



Action items and topics for RPAC consideration

(from Assessment and Advisory Committee dialogue)

Version 2, 12 April 2010

	Category Action item or topic	Description/needed data/comments
1	Water Supply	
1.1	Consider the potential effects of construction on the tributaries of the RP Aquifer	What is the potential for large scale development
1.2	Consider limitations on out of basin transfers of water	
1.3	Provide for reasonable growth	
1.4	Ensure a sustainable aquifer	Avoid mining or large drawdown
1.5	Improve public understanding of the aquifer situation through public education and outreach	
1.6	Recognize that with present flow levels, even at high build out Idaho will use only 10% of its water; the issue is discharge not supply.	Water supply gaps may not be the key issue for the RP Aquifer for the next 50 years; the issue may be discharge and River flows
1.7	Finish the documentation and adjudication of Idaho water rights	Clarify what water is actually being used
1.8	Consider whether private wells should be permitted; or whether there should be better limits on the irrigation done by private wells	Identified as a sensitive issues
1.9	Assess the effectiveness of recharge options to increase aquifer beneficial use	
1.10	Create/support a good water market to make water readily available when needed, Expand and enable systems for water exchange	

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2	Water conservation	
2.1	Better link land and water decisions; use Kootenai Comp Land Use Plan as a tool therefor	
2.2	Foster interagency communications on the relationship between land and water	
2.3	Require future developments to prove up water that will be needed for development	
2.4	Improve storm water permitting and conservation plans	
2.5	Encourage water reuse plans/purple pipe	
2.6	Conduct public education programs re conservation; accept that water is a given in our future	
2.7	Support existing State plans for conservation	
2.8	Promote water conservation performance standards	
2.9	Consider performance standards for the amount of land to be irrigated by a private wells	Identified as a difficult issue
2.10	Require/encourage new large developments to locate where depletions have a minimal effect on aquifer and river flow	Could mean the development and water diversion point are separated
2.11	Make detailed assessments of the effects of any new large scale developments, using the model	
2.12	Re use water where feasible, with consideration to uses such as industrial consumptive (steam, etc)	

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2.13	Create financial incentives for voluntary and incentive based conservation rather than regulation	
2.14	Acquire conservation easement to direct future land use and development to the proper locations	
3	Sustainable aquifer	For human and environmental needs
3.1	Monitor aquifer condition	
3.2	Continue and improve aquifer modeling	
3.3	Monitor and study effects of climate change	
4	Water administration	
4.1	Implement the adopted ground water plan	
4.2	Better define aquifer boundaries	
4.3	Require a permit for all future uses of wells and groundwater	
4.4	Consider volumetric limits on different water uses	
4.5	Monitor and measure usage of water	
4.6	Impose fees for certain water uses to support this plan	
5	Avoid/minimize conflict and build civic will	
5.1	Maintain Spokane River flows to avoid disputes or litigation	
5.2	Relocate present pumping (either state) to minimize negative depletive effects	

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5.3	Maintain Lake levels	
5.4	Clarify desired River flow levels	
5.5	Consider options to augment River flow in Washington	
5.6	Use options or processes other than compact to deal with River flow issues	
5.7	Continue, encourage and enhance interstate cooperation and understanding of the aquifer	
5.8	Complete adjudication processes in both Idaho and Washington	
5.9	Protect existing water rights as uses change	
5.10	Build on existing working relationships for regional cooperation; using among others, regional forums	
5.11	Regional public education on the value, threats and future of the aquifer	
6	Aquifer protection and water quality	
6.1	Continue to have land available for land application	
6.2	Consider whether developments of 5 acres or larger should be on sewer systems	
6.3	Upgrade water treatment facilities to meet or exceed NPDES permit requirements	

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6.4	Prohibit on site disposal of waste water for smaller parcels/reduce effects of septic systems (Washington and Idaho)	
6.5	Monitor Lake CdA and River water quality	
7	Interstate flow Issues	
7.1	Better understand the effect if any of Idaho pumping	
7.2	Pursue working relationships in which each State is responsible for growth in its boundaries	
7.3	Ensure that Idaho is not penalized for climate changes through use of reasonable baselines	
7.4	Review effects of changing pumping locations in Idaho and Washington and looking at depletions effects on River flows	
7.6	Invite Washington to engage in continuing dialogue on solutions to River flow issues	
7.7	Idaho does not solve Washington's problems but understands them	
7.8	Understand where in the stream system there is a direct connection between aquifer and River	
7.9	Take steps and investigations to know how pumping in each State does or does not affect River flows; in what ways does Idaho affect River flow	

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8	Consideration of unknown/unexpected events yet potentially significant events	
8.1	Consider what unexpected events could occur that could substantially affect the aquifer and water use; such as exportation	
8.2	Consider how future Tribal water rights may affect this plan	
8.3	Understand and plan for effects of climate change	