



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD REGIONAL WATER SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITY LIST

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) maintains a list of projects intended to help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin, or statewide scale. The Regional Water Sustainability (RWS) Priority List identifies projects and programs that address significant water sustainability needs and provides information regarding estimated project costs and any State funding commitments associated with those efforts.

Inclusion on the List is not a funding commitment, but rather a recognition that the project has the potential to help achieve water sustainability. Approved projects may receive IWRB support in several ways: 1) help securing Federal funding opportunities, 2) state funding consideration, and 3) support related to necessary funding and/or permitting authorizations. Projects included on the RWSP Priority List may receive financial assistance from multiple funding sources, including state appropriations, federal grants, local cost-share contributions, loans, and other public or private funding programs. IWRB funding is often intended to complement and leverage these additional funding sources to maximize project implementation and water sustainability benefits.

Projects may be introduced by an eligible Sponsor or by the IWRB itself and are added to the list in accordance with [criteria](#) adopted by the IWRB.

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Projects Under Development *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	IWRB Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
American Falls Spillway Rehabilitation <i>Project Sponsor(s): Idaho Power Co., AFRD</i>	\$23.2M	\$12.5M <i>(IWRB appropriated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding applied as non-Federal match)</i>	Repairs and modernization of American Falls Dam and Spillway to ensure the long-term reliability, safety, and operational capacity of critical water storage and delivery infrastructure.	Construction ongoing. Est. Completion - 2029	4
Anderson Ranch Dam Raise <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB/U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)</i>	\$149M (USBR 100% design cost estimate)	\$133.6M <i>(Multiple IWRB funding sources including ARPA funds provided as)</i>	Raise Anderson Ranch Dam by six feet, creating approximately 29,000 AF of additional reservoir storage capacity to improve long-term regional water supply	USBR finalizing design and environmental compliance. Construction is currently scheduled	2

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Projects Under Development *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	IWRB Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
		<i>non-Federal match)</i>	reliability. IWRB will retain 90% of the new storage space.	for 2027-2031.	
Bear Lake Additional Storage & Bear River Basin Projects <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB</i>	\$15M	\$1.2M	Evaluate opportunities to operate Bear Lake at a higher target elevation (PTE) to increase available water supplies for Idaho water users and improve operational flexibility of the Bear River hydropower facilities. Additional projects may be identified to support allocation and development of water resources under the Amended Bear River Compact (2026 HCR No. 34)	Partnering with the state of Utah to conduct further evaluations of the Bear River water supply and operation. IWRB also evaluating Compact allocation development. Est. Completion - TBD	4
City of Gooding – Little Wood River Channel Flood Control Project <i>Project Sponsor: City of Gooding</i>	\$52.6M	\$5.2M	Repair the Little Wood channel and replace five bridges through the City of Gooding to improve flood protection, public safety, and water delivery system reliability.	Partnership between City of Gooding and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Design is underway. Est. Completion - 2028	3
City of Nampa - Copper River Storage Project, Reuse Pipeline, and System Improvements to Pioneer System <i>Project Sponsor: City of Nampa</i>	\$19.52M	\$3M	Construct irrigation storage, reuse, and conveyance improvements to increase operational flexibility, enhance water management efficiency, and improve reliability of the City's irrigation delivery system.	Projects are partially complete, activities are ongoing. Est. Completion – December 2028	2
Cloud Seeding - Statewide Program <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB & Water Users in applicable water basins</i>	\$8M	\$950K	Support statewide cloud seeding programs and related scientific analyses to enhance snowpack accumulation, improve water supply reliability, and strengthen long-term water sustainability. Efforts include operational support, evaluation of cloud seeding	Ongoing	2,3,4

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Projects Under Development *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	IWRB Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
			potential and benefits, and research to assess program effectiveness and inform future build out opportunities.		
Dworshak-Clearwater Pipeline Project <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB, OSEMC, IDFG, and multiple Federal Agencies</i>	\$60M	\$60M	Construct a new water supply pipeline from Dworshak Dam to optimize downstream hatchery production capabilities. The project may also include hydropower development to offset construction and long-term operating costs.	Ongoing	1
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Regional Water Sustainability Program <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB and multiple water user entities</i>	\$433M <i>(Estimate includes total cost of ESPA grants, recharge (current & buildout), cloud seeding projects and program activities; hydrological studies; and individual RWS projects)</i>	\$295M <i>(Multiple IWRB funding sources including ARPA funds; and includes other RWS Projects as noted)</i>	Ongoing program to support ESPA stabilization and the 2024 Surface Water Coalition /Ground Water Districts Stipulated Mitigation Plan. Actions include Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiencies Program, ESPA Measuring & Monitoring Support Grants, Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grants, ESPA Recharge Program buildout to 350kaf annual average, and modeling, monitoring, and hydrologic analyses.	Ongoing	3,4
Lemhi River Basin Settlement Implementation <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB & Parties to Settlement</i>	\$5M	\$250K	Implementation of the Lemhi River Basin Comprehensive Settlement Agreement. Actions include studies to evaluate water supply enhancement in the basin.	Ongoing	2
Lost Valley Reservoir Enlargement <i>Project Sponsor: Lost Valley Res. Co.</i>	\$50M	\$13.8M	Rehabilitate and raise Lost Valley Dam to address dam safety concerns and increase reservoir storage by approximately 20,000 AF, improving long-term water supply reliability and	Pre-construction engineering completed. NEPA review is in progress. Est. Completion - 2030	2

