



AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Board Meeting No. 8-26

Friday, August 7, 2026

Executive Session begins at 8:00 a.m. (MT) / 7:00 a.m. (PT)

Open Meeting begins upon adjournment of the Executive Session

Springhill Suites

1177 S. Yellowstone Hwy.

REXBURG, ID

Livestream available at <https://www.youtube.com/@iwrbr>

Brad Little
Governor

Jeff Raybould
Chairman
St. Anthony
At Large

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen
Vice Chair
Lewiston
At Large

Dean Stevenson
Secretary
Paul
District 3

Dale Van Stone
Hope
District 1

Albert Barker
Boise
District 2

Brian Olmstead
Twin Falls
At Large

Marcus Gibbs
Grace
District 4

Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

1. Roll Call
2. Executive Session: Board will meet pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1) subsection (f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. Topic Water Right No. 63-34753 - Closed to the Public
3. Agenda and Approval of Minutes: 6-26 and 7-26 *
4. Public Comment
5. Financial Report
6. Idaho Water Resource Board Facility Maintenance Fund *
7. Fiscal Year 27 ARPA Spending Plan *
8. Cloud Seeding
 - A. Bear River Basin Year 2 Pilot Project Proposal (2026/2027) *
 - B. 2026-2027 Season Upper Snake Cloud Seeding Budget *
9. Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Recharge Program Infrastructure *
10. Flood Management Grant Awards *
11. Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List Requests *
12. Directors Report
13. Non-Action Items for Discussion
14. Next Meeting and Adjourn

* Action Item: A vote regarding this item may be made at this meeting. Identifying an item as an action item on the agenda does not require a vote to be taken on the item. **Americans with Disabilities:** If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please make advance arrangements by contacting Department staff by email mlin.ream@idwr.idaho.gov or by phone at (208) 287-4800.

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: July 29, 2026
Subject: Executive Session

REQUESTED ACTION: Board will move to Executive Session to Meet Pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1) subsection (f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. Topic: Water Right No. 63-34753. Closed to the public.

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: July 29, 2026
Subject: Agenda and Approval of Minutes: 6-26 and 7-26

REQUESTED ACTION: Approve the August 7, 2026, Agenda and IWRB Minutes, as Presented

The draft minutes, as identified below, are attached for the IWRB's review and approval.

Attachments:

- *Minutes from Board Meeting No. 6-26*
- *Minutes from Special Board Meeting No. 7-26*



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

MINUTES MEETING NO. 6-26

DRAFT

Brad Little
Governor

Water Center
Conference Rooms 602 C-D
322 E. Front Street
BOISE

Jeff Raybould
Chairman
St. Anthony
At Large

May 21, 2026

Board Meeting No. 6-26

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen
Vice Chair
Lewiston
At Large

At 08:00 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho and on Zoom. The meeting was live streamed on the Board's YouTube Channel after the executive session.

Dean Stevenson
Secretary
Paul
District 3

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Board Members Present

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman
Albert Barker
Marcus Gibbs
Patrick McMahon
Brian Olmstead
Dale Van Stone
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

Dale Van Stone
Hope
District 1

Albert Barker
Boise
District 2

IDWR Staff Members Present

Mathew Weaver, Director
Brian Patton, IWRB Executive Manager/IDWR Deputy Director
Shelley Keen, Deputy Director
Garrett Hensley, Legal
Kensie Garn, Legal
Cynthia Bridge Clark
Scott King
Wesley Hipke
Ethan Geisler
Matt Anders
Craig Tesh
Kara Ferguson
Heidi Smith
Mike Morrison
Justin Ferguson
Mary Condon
Neeley Miller
Milin Ream

Brian Olmstead
Twin Falls
At Large

Marcus Gibbs
Grace
District 4

Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

Others Present:

Ann Yribar, AG's Office

Erik Olsen, Chairman, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Loretta Strickland, Ag Program Manager, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director – Programs and Policy, Idaho Fish and Game, *Online*

Shawna Adams, Project Manager, Minidoka Irrigation District, *Online*

Don Terry, Manager, Burley Irrigation District, *Online*

Steve Stuebner

Brian Murdock, Murdock Farms

Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session

At 8:03 AM, Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1) subsection (d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in Chapter 1, Title 74, Idaho Code. Topic: Stream Channel Alteration Permit No. S37-20565 AND pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1) subsection (f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. Topic: Water Right Application No. 63-34753. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 9:00 AM. Mr. McMahon seconded. **Voice vote**: All in favor. The motion carried. The executive session was closed to the public, and no action was taken during the executive session.

Agenda Item No. 3: Stream Channel Alternation Permit No. S37-20565

Following executive session, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item presented for the Board is a draft order in relation to S37-20565 for the Board's consideration.

Chairman Raybould entertained a motion in relation to the Agenda item.

Mr. McMahon moved to approve Board affirming the Hearing Officer's order in the matter of Stream Channel Alternation Permit No. S37-20565. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Roll Call Vote**. Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 4: Agenda and Approval of Minutes No. 5-26

The agenda and minutes for Meeting No. 5-26 were presented for approval. One change was made to the agenda: Item 7A will not be presented at today's meeting. In addition, one edit was made to the draft minutes for Meeting No. 5-26, as discussed.

Mr. Olmstead moved to approve the agenda for Meeting No. 6-26 and the minutes for Meeting No. 5-26, as discussed. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 5: Public Comment

At this time, Chairman Raybould called for anyone wishing to address the Board during public comment.

Brian Murdock of Murdock Farms provided comments to the Board. Mr. Murdock extended his thanks to the Board in relation to flow augmentation negotiations with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and inquired on the status of the Upper Snake River Basin Study.

Next, Erik Olson, Chairman for the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission extended his thanks to the Board for the opportunity to attend today's meeting. He further shared how he looks forward to finalizing the merger with the Department of Water Resources to more effectively serve Idaho constituents.

Agenda Item No. 6: Financial Report

IDWR Senior Planner Neeley Miller provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of March 31, 2026, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$41,694,675, committed \$23,022,745, and uncommitted balance \$18,671,930; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$35,615,061, committed balance \$25,246,995, loan principal outstanding and other obligations \$25,981,743, and uncommitted balance \$10,368,066; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$331,187,923, total obligated funds \$335,685,581, and unobligated funds \$(4,497,657). Total obligated \$250,153,066; total expended \$161,181,516; and total remaining committed balance \$88,958,309.

Agenda Item No.7B: Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Water Quality Programs

Loretta Strickland, Ag Program Manager with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) provided a PowerPoint presentation overview of SWCC's Water Quality Program for Agriculture

Upon conclusion of discussion, Chairman Raybould thanked Ms. Strickland for her presentation and moved to the next agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 8: Big Wood River Water Right Accounting Program Update

Heidi Smith, Hydrologist with IDWR, delivered an informational PowerPoint presentation on the Big Wood Water Right Accounting Project.

Following a review and discussion period, Chairman Raybould thanked Ms. Smith for the information and moved to Agenda Item No. 9.

Agenda Item No. 9: South Fork Snake River Basin Plan

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Planning Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Following Mr. Barkers recap as the Planning Committee Chair, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution acknowledging the updated environmental assessment. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Roll Call Vote**. Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 10: Loan Application – Dalton Water Association

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to Authorize Loan Funding for Costs Related to Transmission Line Repairs in the Matter of the Dalton Water Association Loan Request. Mr. Mc Mahon seconded. **Roll Call Vote.** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 11: ESPA Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiency Program – Minidoka Irrigation District

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed by the IWRB Finance Committee on May 8, 2026, with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to Authorize Funding for Costs Related to the F-Waste Rehabilitation Project in the Matter of the Minidoka Irrigation District Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiency Program Funding Request. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 12: Regional Water Sustainability Priority (RWSP) List

A. Criteria

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed in detail on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Addressing the Board, IDWR Water Projects Section Manager Wesley Hipke summarized staff's recommended changes to the RWSP Criteria.

Following Board discussion, Chairman Raybould called for action on the item.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution updating criteria in the Matter of the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List. Mr. Mc Mahon seconded. **Voice Vote.** all ayes. The motion passed.

B. Winchester Dam Repair RWSP

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed by the IWRB Finance Committee on May 8, 2026, with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to Update the List, Award Funding, and Adopt Terms & Conditions for the Winchester Dam Repair Project. Ms. Cole-Hansen seconded. **Roll Call Vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

C. Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer RWSP Funding Request

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that this item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed in detail on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

IDWR Project Manager Supervisor Mary Condon responded to a question from Mr. Barker and advised that the requested funding would support the three projects identified in the resolution: the South Fork River Diversion Project Final Design and NEPA process in the amount of \$507,750; the Mountain Home Irrigation District Canal System Alternatives Study in the amount of \$158,400; and the Snake River Pipeline and Pump Station Alternatives Study in the amount of \$435,000, for a total funding request of \$1,101,150.

Ms. Cole-Hansen, (*Finance Committee Chair*), stated that the Finance Committee recommended approval with the understanding that Elmore County (County) remain committed to aquifer stabilization and retain responsibility for the proposed projects until an appropriate entity capable of managing the projects is established. She further noted her appreciation that this commitment had been formalized through the adoption of the County's Resolution No. 948-26.

Ms. Cole Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to award funding and execute associated project contracts in the Matter of the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer Regional Water Sustainability Program. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Roll Call Vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 13: Grant Program Criteria and Timing

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item, and resolutions were presented, reviewed, and discussed in detail by the IWRB Finance Committee on May 8, 2026, with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

IDWR Project Manager Supervisor Mary Condon addressed the Board to answer questions and walk through the suggested recommended edits for each of the grant criteria. Following review, the following motions were made:

Mr. McMahon moved to approve the administrative change to grant applications deadlines and timing, as presented. Ms. Cole-Hansen seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution approving the revisions to the Aging Infrastructure Grant Criteria, as presented. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution approving the revisions to the Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant Criteria, as presented. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution approving the revisions to the Measuring & Monitoring Support Grant Criteria, as presented. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 14: Fiscal Year 27 Secondary Aquifer Planning and Management Fund Budget

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised this item, and its corresponding resolution was reviewed, and discussed in detail on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Chairman Raybould inquired any questions from the Board and entertained a motion.

It was moved by Ms. Cole-Hansen to adopt a resolution passing the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget in the Matter of Statewide Water Sustainability and Aquifer Stabilization, and the Secondary Aquifer Planning Management, and Implementation Fund, Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Mr. Stevenson Seconded. **Roll Call Vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 15: Fiscal Year 27 Water Management Accounting Spending Plan

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised this item, and its corresponding resolution was reviewed, and discussed in detail on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

IDWR Planning and Projects Bureau Chief Cynthia Bridge Clark addressed the Board to review the Water Management Account Spending Plan in greater detail and to present the proposed resolution for the Board's consideration.

After consideration of the matter, Mr. Van Stone made the following motion:

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to approve a fiscal year 2027 Water Management Account Spending Plan in the Matter of the Idaho Water Resource Board's Water Management Account. Mr. McMahon seconded. **Roll Call Vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 16: House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 – Bear River Legislative Report

IDWR Engineering Supervisor Mike Morrison provided a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Bear River Legislative Report, which is due to the Idaho Legislature by June 1, 2026. The report describes the current development of Compact allocation waters for Idaho and Utah, as well as the frequency and timing of water supplies in the Lower Division. Mr. Morrison noted that this is the first of two reports required under House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 (HCR-34). The second report, expected in September, will outline recommended and prioritized projects for further development.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Stevenson moved to approve staff submitting the first report on Bear River, under HCR 34, to the Idaho Legislature by June 1, 2026. Mr. Barker seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 17: IWRB Palisades Storage Release and Swan Falls Agreement Flows

IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton advised that IDWR Planning & Projects Section Supervisor Matt Anders will review a series of PowerPoint slides regarding the item, as well as a resolution presented for the Board's consideration.

Following a brief discussion period, Mr. Olmstead made the following motion:

It was moved by Mr. Olmstead to adopt a resolution to offset the March 2026 Shortfall to the Swan Falls Minimum Streamflow Water Right in the Matter of the Swan Falls Agreement Minimum Flows. Mr. Van Stone Seconded. **Roll Call Vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed

Agenda Item No. 18: ESPA Recharge Program Projects

IDWR Planning & Projects Section Supervisor Matt Anders provided a brief report with a few PowerPoint slides outlining the project and staff's request that the Board consider funding the New Sweden Irrigation District Hells Half Acre ITD Pit Recharge Basin Proposal.

Upon conclusion of discussion, Chairman Raybould opened the floor for a motion.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt a resolution to approve funds from the Water Management Account and Provide Signatory Authority in the matter of the New Sweden Irrigation District Hells Half Acres ITD Pit Recharge Project. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 19: Flow Augmentation Exchange Agreement

Brian Patton, IDWR Deputy Director, reported on a proposed potential flow augmentation exchange agreement between the IWRB and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to address immediate and exceptional drought emergency conditions.

Mr. Patton reviewed the resolution, which outlined the Board granting authority to the Chairman or designee to enter into a flow augmentation exchange agreement with the BOR, as well as the IWRB obligating up to \$200,000 from the Secondary Aquifer Planning & Management Fund to be used in the event some of the Palisades powerhead water is needed by the Board for its purposes.

After reviewing the matter, Chairman Raybould requested Board action.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to provide signatory authority and allocate funds in the Matter of Flow Augmentation Exchange During 2026. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 20: Regional Manager Update

IDWR Western Regional Manager Scott King provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board highlighting his region's organizational structure and programs. Continuing, Mr. King shared information related to water allocations for Southern Canyon County and South Ada County, ground water protection, and dam safety.

Following review, Chairman Raybould thanked Mr. King for his presentation update.

Agenda Item No. 21: Director's Report

At this time, IDWR Director Mathew Weaver provided the Board with an informative update on the IDWR business including curtailments, department operations, related legislative matters, status of the IDWR refreshed website, and water administration priorities.

Agenda Item No. 22: Non-Action Items for Discussion

There were no items for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 23: Next Meeting and Adjourn

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the next Board meeting is scheduled for August 6-7 in Rexburg, Idaho. Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice vote**: 8 ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of August 2026.

Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

MINUTES MEETING NO. 6-26

DRAFT

Brad Little
Governor

Water Center
Conference Rooms 602 C-D
322 E. Front Street
BOISE

Jeff Raybould
Chairman
St. Anthony
At Large

May 22, 2026
Board Meeting No. 6-26 -Field Trip

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen
Vice Chair
Lewiston
At Large

At 08:00 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho and on Zoom. The meeting was live streamed on the Board's YouTube Channel.

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Board Members Present

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman
Albert Barker
Marcus Gibbs
Patrick McMahon
Brian Olmstead
Dale Van Stone
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

Dean Stevenson
Secretary
Paul
District 3

Dale Van Stone
Hope
District 1

Albert Barker
Boise
District 2

IDWR Staff Members Present

Brian Patton, IWRB Executive Manager/IDWR Deputy Director
Cynthia Bridge Clark
Scott King
Matt Anders
Justin Ferguson
Mary Condon
Heidi Smith
Megan Clark
Neeley Miller
Milin Ream

Brian Olmstead
Twin Falls
At Large

Marcus Gibbs
Grace
District 4

Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

Others Present:

Daniel Hoke, Water District 63
Bryan Horsburgh, HDR Engineering
Mike Schubert, HDR Engineering
Ryan Alcorn, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Erik Olsen, Chairman, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Steve Stuebner

Agenda Item No. 2: Treasure Valley Drains Presentation

Daniel Hoke with Water District 63 along with representatives from HDR Engineering provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation update on the Treasure Valley Water Supply Project, with the objective of improving water management by leveraging improved data collection throughout the Boise River Basin.

