



# Eastern Snake Plain Comprehensive Aquifer Implementation Committee

August 13, 2009





- ESPA Framework Plan Process Initiated (2006)
- ESPA Framework Plan Developed and Adopted (2007)
- Advisory Committee Convened (2007)
- ESPA Advisory Committee Recommendations Developed (late 2008)
- Unanimous Board Adoption of the ESPA Plan (2009)
- HB 264, adopting ESPA Plan, becomes law on April 23, 2009

## **600 kaf Water Budget Change**

- Robust mix of conversions, aquifer recharge and demand reduction strategies

## **Implementation Timeline – 20 years**

## **Cost – \$600 million not including O&M**

- Estimated annual funding needed, \$30 M

## **Phase I (1 – 10 years)**

- Hydrologic target of 200kaf – 300kaf.
- Initiate actions that increase aquifer levels, spring and river flows.
- Geographically distribute benefits across the ESPA.
- Build institutional confidence with long-term plan implementation.

- **Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions**
- **Managed and Incidental Aquifer Recharge**
- **Demand Reduction including; Buyouts, buy-downs, and subordination agreements, rotating fallowing, dry-year lease agreement, CREP, crop mix modification, surface water conservation.**
- **Pilot Weather Modification Program**



***CAMP Implementation Committee***

Refocus CAMP Advisory Committee on Plan Implementation

***Environmental Considerations***

Continue to integrate environmental and other considerations

***Clearinghouse***

Evaluate options to implement a flexible mechanism that connects willing participants in the implementation of ESPA water management projects



### ***Outreach and Education***

Develop and fund a broad water education and outreach effort.

### ***Management Flexibility and Innovation***

Explore innovative approaches that can improve water supplies available for conversion, recharge, and/or enhancement of surface supplies.

### ***Downstream Transfer Policy***

Encourage providing water for recharge and conversion projects through downstream transfers of surface water rights to the ESPA in a manner that enhances flows in flow-limited tributaries.



Purpose is to develop consensus recommendations to the Idaho Water Resource Board (Board) regarding ESPA CAMP implementation on:

- Phase I funding collection mechanisms,
- Implementation criteria, plans and priorities,
- Early action projects, and
- Foundation for Plan implementation - strategically coordinated, consistent and transparent





- **Members:** Previous Advisory Committee members and alternates.
- **Agency Participants:** Active role in Committee deliberation.
- **Board:** Provide decision making authority regarding Plan implementation.
- **Board Staff:** Provide technical support.



➤ **Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions:**

Make recommendations to opportunistically pursue conversions.

➤ **Weather Modification**

Make recommendations on implementing a five-year weather modification pilot program designed to increase winter snowpack.

➤ **Demand Reduction**

Make recommendations on managing overall demand for water within the Eastern Snake Plain.



➤ **Recharge**

Make recommendations to increase recharge to the ESPA.

➤ **Funding**

Make recommendations on funding strategies and mechanisms, including but not limited to further identification of water user, federal, and private funding sources.



- Working Groups will make recommendations to the Implementation Committee who, in turn, will make recommendations to the Board for approval.
  
- All Implementation Committee members and others will further identify private, water user and federal funding sources for Plan implementation.