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Projects Under Development *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	IWRB Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
			operational capacity of water storage and delivery infrastructure.		
Lower Clearwater Exchange Project (LCEP) <i>Project Sponsor: Lewiston Orchard Irr Dist. (LOID), Nez Perce Tribe, & USBR</i>	\$60.5M	\$29.3M <i>(Multiple IWRB funding sources including ARPA funds provided as non-Federal match)</i>	Replace the LOID's historic surface water diversions from Clearwater River tributaries with a pipeline and pump station drawing directly from the Clearwater River, allowing flows to remain in tributary streams to support ESA-listed species and habitat.	30% engineering design complete. Final design, with an estimated construction timeline, is anticipated by the end of 2026.	1
Mackay Dam Repair <i>Project Sponsor: Big Lost River Irr Dist. (BLRID)</i>	\$10M	\$2M	Repairs to the outlet tower works and the spillway to ensure the long-term reliability, safety, and operational capacity of critical water storage and delivery infrastructure.	Contracting with engineering firm for design and construction (spring 2026). Est. Completion - TBD	3
Milner Dam Rehabilitation Project <i>Project Sponsor: Milner Dam Inc.</i>	\$9.1M	\$1.5M	Repair the existing emergency spillway decking, plunge pool, and delaminated concrete to ensure the long-term reliability, safety, and operational capacity of critical water storage and delivery infrastructure.	Design work is underway - FERC approval required prior to construction. Est. Completion – December 2028	3
Minidoka Dam Raise Feasibility Study <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB</i>	\$6M	\$1.8M	Feasibility study to evaluate raising Minidoka Dam to increase storage capacity and improve long-term regional water supply reliability.	At water user request, IWRB applied for and was awarded a USBR Basin Study Grant to evaluate new storage in the Upper Snake River basin. Grant awarded June 2026. Est. timeline – 3-5 years	3

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Projects Under Development *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	IWRB Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB & US Department of the Air Force (DAF)</i>	\$61M* <i>*Total est. funds for this project are included in the total MHPA RWS Program.</i>	\$38.6M** <i>(Multiple IWRB funding sources including ARPA funds)</i> <i>**Obligated funds for this project are included in the total MHPA RWS Program funding commitment.</i>	Develop a long-term water supply for the MHAFFB by replacing ground water use with Snake River water delivered through a new pump station, pipeline, and treatment system. The State completed construction of a transmission system (pump station and pipeline), and DAF is constructing the water treatment plant (WTP). <i>Note: This project supports the MHPA Regional Water Sustainability Program.</i>	IWRB will retain Snake River water rights and gift the infrastructure to DAF. Transmission system is complete. WTP scheduled completion in summer 2026.	2
Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer (MHPA) Regional Water Sustainability Program <i>Project Sponsor: Elmore Co. & other regional stakeholders</i>	\$128M	\$48.4M <i>(Includes the MHAFFB RWS Projects as noted)</i>	Implement projects and initiatives to address declining groundwater levels in the Mountain Home Aquifer and provide sustainable water supplies for the region, including water supply alternatives analyses, recharge site development, monitoring, and development of the IDWR/USGS WSPAM Groundwater Flow Model.	Ongoing	2
Nampa Meridian Irrigation District (NMID) - Ridenbaugh Canal Diversion Modernization Project <i>Project Sponsor: NMID</i>	\$20.9M	\$10M	Replace, modernize, and automate NMID's Ridenbaugh Canal Boise River diversion and headworks on the Boise River to improve water management efficiency, enhance operational reliability, and increase public and employee safety.	Under construction Est. Completion - December 2027	2
New York Canal Rehabilitation Project- Six-mile segment	\$81.5M	\$52.4M <i>(Multiple IWRB funding sources including ARPA</i>	Line specific portions of the New York canal (approximately six miles) for public safety, and water conservation, and improved	Construction activities are ongoing.	2

