



AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Streamflow Enhancement and Minimum Streamflow

Committee Meeting No. 1-26

Thursday, September 3, 2026

1:00 p.m. (MT) / 12:00 p.m. (PT)

Water Center

Conference Rooms 602 B – D

322 E. Front Street

BOISE

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

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. Introductions and Attendance
2. Upper Salmon Water Transactions: *
 - A. Iron Creek Source - Switch Renewal
 - B. Valley Creek SNRA Busterback Water Supply Bank Rental
 - C. Pahsimeroi River Water Supply Bank Lease/Rental
3. Lower Lemhi MSF Transaction Valuation and Landowner Participation
4. Update on Lemhi River L-6/L-7 Rehabilitation Project
5. Adjourn

Committee Members:

Chair Patrick McMahon, Dean Stevenson, Dale Van Stone, and Brian Olmstead.

*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 Act: If you require special accommodation to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact the Department no later than five days before the meeting. To request an accommodation, please send an email to mlin.ream@idwr.idaho.gov or call (208) 287-4800.

MEMO



To: IWRB – Streamflow Enhancement and Minimum Streamflow Committee

From: John Loffredo, IDWR Transactions Program Manager

Date: September 3, 2026

Subject: Water Transaction Program – Iron Creek 2007 Phase 2 2027–2046 Renewal

REQUESTED ACTION: The Committee is Asked to Consider the Renewal of a Long-term Agreement Not to Divert from Iron Creek. With the Committee's Recommendation, the Attached Funding resolution will be Presented to the Full Board and Staff will Proceed with the Project Approval and Contracting through the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program Process.

Background:

The Upper Salmon River and its numerous subbasins, in Central Idaho, support critical habitat for spawning and rearing of Endangered Species-Act listed Snake River Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead, and resident bull trout. Since 2004, the IWRB has secured over 50 water right transactions for nearly 800 cfs funded by the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program to secure water in flow-limited reaches and reconnect tributary habitat.

One of the most widely used transaction tools by the IWRB in the Upper Salmon Basin over the last 20 years are source-switch POD transfers and administrative agreements not to divert. Since 2007, the IWRB has worked with partners in the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program to implement nearly a dozen source-switch projects on high-priority tributaries and mainstem river reaches. The first such project was on Iron Creek near the unincorporated city of Elk Bend in Lemhi County. Iron Creek historically supported spawning and rearing Chinook, steelhead, and fluvial bull trout but legal irrigation water withdrawals from senior PODs dewatered Iron Creek and disconnected it from the Salmon River for much of the irrigation season, April – October.

In 2006, a water right transfer added a Salmon River POD immediately below the Iron Creek confluence, project partners installed a pump station and two center pivots on the original Iron Creek POU, and an IWRB 20-yr agreement not to divert funded by the CBWTP compensated the water user for the increased pumping costs, 2007 – 2026. Over the last twenty years, the IWRB has monitored for contract compliance and collected continuous streamflow data while IDFG collected periodic fisheries data. From 2006 – 2025, the IWRB observed daily average flows between April 1 and Nov 1 at or above the 7 cfs target flow. Between 2007 and 2022, IDFG operated a seasonal picket weir within the primary beneficial reach to enumerate pre-spawn adult steelhead in Iron Creek and observed an average of 20 adult steelhead a year.

IWRB staff propose a 20-yr renewal of the Iron Creek agreement not to divert, 2027 – 2046. For the duration of this renewal, the landowner will continue to irrigate 163.6 acres from the Salmon River and the water pertinent to this land, 7.08 cfs, will remain in Iron Creek in a 1.25-mile primary beneficial reach.

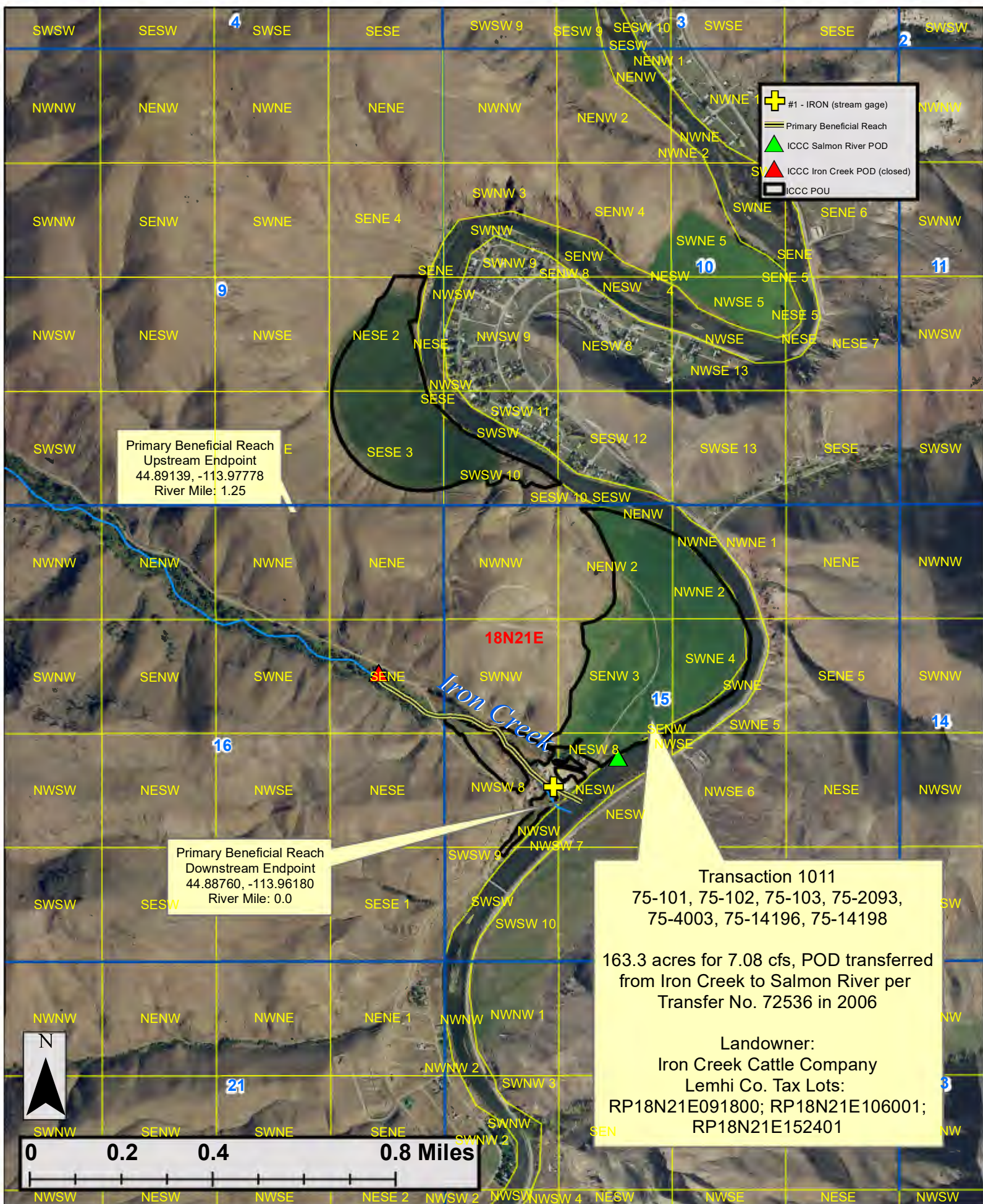
The water right owner will be paid an average of \$57.78 per acre foot of water not diverted for each day during the irrigation season up to 572.6 AF (163.6 acres at 3.5 AF/acre), provided that in no event will compensation exceed **\$661,769.10** over the course of the 20-year contract. Funds are available through the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program and will be held in the CBWTP subaccount of the Board's Revolving Development Account.