The PowerPoint presentation included a summary recap of the three phases of the project as follows:

1. Phase 1-Completed -Automation and Data Collection
2. Phase 2 – Modeling and Analytics
3. Phase 3 – Mitigation & Collaboration

Following a review of the dashboard interface, hydrologic modeling and development plan, a question-and-answer session ensued.

With no further discussion, Chairman Raybould proceeded to adjournment.

Agenda Item No. 3: Adjourn

Chairman Raybould adjourned that meeting at 8:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of August 2026.

Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Brad Little
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Jeff Raybould
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At Large

MINUTES MEETING NO. 7-26

DRAFT

Water Center
Conference Rooms 648A
322 E. Front Street
BOISE

June 16, 2026
Board Meeting No. 7-26

At 9:00 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the special meeting to order in Boise, Idaho and on Zoom.

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Board Members Present

Jeff Raybould, Chairman, Online
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman, Online
Al Barker, Online
Marcus Gibbs, Online
Patrick McMahon, Online
Dean Stevenson, Secretary, Online
Dale Van Stone, Online

IDWR Staff Members Present

Brian Patton, IWRB Executive Manager
Cynthia Bridge Clark
Erik Boe
Wesley Hipke
Ann Yirbar, Attorney General's Office, Online
Milin Ream

Others Present

Tony Dixey with Bingham Ground Water District

Agenda Item No. 2: Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Support Funding

Brian Patton, IWRB Executive Manager, introduced the agenda item and invited Erik Boe, Resource Protection Bureau Chief with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), to address the Board. Mr. Boe provided a brief overview of IDWR's Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program and presented staff's request for spending authority of up to \$230,000 to contract with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. for Phase I engineering consulting services. The consulting work will support the development of technical guidance for Idaho's UIC Managed Aquifer Recharge Program.

Following discussion on the selection process, Mr. Patton presented the actions set forth in the resolution for the Board's consideration. With no further questions, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion. Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution authorizing funds for the IDWR UIC Program Managed Aquifer Recharge Program. Mr. McMahon Seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 7 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 3: Non-Action Items for Discussion

At this time, Ms. Cole-Hansen shared her attendance at the Bingham Groundwater District meeting in Lewiston regarding Dworshak operations with respect to the water that leaves Idaho through the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake rivers. She advised that overall, the meeting was positive.

Agenda Item No. 4: Next Meeting and Adjourn

IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton reported that the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for August 6-7, 2026, in Rexburg, Idaho. With no other business to come before the Board for discussion, Mr. Barker moved to adjourn. Ms. Cole Hansen seconded. **Voice vote**: 7 ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of August 2026.

Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)
From: Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau
Date: July 29, 2026
Subject: Financial Report

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

As of May 31, 2026, the IWRB's available and committed balances are as follows:

Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management & Implementation Fund:

Cash Balance	\$42,175,543
Committed	\$36,903,943
Uncommitted/Available Funds	\$5,271,600

Revolving Development Account:

Cash Balance	\$36,424,569
Committed Balance	\$25,369,623
Uncommitted Balance/Available Funds	\$11,054,946

Loan principal outstanding	\$26,297,804
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Water Management Account:

Cash Balance	\$326,608,105
Total Committed Funds	\$330,193,822
Uncommitted Funds/Available Funds	(\$3,585,717)

ARPA:

Appropriations

Received per HB 769 (2022)	\$100,000,000
Received per SB 1181 (2023)	\$24,497,544
Received per SB 1411 (2024)	\$75,502,456
<u>Pending per HB 248 (2025)</u>	<u>\$50,000,000</u>
Total	\$250,000,000

Total Obligated	\$250,000,000*
Expended	\$161,182,853
Remaining Committed Balance	\$88,956,974

**These projects have been authorized so that WMA or ARPA funds can be used for payment. Total ARPA cannot exceed \$250M.*

Attachment(s):

- None

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board)
From: Mike Morrison, IDWR Engineer Supervisor
Date: July 30, 2026
Subject: Idaho Water Resource Board Facility Maintenance Fund

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider Approval of a Resolution to Establish an Annual Budgeting Process and a Consolidated Budget for Board Owned Facilities.

Background

The Board owns and operates two major facilities on behalf of the State of Idaho: The Small Hydroelectric Power Plant near Dworshak Dam (Power Plant) and the Priest Lake Outlet Dam (Outlet Dam). Presently, there is no budget for these facilities and Staff obtains funding from the Board for their operation and maintenance as needed. Both facilities are funded from the Revolving Development Account (RDA).

The Power Plant earns approximately \$1.5 Million annually from the Board's sales agreement with the Bonneville Power Authority (BPA). These revenues are deposited in the RDA with 30% reserved specifically for maintenance and renovation of the Power Plant itself. At present, some \$9 Million has accrued to this reserve fund.

The Outlet Dam earns no revenue, but a \$410,000 operating fund was transferred to the Board as part of the Board's 2017 acquisition of the dam. With accrued interest, the balance in this fund is \$500,000. A condition of this transfer was that money from this fund only be used for operations and maintenance of the Outlet Dam. Interest from this fund partially offsets day-to-day maintenance and operation of the Outlet Dam

Proposal

Staff propose the following:

- At the beginning of each Fiscal Year, Staff will present a consolidated operating and maintenance budget for the Outlet Dam and Power Plant to the Board. The budget will identify planned operations, routine maintenance, preventive maintenance, capital improvements, equipment replacement, and necessary travel expenses associated with either facility.
- The budget will include a \$50,000 contingency fund for unplanned expenditures needed to continue safe operation of either facility.
- Staff will still request Board Funding for unbudgeted expenses exceeding the \$50,000 contingency fund.

- The Board will establish a Facilities Maintenance Fund from the ~\$9 million currently held in the Power Plant O&M Reserve Fund. This money will be used to defray Operations, Maintenance, and other planned expenses for the Power Plant and, when needed, the Outlet Dam.
- The \$500,000 Outlet Dam fund and its interest revenue will continue to be used exclusively for operation and maintenance of the Outlet Dam and shall be expended before monies from the Facilities Maintenance Fund are used for the Outlet Dam
- 30% of each month's gross revenue from the Power Plant will be deposited into the Facilities Maintenance Fund, with the remaining revenues disbursed into the RDA.

Staff's proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Consolidated Facilities Budget is attached.

On July 23, 2026, the Finance Committee recommended the IWRB consider approval of a resolution to establish an annual budgeting process and a Fiscal Year 2027 consolidated budget for Board owned facilities.

Attachment(s):

- *Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Consolidated Facilities Budget*
- *Draft Resolution*
- *PowerPoint Presentation*

Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Consolidated Facilities Budget

Dworshak Small Hydroelectric Project

Projected Revenue

BPA Sales	\$1,525,657.00	
Retained Sales (30%)	457,697.00	
Total Revenue		\$457,697.00

Projected Expenses

Operators and Scheduled Maintenance	\$109,015.00	
Repairs and Unscheduled Maintenance	82,139.00	
Utilities	39,677.00	
FERC Licensing and Permitting	13,500.00	
Quarterly Staff Site Visits and Inspections	3,000.00	
Subtotal O&M	\$247,332.00	
Facility Modernization	\$210,000.00	
Total Dworshak Expenses		<\$457,332.00>
Net Surplus <Loss>		\$ 365.00

Priest Lake Outlet Dam

Projected Revenue

Interest on \$600,000 Reserve	\$ 25,000.00	
Total Revenue		\$ 25,000.00

Projected Expenses

Operators and Scheduled Maintenance	\$ 10,000.00	
Repairs and Unscheduled Maintenance	3,000.00	
Utilities	400.00	
Quarterly Staff Site Visits and Inspections	3,000.00	
Subtotal O&M	\$ 16,400.00	
Facility Modernization	\$ 5,000.00	
Total Priest Lake Expenses		<\$ 21,400.00>
Net Surplus <Loss>		\$ 3,600.00

Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Consolidated Facilities Budget (Cont.)

Consolidated Facilities Budget

Total Facilities Expenses	\$478,732.00
Contingency Fund	\$ 50,000.00
Total Funding Request	\$528,732.00

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF FUNDING FOR
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF BOARD-
OWNED FACILITIES

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A CONSOLIDATED
FACILITIES MAINTENANCE FUND AND
BUDGETING PROCESS FOR BOARD-OWNED
FACILITIES

1 WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board (Board) owns and operates the Dworshak Small
2 Hydroelectric Power Plant (Power Plant) near Orofino, Idaho; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the Board owns and operates the Priest Lake Outlet Dam (Outlet Dam) near Coolin,
5 Idaho; and
6

7 WHEREAS, funds associated with both facilities are accounted for within the Board's
8 Revolving Development Account but are managed under separate funding mechanisms; and
9

10 WHEREAS, gross revenues from the Power Plant typically exceed \$1.5 million per annum, with
11 thirty percent (30%) retained for Power Plant operating and maintenance expenses, resulting in an
12 accumulated reserve of approximately \$9 million; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Power Plant is expected to require significant capital maintenance and
15 rehabilitation over the next several years to ensure continued safe and reliable operation; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the Board maintains a dedicated fund of approximately \$500,000 that is restricted
18 to the operation and maintenance of the Outlet Dam; and
19

20 WHEREAS, consolidating annual budgeting and maintenance planning for Board-owned
21 facilities will improve financial planning, transparency, and oversight while maintaining all existing
22 restrictions governing the use of facility-specific funds.
23

24 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that at the beginning of each Fiscal Year, Staff will present
25 a consolidated operating and maintenance budget for the Outlet Dam and Power Plant to the Board.
26 The budget will identify planned operations, routine maintenance, preventive maintenance, capital
27 improvements, equipment replacement, and necessary travel expenses associated with either
28 facility.
29

30 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the budget includes a \$50,000 contingency
31 fund for unplanned expenditures necessary for continued safe operation of either facility.
32

33 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Staff obtain Board approval for unbudgeted
34 expenditures exceeding the \$50,000 contingency fund.
35

36 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board establish a Facilities Maintenance
37 Fund from the \$9 Million currently held in the Power Plant Operations and Maintenance Reserve
38 Fund, and that this money be used to pay for operations, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation,

39 replacement, and other Board-approved expenditures for the Power Plant and, when necessary, the
40 Outlet Dam.

41
42 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the \$500,000 Outlet Dam fund and its
43 interest revenue continue to be used exclusively for operation and maintenance of the Outlet Dam
44 and shall be expended before monies from the Facilities Maintenance Fund are used for the Outlet
45 Dam.

46
47 NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the thirty percent (30%) of each month's gross revenue
48 from the Power Plant be deposited into the Facilities Maintenance Fund, with remaining revenues
49 disbursed into the Revolving Development Account.

50
51 NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board adopt the attached Consolidated Facilities
52 Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and authorizes Staff to implement the budget consistent with this
53 Resolution.

54
55
DATED this 7th day of August 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Consolidated Facilities Budget

Dworshak Small Hydroelectric Project

Projected Revenue

BPA Sales	\$1,525,657.00	
Retained Sales (30%)	457,697.00	
Total Revenue		\$457,697.00

Projected Expenses

Operators and Scheduled Maintenance	\$109,015.00	
Repairs and Unscheduled Maintenance	82,139.00	
Utilities	39,677.00	
FERC Licensing and Permitting	13,500.00	
Quarterly Staff Site Visits and Inspections	3,000.00	
Subtotal O&M	\$247,332.00	
Facility Modernization	\$210,000.00	
Total Dworshak Expenses		<\$457,332.00>
Net Surplus <Loss>		\$ 365.00

Priest Lake Outlet Dam

Projected Revenue

Interest on \$600,000 Reserve	\$ 25,000.00	
Total Revenue		\$ 25,000.00

Projected Expenses

Operators and Scheduled Maintenance	\$ 10,000.00	
Repairs and Unscheduled Maintenance	3,000.00	
Utilities	400.00	
Quarterly Staff Site Visits and Inspections	3,000.00	
Subtotal O&M	\$ 16,400.00	
Facility Modernization	\$ 5,000.00	
Total Priest Lake Expenses		<\$ 21,400.00>
Net Surplus <Loss>		\$ 3,600.00

Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Consolidated Facilities Budget (Cont.)

Consolidated Facilities Budget

Total Facilities Expenses	\$478,732.00
Contingency Fund	\$ 50,000.00
Total Funding Request	\$528,732.00

IWRB Consolidated Facilities Budget Proposal

Dr. Mike Morrison, P.E.
Water Planning/Projects
Bureau Engineer



1

Proposal

Currently, the Board owns and operates two major facilities on behalf of the State of Idaho:

- Dworshak Small Hydropower Plant near Orofino
- Priest Lake Outlet Dam at Priest Lake

Staff requests that the Board consider establishing an annual budgeting process for these two facilities.

2

Background: Dworshak Small Hydro Plant

- ~\$1.5 Million annual revenue
- Revenue is deposited in the RDA
- No restriction on how this money is used; however,
- Staff has typically reserved 30% of revenue for plant O&M, Upgrades, etc.
- The remainder is available for projects funded by the RDA
- Currently, some \$9 Million are in the reserve fund.
- It is likely that we will need some of the reserve fund money to renovate/update the power plant.

3

FY27 Dworshak Budget

Dworshak Small Hydroelectric Project

Projected Revenue

BPA Sales	\$1,525,657.00	
Retained Sales (30%)	457,697.00	
Total Revenue		\$457,697.00

Projected Expenses

Operators and Scheduled Maintenance	\$109,015.00	
Repairs and Unscheduled Maintenance	82,139.00	
Utilities	39,677.00	
FERC Licensing and Permitting	13,500.00	
Quarterly Staff Site Visits and Inspections	3,000.00	
Subtotal O&M	\$247,332.00	
Facility Modernization	\$210,000.00	
Total Dworshak Expenses		<\$457,332.00>
Net Surplus <Loss>		\$ 365.00

4

Background: Priest Lake Outlet Dam

- Earns no revenue.
- A \$410,000 operating fund was transferred to the Board when the dam was acquired in 2017. With accrued interest, this fund has increased to \$500,000.
- This money can only be used for the Dam.

