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# Impacts of Climate Change on Frequency of Floods and Droughts in Idaho

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# **Impacts of Climate Change on Frequency of Floods and Droughts in Idaho**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Recent evidence has demonstrated that Idaho has seen an increase in temperatures due to changes in the regional climate. This increase is most apparent when observing daily minimum temperatures, which have seen an average increase of several degrees Celsius over most of Idaho during the last half century. If this trend continues, increasing temperatures are anticipated to: 1) alter the timing and amount of flow in Idaho's streams and aquifers; and 2) alter the amount and timing of demand for Idaho's water resources. To be prepared to properly plan for and manage Idaho's water resources into the future, water resource planners and managers will benefit from a better understanding of how changes in climate will impact the timing, frequency, duration and intensity of both floods and droughts throughout Idaho. Analyses of changes in the flood frequency relationships over the last century will be presented for key river reaches in Idaho. In addition, projections of the impacts of increasing temperatures on the ability of Idaho's water resources to meet demands will be presented for key water use areas within the state.

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