Request for Committee Recommendation

Staff requests comments and a recommendation from the Committee regarding the transaction. Recommendations from the Committee and a resolution to approve the transaction will be introduced to the full Board at the September 2026 IWRB meeting.

Attachment(s):

- *2027–2046 Iron Creek AGNODIV Map*
- *Draft Resolution*



BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE
IRON CREEK WATER TRANSACTION

RESOLUTION TO MAKE A FUNDING
COMMITMENT

1 WHEREAS, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout habitat in the Upper Salmon River
2 Basin is limited by low streamflow as a result of lawful irrigation withdrawals; and
3

4 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State of Idaho to reconnect Iron Creek to the Salmon
5 River to encourage recovery of ESA-listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Board has the authority to enter into agreements to improve flow for
8 anadromous and resident fish and the Board promotes voluntary water transactions that
9 maintain the local agricultural economy by retaining irrigated agriculture; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the Board is authorized to expend Bonneville Power Administration funds for
12 flow restoration through the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program and the Bonneville Fish
13 Accord Water Transaction Fund; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the Board has an existing twenty-year agreement, 2007–2026, to not divert
16 from Iron Creek to improve streamflow for threatened anadromous and resident fish; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the water user has changed their points of diversion to pump from stream
19 reaches that are not flow-limited and funds paid under this agreement approximate the power
20 expenses incurred by changing original points of diversion; and
21

22 WHEREAS, Board staff has developed a renewal twenty-year agreement, 2027–2046, to
23 not divert from Iron Creek to perpetuate improvements to streamflow since 2007 that benefit
24 recovery of threatened anadromous and resident fish; and
25

26 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Chairman or designee to
27 enter into a twenty-year contract with the Iron Creek Cattle Company for an agreement to divert
28 out of Iron Creek using an amount not to exceed \$661,769.10; and
29

30 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is subject to the condition
31 that the Board receives the requested funding from the Bonneville Power Administration through
32 the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Fund in an amount up to \$661,769.10 and funds received
33 will be placed into the IWRB Revolving Development Account for annual payment to the water
34 right owner.

DATED this 18th day of September 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

MEMO

To: IWRB – Streamflow Enhancement and Minimum Streamflow Committee
From: John Loffredo, IDWR Transactions Program Manager
Date: September 3, 2026
Subject: Water Transaction Program – WD71 Administration of USFS Water
Right Permanent Rental



REQUESTED ACTION: The Committee is Asked to Consider a Six-year Contract with Water District 71 for Administration of Water Supply Bank Rental No. 654 on Valley Creek. With the Committee's Recommendation, the Attached Funding Resolution will be Presented to the Full Board and Staff will Proceed with Project Approval and Contracting Through the Idaho Water Transactions Program Process.

Background:

The Upper Salmon River is utilized by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Sockeye salmon utilize the Salmon River for migration to Redfish Lake Creek and are listed as endangered under ESA. Additionally, Chinook salmon and steelhead utilize Alturas Lake Creek and Valley Creek, two tributaries to the Salmon River, for spawning, rearing, and migration.

The 2004 Snake River Water Rights Agreement (Nez Perce Agreement) established 27 minimum stream flow water rights in the Upper Salmon Basin including the minimum stream flow Valley Creek. The Nez Perce Agreement committed the state of Idaho to provide incentives for improving fish habitat, and the IWRB has the authority to meet those minimum stream flows through water right rentals or acquisitions under state law.

In 2021, the United States Forest Service (USFS) and IWRB worked together to permanently lease and rent 19 separate irrigation water rights in Basin 71 (Sawtooth Valley). The combined lease total for these water rights is 123.9 cfs and 2,490 acres. These rights are sourced by the Upper Salmon River, Alturas Lake Creek, Valley Creek, and several Salmon River tributaries. These rights were acquired by the USFS in the 1990s and subsequently leased into the Idaho Water Supply Bank for consecutive 5-yr terms but never rented for instream beneficial uses. The permanent rental of these water rights is in the public interest and is consistent with the State Water Plan and the intent of the Nez Perce Agreement. Resolution 16-2021 was adopted by the Board as a first step to protecting the USFS rights instream.

In late 2024, the Water Supply Bank finalized permanent rental agreements for all 19 water rights to three minimum streamflow water rights on Valley Creek, Alturas Lake Creek, and Salmon River. IWRB staff have engaged with Water District 71 staff at annual water district meetings since 2022 to determine the resources needed to assist with the administration of the water instream (watermaster time and stream gage costs).

Meeting Minimum Stream Flows:

Through discussions with water users, advisory committee members, and elected watermaster IWRB staff have determined that initial administration efforts should be focused on Valley Creek where the USGS operates a stream gage at the mouth of Valley Creek adjacent to MSF 71-10886. Analysis of Valley Creek flows indicate there are low flow years where the minimum stream flow is not met during the irrigation season.

Those low flow years would benefit from the administration and delivery of the rented USFS water rights. A detailed analysis of the USFS water rights and their priority dates relative to other active water rights in the basin indicate approximately 20 cfs could be subject to administration for the instream rental for 4.5 cfs. This includes junior water rights sourced from Valley Creek and tributaries to Valley Creek.

Instream administration of Water Supply Bank Rental No. 654 on Valley Creek will increase operational costs for WD71. Members of the water district are sensitive to increasing costs needed to retain competent watermasters and have raised annual water user assessments in 2025 and 2026 to address watermaster salary. Therefore, water district members are reluctant to a one-time compensation for permanent administration approach. IWRB staff have negotiated a six-year administration contract, 2027 – 2032 based on the watermaster salary adopted at the 2026 annual district meeting.

IWRB staff will submit a proposal to the Columbia River Basin Water Transactions Program to recover costs associated with water district compensation for administering USFS rented water to meet the Valley Creek minimum stream flow. The six-year administration contract with Water District 71 will not exceed **\$6,975.00**. Awarded funds will be managed in the IWRB's Revolving Development Account

Attachment(s):

- *Map of Valley Creek USFS Rental*
- *Draft Resolution*

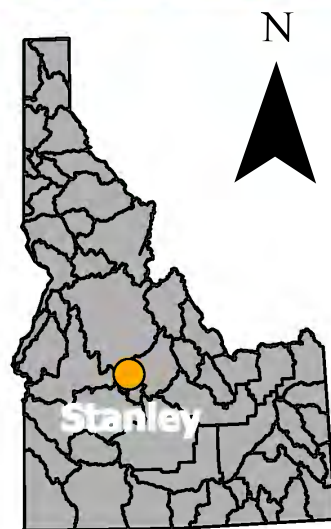


0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Miles

Legend

-  USFS_PODs
-  USFS_POUs
- Upper Salmon Basin
-  Streams
-  MSF [71-10886]
-  USGS Stream Gage
-  USFS_Busterback_Trans