5

FY27 Priest Lake Budget

Priest Lake Outlet Dam

Projected Revenue

Interest on \$600,000 Reserve	\$ 25,000.00	
Total Revenue		\$ 25,000.00

Projected Expenses

Operators and Scheduled Maintenance	\$ 10,000.00	
Repairs and Unscheduled Maintenance	3,000.00	
Utilities	400.00	
Quarterly Staff Site Visits and Inspections	3,000.00	
Subtotal O&M	\$ 16,400.00	
Facility Modernization	\$ 5,000.00	
Total Priest Lake Expenses		<\$ 21,400.00>
Net Surplus <Loss>		\$ 3,600.00

6

FY27 Consolidated Facilities Budget Request

Consolidated Facilities Budget

Total Facilities Expenses	\$478,732.00
Contingency Fund	\$ 50,000.00
Total Funding Request	\$528,732.00

7

Staff Proposal:

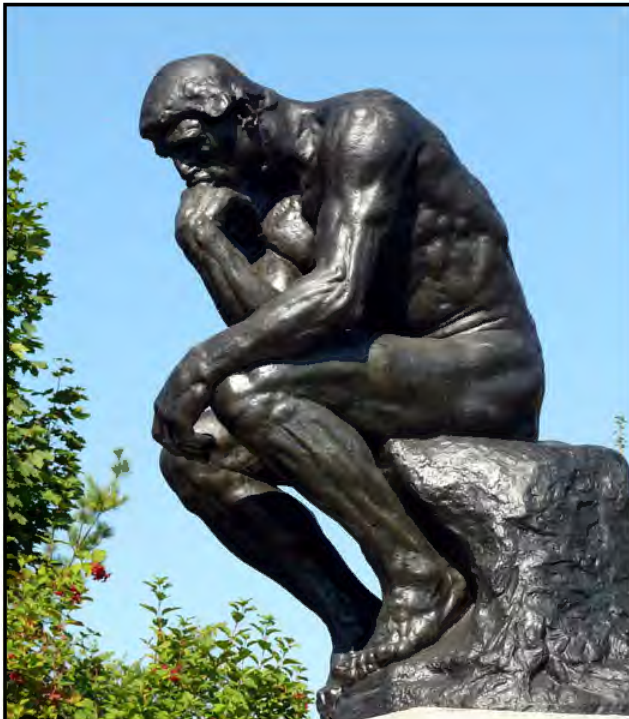
- At the beginning of each Fiscal year, Staff will present a consolidated operating and maintenance budget for the Outlet Dam and Power Plant to the Board. The budget will identify planned operations, routine maintenance, preventive maintenance, capital improvements, equipment replacement, and necessary travel expenses associated with either facility. budget for all Board-Owned facilities.
- Budget will include a \$50,000 contingency fund for unanticipated expenses needed for continued safe operation of either facility.
- Staff will still request Board funding for unplanned expenses exceeding the \$50,000 contingency fund.
- The Board will establish a Facilities Maintenance Fund from the \$9 Million currently held in the Power Plant O&M Reserve Fund. This many will be used to defray operations, maintenance, and other planned expenses for the Power Plant and, when needed, the Outlet Dam.

8

Staff Proposal:

- The \$500,000 Outlet Dam fund and its interest revenue will continue to be used exclusively for operation and maintenance of the Outlet Dam and shall be expended before monies from the Facilities Maintenance Fund are used for the Outlet Dam.
- 30% of each month's gross revenue from the Power Plant will be deposited into the Facilities Maintenance Fund, with the remaining revenues disbursed into the RDA.

9



Questions?

10

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: July 27, 2026
Subject: Amendment to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Plan

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider Adoption of Resolution to Modify the IWRB ARPA Funding Spending Plan and Provide Spending Authorization.

Background:

The IWRB manages three primary funding accounts to support water development and water sustainability efforts: the Revolving Development Account (RDA), Water Management Account (WMA), and the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund (Secondary Fund). In addition, the 2022 Idaho Legislature allocated approximately \$250 million of the State's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support IWRB-approved projects.

To assist in guiding the investment of these funds the IWRB maintains a list of priority projects captured in the Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List (RWSP Priority List). The RWSP Priority List provides a resource related to projects that support water supply sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide scale in accordance with legislative direction.

Based on the RWSP Priority List, the IWRB developed an ARPA Funds Spending Plan in 2022. This plan has been updated to account for additional authorized projects and cost estimates; Resolution No. 09-2026 reflects the current ARPA spending plan approved by the IWRB. The proposed spending plan reflects the final payments to approved projects and the redistribution of the remaining ARPA Funds.

The final disbursement of ARPA funds is estimated to be issued by September 2026. For longer-term projects, project sponsors are required to submit annual reports to the IWRB through project completion.

IWRB Meeting:

On July 23, 2026, the Finance Committee reviewed the additional amendments to the ARPA spending plan to address current cost estimates for the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise and reallocation of available ARPA funding. The Committee recommended the Board consider the adoption of a resolution proposing assignment of ARPA funds.

Attachment(s):

- *Draft Resolution – Resolution to Modify the IWRB's ARPA Funding Spending Plan and Provide Spending Authorization*

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE IWRB AMERICAN RESCUE
PLAN ACT FUNDING SPENDING PLAN

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE IDAHO WATER
RESOURCE BOARD'S ARPA FUNDING
SPENDING PLAN AND PROVIDE SPENDING
AUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, in 2022 the Idaho Legislature passed House Bill 769 in which it expressed its intent to set aside approximately \$250,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to be used for certain ARPA-eligible water projects; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature, though House Bill 769 passed in 2022, Senate Bill 1181 passed in 2023, Senate Bill 1411 passed in 2024, and House Bill 445 passed in 2025 appropriated a total of \$250 Million from the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund to support ARPA-eligible water projects managed by the IWRB; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB maintains a Regional Water Sustainability Projects (RWSP) Priority List to help guide spending from state general funds, ARPA funds, or other applicable sources for projects that support water supply sustainability on a regional, basin, or statewide scale; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB adopted Resolution No. 02-2022 approving an initial allocation of ARPA funds for specific projects (ARPA Funds Spending Plan). The ARPA Funds Spending Plan was adjusted to account for additional authorized projects and cost estimates through IWRB resolution Nos. 30-2023, 31-2024, and 09-2026. The following reflects the current ARPA Funds Spending Plan (Resolution No. 09-2026):

Anderson Ranch Dam Raise	\$118,582,075
Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project	\$31,391,384
ESPA Recharge Infrastructure	\$9,526,541
American Falls Dam Spillway Repair	\$12,500,000
New York Canal Rehabilitation Project	\$50,000,000
<u>Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project</u>	<u>\$28,000,000</u>
TOTAL	\$250,000,000; and

WHEREAS, to accommodate updated project costs, a total of \$13,242 of ARPA funds is available for reallocation; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2026, the IWRB's Finance Committee recommended the IWRB reallocate these available ARPA funds to the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project to apply to the non-Federal cost-share for the project and to ensure compliance with ARPA federal obligation and expenditure deadlines.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the following modified ARPA Funds Spending Plan as recommended by the Finance Committee:

40	Anderson Ranch Dam Raise	\$118,595,317
41	Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project	\$31,391,384
42	ESPA Recharge Infrastructure	\$9,526,541
43	American Falls Dam Spillway Repair	\$12,486,758
44	New York Canal Rehabilitation Project	\$50,000,000
45	<u>Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project</u>	<u>\$28,000,000</u>
46		TOTAL \$250,000,000

47
48 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the modified ARPA Funds Spending Plan does
49 not preclude the use of funding from other sources, including IWRB accounts, to complete the above
50 referenced projects if required.

51
52 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to meet ARPA Funding federal and state
53 obligation and expenditure requirements, the IWRB authorizes expenditures from the ARPA State Fiscal
54 Recovery Fund for the projects and corresponding amounts identified above.

55
56 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its Chairman or designee,
57 to execute the necessary agreements or contracts to carry out the purpose of this resolution.

58
59 DATED this 7TH day of August 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board)
From: Caitlyn Swanson, IDWR
Date: August 7, 2026
Subject: Bear River Basin Year 2 Pilot Project Proposal Summary

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider Approving Funding for the Bear River Basin Year 2 Collaborative Interstate Cloud Seeding Pilot Project.

During the 2025/2026 winter season, the IWRB partnered with the Utah Division of Water Resources (WRe) to execute a 1-year interstate cloud seeding pilot project in the Bear River Basin (BRB) utilizing Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), otherwise known as drones. The pilot project aimed to mitigate drought conditions, provide additional water supply to water users, and assist in replenishing Utah's Great Salt Lake by deploying drones to enhance regional snowpack.

The pilot project was funded through a collaborative cost-share agreement with the Board contributing \$450,000 and the WRe contributing \$3.5 million. Additionally, the IWRB contributed \$500,000 for a third-party evaluation of the pilot project and UAS cloud seeding mechanisms in the BRB. Following the success of this initial phase, the WRe has proposed a second year of the pilot program. To support Year 2 of the BRB pilot project for the 2026/2027 winter season, the WRe is requesting \$1.2 million from the IWRB.

Action on this proposal will be considered by the IWRB, subject to the final recommendation of the IWRB Cloud Seeding Committee on August 5, 2026.

Attachment(s):

- *Draft Resolution*

IN THE MATTER OF CLOUD SEEDING IN THE
STATE OF IDAHO

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE
EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR 2
COLLABORATIVE INTER-STATE BEAR RIVER
BASIN CLOUD SEEDING PILOT PROJECT

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §42-4301 recognizes that cloud seeding has provided a unique and innovative opportunity to support sustainable water supplies for the State of Idaho, and designated the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) as the agency responsible for authorization of cloud seeding programs within the State; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code § 42-4301 directs the IWRB to continue its analysis of cloud seeding operations, conduct an assessment of cloud seeding opportunities across the State of Idaho, and identify opportunities for expanding the Cloud Seeding Program (Program) within the State; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §42-4301 further provides the IWRB the authority to expend state funds for cloud seeding programs in basins where the IWRB finds that existing water supplies are not sufficient to support existing water rights, water quality, recreation, or fish and wildlife uses dependent on those water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB completed a feasibility and design study in 2022 of the Bear River Basin (BRB) conducted by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), which informed the design of a 1-year collaborative interstate cloud seeding pilot project in the BRB; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the IWRB partnered with the Utah Division of Water Resources (WRe) to execute a 1-year interstate cloud seeding pilot project in the BRB utilizing Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), otherwise known as drones, during the 2025/2026 winter season; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, the Utah Legislature approved a total of \$4,000,000 to continue a cloud seeding program in the BRB with goals to replenish the Great Salt Lake and enhance water resources of the Bear River and Northern Utah; and

WHEREAS, the WRe has proposed to the IWRB a Year 2 collaborative interstate cloud seeding pilot project in the BRB which will continue to integrate UAS technology, advanced weather instrumentation, and internal evaluation and validation services; and

WHEREAS, based on insufficiency of existing water supplies, the IWRB seeks to continue a Year 2 interstate cloud seeding pilot project in the BRB in collaboration with the WRe during the 2026/2027 winter season to support Idaho water users; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2026, the IWRB adopted the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund (Secondary Aquifer Fund) Fiscal Year 2027 (Resolution 28-2026), which included projected costs for the Cloud Seeding Program, including \$1,000,000 for Statewide Operations & Maintenance - Bear River Basin - 2026-2027 Pilot Project Operations, \$250,000 for Reserve and if needed \$60,000 for Capital – Statewide - Equipment.

42 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditures not to exceed
43 \$1,000,000 from the Secondary Aquifer Fund Cloud Seeding Program - Statewide Operations &
44 Maintenance - Bear River Basin - 2026-2027 Pilot Project Operations, \$200,000 from the Secondary
45 Aquifer Fund Cloud Seeding Program - Reserve fund and if needed money that was allocated under Capital
46 – Statewide – Equipment for costs related to operations of a Year-2 interstate BRB cloud seeding pilot
47 project in partnership with the WRe.

48
49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee, Brian Patton,
50 Executive Manager to the IWRB, to execute the necessary agreements or contracts to complete the
51 proposed efforts.
52
53

DATED this 7th day of August 2026.

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board)
From: Wesley Hipke, Water Projects Manager
Date: July 31, 2026
Subject: Cloud Seeding Program | Upper Snake Cloud Seeding Budget

REQUESTED ACTION: Staff Recommends that the Board Consider Adoption of a Resolution Approving Additional Aircraft for the 2026/2027 Cloud Seeding Season in the Upper Snake River Basin, Following the Cloud Seeding Committee's Recommendation.

Purpose:

This memo outlines current water supply conditions in the Upper Snake River Basin (USRB) and provides information requested by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB, Board) regarding the feasibility, benefits, and estimated cost of adding a second aircraft to the Collaborative Cloud Seeding Program in the Upper Snake River Basin (USRB) for the 2026/2027 winter season.

Background:

Idaho's 2026 water supply has been significantly strained due to historically low snowpack levels across the state. The 2025–2026 winter was the second warmest on record since 1896, resulting in record-low snow-water equivalent levels, early snowmelt, and extended periods of unseasonable warmth. Water supply concerns intensified through spring and summer as natural flows and reservoir storage in the USRB declined rapidly.

By July, streamflow projections dropped to 50 percent of normal during peak irrigation demand. Reservoir levels fell sharply, forcing early-season reliance on storage and groundwater. As of late July, the Upper Snake Reservoir System stands at 34 percent of capacity. These conditions have severely impacted irrigators and diminished carryover storage heading into the fall.

Projections for the 2026/2027 water year indicate that the Upper Snake reservoir system will enter the season with substantial deficits. Palisades and American Falls reservoirs are tracking well below average due to early drawdowns and a pronounced "snow drought." Emerging El Niño conditions further heighten the risk of below-normal snowpack accumulation, increasing the likelihood of continued water shortages in 2027.

Staff Analysis:

In response to current water supply conditions and the outlook for the 2026/2027 winter season, the IWRB requested that staff evaluate the feasibility and cost of expanding aircraft cloud seeding operations in the USRB.

The Board currently supports the Collaborative Cloud Seeding Program in the USRB, a partnership with Idaho Power Company, Water District 01, and the Idaho Groundwater Appropriators. The program conducts cloud seeding in the USRB from November through April using a combination of ground generators and one aircraft.

A statewide assessment conducted by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) identified strong potential for aircraft cloud seeding in the Teton and Salt River Ranges. Additional NCAR analysis indicates:

- One aircraft can seed approximately 64 percent of seedable storms.
- A second aircraft increases coverage to an estimated 90 percent of seedable storms.
- Multi-aircraft operations allow seeding of storms lasting more than six hours, representing approximately 20–30 percent of all seedable storms.
- Additional aircraft capacity improves operational flexibility and expands coverage across the USRB’s large geographic area.

Estimated Cost:

A preliminary estimated cost of adding a second aircraft to the USRB Collaborative Program was generated by IDWR staff:

- Aircraft: \$833,000
- Meteorologist: \$135,000
- Other: TBD

Total Preliminary Cost Estimate: \$968,000

These estimates are based on currently available information and will require verification and refinement through coordination with Idaho Power Company and the contractor providing aircraft and meteorological services. If directed by the IWRB, staff will work with program partners to confirm the final scope of services, operational requirements, and associated costs.

Staff will also identify available funding sources within the FY27 Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund (Secondary Fund) and present a proposed budget amendment to the Board at its September meeting reflecting the verified project costs and recommended funding allocations.

Recommendation:

Should the Board determine that expanding cloud seeding operations is warranted, staff recommends that the IWRB adopt a resolution:

1. Authorizing staff to pursue options with Idaho Power Company to secure an additional aircraft for the 2026/2027 Collaborative Cloud Seeding Program in the USRB, recognizing that timely action may be necessary to ensure aircraft availability for the upcoming season.
2. Providing direction on whether the Board intends to fund up to 100 percent of the costs associated with the additional aircraft and related meteorological services, or whether staff should pursue a cost-sharing arrangement with program partners.
3. Directing staff to prepare and present a proposed amendment to the FY27 Secondary Fund budget at the September Board meeting. The proposed amendment will identify available funding sources within the existing FY27 Secondary Fund budget and reflect the verified project costs for Board consideration and approval.

Approval of the September budget amendment would authorize expenditure of the approved amount and execution of the agreements necessary to implement the expanded cloud seeding operations in the USRB for the 2026/2027 winter season.

Attachments:

- *Draft Resolution*

IN THE MATTER OF CLOUD SEEDING IN THE
STATE OF IDAHO

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FOR
THE TO SUPPORT CLOUD SEEDING IN THE
USRB

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §42-4301 recognizes that cloud seeding provides a unique and innovative opportunity to support sustainable water supplies for the State of Idaho, and identifies the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) as the agency responsible for authorization of cloud seeding programs within the State; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §42-4301 further provides the IWRB the authority to expend state funds for cloud seeding programs in basins where the IWRB finds that existing water supplies are not sufficient to support existing water rights, water quality, recreation, or fish and wildlife uses dependent on those water supplies; and

Whereas Idaho Code §42-4301 directs the IWRB to continue its analysis of cloud seeding operations, conduct an assessment of cloud seeding opportunities across the State of Idaho, and identify opportunities for expanding the Cloud Seeding Program (Program) within the State; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2026, the IWRB adopted the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund (Secondary Aquifer Fund) Fiscal Year 2027 Budget (Resolution 28-2026), which included funds for various projects associated with supporting cloud seeding efforts throughout the State.

