



## Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan

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### Demand Reduction Working Group Meeting

#### **DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY** **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010** **Teleconference**

#### **Updates on Demand Reduction Outreach for AWEP 2010**

At the January 2010 Demand Reduction Working Group (WG) meeting, a schedule for AWEP 2010 was presented to the group, indicating that the WG had until March 2010 to design a desired project selection process for NRCS. The schedule has been moved back, so that the WG/IC must provide input to NRCS by June 1, 2010 in order to help them begin the application process.

There is a Steering Committee including: Clint, Rob, Will, Peter, Gary, Sal, Lynn, Kent, Lance, Brian, Neeley and Cynthia that is meeting to discuss and develop ways to engage property owners in demand reduction strategies and the criteria for selecting AWEP 2010 projects. These meetings continue.

The Steering Committee is planning to help organize four public meetings throughout the ESPA to inform potential project owners about AWEP opportunities for funding (including conversions funds also). Members of the WG commented that this might be a good opportunity to educate members of the public about the Plan in general and the funding mechanism, in addition to the AWEP information. The earlier these meetings are happening, the better.

The Steering Committee, with the support of the WG, is continuing to think about criteria for project selection in their discussions with each other and potential project owners. Draft criteria will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

#### *Projects in the Thousand Springs*

Linda Lemmon reported that there are number of "Phase 2" projects that are a continuation of projects from 2009 that want additional funds for 2010. Likely, these projects will total in the "tens of thousands of dollars." On the other hand, there are a number of property owners who would like to develop a group project. At this point, they are hesitant because the AWEP money cannot go directly to the ditch company, as it has to go to the individual property owner. This project could be approximately \$1M to implement. There is a desire to continue talking about the large project, but concerns continue about who will receive the money directly.

#### *Conversion to Dry Land Farming*

Peter Anderson updated the WG and indicated that there are three topics/issues being discussed regarding conversion to dry land farming in the Steering Committee: technical/legal obstacles, areas to target, and costs and reimbursement. On the identification of targeted areas, the group is discussing Big Wood, the Upper Snake, Willow Creek and Portneuf/Blackfoot. Conversations continue in the Steering Committee and with potential project owners on how best to incentive and implement conversion to dry land farming.

#### *Crop Mix Modification*

The Steering Committee also is discussing crop mix modifications and the incentives that would accompany this particular project implementation. Initially, the numbers indicated an incentive of

\$40-90. Now, numbers are closer to \$140-170. Options discussed for types of modification include: cover crop, irrigation water management, fallowing, four-year alfalfa rotation and others. Additional follow-up meetings will take place with the district conservationists, followed by a meeting with growers in late February.

**PERC Proposal**

After the early January 2010 Demand Reduction WG meeting, Neeley Miller edited the PERC proposal to reflect our discussion. The WG approved the modifications to the document.

The WG discussed concerns about the land-use restrictions (there are none) as part of the PERC proposal, and how property owners might be able to combine CREP, PERC and AWEP. With current information, the incentive appears to be far very high when combining all three incentives. Once there is more known about AWEP and how this program might coordinate with others, the WG would like to revisit this issue so that the payouts are appropriate for what is being asked of the property owners.

**AWEP Progress Report**

NRCS and IWRB staff are compiling a progress report on 2009 AWEP accomplishments. The WG would like to review the progress report before it is finalized.

**Next Steps and Upcoming Meeting**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Discuss pump back from Thousand Springs for conversions projects at a future meeting	WG
Continue to refine/make decisions on land-use restrictions in the PERC proposal based on the PERC proposal and introduce it to the Implementation Committee in February	WG
Continue small-group meetings to address AWEP outreach and criteria development	WG Members and others
Address/evaluate AWEP 2010 recommendations from small groups	WG Members
Review 2009 AWEP progress report	WG

**Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is TBD

**List of Participants**

**Demand Reduction Working Group Members**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
1. Peter Anderson	Conservation
2. Craig Evans	Groundwater Users
3. Randy MacMillan	Spring Water Users
4. Brian Olmstead	Surface Water Users
5. Steve Serr	Counties
6. Will Whelan	Conservation

**Ex Officio Members & Other Attendees**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
7. David Blew	IPC
8. Linda Lemmon	Spring Water Users
9. Chuck Pentzer	Soil Conservation Service
10. Neeley Miller	IDWR
11. Joan Sabott	CDR Associates