Water District 71 Administration of USFS
Rental on Valley Creek, 2027 – 2032
CBWTP Proposal August 2027
ID - 1010



IN THE MATTER OF THE PERMANENT RENTAL OF
SAWTOOTH VALLEY WATER RIGHTSRESOLUTION TO MAKE A FUNDING
COMMITMENT

1 WHEREAS, Chinook and Sockeye salmon, steelhead, and bull trout habitat in the Upper Salmon
2 River basin is limited by low flow conditions and high-water temperatures; and
3

4 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State of Idaho to augment stream flows and provide habitat
5 in the Upper Salmon River Basin to encourage recovery of ESA-listed Chinook and Sockeye salmon,
6 steelhead, and bull trout fish; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the 2004 Snake River Water Rights ("Nez Perce") Agreement commits the state to
9 providing incentives for improving fish habitat which includes improving or protecting flow conditions to
10 augment stream flows; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Valley Creek has been identified as a high-priority stream for flow restoration efforts,
13 to provide high-quality habitat for anadromous Chinook and Sockeye salmon, steelhead and resident bull
14 trout; and
15

16 WHEREAS, as provided for in the Nez Perce Agreement, the Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)
17 established minimum streamflow Water Right 71-10886 on Valley Creek to be met through water right
18 rentals or acquisitions under state law; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service (USFS) owns Water Right Nos. 71-41, 71-42B, 71-43B,
21 71-49B, 71-50, (Water Rights) on Valley Creek and has permanently leased the referenced rights into the
22 Idaho Water Supply Bank; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the Board, pursuant to Section 42-1734, Idaho Code, has the authority to acquire,
25 purchase, lease, or exchange land, rights, water rights, easements, franchises, and other property deemed
26 necessary or proper for the construction, operation, and maintenance of water projects; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the Board adopted Resolution 16-2021, approving permanent rental of the Water
29 Rights for permanent delivery to Board minimum stream flow Water Right No. 71-10886 because it is in
30 the public interest, and is consistent with the State Water Plan and intent of the Nez Perce Agreement;
31 and;
32

33 WHEREAS, the Water Rights have been leased into the Idaho Water Supply Bank for several
34 decades, not subject to annual assessments, and permanent delivery of the Water Rights to Water Right
35 No. 71-10886 will result in an increased cost of operation for Water District 71; and
36

37 WHEREAS, the Board will compensate Water District 71 for administration of Water Supply Rental
38 Agreement No. 654 for a six-year term based on 2026 watermaster wages adopted at the annual water
39 district meeting; and
40

41 WHEREAS, funds are available from the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program for the six-
42 year administration agreement with Water District 71 and will be managed in the Board's Revolving
Development Account; and

43
44 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Chairman or his designee to enter
45 into a six-year contract, 2027 – 3032, with Water District 71 for administration of Water Supply Rental
46 Agreement No. 654 on Valley Creek in an amount not to exceed six thousand nine hundred seventy-five
47 dollars (\$6,975.00); and
48

49 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is subject to the condition that
50 the IWRB receives the requested funding from the Bonneville Power Administration through the Columbia
51 Basin Water Transaction Program in the amount of six thousand nine hundred seventy-five dollars
52 (\$6,975.00). Funds Received will be placed in the IWRB Revolving Development Account for annual
53 payment to Water District 71.
54

DATED this 18th day of September 2026.

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

MEMO



To: IWRB – Streamflow Enhancement and Minimum Streamflow Committee

From: John Loffredo, IDWR Transactions Program Manager

Date: September 3, 2026

Subject: Water Transaction Program – Pahsimeroi River SH 2027 – 2031 WSB Lease/Rental

REQUESTED ACTION: The Committee is asked to consider a short-term lease/rental agreement at the P-12 Diversion on the Pahsimeroi River. With the Committee’s recommendation, the attached funding resolution will be presented to the full Board and staff will proceed with project approval and contracting through the Idaho Water Transactions Program process.

Background

The Pahsimeroi River Basin, in Central Idaho, provides enormous potential for spawning and rearing habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed steelhead and Chinook salmon. Since 2008, the IWRB has secured nearly 40 cfs instream through water transactions funded by the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program to reconnect critical habitat in the middle and upper Pahsimeroi River to the lower Pahsimeroi River. However, due to legal surface water withdrawals, instream flow remains a limiting factor for salmonid recovery goals in the Pahsimeroi River Basin above Dowton Lane, river mile 11.5.

The Board’s recovery of instream flow in the Salmon River and its tributaries is a one-part of the overall ESA-recovery strategy for the State of Idaho. Recovery and de-listing of Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout would put management of the resource back under State control. Implementation of approved restoration plans also adds some measure of a defense against a third-party “taking” lawsuit under the ESA. It is in the local public interest to recover the species for natural resource, recreational, and economic interests to maintain the viability of agricultural communities.

Scott Hayes irrigates approximately 350-acres using a variety of sources, including the Pahsimeroi River, Lawson Creek, and groundwater. Over 200 acres were historically irrigated by water diverted at the P-12 diversion, first by flood and later by pivot in a pressurized irrigation system. Mr. Hayes is located at the end of the 3+ mile ditch and has experienced conveyance issues that anyone at the end of an irrigation ditch can relate to. In 2023, the Custer and Soil Water Conservation District began working with Mr. Hayes on a WR Transfer to relegate the senior P-12 acres to the pivot corners and WR application for permit to acquire a new groundwater irrigation right for the pivot acres. This project is a win-win for the irrigator and instream flow recovery because it reduces lateral water user conflict and results in a WSB lease/rental of senior irrigation rights in a flow-limited reach of the mid-Pahsimeroi River.

This 2027-2031 5-year transaction will secure up to 2.0 cfs of flow in the Pahsimeroi River by leasing water right numbers 73-78, 73-116, and 73-12282 and renting 73-78 and 73-116 to the IWRB's MSF 73-7045.

