AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Cloud Seeding Committee Meeting No. 3-26
Tuesday, October 27, 2026
9:00 a.m. (MT) / 8:00 a.m. (PT)

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

Livestream available at https://www.youtube.com/@iwrb

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. IWRB Cloud Seeding Annual Report Update
3. Target Control Analysis Update
4. Collaborative Program Impacts Analysis Update
5. Collaborative Program Water User Contribution *
6. High Country Resource Conservation and Development Cloud Seeding Program *
7. Public Comment – Not to Exceed 30 Minutes
8. Other Items
9. Adjourn

Committee Members: Chair Marc Gibbs, Jeff Raybould, Al Barker, and Pat McMahon.

***Public Comment*:** To provide an opportunity for public participation, comments may be submitted either in person at the meeting or in writing. Written comments should be submitted by email to milin.ream@idwr.idaho.gov. The Committee Chair may limit individual comments to 3 minutes to accommodate all speakers. All comments, whether submitted in writing or presented in person, will become part of the public record.

* 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:** The meeting will be held in person and online. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please make advance arrangements by contacting Department staff by email milin.ream@idwr.idaho.gov or by phone at (208) 287-4800.

MEMO

To: IWRB Cloud Seeding Committee (Committee)

From: Nick Banish, IDWR Cloud Seeding Program Manager

Date: October 26, 2026

Subject: IWRB Cloud Seeding Annual Report

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Staff will provide an update on the Idaho Water Resource Board's Cloud Seeding Annual Report.

Attachment(s):

- *None*

MEMO

To: IWRB Cloud Seeding Committee (Committee)

From: Nick Banish, IDWR Cloud Seeding Program Manager

Date: October 26, 2026

Subject: Target Control Analysis Update

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Staff will provide an update on the Target Control Analysis for the Committee's information.

Attachment(s):

- *None*

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board Cloud Seeding Committee

From: Planning and Projects Bureau Staff

Date: October 26, 2026

Subject: Collaborative Program Impact Analysis

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Staff will provide an informational update on the subject item.

Attachments:

- *None*

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board Cloud Seeding Committee

From: Nick Banish, Cloud Seeding Program Manager

Date: October 26, 2026

Subject: Cloud Seeding Program | *Water User Cost-Share Resolution*

REQUESTED ACTION: Recommendation for Approval – Collaborative Program Funding and Water User Cost-Share, 2026-2027 Season

Background

Since 2014, the IWRB has participated with Idaho Power Company (IPC) and water users in the Collaborative Program in the Boise, Wood, and Upper Snake River Basins. Estimated operation and maintenance (O&M) costs for 2026-2027 total $3,986,400. IPC will pay one-third of this total and the IWRB is responsible for the remaining two-thirds, which includes collection of water user contributions.

Funding

A funding resolution authorizes IWRB expenditures not to exceed $2,657,600 from the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund (Secondary Fund), as included in the Fiscal Year 2027 Secondary Fund Budget (Resolution No. 42-2026, adopted September 18, 2026).

Water users are encouraged to contribute $443,820 (11.13% of costs), which will offset the Board's expenditure to approximately $2,213,780. The 11.13% reflects the lowest historical basin contribution, and the IWRB commits one-time funding to pay the remainder of the two-thirds amount. Water user contributions by basin, rounded to the nearest $100, are shown on the table below.

Basin	Total Estimated O&M Cost	Water User Contribution (11.13%)
Upper Snake River Basin	$2,031,900	$226,200
Wood River Basin	$831,750	$92,600
Boise River Basin	$1,122,750	$125,000
Total	**$3,986,400**	**$443,800**

**these are estimated costs and this table is provided for informational purposes only.*

Attachment(s):

- *None*

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board Cloud Seeding Committee

From: Nick Banish, Cloud Seeding Program Manager

Date: October 26, 2026

Subject: Cloud Seeding Program |*HCRCD Funding Resolution*

REQUESTED ACTION: Recommendation for Approval – HCRCD Funding for 2026-2027 Operations

This memo summarizes a draft resolution authorizing Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) funding for the High Country Resource and Conservation Development (HCRCD) cloud seeding program for the winter 2026-2027 season.

Background

HCRCD has operated a manual ground cloud seeding program in the Upper Snake River Basin since the 1990s, and local donations no longer cover the full cost of the program. HCRCD has requested $120,000 from the IWRB for its 2026-2027 operations, compared to $60,000 for the prior season.

Funding

The resolution authorizes expenditures not to exceed $120,000 for operation and maintenance (O&M) costs to support the HCRCD program for the 2026-2027 season. The source of funds is the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund (Secondary Fund). This amount is included in the Fiscal Year 2027 Secondary Fund Budget (Resolution 42-2026, adopted September 18, 2026).

The resolution also authorizes the Chairman or designee, Brian Patton, Executive Manager to the IWRB, to execute the necessary agreements or contracts to support the HCRCD program.

Attachment(s):

- *Draft Resolution*

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF CLOUD SEEDING IN THE STATE OF IDAHO	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FOR THE HCRCD 2026-2027 CLOUD SEEDING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §42-4301 authorizes the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to approve cloud seeding programs and expend state funds for them in basins where existing water supplies are insufficient to support existing water rights, water quality, recreation, or fish and wildlife uses; and

WHEREAS, the High Country Resource and Conservation Development (HCRCD) has operated a manual ground cloud seeding program in the Upper Snake River Basin since the 1990's, and donations no longer cover the full cost of the program; and

WHEREAS, the HCRCD has requested $120,000 from the IWRB for its 2026-2027 cloud seeding operations; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB's Secondary Aquifer Fund for Fiscal Year 2027 (Resolution [42-2026], adopted September 18, 2026) includes $120,000 for the HCRCD Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the IWRB authorizes expenditures not to exceed $120,000 from the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund for O&M costs to support the HCRCD cloud seeding program for the 2026-2027 season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee, Brian Patton, Executive Manager to the IWRB, to execute the necessary agreements or contracts to support the HCRCD cloud seeding program.

DATED this 13th day of November, 2026.

_____

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____

Dean Stevenson, Secretary

DRAFT

MEMO

To: IWRB Cloud Seeding Committee (Committee)

From: Planning and Projects Bureau Staff

Date: October 26, 2026

Subject: Public Comment

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the public to provide comments related to Cloud Seeding. The Committee Chair may limit individual comments to 3 minutes to accommodate all speakers. All comments will become part of the public record.

Attachments:

- *None*

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board Cloud Seeding Committee

From: Planning and Projects Bureau Staff

Date: October 26, 2026

Subject: Other Items

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

This item is included to allow the Committee an opportunity to bring forward and discuss any other matters.

Attachments:

- *None*