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Projects Under Development *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	IWRB Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
<i>Project Sponsor: Boise Project Board of Control</i>		<i>funds provided as non-Federal match)</i>	water delivery efficiency.	Est. Completion - 2030	
Palouse Basin Aquifer Water Supply <i>Project Sponsor: Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee</i>	\$73M	\$5M	Construct a pipeline to deliver water from the Clearwater River to the Moscow area, reducing reliance on the declining Palouse Basin Aquifer and improving long-term water supply reliability.	Feasibility study launched in Spring 2025, est. completion spring 2027. Est. Completion - TBD	1
Raft River Pipeline – ESPA RWS <i>Project Sponsor: Raft River Irr Dist.</i>	\$49M* <i>*Total est. funds for this project are included in the total ESPA RWS Program.</i>	\$21M** <i>**Obligated funds for this project are included in the total ESPA RWS Program funding commitment.</i>	Construct a pipeline and pumpstation from Snake River to offset groundwater pumping in Raft River Basin and reduce impacts to the SPA. <i>Note: This project supports the ESPA RWS Program.</i>	Design estimated to be completed summer of 2026 with construction starting in October 2026 Est. Completion – March 2030	3
Ririe Dam Rule Curve Modifications <i>Project Sponsor: Mitigation Inc.</i>	\$1.9M	\$1.47M <i>(RDA - Funding for non-Federal match)</i>	Evaluate winter flood control rule curves for Ririe Reservoir to determine whether additional water can be stored for water supply purposes while maintaining authorized flood risk management objectives. The evaluation is being carried out by Mitigation Inc., USACE, and the USBR.	Est. Completion - 2029	4
Statewide Recharge Infrastructure & Program Development - <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB</i>	\$10M	\$10M	Planning and implementation of managed recharge to support sustainability and stabilization of aquifers throughout Idaho. <i>Note: ESPA Recharge Program activities (under the ESPA RWS Program) are not included.</i>	Evaluations are ongoing to determine the potential of developing managed recharge in the Treasure Valley and Lemhi River basins.	1,2,3,4
Thousand Springs Area Water Subordination	\$8M	\$8M	Implement water management agreements and related actions to	Project development is ongoing.	3

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Projects Under Development *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	IWRB Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
Agreements <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB</i>			address water supply issues and improve long-term sustainability in the Thousand Springs area.		
Treasure Valley Water Supply Assessment <i>Project Sponsor: Water District 63</i>	\$474K	\$474K	Evaluate declining drain flows tributary to the Boise River and the associated impacts of shallow aquifers on low flows near Middleton during the irrigation season - will be used to support future water management decision.	Project activities are ongoing.	2
Upper Payette Water Storage Project <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB & Upper Payette Storage Association</i>	\$5M	\$5M	Evaluate and pursue acquisition of uncontracted storage space in the USBOR owned Cascade and Deadwood Reservoirs to help meet water supply needs in the Payette River Basin.	IWRB and water users are coordinating with USBOR to identify and evaluate options and associated costs for obtaining uncontracted space.	2
Upper Snake River Basin Study - ESPA RWS <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB, USBR</i>	\$6M* <i>*Total est. funds for this project are included in the total ESPA RWS Program.</i>	\$3M** <i>**Obligated funds for this project are included in the total ESPA RWS Program funding commitment.</i>	Conduct a USBR WaterSMART Basin Study to evaluate water supply management alternatives, including additional surface water storage, to meet current and future water demands in the Snake River basin upstream of Milner Dam. <i>Note: This project supports the ESPA RWS Program.</i>	At water user request, IWRB applied for and was awarded a USBR Basin Study Grant to evaluate new storage in the Upper Snake River basin. Grant awarded June 2026. Est. timeline – 3-5 years	3,4
Winchester Dam Repair <i>Project Sponsor: IDFG, IDPR, IWRB</i>	\$3.1M	\$1M	Repair and rehabilitate the existing spillway to address safety-related storage restrictions, restore full reservoir storage capacity, and ensure the long-term reliability, safety, and operational performance of critical water storage infrastructure supporting	Est. Completion Summer 2027	1

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Projects Under Development *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	IWRB Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
			recreational, environmental, and community water needs.		
TOTAL	\$1.2B	\$700M			

**Projects are listed in alphabetical order.*

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List					
Completed Projects *					
Project	Total Estimated Cost	Obligated Funds	Project Description	Project Status	IWRB District
North Fremont Canal Systems Phase 5 Pipeline Project <i>Project Sponsor: North Fremont Canal Co.</i>	\$19.8	\$7.8M (WMA & RDA)	Convert portions of the North Fremont Canal system to pipeline to improve delivery efficiency, reduce operational losses, and enhance water management reliability in an area that does not directly impact the regional aquifer.	Construction is complete	4
Priest Lake Water Management Project <i>Project Sponsor: IWRB</i>	\$11M	\$9.9M (WMA & RDA)	Two-part project consisting of: (1) reconstruction of the Priest Lake Thorofare breakwater structure to restore and maintain navigability between Upper and Lower Priest Lake, and (2) improvements to the Outlet Dam to address dam safety concerns, provide additional storage capacity, and increase operational flexibility for lake level management and downstream Priest River flows.	Thorofare reconstruction completed in 2021. Outlet Dam improvements completed in 2024.	1
TOTAL	\$30.1M	\$13.2M			

**Projects are listed in alphabetical order.*