

Blackfoot Drought Update

July 20, 2021

As the river drops below 1000 cfs at the Bonner gage, it is likely that the Blackfoot Drought Response Committee will be implementing drought response in the coming weeks. Any voluntary contributions to water conservation and reduction of stress on fish is greatly appreciated.



Blackfoot Drought Conditions

As we are all acutely aware, low precipitation and high temperatures have resulted in drought conditions statewide. While the Blackfoot watershed is in better condition than other regions, we are still anticipating an early drought call this year. Forecasts for the area indicate high temperatures and low moisture for the next few weeks, likely resulting in a swift decline of water levels in the main stem of the Blackfoot and its tributaries.

In drought years such as this one, water conservation is especially critical for high value fishery habitat in the tributaries. Any voluntary reduction in water use will not only help with main stem flows, but perhaps more importantly, keep streams from reaching low flows and high temperatures that can be fatal for fish. It takes the cooperation of many to limit the burden of a drought year and its impacts on fisheries, agriculture and communities. We appreciate the contributions you make.

Please consider any opportunities for voluntary water conservation on your water rights this summer and let us know if there is any way the Blackfoot Challenge can help support you during this time of shortage.



Anglers

Consider fishing less drought affected waters, using cooler stretches of river or starting earlier to avoid rising temperatures. To ensure a released fish has the best chance for survival keep the fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing the hook.

Irrigators

Shared giving during times of shortage will help our community and watershed stay resilient during hard times. Please consider any voluntary water conservation you can manage, particularly on tributaries of importance for fish populations.



Visitors

Educate friends and family on the importance of water conservation and on the sacrifices that producers, neighbors, and anglers are contributing.