WHEREAS, the 2025–2026 winter was the second warmest on record since 1896, resulting in record-low snow-water equivalent levels, early snowmelt, and extended periods of unseasonable warmth. These conditions have severely impacted water supply and diminished carryover surface water storage throughout the Upper Snake River Basin (USRB).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the IWRB authorizes staff to pursue options with Idaho Power Company to secure an additional aircraft for the 2026/2027 Collaborative Cloud Seeding Program to optimize the potential for increasing snowpack in the USRB during the 2026/2027 winter season with the understanding that all cost associated with the additional aircraft will be borne by the IWRB.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB directs staff to develop and propose an amendment FY27 Secondary Fund budget at the September Board meeting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee to execute the necessary agreements or contracts for the purpose of this resolution.

DATED this 7th day of August 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board)
From: Mackenzie Kienholz
Date: August 6, 2026
Subject: ESPA Managed Recharge – Snake River Valley Irrigation District Sugar Factory Recharge Basin Proposal

REQUESTED ACTION: The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) will consider funding the Snake River Valley Irrigation District Recharge Basin Proposal.

The Snake River Valley Irrigation District submitted a proposal for the construction of a recharge basin referred to hereafter as the Sugar Factory Basin. The development of this basin would support the IWRB goal of recharging 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. The following memo provides a summary of the proposal and a staff review of the proposed recharge basin.

I. Project Proposal

The Snake River Valley Irrigation District (SRVID) proposes to construct an 85-acre managed aquifer recharge infiltration basin located approximately one mile southeast of Shelley, Idaho (Figure 1) at a total cost of \$8,070,000. The proposal includes purchasing a 119-acre parcel and easements for an underground pipeline through two adjacent parcels (Figure 2). The parcel is owned by SLT Properties, LLC, which has agreed to sell the 119-acre parcel for its appraised value of \$2,676,905. SRVID proposes to excavate the topsoil across the basin footprint and use the material to construct berms around the basin perimeter. The proposal also includes constructing a delivery pipeline, installing two monitor wells, and purchasing seed and irrigation equipment for the berms.

The subsurface geology of the site consists of approximately two feet of topsoil overlying sand and gravel, based on a test pit at the proposed basin location. Excavation would be completed to a depth of 2.5 to 3.0 feet over 85 acres of the 119-acre parcel. Approximately 370,000 cubic yards of material would be excavated and used to construct berms surrounding the basin. The berms are proposed to be 9 feet high and 150 feet wide along most of the basin perimeter, and 200 feet wide near parcels with domestic residences. Excavating to a depth of 2.5 to 3.0 feet over the basin footprint will ensure the full topsoil horizon is removed, maximize basin depth, adhere to Bonneville County's recommendations for berms (10-foot height maximum), and eliminate the need to haul off excavated material. The berms will be designed by a licensed third-party professional engineer. The proposal includes costs associated with planting seed on the berms, as is required by Bonneville County. No vegetation will be planted on the basin floor. The proposal also includes a project management fee to compensate the Snake River Valley Irrigation District manager, an employee of the district. The project management cost was calculated using an estimated 350 hours of project management time at a rate of \$71.50 per hour.

Water would be delivered to the basin via the west branch of the Snake River Valley Canal, which is located approximately 0.5 miles to the west of the basin. SRVID proposes constructing 3,080 feet of

pipeline to divert water from the canal to the basin. Construction of the pipeline will require easements from three landowners and installation under a roadway. The proposal cost includes landowner compensation for easements of \$15,000 for each of the neighboring landowners and \$17,000 for SLT Properties, LLC. Water delivered through the Snake River Valley Canal is diverted from the Snake River approximately four miles north of the site. SRVID estimates that approximately 200 cubic feet per second (cfs) could be delivered during the non-irrigation season, and approximately 75 cfs could be delivered during the irrigation season when water is available. Based on the geology of the site and a single-stage infiltration test performed at a site near Ririe, the infiltration rate of the site is estimated to be between 73 and 106 cfs, for an average of 90 cfs (179 acre-feet (AF) per day). However, delivery to the site will be limited to 87 cfs (173 AF/day) by the capacity of the proposed pipeline.

The breakdown of requested funds is as follows:

Table 1. Project Budget

Expense Category	Estimated Cost
Land Purchase (119 acres at \$22,495 per acre)	\$2,676,905
Land Appraisal & Survey	\$6,000
Excavation (370,000 cubic yd at \$4.15 per cubic yd)	\$1,535,500
Delivery Pipeline (3,080 linear feet at \$660 per linear foot)	\$2,032,800
Road Repaving for Pipeline	\$10,000
Easement Payments	\$47,000
Check, Outlet, Inlet Structure, Measuring Device & Pipeline Engineering	\$822,500
Engineering Consultant for Cut & Fill	\$10,000
Two Monitoring Wells	\$70,000
Berm Seed & Irrigation Equipment	\$100,000
SRVID Project Management Fee*	\$25,000
Contingency (~10%)	\$734,295
Total Cost	\$8,070,000

**To be paid upon project completion.*

To estimate recharge costs, a delivery rate of 87 cfs (173 AF/day) was assumed for the entire recharge period. Under this assumption, the estimated cost of recharge is \$28 per acre-foot. This value is based on the estimated total acre-feet of recharge over a 50-year period and includes the \$7.50 wheeling fee. Full calculation details are provided in the appendix.

II. MAR Site Summary

Est. Recharge Capacity:	87 cfs	Operator:	Snake River Valley I.D.
Basin Size:	85 acres	Ownership:	Private
5-yr Retention:	19%	50% Response Time:	19 months
Depth to Water:	60-150 ft	Delivery System:	Snake River Valley Canal

Canal Avg. Diversion Rate: Snake River Valley Canal averaged 380 cfs in May 2025 and 391 cfs in May 2026 and had a maximum diversion rate of 603 cfs (July 2019) in the past 10 years.

The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model (ESPAM) 2.2 and Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model Transfer Spreadsheet (ETRAN) 3.4 were used to determine the 5-year retention, 50% response time, and percent return to the various reaches of the Snake River. The water recharged at this site would primarily return to three reaches of the Snake River: Shelley to Near Blackfoot reach (53%), Near Blackfoot to Neeley reach (32%), and Heise to Shelley (11%). The time required for 50% of the recharged water to be discharged to the Snake River is approximately 19 months.

III. Hydrogeology Summary

The subsurface geology, based on nearby well logs, generally consists of mixed sand and gravel underlain by basalt (Table 2). The alluvial sand and gravel layer is primarily present to the south and west (direction of groundwater flow), extending in depth from 35 feet to more than 150 feet below ground surface over a distance of approximately 0.5 miles. Underlying the alluvial layer, and to the northeast of the site where well logs indicate no alluvial layer is present, is basalt with indications of fractures. The basalt contains the water table, indicating that perching or charge water under the recharge site is unlikely to occur (Figures 4-6). The three well logs closest to the site (not included in Figures 4–6) indicate that the proposed basin is underlain by at least 35 feet of sand and gravel, which in turn overlies basalt.

Table 2. Generalized Geology Below Site

Depth (feet Below Ground Surface)	Subsurface Geology
0 – 5	Soil
5 – 100	Alluvium (Sand & Gravel)
100 - 200+	Fractured Basalt

The water table is generally observed at 90-130 feet below ground surface. However, wells in the area show seasonal fluctuations with the water table approximately 60 feet below ground surface.

The average linear groundwater velocity was calculated to be approximately 15.7 feet/day. The resulting estimated 1-, 3-, and 6-month time of travel for recharge water at the site and the number of domestic residences within each zone are summarized in Table 3 and visualized in Figure 3. Residences within the City of Shelley’s municipal place of use were not included in these estimates.

Table 3. Estimated Time of Travel and Domestic Residences Near Site

Time of Travel Zone	Estimated Distance	Estimated Number of Domestic Residences
1-month	471 ft.	5
3-month	1,413 ft.	10
6-month	2,826 ft.	40

The average linear groundwater velocity was calculated utilizing the following equation,

$$v = \frac{K}{n_e} \frac{dh}{dl}$$

where v is the average linear groundwater velocity, K is the horizontal hydraulic conductivity, dh/dl is the hydraulic gradient, and n is the porosity. Based on groundwater contours from the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) 2023 Synoptic Well Measurement (IDWR, 2023), the hydraulic gradient of the site is estimated to be 0.0014 feet per foot towards the west-southwest (Figure 1). Hydraulic conductivity values were obtained from ESPAM (IDWR, 2021). The calibrated hydraulic conductivities in the nine model cells surrounding the site have an average value of 879.5 feet/day. Due to the characteristics of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), for this analysis it was assumed that specific yield values could be considered representative of effective porosity. The specific yield value from the site's ESPAM cell was used in place of effective porosity (IDWR, 2021). The specific values used to calculate the 1-month, 3-month, and 6-month travel times from the site are listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Parameters Used in Time of Travel Calculations

Substrate	Horizontal Hydraulic Conductivity	Hydraulic Gradient	Effective Porosity (Specific Yield)
ESRP Basalts	879.5 ft/day	0.0014 ft/ft	0.078443

IV. Ownership and Responsibilities

The recharge site will be owned by SRVID. The IWRB may utilize any legally available water for recharge at the site and will retain First Right of Refusal when IWRB water is in priority for 50 years. The IWRB will pay SRVID a conveyance fee based on the volume of IWRB recharge completed for the delivery of IWRB water. These conditions will be stipulated in a Memorandum of Interest between the IWRB and SRVID.

Recharge infiltration basins must obtain approval of a groundwater quality monitoring plan (GWQMP) from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ). IWRB staff will assist SRVID in developing a GWQMP in conjunction with IDEQ. SRVID will ultimately be responsible for the site and implementing the GWQMP. IWRB will coordinate with SRVID to construct monitoring wells as part of the approved GWQMP. During recharge operations, the IWRB will be responsible for ground and surface water quality monitoring when recharging IWRB water. SRVID will assume this responsibility when it is conducting private recharge. All costs and monitoring obligations associated with private recharge at the site will be the sole responsibility of SRVID.

V. Land Value Assessment

The agreed-upon price of the land to be purchased is \$2,676,905 (\$22,495 per acre). The purchase price of the property was determined by an appraisal completed on the parcel immediately west of the site in March 2026. This neighboring parcel was originally considered for the basin location and is comparable to the site location proposed in this document.

Three appraisals completed between October 2024 and March 2026 (including the appraisal referenced above) for rural parcels ranging in size from 26 to 275 acres in the Rexburg to Chubbuck area of eastern Idaho were reviewed to provide a broader market context. These appraisals analyzed 20 recent sales of comparable properties, which ranged from approximately \$18,500 to \$28,100 per acre, with average adjusted values of about \$20,600 per acre (2024 appraisal) and \$23,200 per acre (2025 appraisal).

The three appraisals indicate a competitive land market driven by competing uses. Comparable sales include purchases for continued agricultural production, residential subdivision, gravel extraction, and managed aquifer recharge, with some of the highest-priced transactions associated with residential development and gravel pit acquisitions. Agricultural land sales without a development or extraction component commonly ranged from approximately \$19,000 to \$22,900 per acre. Collectively, these appraisals indicate that the purchase price of the property at \$22,495 per acre falls within the range of comparable agricultural transactions in the regional market.

VI. Site Vicinity

The primary land uses immediately surrounding the site are residential and irrigated crops. The closest domestic residence downgradient of the site is immediately adjacent to the site and would possibly only be separated by the 200-foot wide berm (Figure 3). There are also several domestic residences within 0.25 miles to the northeast, southeast, southwest, west, and northwest of the site. This site would rely on constructed berm setbacks to separate the basin from nearby domestic residences.

To obtain an approved groundwater monitoring plan from IDEQ, a review of facilities and potential areas of concern is typically required. Most potential contaminants in the vicinity of the site are due to its proximity to the City of Shelley, which is upgradient of the site. A review of IDEQ's Source Water Assessment and Protection map showed the following potential sources of contamination within a 2-mile radius of the proposed site:

Upgradient (northeast of site):

- Four locations with construction stormwater permits within one mile to the north
- One general waste site is approximately one mile to the north
- Approximately 13 Underground Storage Tank sites to the north/northwest
- Two RCRA Sites to the north/northwest

Cross or downgradient (southwest of site) is primarily agricultural. Potential contaminants within two miles include:

- One gravel pit approximately 1.1 miles to the southwest
- One dairy, approximately two miles to the southwest

An additional water quality consideration for both IDEQ and the UIC Program is the locations of Public Water Systems (PWS) near the site. This site is within the 3-year time-of-travel zone of one or more wells associated with the following PWS:

- City of Basalt (PWS # 6060004)
- City of Firth (PWS # 6060016)

There are eight source water locations within two miles of the site associated with the following PWS. All eight source locations are north or northwest (up/cross gradient) of the site, the closest being the LDS Camp well, approximately 2,000 ft north of the site.

- LDS Camp Pasa La Coma (PWS # 6060072)
- City of Shelley (PWS # 6060071)
- Basic American Food (PWS # 6060020)
- GPOD of Idaho (PWS # 6060102)

VII. References

- Ackerman, D., 1995. USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 94-4257: Analysis of Steady-State Flow and Advective Transport in the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer System, Idaho. DOE/ID-22120.
- Bear, J., 1972. Dynamics of Fluids in Porous Media. Dover Publications. ISBN 0-486-65675-6.
- Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), 2023. *Synoptic Groundwater Contours of 2023*.
- Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), 2021, Model Calibration Report Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model Version 2.2

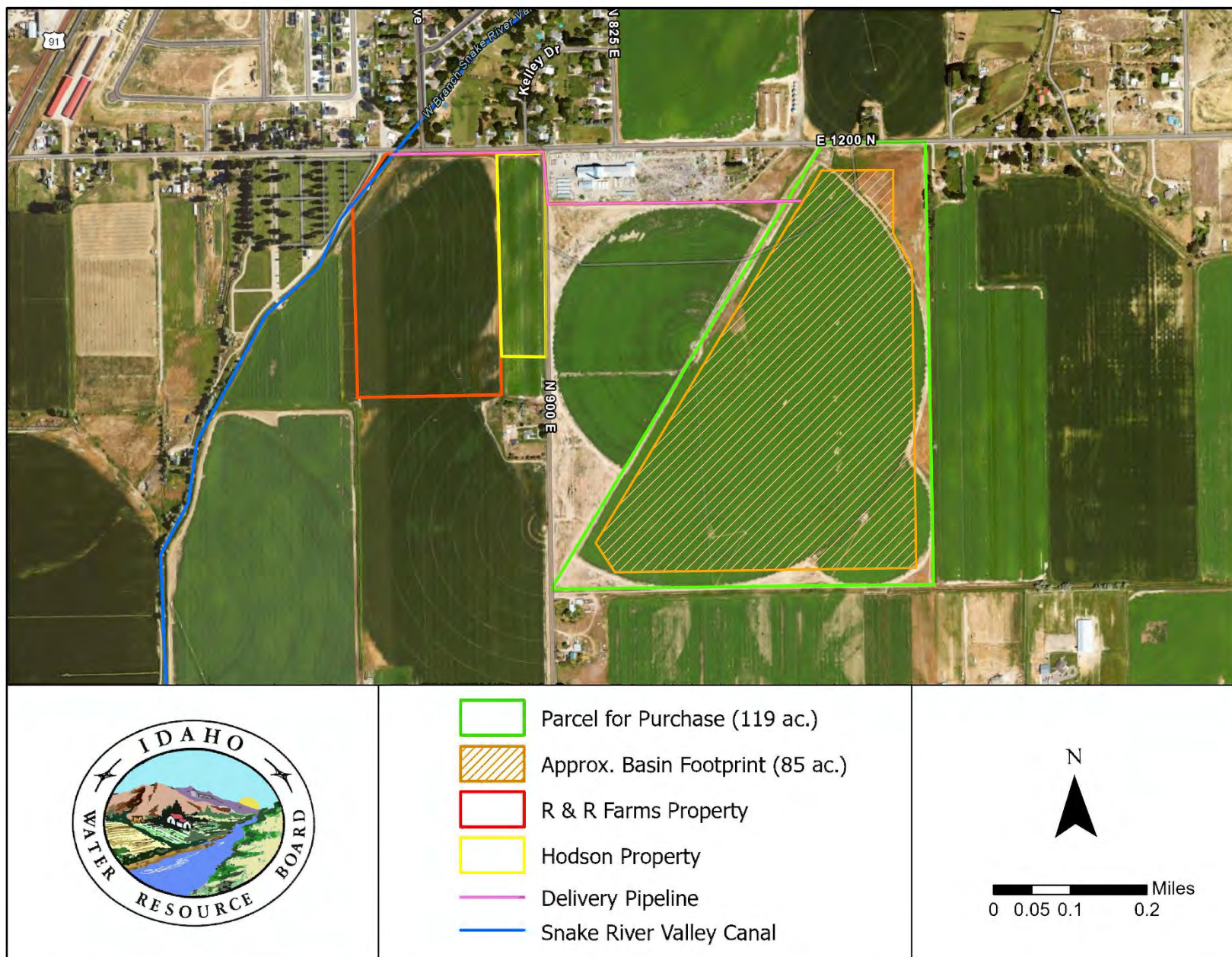


Figure 2. SRVID Sugar Factory Basin recharge site proposal components.