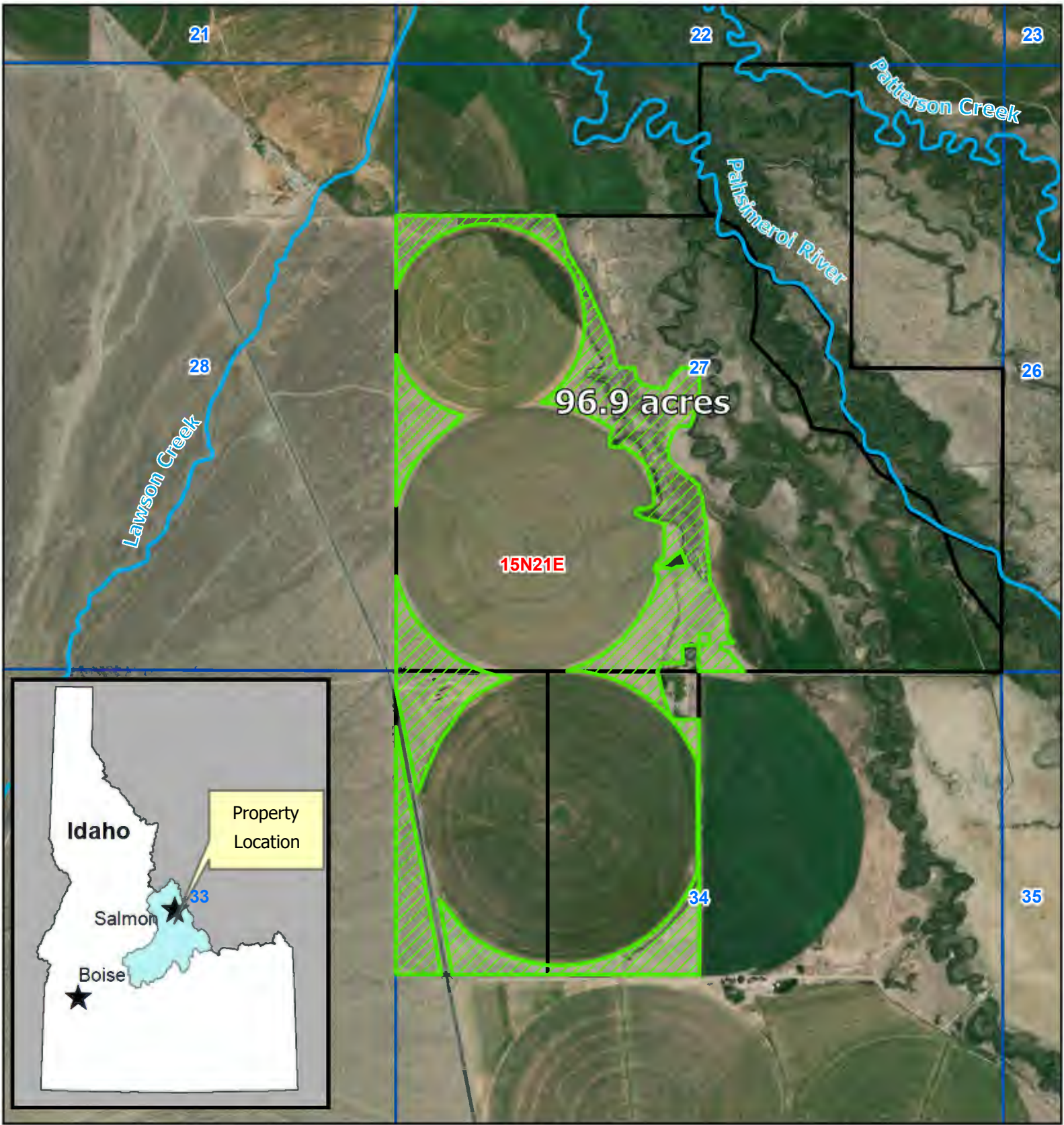
Staff proposes compensating the water right owner at a price of \$74.29 per acre over a 5-year term (2027 – 2031). Resource specialists with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Salmon completed a detailed analysis to determine the cost per acre based on the soil productivity of the leased acres and current market rate for an animal unit month. Total transaction costs will be **\$40,434.90**; includes water user compensation: \$36,030.65; WSB rental fee: \$3,904.25; and WSB lease application fee: \$500. Funds are available through the Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program and will be held in the CBWTP subaccount of the Board's Revolving Development Account.

Request for Committee Recommendation

Staff requests comments and a recommendation from the Committee regarding the transaction. Recommendations from the Committee and a resolution to approve the transaction will be introduced to the full Board at the September 2026 IWRB meeting.

Attachment(s):

- 2027–2031 Pahsimeroi P-12 Lease Map
- 2027–2031 Pahsimeroi P-12 Rental Map
- Draft Resolution



