



Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan

Weather Modification Working Group Meeting #1

**Draft Meeting Summary
July 2, 2009
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources
900 N. Skyline
Idaho Falls, Id. 83402**

Overview

The Weather Modification Working Group achieved the following during their July 2, 2009 meeting:

1. Agreement on the Working Group charge and parameters.
2. Understanding of ESPA Plan elements related to the Working Group, current technical understandings and gaps
3. Understanding of the Resource Conservation and Development District weather modification program.
4. Understanding of broad steps to implement an expanded, integrated program in 2009

The outcomes of these discussions are included in this meeting summary.

Working Group Charge and Parameters

Develop a robust, expanded pilot 5-year weather modification program in the Upper Snake.

Issues

- Institutional arrangements/coordination
 - Coordination between IDWR, Idaho Power, counties: role of Idaho Power, counties
 - Necessity to share data and science across agencies
 - Careful coordination is needed to assure that cloud seeding is conducted to maximize benefits and minimize adverse effects.
 - Coordination between Idaho and Wyoming
 - Demonstrating benefits and communicating
 - There is a need to ask tough questions and monitor/evaluate impacts
- Funding
 - Who pays?
 - Is ESPA Plan the right funding vehicle?
 - Ensuring that counties are not double charged: into the RC&D and into the ESPA Plan for the weather modification program
 - Cost sharing with other entities (such as ski areas)
- Legal issues
 - Potential for lawsuits around silver iodide toxicity and the need to broaden education about this issue.
- Wood River System
 - An evaluation underway
 - Possibility of extending Idaho's existing aerial program to cover the Wood River system

Idaho Power Cloud Seeding Program

Kevin Wade provided an update on Idaho Power’s Cloud Seeding program, specifically highlighting:

- The technology and science employed in decision making around timing and location for cloud seeding
- The monitoring and evaluation system
- Idaho Power’s experience to date
- Idaho Power’s plans for the next year

Discussion following the presentation centered on the institutional coordination between Idaho Power, IDWR and the counties and strategies for building a robust, expanded program.

County Resource Conservation and Development District Weather Modification Program

Bonneville, Jefferson, Fremont, Maddison and Clark Counties have been cloud seeding since 1986 and currently have 25 generators. They welcome the opportunity to coordinate with Idaho Power and CAMP, as this will bring the science to the program and make their impacts more measurable.

Agreements, Next Steps & Upcoming Meeting

Agreements

- The Working Group will serve as a forum for coordination between IDWR, Idaho Power and the counties involved in weather modification.
- Coordination between Idaho and Wyoming will continue to take place at the city and county levels on a project by project basis. This will allow the initiative to build upon existing relationships. This is the appropriate approach and likely the most effective approach for the time being.
- Representatives from the counties (specifically David Radford and Paul Ramwell) have been invited to play an active role in the working groups.
- The Working Group is ready to support the efforts by Idaho Power and the counties and does not want to interfere with their initiatives.
- A draft implementation plan for increasing the number of land generators was outlined

Next Steps

Action	Responsible
In coordination with the counties, re-extend the invitation to representatives from Wyoming to attend Working Group meetings.	Jennifer Graham
Provide an update to the Idaho Water Resources Board on progress in the Upper Snake do demonstrate success	Jim Tucker

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 12th 3pm to 7p.m.

Agenda Items

An update on how the weather modification program is progressing: Sean Parkinson (Idaho Power)

- A detailed analysis of the success on the Payette
- Update on the silver toxicity issue/lawsuits
- Information on cloud seeding in other basins—the Wood River System as well as others where there would be a positive impact on the ESPA.

A presentation from the counties on their weather modification program and a description of what they need from CAMP to support their efforts.

Meeting Materials Distributed/Presented

- List of ESPA Plan Elements Related to Weather Modification
- June 9, 2009 IDWR Summary Memo
- Idaho Power Cloud Seeding Presentation

List of Participants

Weather Modification Working Group

NAME	AFFILIATION
Alex Labeau	Business interests
Jim Tucker	Hydropower
Rebecca Casper	Development interests
Rich Rigby	Agency representative

Ex Officio Members & Other Attendees

NAME	AFFILIATION
Brian Patton	IDWR
Dale Swenson	Fremont-Madison Irrigation District
Dave Radford	Cities & Counties
David Blew	Idaho Power
Jennifer Graham	CDR Associates
Joan Kathol	CDR Associates
Jonathan Bartsch	CDR Associates
Kevin Wade	Idaho Power
Stan Clark	EJWRC