

Issues raised in meeting of April 6, 2011:

1. Participants requested that the deadline for comments be extended. The Department agrees. The deadline for initial comments is extended to May 31, 2011. The Department may be in a position to accept comments after that date, but can't promise.
2. The Department was asked to identify issues parties should consider in comments. In response the Department observes that at this stage three possible options, or variations thereof, appear to exist in responding to Clear Springs Foods' request for a rule change. Please keep in mind that this is provided in an attempt to focus people's thinking using some of the comments already received and does not necessarily reflect Department thoughts or position on these issues:
 - a. Retain the current area of common groundwater supply.
 - i. Support: The area of common groundwater supply mirrors a long accepted boundary of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). It was established because the area has similar geologic conditions.
 - ii. Criticism: All areas that contribute surface or groundwater flow to the ESPA should be treated the same, consistent with the definition in the rule (Conjunctive Management Rule 37.03.11.010.01).
 - b. Expand the area of common groundwater supply to match the boundary of model version 1.1.
 - i. Support: The areas added are tributary to the ESPA and the model boundary is well defined.
 - ii. Criticism: The model boundary was extended to improve the functioning of the model. The added area does not necessarily contribute more water to the ESPA than areas not incorporated into the model boundary, such as the Big Wood basin.
 - c. Expand the area of common groundwater supply beyond the boundary of model version 1.1 to include all areas that make a defined contribution to the aquifer.
 - i. Support: Piecemeal changes don't treat all contributing areas fairly.
 - ii. Criticism: Areas on or beyond the edges of the model boundary tend to be less well calibrated in the model and impacts take longer to be realized.
3. The Department is collecting and will provide a bibliography of technical reports on the aquifer and those areas that were added to version 1.1 of the model. It will include reports the Department is aware of and may not be inclusive of all available information. If parties are aware of reports, please let us know and we will include them.