



**Idaho Water Resource Board**

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# ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan

Presentation to the Governor's  
Water Summit  
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# Outline

- Background: Framework Process
  - Goal and Objectives
- CAMP Advisory Committee Process
  - Advisory Committee Charge
  - Representatives and Governmental Agencies
  - Advisory Committee Roles
  - Tasks and Work Plan
  - May 10, 2007 Advisory Committee Agenda
- Lessons Learned



# ESPA Framework

- Expanded public participation across ESPA
- Brought stakeholder views and management alternatives together in one document
- Outlined qualitative Goal and Objectives



# 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



# Advisory Committee Charge

- Explore strategies and approaches to manage the ESPA that are consistent with the Goal and Objectives and are acceptable to water users
- Develop consensus recommendations for the Board on a Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan for the ESPA
- Inform and involve stakeholders regarding proposals, ideas and direction of the Advisory Committee



# Advisory Committee Representatives

- Municipalities
- Business
- Land developers
- Surface water users
- Groundwater users
- Spring water users
- Hydropower
- Domestic well owners
- Environmental/Conservation
- Mixed-Use
- County Assessors



# Governmental Participants

- US 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





# Advisory Committee Roles

- **Idaho Water Resource Board**
  - Decision-making with recommendations from Advisory Committee and public
- **Representatives and Alternates**
  - Deliberate and provide recommendations to Board
  - Coordinate with constituents/public
- **Governmental Agencies**
  - Provide technical and policy input
- **Facilitators**
  - Provide neutral process support to reach outlined objectives
  - Encourage parties to develop agreements



# Advisory Committee Tasks

- **Interim Targets.** Develop recommendations for quantitative 5 and 10 year interim targets
- **Management Actions.** Develop recommendations for initial management actions to be taken to reach the interim targets
- **Funding Mechanisms.** Develop recommendations for funding mechanisms
- **Adaptive Management.** Develop recommendations for adaptive management mechanisms that will assess progress



# Work Plan – Interim Targets

## Interim Targets (3 - 5 months)

- Consult with technical experts on range of water budget change necessary to achieve qualitative goal
- Discuss with experts the water budget changes possible through various management alternatives over 5 and 10 year time frames
- Using information provided, recommend quantitative water budget change ranges for each objective in the 5 and 10 year time frames



# Work Plan – Management Actions

## Management Actions (4 - 6 months)

- Technical experts provide information to assist Committee in identifying potential projects, expected outcomes, risk factors, costs, etc.
- The Committee compares potential management actions with each other on a costs and benefits basis, including economic and other considerations
- Committee recommends prioritized projects and funding needs for each management action



# Work Plan – Funding

## Funding Mechanisms (3 - 5 months)

- Committee examines total funding required to meet 5 and 10 year quantitative goals
- Committee recommends funding strategy to provide resources necessary to implement management actions



# Work Plan - Adaptive Management

## **Adaptive Management (1 - 2 month)**

- Committee recommends process for continuous evaluation of progress toward interim targets, including responsibilities



# Proposed First Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

## Draft Agenda (May 10<sup>th</sup> in Pocatello)

- Welcome and Introductions
- Discussion: Draft Operating Protocols
- Presentation: Current Board Activities on the ESPA
- Presentation and Discussion: ESPA Framework and Committee Work Plan
- Discussion: Logistics and Meeting Planning



# Lessons Learned

- Clear direction and leadership regarding roles and expectations
- Good faith effort by all to understand and address needs, concerns and interests
- Convergence of Executive, Legislature, Board and public regarding ESPA management

