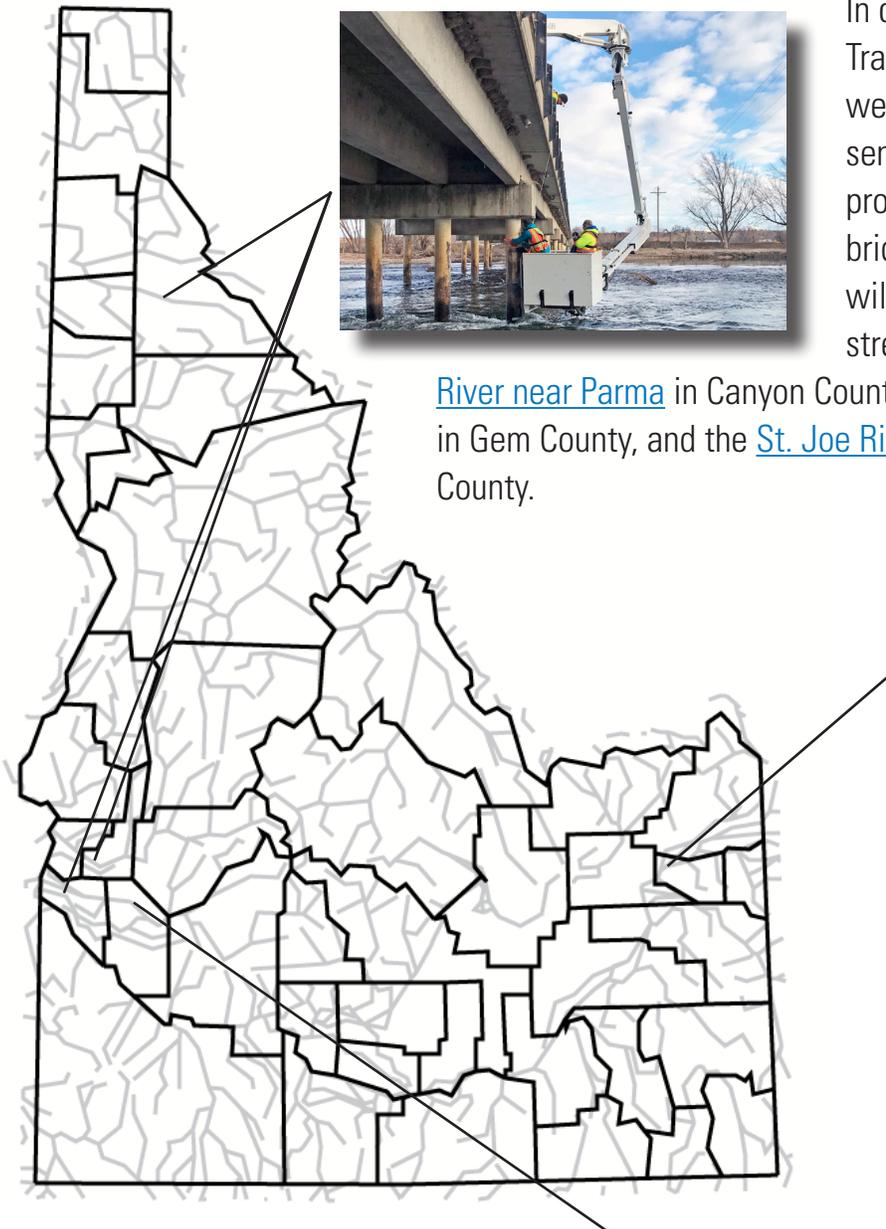


Idaho Hydrologic Update for March 2020



In cooperation with the Idaho Transportation Department, we are installing sonar depth sensors on three bridges to provide real-time monitoring for bridge scour. The three sensors will be connected with existing streamgauge stations on the [Boise River near Parma](#) in Canyon County, the [Payette River near Letha](#) in Gem County, and the [St. Joe River at Calder](#) in Shoshone County.



[USGS 13056500](#), Henrys Fork near Rexburg in Madison County, was established on April 1, 1909. In addition to providing 111 years of stage and discharge data, 13056500 is also an important [water-quality site](#). We operate the station in cooperation with Water District 1

Earlier this month, we hosted a regional science workshop on harmful algal blooms. We are working on a project in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Idaho Power using [satellite imagery to provide near real-time monitoring for algal blooms](#).



More >



Idaho Hydrologic Update for March 2020

Kootenai River Selenium Monitoring Expands

Coal mining operations in the Elk River basin of British Columbia have raised concerns about elevated concentrations of selenium in downstream waters, especially the transboundary Kootenai River. When there is too much selenium in the environment, it can accumulate in the tissues of fish and other animals to the point of harming reproduction.



Until recently, water-quality monitoring in the U.S. portions of the Kootenai River has mostly focused on Lake Koocanusa in Montana. Beginning in 2018, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state wildlife and environmental agencies, we collected water and fish-tissue samples from the Kootenai River and tributaries downstream of Lake Koocanusa. We published the [results of sample analyses](#) last year.

With funding from Congress, our center, together with the USGS Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center, is expanding water-quality monitoring in Lake Koocanusa and the Kootenai River. In Idaho, we will 1) repeat 2018 selenium and nutrient sampling in the waters of the Kootenai River and major tributaries, 2) repeat and expand selenium sampling in the tissues of fish from the Kootenai River, and 3) investigate the transfer of selenium from water through the food web to fish in the river. This work will continue through at least 2022 with support from the EPA, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. You can stay up to date on this study via [our website](#).

usgs.gov/idahowater

208.387.1300

Acting Director: Christian Schmidt

Assistant Director: Dave Evetts

Public Information Officer: Tim Merrick