**Water Supply Bank
Lease
Attachment 1**

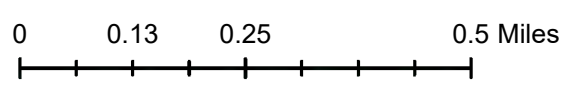
WR. No. 73-116, 73-78, 73-12282

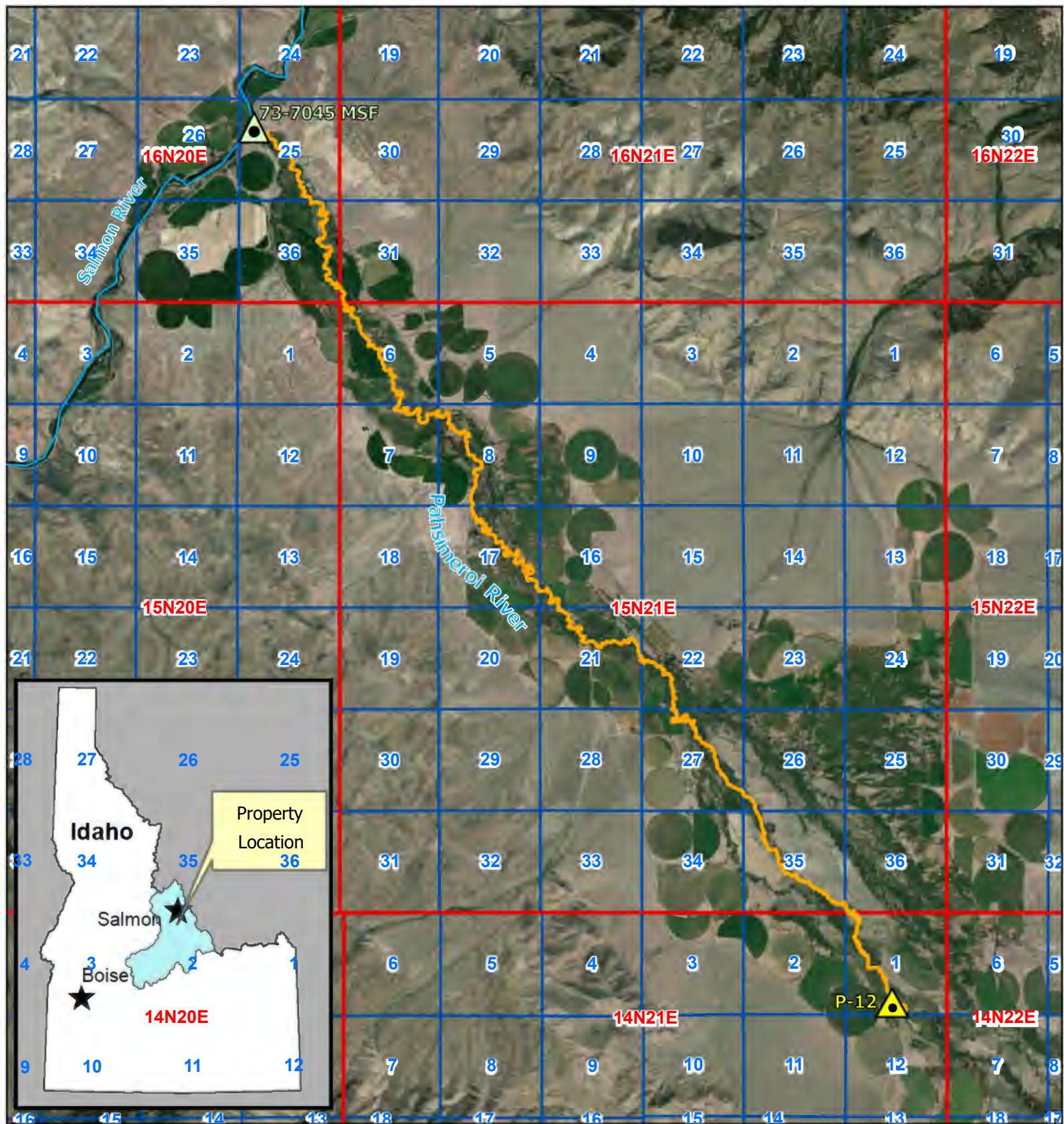
Date Created: 07/27/2026



Legend

	Scott Hayes Lease		Township/Range
	Scott Hayes Property		Sections
	Streams		





Water Supply Bank Rental Attachment 2

WR Nos. 73-78 & 73-116

Date Created: 08/04/2026



Legend



P-12 POD



73-7045 Pahsimeroi
River_MSF

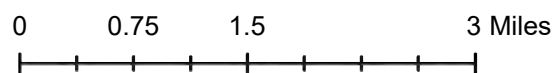
— Rental Application POU



Township/Range



Sections



BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2027-2031 LITTLE
MUD CREEK AND PAHSIMEROI RIVER WATER
TRANSACTION

RESOLUTION TO MAKE A FUNDING
COMMITMENT

1 WHEREAS, the 2004 Snake River Water Rights Agreement (also known as the “Nez Perce
2 Agreement”) commits the state to providing incentives for improving fish habitat and improving
3 or protecting flow conditions to augment streams flows; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Chinook salmon and steelhead habitat in the Pahsimeroi River Basin is limited
6 by low flow in the main-stem and disconnected tributaries; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Pahsimeroi River have been identified as high-priority streams for flow
9 restoration efforts to provide high-quality habitat for anadromous Chinook salmon and
10 steelhead; and
11

12 WHEREAS, in accordance with the Nez Perce Agreement, it is in the interest of the State
13 of Idaho to maintain the reconnection of Little Mud Creek to the Pahsimeroi River to encourage
14 recovery of ESA-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Board staff have developed a short-term water transaction to lease and rent
17 water rights owned by SCOTT HAYES through the Board’s Water Supply Bank to enhance flows in
18 the Pahsimeroi River; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the Board will compensate SCOTT HAYES or its successors, \$74.29 per acre per
21 irrigation season for said rental for annual payment of \$7,206.13 for 96.9 acres and a 5-year total
22 of \$36,030.65; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the lease application fees (\$500) and rental fees (\$3,904.25) for said
25 agreement will not exceed \$4,404.25; and
26

27 WHEREAS, a proposal for \$40,434.90 has been submitted to the Columbia basin Water
28 Transactions Program for approval; and
29

30 WHEREAS, funding is available through the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program
31 for said lease and rental agreements; and
32

33 WHEREAS, staff anticipates the funds being placed in the Idaho Water Resource Board
34 (IWRB) Revolving Development Account for annual payment to the water rights owners; and
35

36 WHEREAS, the Pahsimeroi River transaction is in the public interest and is in compliance
37 with the State Water Plan; and
38

39 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes the Chairman to enter into
40 5-year lease and rental agreements from 2027-2031 for water rights 73-78 & 733-116 for delivery
41 to minimum stream flow 73-7045, for an amount not to exceed \$40,434.90. Funds received will
42 be placed in the IWRB Revolving Development Account for annual payment to water user.
43

44 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is subject to the condition
45 that the Board receives the requested funding from the Bonneville Power Administration through
46 the Idaho MOA/Fish Accord Water Transaction Program or the Columbia Basin Water Transaction
47 Fund in an amount up to \$40,343.90.
48

DATED this 18th day of September 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

MEMO



To: IWRB – Streamflow Enhancement and Minimum Streamflow Committee
From: John Loffredo, IDWR Transactions Program Manager
Date: September 3, 2026
Subject: Lemhi River Updates

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Staff will provide a PowerPoint presentation on matters related to the Lemhi River and a voluntary participation and aging infrastructure update.

Attachments:

- *PowerPoint Presentation*



Lemhi River L-6 Diversion Minimum Stream Flow

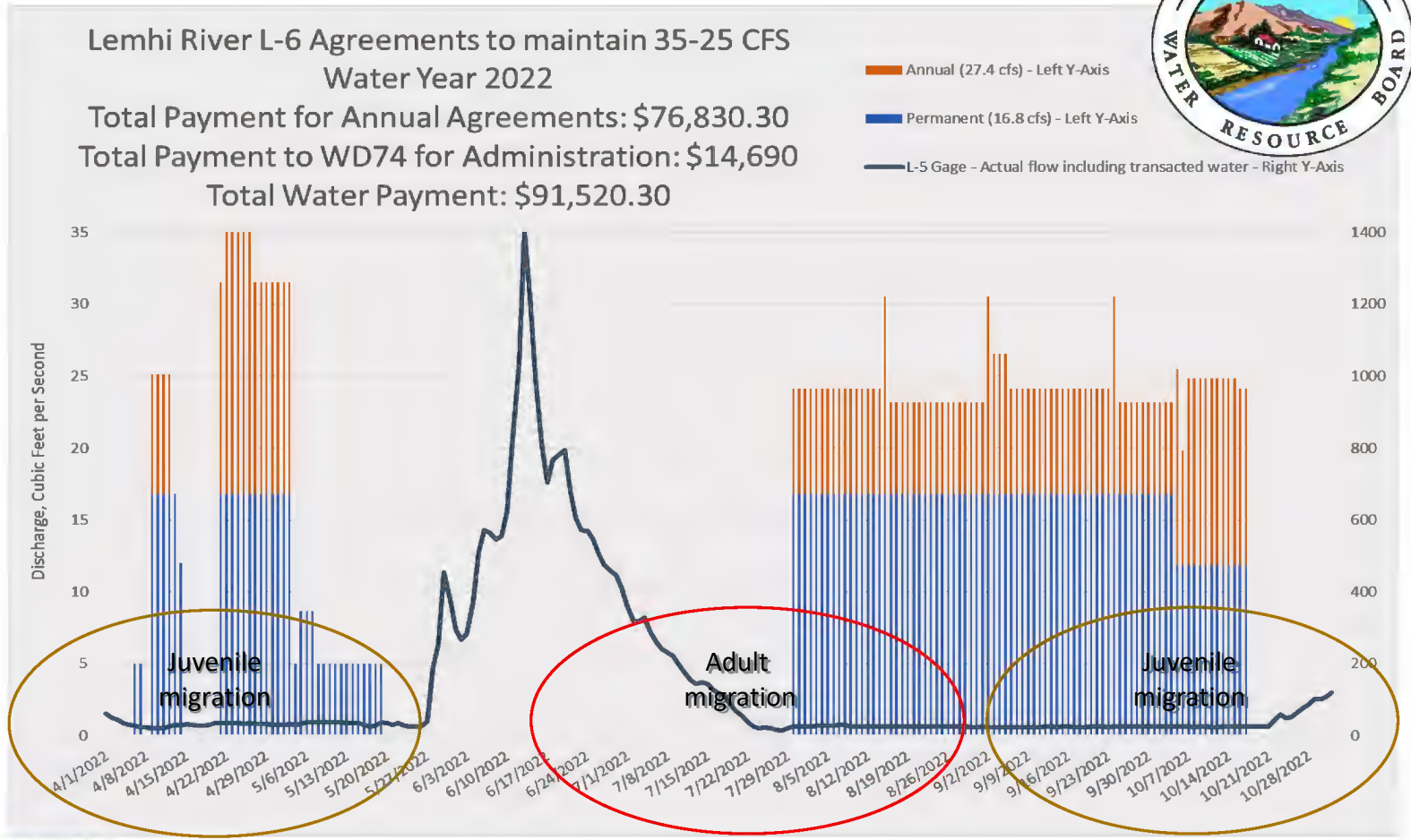
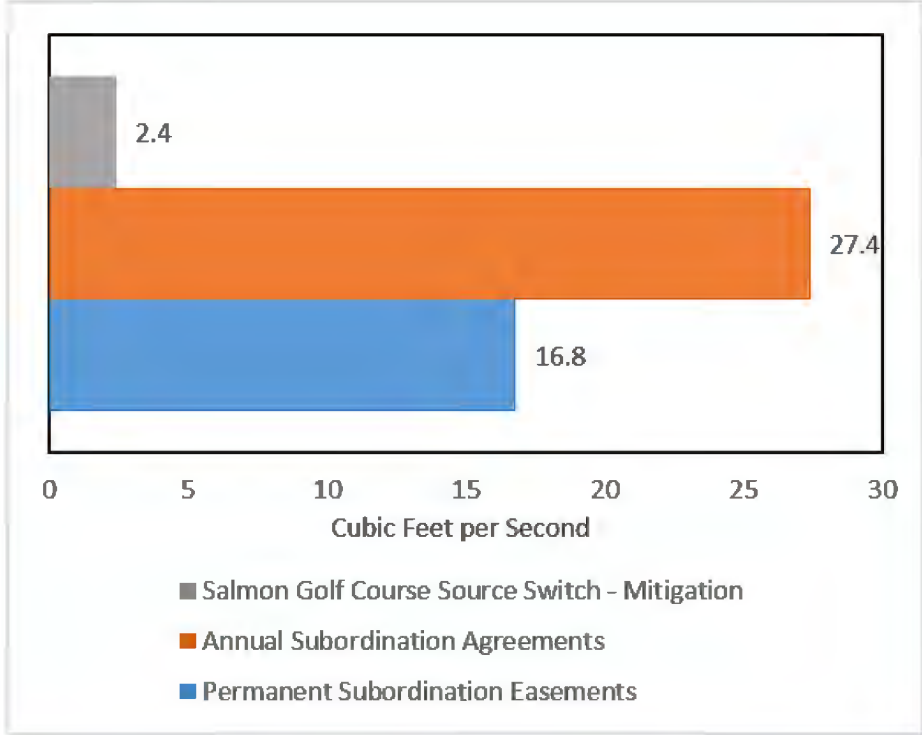
Voluntary Participation & Aging Infrastructure Update

