

# Baggs sees highest water yet this season

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Times staff report

Baggs experienced its highest water so far this season Wednesday morning, according to Police Chief Ed Owen.

The Little Snake River was running at bank-full about 8 a.m. Wednesday. "We're right at the very top edge of the river banks," Owen said.

"We're not at flood stage, but we're at the concerned level stage," he said.

Water is flowing about 12 inches high on the dikes built along the river last year, but that leaves about 2 feet of freeboard before the river threatens to wash out the dikes, Owen said.

He is concerned that any more snowmelt or heavy rains in the area could cause problems for Baggs and any low places along the river banks.

Hot weather Sunday through Tuesday increased river flows by causing rapid melting of a large snowpack in the Sierra Madre Range. Several branches of the Little Snake originate in the Sierra Madres.

Some 114 percent of average moisture remains in the snowpack in the high country in the Little Snake drainage basin, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The National Weather Service removed a flood watch for the Little Snake on Wednesday morning after the state hydrologist advised that a cooling trend Wednesday should considerably slow runoff into all area rivers. Temperatures should remain cool through Sunday or Monday.