



Idaho Water Resource Board

ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan Framework

Presentation to the 2007 Idaho
Legislature

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Outline

- Framework development process
- Stakeholder involvement and input
- Board Recommendations
 - Goal and objectives
 - Management alternatives
 - Interim measures
 - Developing the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan
- Request to the Legislature



Framework Development Process

- Project Launch in August
- Initial interviews in September
- Public meetings in October
- Management Alternatives Working Group meetings in December and January
- Framework drafted in January
- Public meetings in January to get feedback
- Board review in January
- Presentation to Legislature in February



Stakeholder Involvement

- Over 350 interested and involved stakeholders from across the basin
- Significant personal investments of time in the process
- Stakeholder support for continuing with everyone represented at the table



Questions to Stakeholders

- Interim measures – What can we do now?
- Management alternatives – How do the options compare?
- Funding – Where can resources for implementation be found?



Stakeholder Input - Interim Measures

- Focus on overcoming obstacles that could limit recharge, CREP enrollment
- If water conditions permit, recharge in spring 2007
- Action in 2007 is necessary to show forward momentum and keep everyone at the table



Stakeholder Input – Management Alternatives

- Recharge is critical, but can't be the only tool
- Need to continue existing levels of incidental recharge
- What is the role of administrative curtailment?
- Explore option of new storage



Stakeholder Input – Funding Principles

- Everyone who benefits from ESPA management should contribute
- Seniors should not pay for impacts created by juniors
- The distribution of “who pays what” should be equitable
- The state should provide all of the funding
- Some funding from the state, some from ESPA
- The state should be responsible for one-time costs
- Fund activities that “solve the issue”
- Simple and efficient collection



Stakeholder Input – Funding Options

- One time transfer from state government surplus or severance tax
- Portion of sales tax dedicated to a “water fund”
- Per acre or acre-foot levy for water users
- Creation of an ESPA conservancy district with taxing authority
- Increase annual property tax to build a “water fund”
- Per well fee for domestic well users in the ESPA
- Surcharge for municipal customers in the ESPA
- Statewide per-head tax



Board Recommendations

- The Framework document contains IWRB recommendations on:
 - A goal and objectives for aquifer management
 - Management alternatives
 - Interim measures
 - A process for developing the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP)



Goal for Aquifer Management

Sustain the economic viability and social and environmental health of the Eastern Snake Plain by adaptively managing a balance between water use and supplies.



Objectives for Aquifer Management

- Increase predictability for water users by managing for reliable supply
- Create alternatives to administrative curtailment
- Manage overall demand for water within the Eastern Snake Plain
- Increase recharge to the aquifer
- Reduce withdrawals from the aquifer



Interim Measures

- Spring 2007 Recharge
- Increase CREP Enrollment
- Targeted Demand Reduction



Management Alternatives

- Managed Recharge
- Incidental Recharge
- Site-Specific Augmentation
- Additional Surface Water Storage
- Conversions – Groundwater to Surface Water



CAMP Development Process

- Board solicits nominations and forms Advisory Committee
- Committee makes consensus recommendations to the Board
- Committee works with ESHMC and Board staff, contracting for technical assistance as required



Advisory Committee Representatives

- Chairperson (1)
- Municipalities (2 – lower and upper valley)
- Business (Processors, equipment providers, dairies, bankers, etc.) (2)
- Land developers (1)
- Surface water users (2 – lower and upper valley)
- Groundwater users (2 – lower and upper valley)
- Spring water users (1)
- Hydropower (1)
- Domestic well owners (1)



Government Agency Ex-Officio

- Bureau of Reclamation
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Legislature and Governor's office
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- More?



Request to the Legislature

- Continued leadership and involvement during the next phase
- \$10 million in 2007 for targeted demand reduction through market-based mechanisms
- \$850,000 for continuation of the CAMP development process



Questions?