Presented By:

John Loffredo, Program
Manager – Idaho Water
Transactions Program

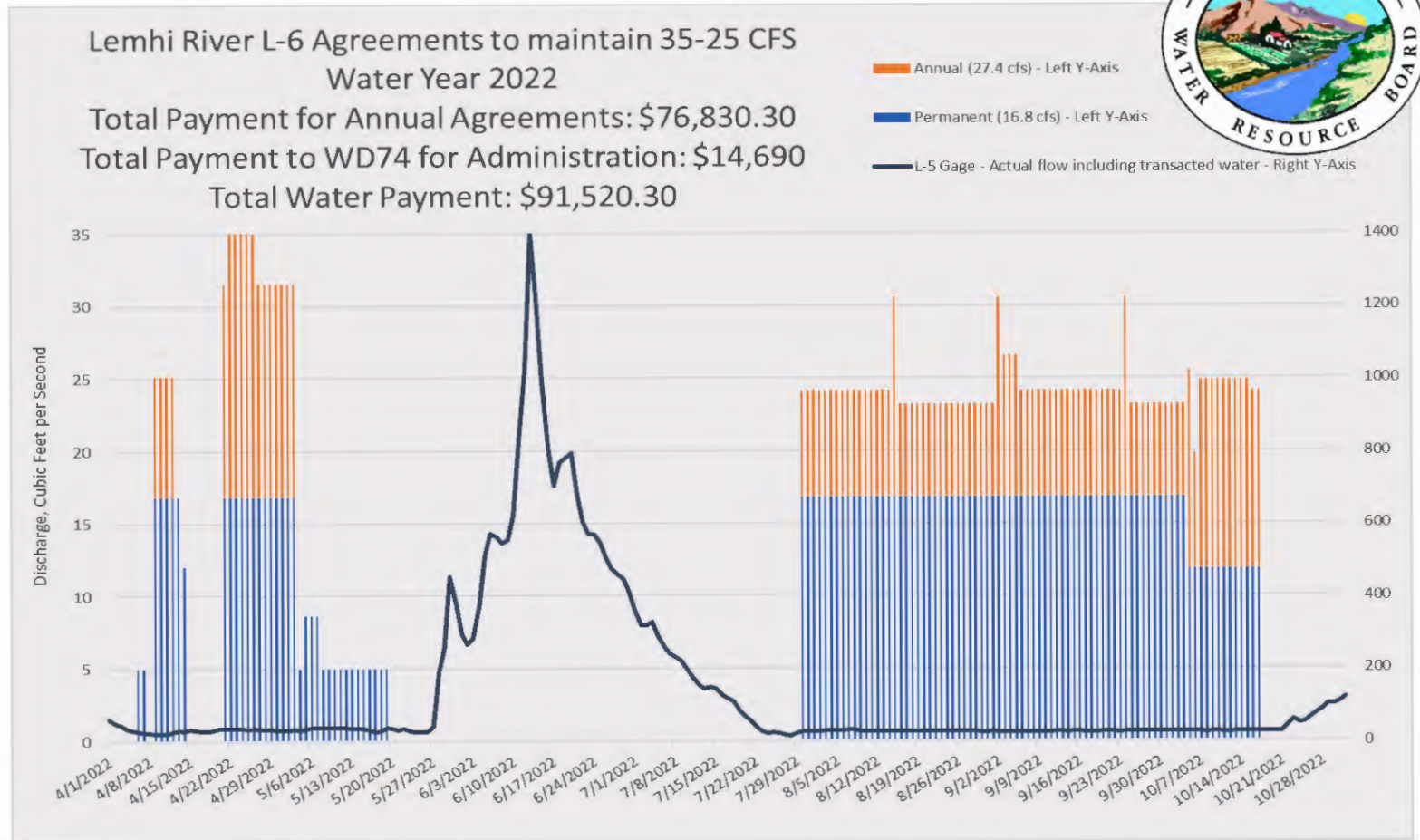
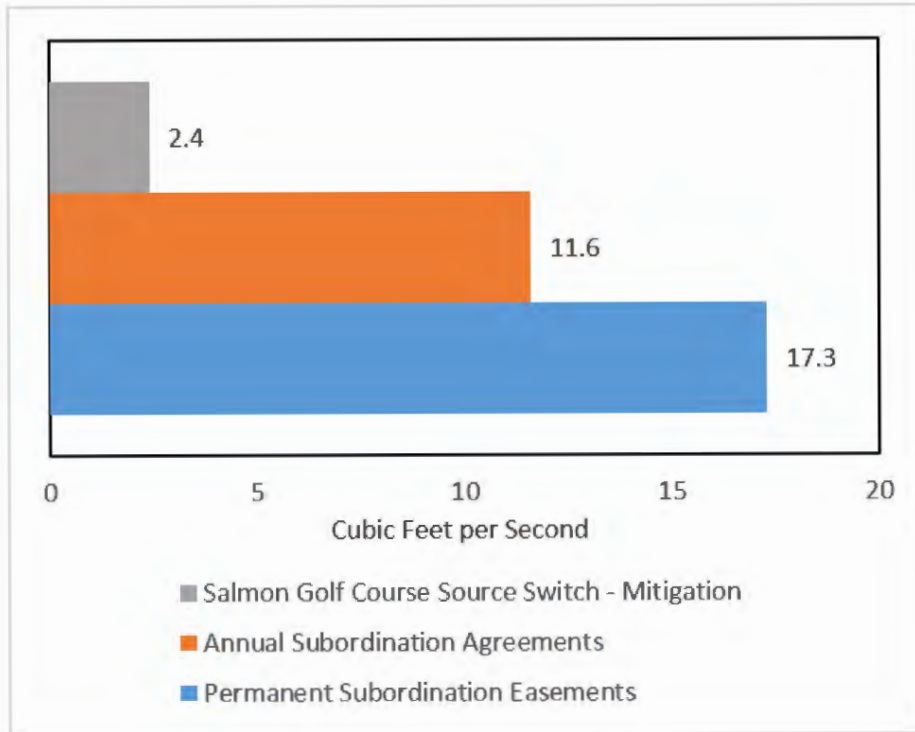
***Lemhi River @ L-6: April 2022 – 35 cfs
River Mile 7***