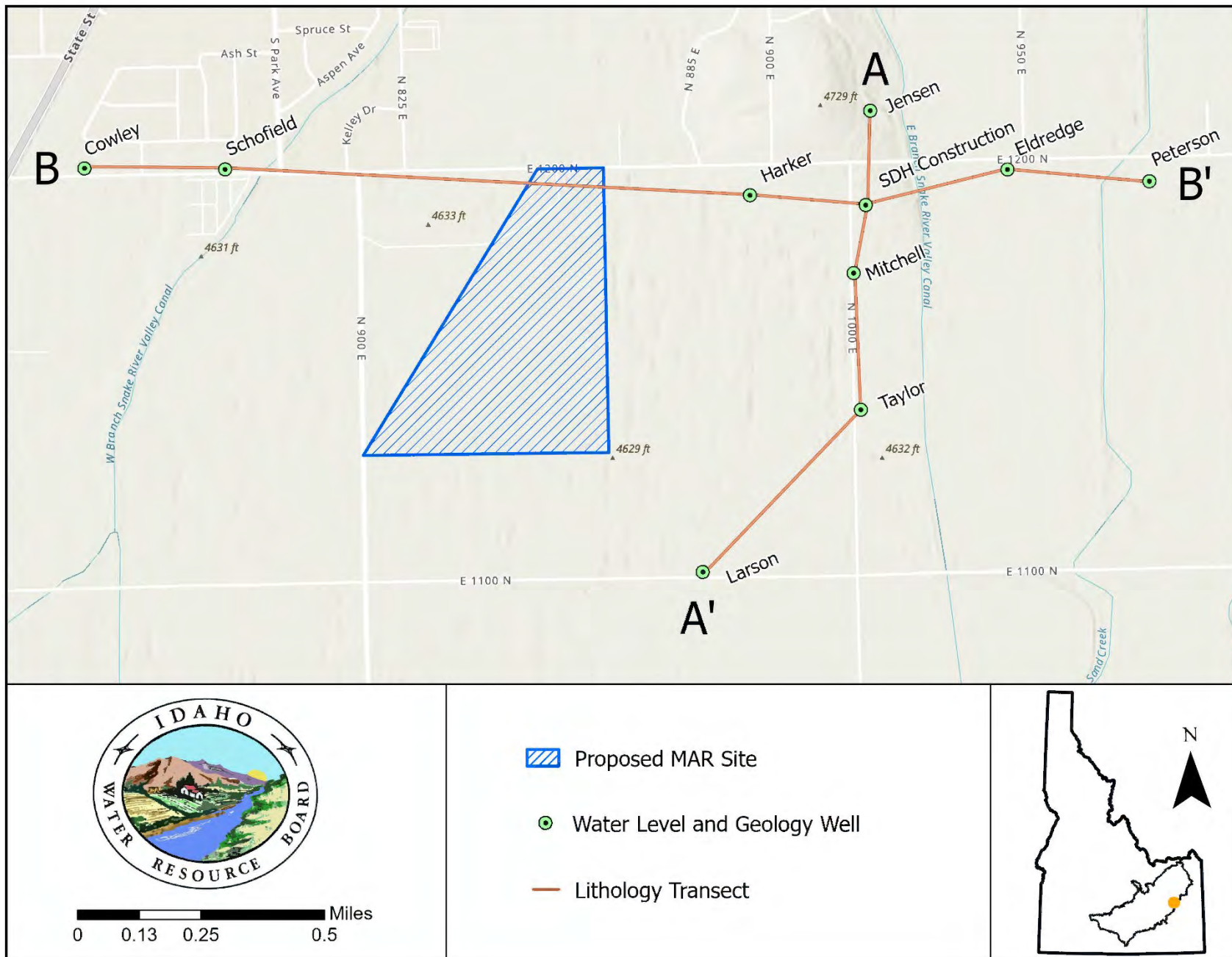


Figure 4. Locations of the proposed site and wells used for geologic cross-sections.

Cross-Section A-A'

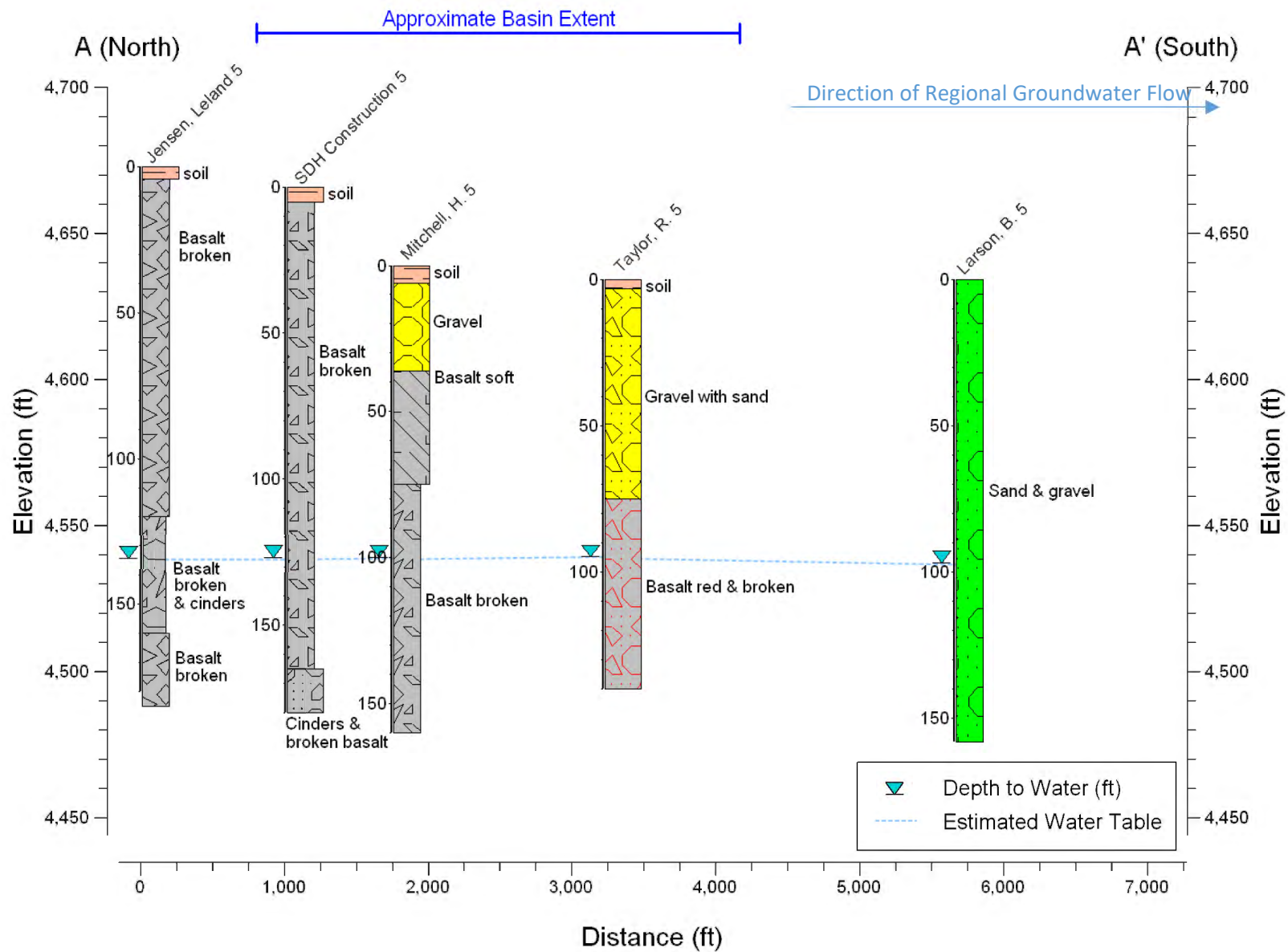


Figure 5. Geologic cross-section from north to south.

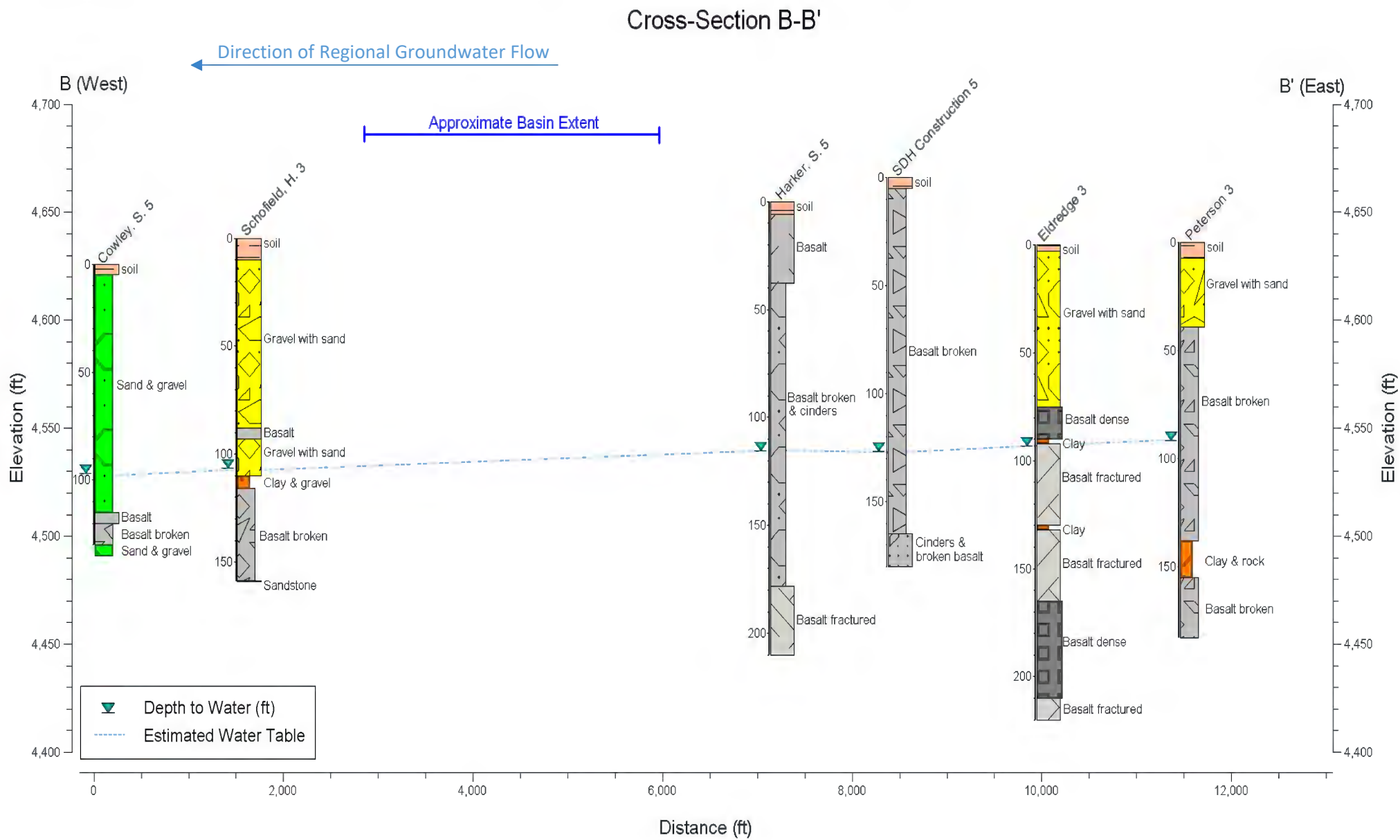


Figure 6. Geologic cross-section from west to east.

VIII. Appendix

Cost per acre-foot (AF) of recharge calculation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Volume Recharged} &= (\text{Days/year} * \text{Acre-feet recharged / day}) * 50 \text{ years} \\ &= (45 \text{ days /year} * 173 \text{ acre-feet / day}) * 50 \text{ years} \\ &= 388,270 \text{ acre-feet}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cost} &= \text{Capital Development Costs} + \text{Conveyance Cost for 50 Years} \\ &= \$8,070,000 + (388,270 \text{ acre-feet} * \$7.50 / \text{acre-foot}) \\ &= \$10,982,026\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cost Per AF} &= \text{Cost} / \text{Volume Recharged} \\ &= \$10,982,026 / 388,270 \text{ acre-feet} \\ &= \$28 / \text{acre-foot}\end{aligned}$$

Assumptions:

- 45 days of recharge each year
 - Recharge lasts approximately 90 days during flood control.
 - Flood control occurs in about 50% of the years.
- The time period is 50 years
 - This is the length of time IWRB will have the First Right of Refusal for this proposed site.
- The cost is the capital cost plus the conveyance costs.

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board)
From: Max Deckman, Research Associate
Date: July 20, 2026
Subject: ESPA Managed Recharge – Bingham Groundwater District
Weggland Ditch Recharge Basin Proposal

REQUESTED ACTION: The Idaho Water Resource Board Will Consider Funding the Bingham Groundwater District Weggland Ditch Recharge Basin Proposal.

The Bingham Groundwater District submitted a proposal to construct two recharge basins on one parcel. The development of these basins would support the IWRB goal of recharging 350,000 acre-feet on an annual basis. The following memo provides a summary of the proposal and a staff review of the proposed recharge basin.

I. Project Proposal

The Bingham Groundwater District (BGWD) proposes to construct two managed recharge-infiltration basins totaling 64 acres, located west of Rose, at a cost of \$6,310,000. The proposal includes purchasing a 110-acre parcel, excavating two basins, constructing a dedicated delivery pipeline, improving a canal, and purchasing grass seed and irrigation infrastructure for the associated berms (Figure 1). The 110-acre parcel is currently owned by Jacob and Kylie Harris, who have agreed to sell the land to the BGWD for \$2,420,000 (\$22,000/acre).

