eastern WA</i> <b>Sasha McLarty</b> , Washington State University
2:25 p.m.	<i>Introducing SIRO: An Army Corps Effort to Improve Snow Water Storage Estimates</i> <b>Shad O'Neel</b> , USACE Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab
2:45 p.m.	<i>Recent Research and Applications of Satellite-based Water Use in the Pacific Northwest</i> <b>Justin Huntington</b> , Desert Research Institute
3:05 p.m.	<i>Water Resources Research Priorities in Idaho</i> <b>Meg Wolf</b> , Idaho Water Resources Research Institute
3:15 p.m.	Afternoon Coffee Break

## Afternoon Session 2: Oregon and Washington Panel

Moderators: Jason Gerlich and TBA

Time	Title and Presenters
3:30 p.m.	Climate and Snowpack of 2025 ( <b>Karin Bumbaco</b> , Washington State Climate Office and <b>Matt Warbritton</b> , NRCS)
3:45 p.m.	Water Year 2025 State Level Drought Declarations ( <b>Larry O'Neill</b> , Oregon Climate Service)
4:00 p.m.	Drought Impacts Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to Water Year Impacts Survey (<b>Larry O'Neill</b>, Oregon Climate Service)</li><li>• Hydropower Operations in Idaho (<b>Steve Lentini</b> and <b>Patrick Maher</b>, Avista Corporation)</li></ul>
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn

## Boise State BlueWater Initiative Social Event

Boise State SUB – Bishop Barnwell Room

5:30–7:30 p.m. Please join us for a reception and networking event. A cash bar and other refreshments will be available. Jim McNamara will provide brief remarks on Boise State's BlueWater Initiative.