

# MEMO



**To:** Jonathan Bartsch

**From:** Bill Quinn

**Subject:** ESPA CAMP Implementation Committee - Recharge Work Group Committee

**Date:** May 22, 2009

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For the recharge sub-committee (or working group) to make meaningful recommendations to the CAMP Implementation Committee, certain resources will need to be made available to the sub-committee. These resources will include:

- (1) Early season recharge in 2009 has been a resounding success. Near-ideal conditions and the Milner hydro-power licensing order made this success possible. Approximately 80,000 acre-feet of Snake River recharge has been accomplished through late May with only six canal company and irrigation districts participating in the 2009 Idaho water Resource Board (Board) sponsored program. This success will provide momentum and enthusiasm to carry an ESPA recharge program forward.
- (2) From approximately 1960 to present, numerous reports and investigations have studied ESPA recharge. Some of these documents could provide important information identifying potential recharge sites and serve as suitable starting points to develop recommendations for adding additional ESPA recharge capacity.
- (3) The Board's ESPA recharge program will become part of the CAMP program. The Board has developed procedures for entering into legal agreements with canal companies to convey recharge water, compensating canal companies for conveying the recharge water and providing accurate recharge measurements.
- (4) With respect to surface water conservation, unlined canals are central to aquifer recharge. A process of identifying which unlined canals account for significant ESPA recharge should be developed before any Board or Camp-sponsored canal lining programs begin.
- (5) The Board's W Canal constructed recharge project was an important learning experience and will provide valuable input to any future constructed recharge projects that may be needed to increase recharge capacity.