The subsurface geology consists of 1.2 feet of topsoil overlying 80 feet of sand and gravel containing intermittent, non-contiguous clay layers, based on a January 2026 test pit at the proposed location and an analysis of wells drilled in the surrounding area (Figures 2–3). Throughout the analyzed area, sand-gravel and clay layers are encountered in the first 100 feet of previously drilled wells. Most wells have 0–50 feet of this alluvial sediment, with isolated clay layers that are not laterally extensive. To the east of the proposed site, clay layers are more common and are more laterally extensive. Based on groundwater flow contours from the 2023 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) well measurement campaign, groundwater flows to the south and west. These clay layers are therefore unlikely to cause extensive perching of recharged water.

Construction of the two basins would require shallow excavation. Because the 110-acre parcel is bisected by the Weggland Lateral, the project would consist of two separate 32-acre basins. Excavation to a depth of 2.6 feet below ground surface is proposed to accommodate areas where topsoil may exceed the observed 1.2-foot thickness and to accommodate any necessary leveling. The volume of excavated material is estimated to be between 270,000 and 275,000 cubic yards, with an estimated excavation cost of \$4.25 per cubic yard. All excavated material would remain on site and be used to construct a berm approximately 100 feet wide (expanding to 200 feet in width adjacent to the nearby residence) and 9 feet high with 3:1 side slopes. The basin and berm will be in compliance with all relevant county ordinances and designed by a licensed third-party professional engineer.

The delivery system for both basins is Weggland Lateral. Water delivered to the Weggland Lateral is diverted from the Snake River via the main branch of the People's Canal. The People's Canal has committed to delivering water to the Weggland Lateral and will retain all wheeling fees associated with water delivered to the site. The Weggland Lateral Ditch Company has agreed to allow its canal to be piped directly

from the People's Canal to the proposed recharge site in exchange for approximately \$250,000 in canal improvements downstream of the diversion. Because the Weggland Lateral does not currently have the capacity to convey approximately 75 cubic feet per second (cfs) to the recharge basins, two pipelines (one serving each basin) will be constructed to provide the necessary delivery capacity. Pipeline design and construction will be overseen by a licensed third-party professional engineer. Two monitor wells will be drilled (one for each basin) to test groundwater quality near the recharge site.

The BGWD proposes to plant native grasses over the outer slopes of the constructed berms for aesthetic appeal and dust reduction. The grass would be irrigated with canal water. The cost of planting and irrigation infrastructure for the grass is \$130,000.

The breakdown of requested funds is as follows:

Table 1. Project Budget

Expense Category	Quantity	Unit	Estimated Cost
\$22,000/acre	110	Acres	\$2,420,000
Excavation (\$4.25/cy)	271,040	Cubic Yards	\$1,151,920
Cut and Fill Engineering			\$10,000
Pipeline 1 (1,500 ft)	1,500	Linear Feet	\$337,500
Pipeline 2 (2,500 ft)	2,500	Linear Feet	\$562,500
County Road Repair, Diversion & Inlet Structure, Telemetry, Meter, Contingency, Engineering			\$770,000
Weggland Lateral Cleaning Below Recharge Diversion			\$250,000
Monitoring Wells	2		\$100,000
Berm Irrigation & Seed			\$130,000
~10% Contingency			\$552,000
Total Cost			\$6,310,000

The two basins are conservatively estimated to recharge approximately 67 cfs based on the results of a single stage-infiltration test performed at a basin constructed in similar alluvium, which indicates recharge rates could range from 55–80 cfs. Based on a recharge rate of 67 cfs, the estimated cost of recharge is \$29 per acre-foot. This value includes a \$7.50 wheeling fee and is based on the estimated total acre-feet of recharge over a 50-year period. Full calculation details are provided in the Appendix.

II. MAR Site Summary

Est. Recharge Capacity:	67 cfs	Operator:	Bingham GWD
Basin Size: 64 acres (East Basin = 32 acres) (West Basin = 32 acres)		Delivery System:	Weggland Ditch (People's Canal)
5-yr Retention:	16.8%	50% Response Time:	8–12 months
Depth to Water:	75–85 ft	Ownership:	Bingham GWD
Canal Avg. Diversion Rate:	People's Canal averaged 232 cfs in May 2025 and 279 cfs in May 2026. The Canal had a maximum diversion rate of 355 cfs (June 2021) in the past 10 years.		

The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model (ESPAM) 2.2 and Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model Transfer Spreadsheet (ETRAN) 3.4 were used to determine the 5-year retention, 50% response time, and percent return to the various reaches of the Snake River. The water recharged at this site would primarily return to two reaches of the Snake River: Shelley to Near Blackfoot reach (36%) and Near Blackfoot to Neeley reach (55%). The time required for 50% of the recharged water to be discharged into the Snake River is approximately 8–12 months.

III. Hydrogeology Summary

Subsurface geology, based on nearby wells, transitions from sand and gravel to the north and east of the site to basalt to the south and west (groundwater flow direction) (Table 2). More specifically, in the north–south direction (Figure 2), sand-gravel and clay layers occur at the top of most boreholes and are between 25 and 50 feet in thickness. Some clay layers are thick but do not appear to be laterally extensive, indicating they are unlikely to cause perching of recharge water in the direction of groundwater flow.

Table 2. Generalized Subsurface Geology

Depth	Subsurface Geology
0-40 Feet Below Ground	Alluvium (Sand and Gravel)
Beyond 40 Feet Below Ground	Basalt and Cinders

To the west of the proposed site (Figure 3), basalt is the dominant lithology and contains the water table. There are a few potential confining layers of clay. This is in contrast with the east (upgradient) of the proposed site, which has thick layers of sand, gravel, and clay noted in the well logs. Clay layers in this vicinity could be interpreted as laterally extensive, which could create a confining layer where recharge water could become perched. The People's Canal, the Aberdeen Springfield Canal, and numerous lateral ditches flow through this vicinity. The Aberdeen Springfield Canal loses 10.6 acre-feet per over the one mile reach adjacent to the proposed basins (Rice thesis, 2018). Well logs indicate that the water table is below the documented clay layers and within the underlying basalt, suggesting that the clay layers might not be laterally extensive and, in any case, likely do not function as perching layers.

Based on groundwater contours from the IDWR 2023 Well Synoptic (IDWR, 2023), the hydraulic gradient of the site is estimated to be 0.0003 foot/foot towards the southwest. The calibrated hydraulic conductivities

in the nine ESPA Eastern Snake Plain groundwater flow model (IDWR, 2021) cells surrounding the site range from 814 feet/day to 41,924 feet/day, with an average of 9,442.9 feet/day (IDWR, 2021). These horizontal hydraulic conductivity values suggest that the aquifer under the site consists of fractured and competent basalt, which is consistent with the lithology reported in nearby well logs. The depth of alluvial material near the site appears variable, so two porosity values were used in this analysis, one for gravel and sand (Bear, 1972, Urumović and Urumović, 2016) and another for Eastern Snake River Plain basalts (Ackerman, 1995, IDWR, 2021) to provide a range of high and low estimated travel times. The 1-month, 3-month, and 6-month travel times from the site were calculated using the parameters listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Parameters Used in Time of Travel Calculations.

Substrate	Horizontal Hydraulic Conductivity	Hydraulic Gradient	Effective Porosity
Sand/Gravel	9224.9 ft/day	0.0003 ft/ft	0.35
ESRP Basalts	9224.9 ft/day	0.0003 ft/ft	0.09

Utilizing these parameters and the following average linear groundwater velocity equation,

$$v = \frac{K}{ne} \frac{dh}{dl}$$

where v is the average linear groundwater velocity, K is the horizontal hydraulic conductivity, dh/dl is the hydraulic gradient, and ne is the effective porosity, an average linear groundwater velocity was calculated to be 8.1 to 30.7 feet/day. Utilizing these velocities, a 1-month travel time would be approximately 243 to 921 feet to the southwest, a 3-month travel time would be approximately 728 to 2,763 feet to the southwest, and a 6-month travel time would be approximately 1,456 to 5,526 feet to the southwest (Table 4 and Figure 4). The distances delineated in Figure 4 are estimates from the higher velocity calculation.

Table 4. Estimated Time of Travel and Domestic Residences Near Site

Time of Travel Zone	Estimated Travel Distance	Estimated Number of Domestic Residences
1-month	921	7
3-month	2,763	10
6-month	5,526	63

IV. Ownership and Responsibilities

The recharge site will be owned by BGWD. The IWRB may utilize any legally available water for recharge at the site and will retain First Right of Refusal when IWRB water is in priority for 50 years. The BGWD will provide documentation that the Peoples Canal Company agrees to deliver water to this site for at least 50 years. These conditions will be stipulated in a Memorandum of Interest between the IWRB and BGWD.

Recharge infiltration basins must obtain approval of a groundwater quality monitoring plan (GWQMP) from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ). IWRB staff will assist BGWD in developing a GWQMP in conjunction with IDEQ. BGWD will ultimately be responsible for the site and implementing the GWQMP. IWRB will coordinate with BGWD to construct monitoring wells as part of the approved GWQMP. During recharge operations, the IWRB will be responsible for ground and surface water quality monitoring when recharging IWRB water. BGWD will assume this responsibility when it is conducting private recharge

at the site. All costs and monitoring obligations associated with private recharge will be the sole responsibility of BGWD.

V. Land Value Assessment

The agreed-upon price of the land to be purchased is \$2,420,000 (\$22,000 per acre). The purchase price of the property was supported by an October 2025 appraisal of a property located three miles southwest of the site. Three appraisals completed between October 2024 and March 2026 (including the appraisal referenced above) for rural parcels ranging in size from 26 to 275 acres in the Rexburg to Chubbuck area of eastern Idaho were reviewed to provide a broader market context. These appraisals analyzed 20 recent sales of comparable properties, which ranged from approximately \$18,500 to \$28,100 per acre, with average adjusted values of about \$20,600 per acre (2024 appraisal) and \$23,200 per acre (2025 appraisal).

These appraisals and sales indicate a competitive land market driven by multiple competing uses. Comparable sales include purchases for continued agricultural production, residential subdivision, gravel extraction, and managed aquifer recharge, with some of the highest-priced transactions associated with residential development and gravel pit acquisitions. Agricultural land sales without a development or extraction component commonly ranged from approximately \$19,000 to \$22,900 per acre. These valuations indicate that the valuation of the property at \$22,000 per acre is within the overall range of comparable agricultural transactions.

VI. Site Vicinity

To obtain an approved groundwater monitoring plan from IDEQ, a review of facilities and potential areas of concern is typically required. There are 175 wells within one mile of the site, the majority of which are to the south towards Blackfoot (Figure 4). A review of IDEQ's Source Water Assessment and Protection map showed the following potential sources of contamination within a 2-mile radius of the proposed site:

- Dairy Location site 0.3 miles to the southeast
- Dairy Location site 0.4 miles to the northwest
- RCRA site 0.6 miles to the south
- Deep Injection Well (> 18 feet deep) 0.9 miles to the southeast used for agricultural runoff waste
- Shallow Injection Well (< 18 feet deep) 1.0 miles to the southeast used for industrial process water
- Deep Injection Well (> 18 feet deep) 1.2 miles to the south used for agricultural runoff waste
- Deep Injection Well (> 18 feet deep) 1.4 miles to the northeast used for heat pump return
- Gravel Pit 1.7 miles to the southeast
- Well 1.7 miles to the east
- Feedlot 1.9 miles to the northwest
- Basic American Foods Water Reuse site and Underground Storage Tank (UST) ~2 miles to the southwest

An additional water quality consideration for both IDEQ and the UIC Program is the locations of Public Water Systems (PWS) near the site. This site is within the 3-year time-of-travel zone of three PWS:

- Riverview Acres 2 (PWS #6060062)
- Riverview Acres Water ASSN 1 (PWS #6060063)
- Sunset SUBD (PWS #6060082)

- Town and Country Mobile Home Park (PWS #6060085)
- Blackfoot City of (PWS #6060007)

The following PWS have one or more source locations within two miles downgradient (southwest) of the site:

- Riverside Estates (PWS #6060059)
- Johnson Mobile Village (PWS #6060039)
- Moreland Water and Sewer District (PWS #6060117)
- East Moreland Water Company (PWS #6060014)
- JSD Water (PWS #6060037)
- Riverstone Subdivision (PWS #6060121)
- Idle Wheels MHP CAT LLC (PWS #6060035)
- Nonpareil Dehydrated Potatos (PWS #6060050)
- Nonpareil Office Complex (PWS #6060111)
- Basic American Foods (PWS #6060002)
- Groveland Elementary School DIST 55 (PWS #6060028)
- Riverview Villa (PWS #6060057)
- Rose Garden Mobile Home Park (PWS #6060067)
- Basic American Ingredients INC Flakes (PWS #6060051)
- Snake River View Estates (PWS #6060099)
- Moreland School (PWS #6060048)
- Pioneer Acres (PWS #6060056)
- Youngs Country Court (PWS #6060049)

VII. References

- Ackerman, D., 1995. USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 94-4257: Analysis of Steady-State Flow and Advective Transport in the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer System, Idaho. DOE/ID-22120.
- Bear, J., 1972. Dynamics of Fluids in Porous Media. Dover Publications. ISBN 0-486-65675-6.
- Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), 2023. *Synoptic Groundwater Contours of 2023*
- Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), 2021, Model Calibration Report Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model Version 2.2
- Rice, H.M., 2018. *Considering Regional Aquifer Effects of Seepage Losses from the Aberdeen-Springfield Canal While Measuring the System Under Maximum Demand Conditions* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Idaho-College of Graduate Studies).
- Urumović, K. and Urumović Sr, K., 2016. The referential grain size and effective porosity in the Kozeny–Carman model. *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 20(5), pp.1669-1680.