IWRB Streamflow
Enhancement and Minimum
Streamflow Committee
September 3rd, 2026



The Race to Secure 25 cfs – Permanently

2022 Annual + Permanent + Mitigation =
46.6 cfs



The Race to Secure 25 cfs – Permanently

2026-2028 Annual + Permanent + Mitigation =
31 cfs



L-6 Voluntary Water Transaction Valuation Strategy

- Annual agreements:
 - Cost per cfs/day set in 2004, marginal increases based on inflation.
 - \$80/cfs/day(2004) -> \$107.16/cfs/day or \$53/AF (2026-2028)
 - Has not maintained financial incentive for voluntary program participation
 - Crop-budget analysis: generate a farm-specific rate based on alfalfa tons/ac
 - Standardized valuation method used by QLE's across CBWTP
 - Crop-budget analysis would be conducted every three years to adjust for alfalfa market rate and any changes to crop production
 - Anticipated \$/AF could increase by ~40% from \$50/AF to \$80/AF



L-6 Voluntary Water Transaction Valuation Strategy

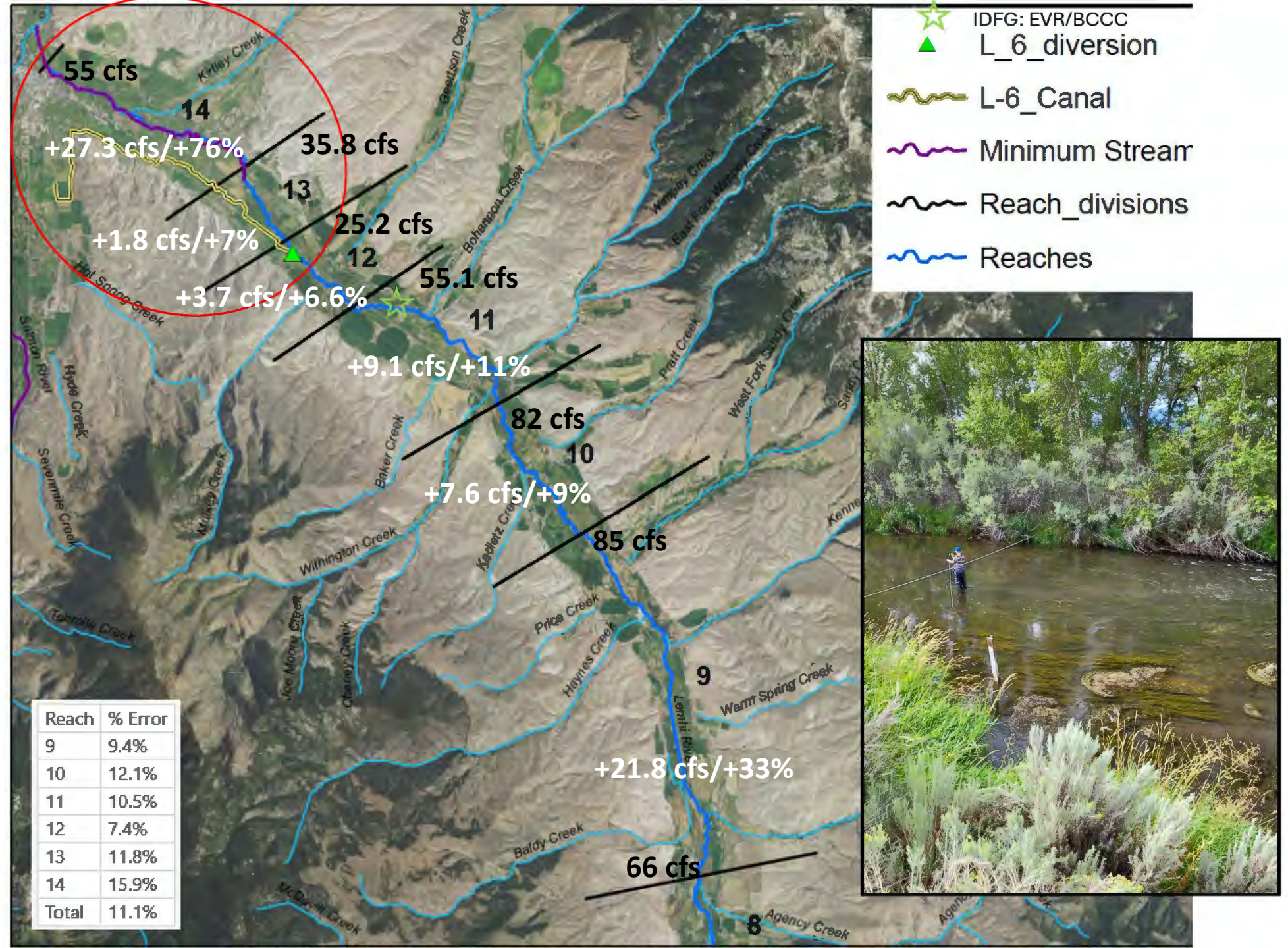
- Permanent Agreements:
 - Value of 100-day/year easement based on appraisal of land with and without water rights; highest and best use.
 - Highest and best use differs between large-lot parcels (ag.) and small-lot parcels (res.)
 - Easement Value have increased over time \$75k per cfs -> \$220k per cfs
 - Risk of subdivision for large-acre lots before permanent MSF easement
 - Small-lot price per acre: \$22k vs. large-lot price per acre: \$9k (2004)
 - Incentivize large-acre ranches to permanently protect multiple cfs instream before risk of subdivision
 - Hypothetical– 7 cfs on 233.33 acres @ \$22k/ac = \$5,132,000
 - \$2.05 million @ \$8,800/ac; \$1.54 million @ \$220k/cfs (2024 easement value)
 - Increase term of conservation easement from 100 days/yr to 150 days/yr

August 2026 Reach Gain Results

Measurements taken August 5-7th

No precipitation in previous two weeks.

Lemhi River went into 'regulation' on July 30th.