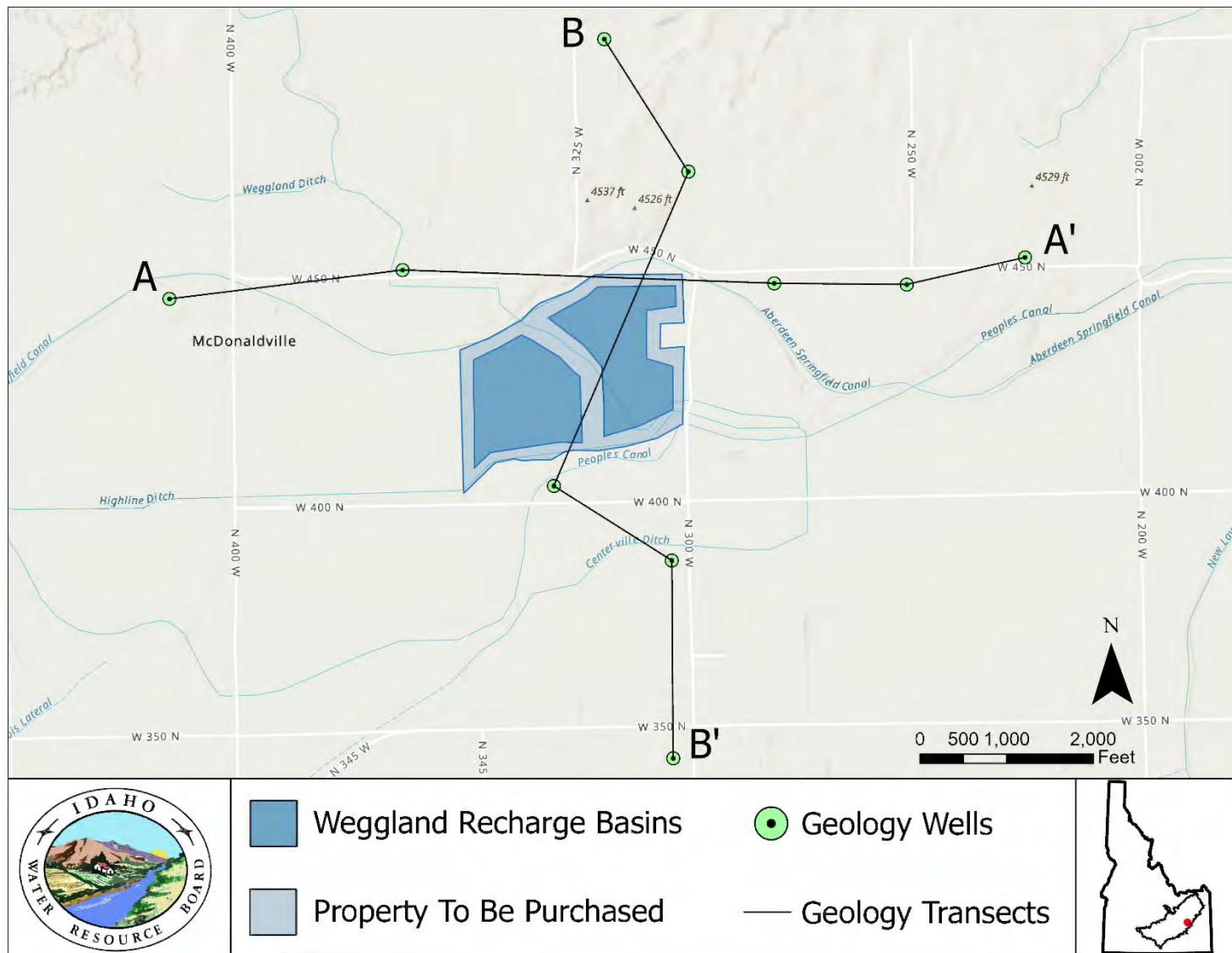


Figure 1. Map of proposed BGWD Recharge site with wells and geologic cross-sections shown

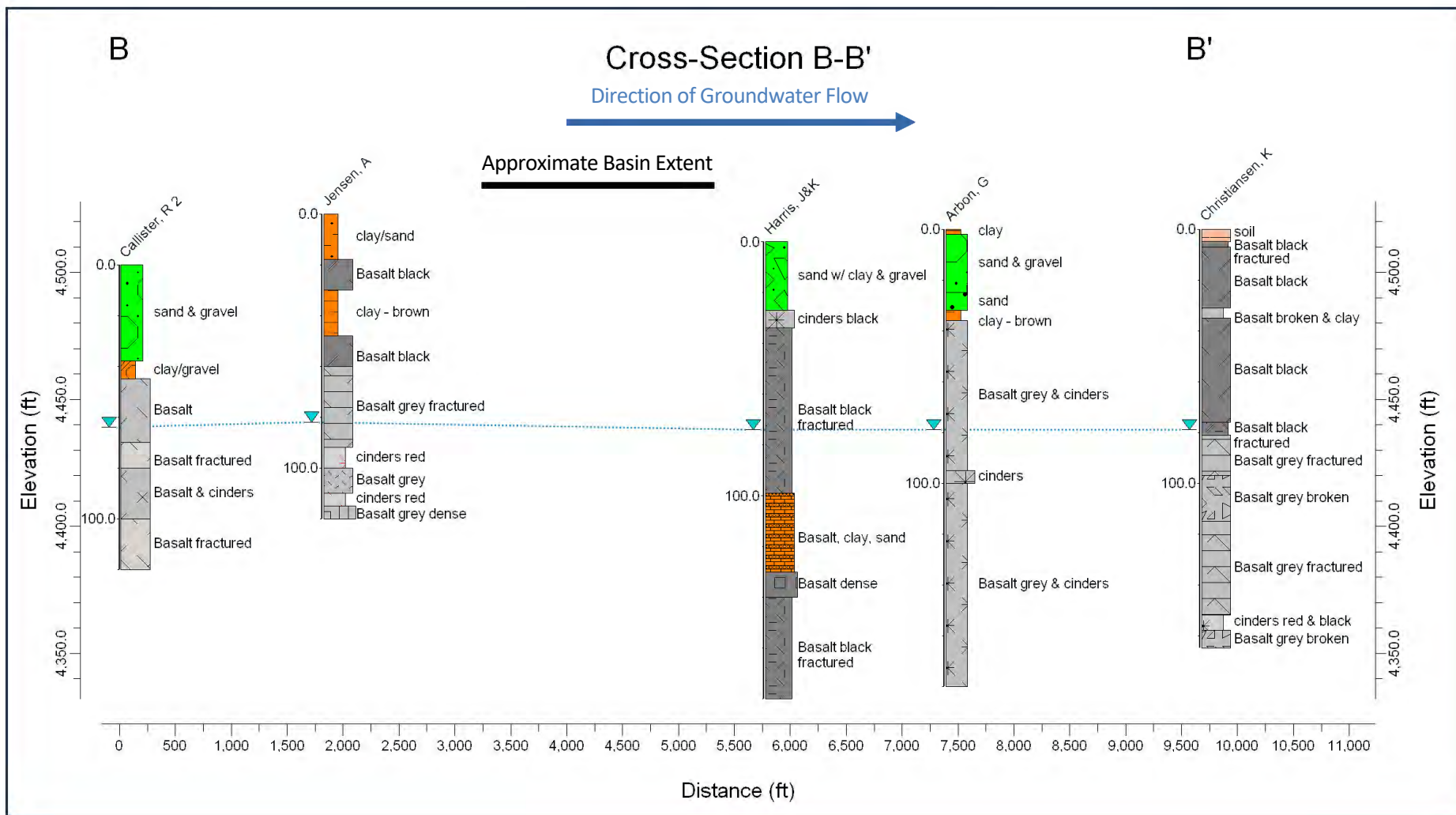


Figure 2. Geologic cross-section going from north (B) to south (B')

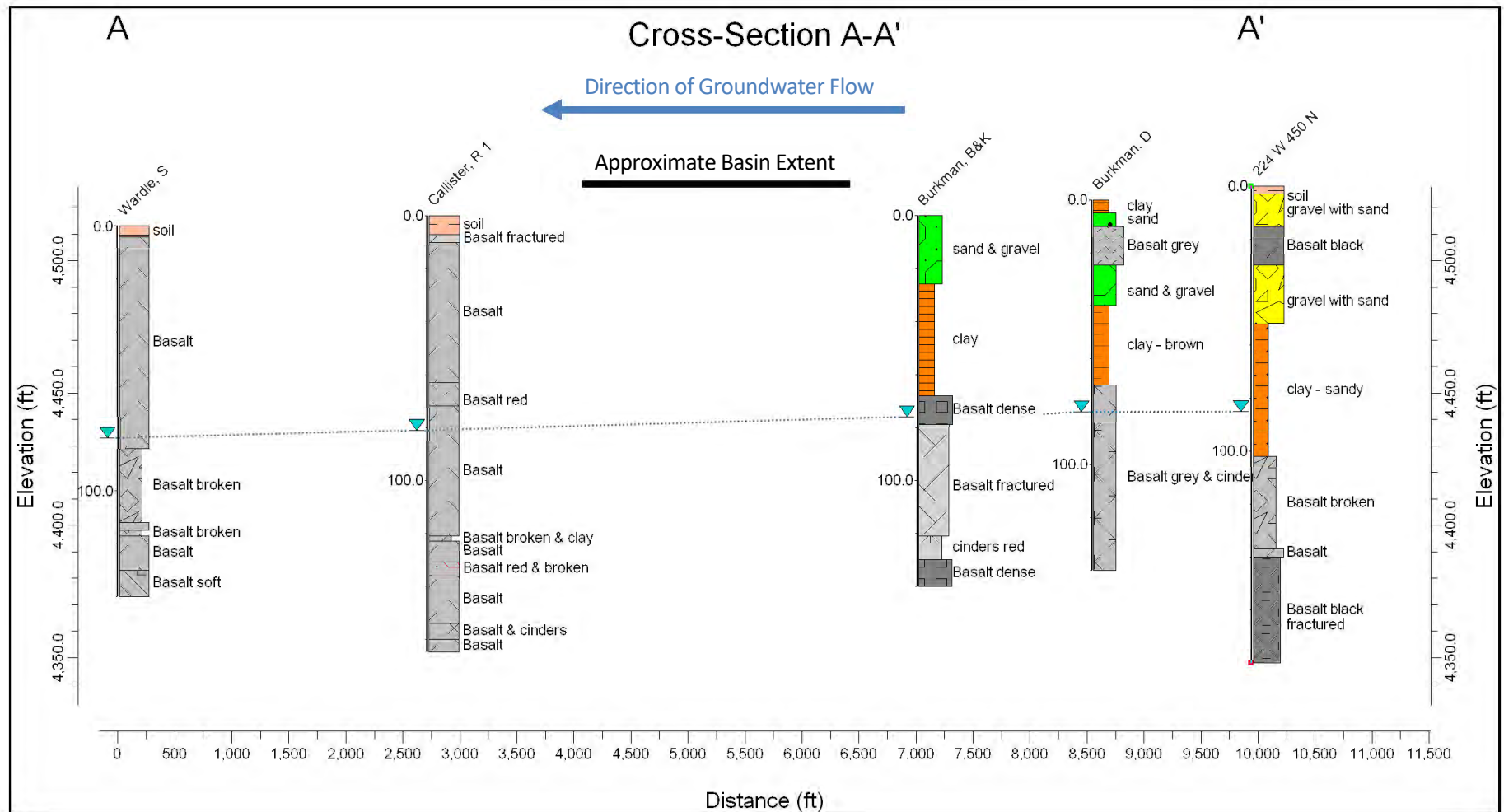


Figure 3. Geologic cross-section going from west (A) to east (A')

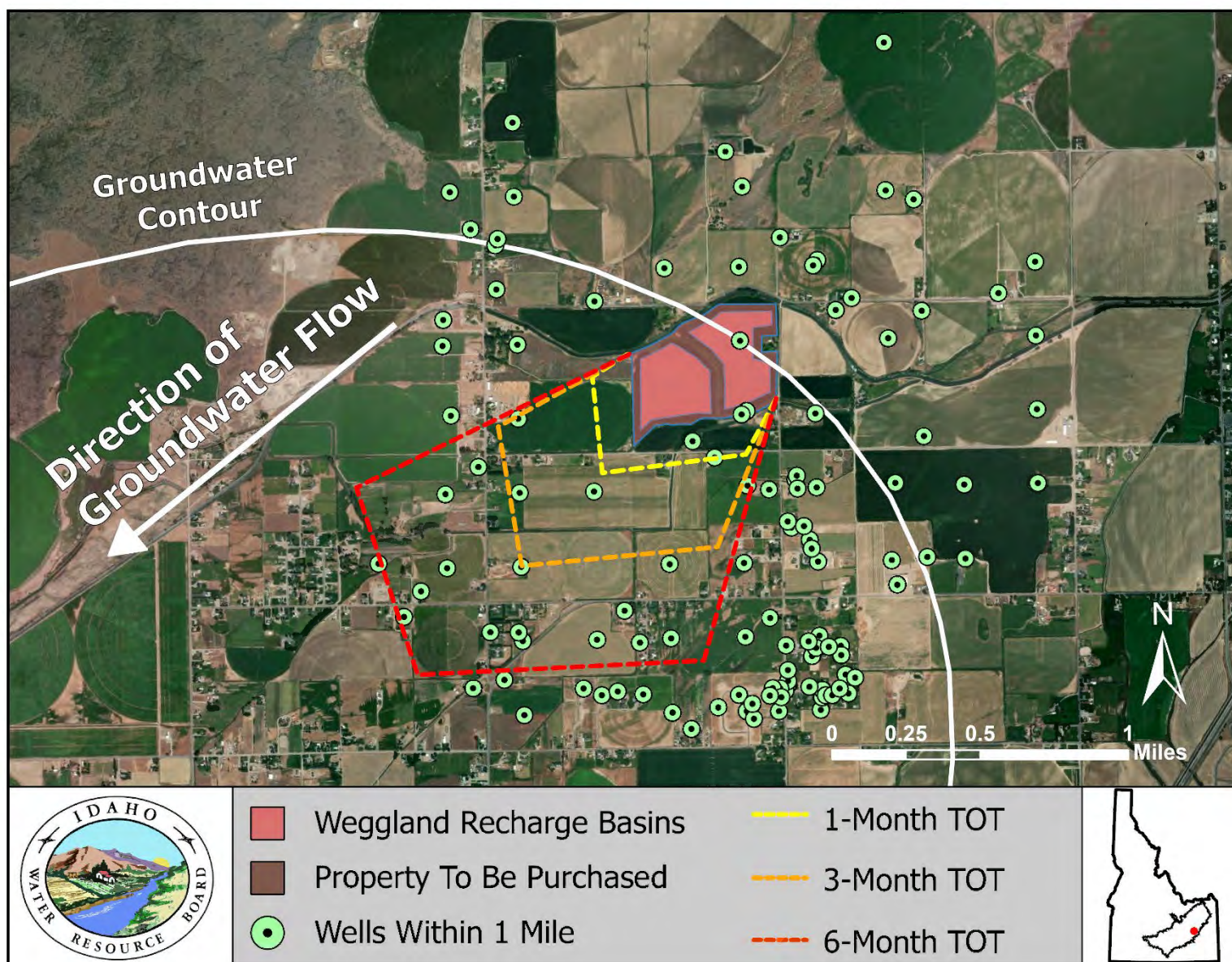


Figure 4. Map of site with direction and high-velocity estimates of time-of-travel of groundwater flow. Wells within one mile distance of site shown.

VIII. Appendix

Cost per acre-foot (AF) of recharge calculation

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Volume Recharge} &= (\text{Days/year} * \text{Acre-feet / day}) * 50 \text{ years} \\ &= (45 \text{ days/year} * 133 \text{ acre-feet / day}) * 50 \text{ years} \\ &= 299,000 \text{ acre-feet}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cost} &= \text{Capital Development Costs} + \text{Conveyance Cost for 50 years} \\ &= \$6,310,000 + (299,000 \text{ acre-feet} * \$7.50 / \text{acre-foot}) \\ &= \$8,552,500\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cost per Acre-foot} &= \text{Cost} / \text{Volume Recharged} \\ &= \$8,552,500 / 299,000 \text{ acre-feet} \\ &= \$29 / \text{acre-foot}\end{aligned}$$

Assumptions:

- 45 days of recharge each year
 - Recharge lasts approximately 90 days during flood control.
 - Flood control occurs in about 50% of the years.
- The time period is 50 years
 - This is the length of time IWRB will have the First Right of Refusal for this proposed site.
- The cost is the capital cost plus the conveyance costs.
-

Attachment(s):

- *Draft Resolution(s)*
- *PowerPoint Presentation*

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE SNAKE RIVER VALLEY
IRRIGATION DISTRICT SUGAR FACTORY BASIN
RECHARGE PROJECT

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FROM THE
WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT AND
PROVIDE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

1 WHEREAS, about one-third of Idaho's population resides on the Eastern Snake Plain and the
2 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) is the primary source of drinking water for both cities and most rural
3 residents of the Eastern Snake Plain; and
4

5 WHEREAS, numerous factors, including drought, have contributed to the loss of approximately
6 216,000 acre-feet of storage annually from ESPA since the 1950's, resulting in declining groundwater levels
7 in the aquifer and reduced spring flows to the Snake River; and
8

9 WHEREAS, implementation of managed recharge on the ESPA will assist in the stabilization and
10 improvement of aquifer levels to protect municipal and domestic drinking water supplies, support
11 agriculture and other industries important to the state economy, and help address variability in climatic
12 conditions, including drought; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 110
15 supporting the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan and supporting the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)
16 revising the State Water Plan and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan to establish a state-
17 funded ESPA managed aquifer recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis; and
18

19 WHEREAS, Idaho Code § 42-1760 authorizes the IWRB to expend, loan, or grant money from the
20 Water Management Account for water projects that conserve or increase water supply, improve drought
21 resiliency, address water sustainability, or support flood management, including the identification, study,
22 and construction of managed aquifer recharge sites above Milner Dam; and
23

24 WHEREAS, House Bill 445 (2025) was passed by the State of Idaho legislature, appropriating an
25 ongoing \$30 million to the IWRB to fund water infrastructure projects; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the IWRB passed Resolution 29-2026 for a Water Management Account Spending Plan,
28 under the ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Program there is \$10,000,000 available for funding ESPA
29 Recharge Infrastructure; and,
30

31 WHEREAS, Snake River Valley Irrigation District presented a proposal to the IWRB on August 7,
32 2026, for the Sugar Factory Basin Recharge Project ("Project") and associated infrastructure for a
33 proposed cost of \$8,070,000.
34

35 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditure of up to \$8,070,000 from
36 the Water Management Account for the construction costs associated with the Project.
37

38 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee to
39 execute the necessary agreements or contracts for the purpose of this resolution.

DATED this 7th day of August 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Resolution No. _____

Page 2

IN THE MATTER OF THE BINGHAM
GROUNDWATER DISTRICT WEGGLAND DITCH
RECHARGE BASIN PROJECT

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FROM THE
SECONDARY AQUIFER PLANNING,
MANAGEMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION
FUND AND PROVIDE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

1 WHEREAS, about one-third of Idaho's population resides on the Eastern Snake Plain and the
2 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) is the primary source of drinking water for both cities and most rural
3 residents of the Eastern Snake Plain; and
4

5 WHEREAS, numerous factors, including drought, have contributed to the loss of approximately
6 216,000 acre-feet of storage annually from ESPA since the 1950's, resulting in declining groundwater levels
7 in the aquifer and reduced spring flows to the Snake River; and
8

9 WHEREAS, implementation of managed recharge on the ESPA will assist in the stabilization and
10 improvement of aquifer levels to protect municipal and domestic drinking water supplies, support
11 agriculture and other industries important to the state economy, and help address variability in climatic
12 conditions, including drought; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 110
15 supporting the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan and supporting the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)
16 revising the State Water Plan and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan to establish a state-
17 funded ESPA managed aquifer recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis; and
18

19 WHEREAS, on May 21, 2026, the IWRB adopted the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management,
20 and Implementation Fund (Secondary Aquifer Fund) Fiscal Year 2027 Budget, which included \$7,100,000
21 for infrastructure projects to improve IWRB recharge capacity; and
22

23 WHEREAS, Bingham Groundwater District presented a proposal to the IWRB on August 7, 2026, for
24 the Weggland Ditch Recharge Basin Project ("Project") and associated infrastructure for a proposed cost
25 of \$6,310,000.
26

27 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditure of up to \$6,310,000 from
28 the Secondary Aquifer Fund for the construction costs associated with the Project.
29

30 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee to
31 execute the necessary agreements or contracts for the purpose of this resolution.

DATED this 7th day of August 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Resolution No. _____

Page 2

Water Resource Board



Managed Aquifer Recharge – Proposed Projects

Cooper Fritz
Water Planning and Projects Section
August 7, 2026

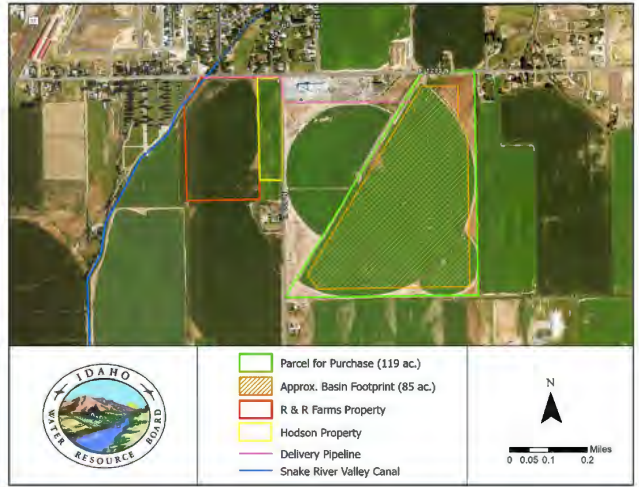
1

IDAHO
Water Resource Board



Snake River Valley I.D. – Sugar Factory Basin

- Owned by Snake River Valley Irrigation Dist.
- 85-acre basin, 0.5 miles southeast of Shelley
- Depth of topsoil: 2 ft, Depth of excavation: 2.7 ft
- Berms: 9 ft high & 150 ft wide (No haul)
- Available conveyance capacity in May 2025 was 220 cfs
- Depth to groundwater is 60-150 feet



2

Snake River Valley ID – Sugar Factory Basin

- Type 85 Acre Basin
- Cost \$8,070,000
- Estimated Capacity 87 cfs
- 50-Year Estimated Cost \$28 / AF
- 5-Year Retention 19%
- 50% Response 19 months
- Return to Snake River
 - Heise to Shelley 11%
 - Shelley to Near Blackfoot 53%
 - Near Blackfoot to Neeley 32%



3

Bingham GWD – Weggland Basin

- Owned by Bingham Groundwater District
- Two 32-acre basins, 5 miles north of Blackfoot
- Depth of topsoil: 1.2 ft, Depth of excavation: 2.6 ft
- Berms: 9 ft high & 100 ft wide (no haul)
- Available conveyance capacity in May 2025 was 100 cfs
- Depth to groundwater is 75-85 feet



4

Bingham GWD – Weggland Basin

- Type 64 Acre Basin
- Cost \$6,310,000
- Estimated Capacity 67 cfs
- 50-Year Estimated Cost \$29 / AF
- 5-Year Retention 17%
- 50% Response 8-12 months
- Return to Snake River
 - Shelley to Near Blackfoot 36%
 - Near Blackfoot to Neeley 55%



5

Summary of New Proposed Recharge Projects

Proposed Recharge Project	Type	Capital Cost	Estimated Cost Per Acre-Foot Recharged ¹	Estimated Recharge Capacity (cfs)	5-Year Retention in Aquifer	50% Response Time (Months) ²	Percent Return to Snake River
Snake River Valley ID – Sugar Factory Basin	85 Acre Basin	\$8,070,000	\$28 (50 years)	87	19%	19	Heise to Shelley 11% Shelley to Near Blackfoot 53% Near Blackfoot to Neeley 32%
Bingham Groundwater District – Weggland Ditch Basin	64 Acre Basin	\$6,310,000	\$29 (50 years)	67	17%	8-12	Shelley to Near Blackfoot 36% Near Blackfoot to Neeley 55%

¹ Assumed 90 days of recharge available in 50% of the years. Used a conveyance fee of \$7.50 / acre-foot.

² The time required for 50% of the recharged water to discharge to the Snake River

6



Questions?



MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: July 27, 2026
Subject: Fiscal Year 2027 Flood Management Grant Awards

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider Adoption of Funding Resolution

Staff received 14 applications for Flood Management Grant Funding. One application was determined to not be an eligible entity. The remaining 13 applications were evaluated and scored according to criteria adopted by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB). The total amount requested by the applications is \$1,142,843.25. The Fiscal Year 2027 Water Management Account Spending Plan shows the IWRB has \$2,216,172 available for flood grant awards.

On July 23, 2026, the IWRB's Finance Committee met and discussed the projects and recommended the IWRB approve and adopt a resolution providing funding for the projects specified in *Attachment A* to the attached resolution.

Fiscal year 2027 represents the largest amount recommended for flood grant awards over the course of the nine years the grant has been offered by the Board.

The Fiscal Year 2027 Water Management Account Spending Plan shows the IWRB has \$2,216,172 available for flood grant awards.

Attachment(s):

- *Draft Resolution to Award Funds in the Matter of Flood Management Grants*

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT
GRANTS

RESOLUTION TO AWARD FUNDS

1 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1363 passed and approved by the Idaho Legislature in 2026 transferred
2 \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Water Management Fund for a Flood Management Grant
3 Program administered by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to be used for the purpose of flood-
4 damaged stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, or flood prevention
5 projects; and
6

7 WHEREAS, on March 27, 2026, the IWRB adopted on-going criteria for the award of Flood
8 Management Grants; and
9

10 WHEREAS, on May 21, 2026, the IWRB adopted Resolution No. 29-2026 the Water Management
11 Account FY 2027 Spending Plan. The Spending Plan budgeted \$2,216,172 for Flood Management Grants
12 for Fiscal Year 2027; and
13

14 WHEREAS, 13 Flood Management Grant applications were evaluated and scored according to the
15 criteria adopted by IWRB; and
16

17 WHEREAS, on July 23, 2026, the Finance Committee met and discussed the projects and
18 recommended the IWRB provide funding for the projects specified in Attachment A to this resolution; and
19

20 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB approves the award of Flood Management
21 Grants as specified in Attachment A to this resolution.
22

DATED this 7th day of August 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Attachment A: 2027 Flood Management Grant Awards

Entity	Project	IWRB District	Funds Requested	Total Project Costs
1. Bear Lake SWCD	Black Otter Canal	4	125,000.00	\$250,000.00
2. City of Wallance	Canyon Creek Project	1	57,120.00	\$114,240.00
3. Clearwater SWCD	Blackberry Lane Washout	1	71,789.00	\$144,217.00
4. Clearwater SWCD	Gold & Cow Creek Culvert Replacement	1	200,000.00	\$473,150.00
5. FCD 9	Reach 14 Restoration	3	200,000.00	\$694,477.00
6. FCD10	Canyon Reach Phase 2 Project	2	51,915.00	\$106,330.00
7. FCD10	Jorgesen Sherrington	2	47,500.00	\$97,500.00
8. FCD10	Mciver Side Channel	2	17,900.00	\$38,300.00
9. FCD11	Boise River Railroad Embankment	2	190,000.00	\$399,674.00
10. Fish Creek Irrigation District	Fish Creek Dam Evaluation Project	3	25,000.00	\$50,000.00
11. Franklin SWCD	North Preston Flood Project	4	138,633.25	\$278,765.25
12. Riverside Village HOA	Trash Rack Installation & Bank Stabilization	2	10,830.00	\$21,660.00
13. Twin Lakes FCD17	Rathdrum Creek Debris Removal Project	1	7,156.00	\$17,890.00
Total			1,142,843.25	\$2,686,203.25

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: July 29, 2026
Subject: Regional Water Sustainability Project Priority List Proposals

REQUESTED ACTION: The Idaho Water Resource Board Will Consider Adding Three Projects to the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List.

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) maintains the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List (RWSP List) to identify and promote projects that have the potential to improve long-term water sustainability across Idaho. The Idaho State Water Plan states that sustainability requires the active stewardship of Idaho's water resources to satisfy current uses while ensuring water availability for future generations.

To support effective statewide water management, the IWRB uses the RWSP List as a planning tool to highlight regional, basin-wide, and statewide studies and capital improvement projects that address significant water resource challenges. Projects included on the RWSP List can contribute to:

- Stabilizing aquifer levels
- Modernizing critical infrastructure
- Improving drought resilience
- Resolving anticipated water supply conflicts
- Protecting existing water rights and beneficial uses identified in Idaho Code.

Inclusion on the RWSP List does not constitute a funding commitment. It provides recognition that the project has the potential to help achieve water sustainability or address a regional water issue, elevates a project for consideration, enables the IWRB to advocate for federal and state funding, and provides sponsors with access to technical support and coordination.

Proposed Projects Summary

On July 23, 2026, three project proposals were presented to the IWRB's Finance Committee Meeting No. 5-26 for consideration. The following is a summary of each project purpose, Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) staff evaluation, and the Finance Committee's recommendation. The full IDWR staff evaluations for each proposed project can be accessed under the IWRB Finance Committee Meeting Materials on our website at <https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrp-overview/iwrp-meeting-materials-schedules/>.

1) Idaho Power Company – Niagara Springs Hatchery:

- a. Purpose: Idaho Power Company is proposing to reconstruct and modernize a segment of the lower pool intake structure at the Niagara Springs Fish Hatchery for enhanced operational efficiency and improved flow measurement. The hatchery is located approximately nine miles south of Wendell, Idaho, in the Snake River Canyon. The

hatchery sources its water from Niagara Springs Creek, which originates from the outflows of Niagara Springs. The proposed project is estimated to cost a total of \$1.2 million.

- b. Staff Evaluation: The project sponsor is not an eligible entity. The project proposal does not address a significant regional water sustainability issue and does not provide benefits at a basin or statewide level, but project proposal does align with the Idaho State Water Plan.
- c. Finance Committee Recommendation: Do not add. Project proposal does not meet all criteria and is not recommended for placement on the priority list.

2) Little Wood River Irrigation District – Pressurized Pipeline:

- a. Purpose: Little Wood River Irrigation District is proposing to upgrade the existing open channel irrigation delivery system by installing a pressurized pipeline delivery system consisting of approximately 32 miles of new pipeline, a new headworks facility, two new pump stations, pressurized connections at more than 100 farm turnouts and a dedicated turnout to Carey Lake. The proposed project is estimated to cost a total of \$52.3 million.
- b. Staff Evaluation: The project sponsor is an eligible entity. The project proposal does not address a significant regional water sustainability issue, does not provide benefits at a basin or statewide level, and does not align with the Idaho State Water Plan.
- c. Finance Committee Recommendation: Do not add. Project proposal does not meet all criteria and is not recommended for placement on the priority list.

3) Big Wood Canal Company – North Shoshone Pipe Dream:

- a. Purpose: Big Wood Canal Company uses a system of open channel canal laterals to deliver water to the 4,650 acres of productive agricultural land in the project area. These laterals experience significant water losses each year with current estimates indicating approximately 47% of the water diverted is lost to seepage and evaporation while an additional 10% is lost to over-deliveries and spills. The company will replace this existing system of unlined irrigation canal laterals with a pressurized pipeline and install flow meters. The proposed project is estimated to cost a total of \$18.8 million.
- b. Staff Evaluation: The project sponsor is an eligible entity. The project proposal does address a significant regional water sustainability issue, does support the Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) plan, and does align with the Idaho State Water Plan. The project as proposed may have significant negative impacts to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) due to reductions in incidental recharge.
- c. Finance Committee Recommendation: Table pending additional information from the applicant. Project proposal does address all criteria but may have negative impacts to other significant regional water sustainability issues (ESPA and Swan Falls Agreement). Invite applicant to present additional information to the Finance Committee at a future date with an emphasis on evaluating and comparing impacts to the ESPA GWMA against impacts to the Big Wood River GWMA.

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: July 29, 2026
Subject: Director's Report

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

This item is presented to provide the Idaho Department of Water Resources Director, Mathew Weaver, with an opportunity to share any updates or relevant information with the Board.

Attachments:

- *None*

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: July 29, 2026
Subject: Non-Action Items for Discussion

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

This item is presented to provide an opportunity for discussion of non-action items and general Board updates.

Attachments:

- *None*