L-6 Diversion: No Action Plan



L-6 NO ACTION PLAN

SCALE: 1"= 40'

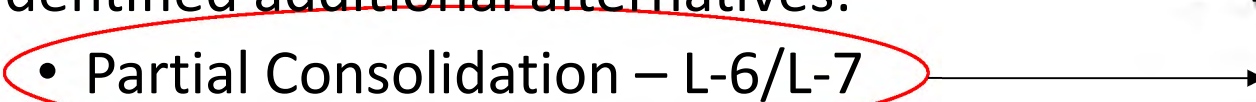


Monthly Water User Meetings – Summer & Fall 2025

- July – December:
 - Meetings between L-6/L-7 water users, IDFG, IWRB, OSC, LSWCD
 - Initially, small group of large water users -> public meeting held 12/17/25 with all affected users
- Discussed Pros/Cons of alternatives evaluated by QRS and down-ditch issues*
- Agency staff and large water users evaluated additional alternatives:
 - Partial Consolidation – L-6/L-7
 - GW well Source Switch
 - S-13/14 Exchange
 - Partial Consolidation – L-3A

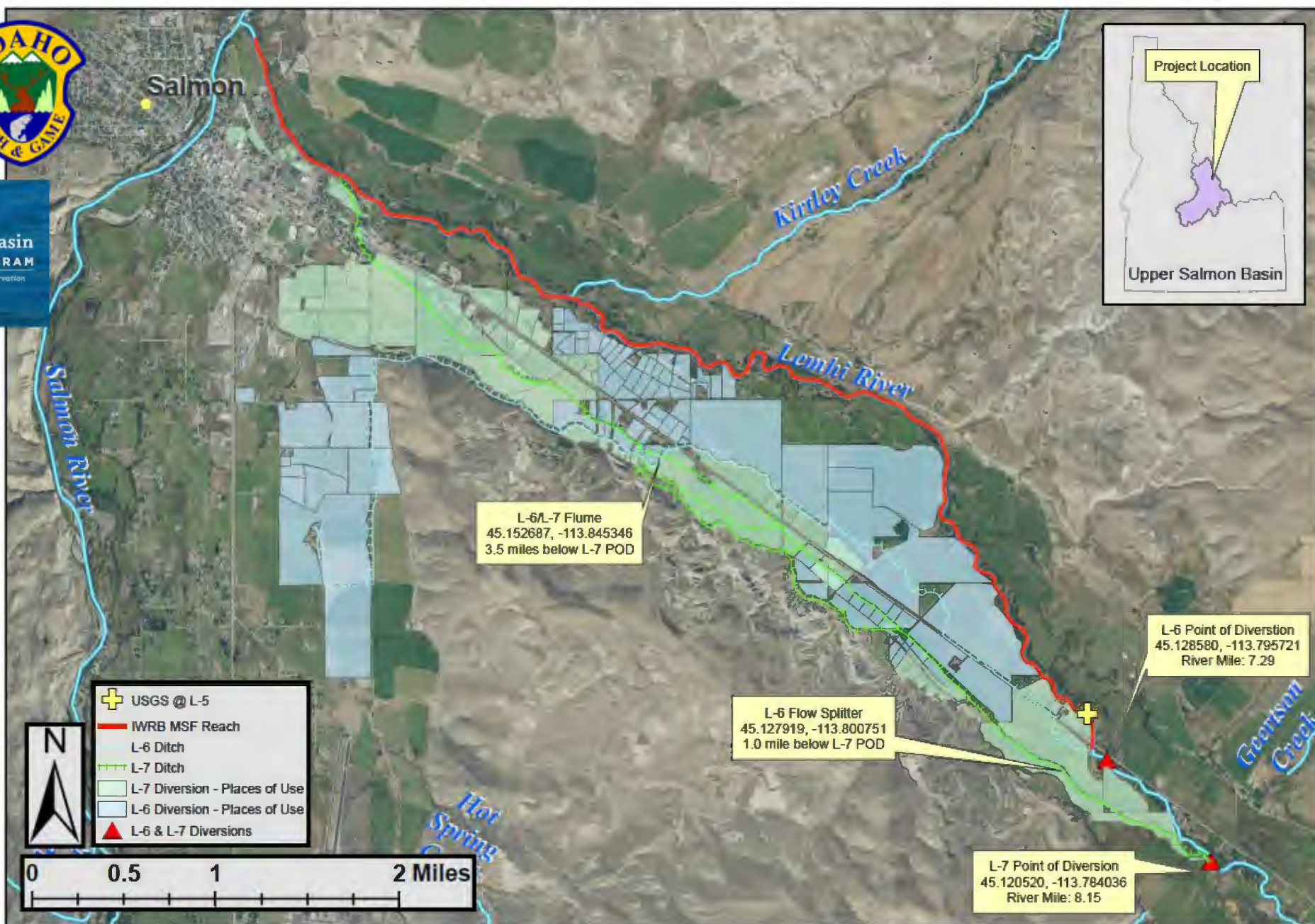


Monthly Water User Meetings – Summer & Fall 2025

- July, August, September meetings between L-6/L-7 water users, IDFG, and IWRB
 - Discussed Pros/Cons of alternatives evaluated by QRS and down-ditch issues*
 - Identified additional alternatives:
 - Partial Consolidation – L-6/L-7
 - GW well Source Switch
 - S-13/14 Exchange
 - Partial Consolidation – L-3A
 - Reduce L-6 Diversion by at least 20%
 - Add Point-of-Diversion to select L-6 rights
 - Administer L-6 high water at L-7
 - Administer 12 cfs L-6 base rights at L-7
 - Reduces underflow variation in L-6 ditch to maintain 35-25 cfs MSF
 - Protects reach gains between L-7 and L-6 for irrigator use.
- 



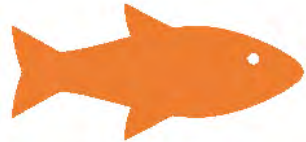
Upper Salmon Basin
WATERSHED PROGRAM
Homegrown, Common-Sense Conservation



Project Outcomes: The project modernizes Lemhi River L6/L7 diversions to protect minimum stream flows, improve irrigation efficiency, and restore ESA-listed salmonid passage, ensuring reliable water administration and access to 60+ upstream miles of critical habitat.

L-6 & L-7 Diversions
Repair and Partial Consolidation
R28 PCSRF Proposal
LSWCD - Nov. 2025

Main take-home: win-win for fish and irrigators



Fish:

- Increased passage for juvenile life stages
- Functioning diversion weir for long-term administration of MSF
- Relocation of L-6 fish screen mitigates flood risk to key infrastructure



Irrigators:

- Increased flexibility for senior water right administration
- Functioning diversion weir mitigates long-term maintenance burden
- Relocation of L-6 ditch mitigates flood risk to key infrastructure



Potential Project Timeline

Activity	Fall 2026	Winter 26-27	Spring 2027	Winter 27-28	Summer 2028	2029
Weir & Headgate Design	X	X				
Ditch assessment & Design	X	X				
80% - 100% Diversion design		X	X			
Water right transfer			X			
80% - 100% Ditch design		X	X			
Fish screen & Fish ladders				X		
Ditch Construction				X		
Diversion Construction					X	
Adaptive Management & Performance Monitoring					X	X



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

QUESTIONS?



Credit: A. Cassel