BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE UPPER SNAKE RIVER BASIN STUDY	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR UPPER SNAKE RIVER BASIN STUDY ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, water users in the Upper Snake River Basin (Upper Snake) expressed interest in pursuing a Basin Study through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) WaterSmart program to address water supply and management needs; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2025, representatives from BOR and the Minidoka Irrigation District discussed the program and presented a request that the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) pursue a Basin Study in the Upper Snake (Basin Study) on behalf of the State and water users; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB submitted a Letter of Interest (LOI) to initiate the Basin Study to BOR's WaterSmart program on October 14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2025, BOR approved the IWRB's LOI and invited submission of a full proposal, and the IWRB adopted Resolution No. 51-2025, committing $3,000,000 from the Water Management Account for the Basin Study; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB submitted a full proposal to the BOR WaterSmart program on February 13, 2026, in accordance with program deadlines; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2026, the IWRB was selected by BOR for development of a WaterSmart program Plan of Study; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Basin Study will require a combination of technical consulting services, project management, stakeholder coordination and facilitation, technical analyses, and other activities necessary to develop and complete the Basin Study; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditure of up to $3,000,000 from the Water Management Account for activities associated with the development and implementation of the Basin Study.

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

DATED this 12th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE BOARD'S 2026 NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING OF IDAPA 37.01.01 RULES OF PROCEDURE	RESOLUTION TO PUBLISH THE PENDING RULES IN THE JANUARY 2027 IDAHO ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN

WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board ("Board") and the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("Department") have statutory authority and oversight responsibilities for IDAPA 37.01.01, Rules of Procedure of the Board and Department; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code § 67-5292 requires legislative review all administrative rules on a staggered, periodic schedule beginning in 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature asked the Department to review IDAPA 37.01.01 and prepare a regulatory analysis per the criteria set forth in Idaho Code § 67-5292; and

WHEREAS, the Department completed the regulatory analysis and determined that the rules in IDAPA 37.01.01 remain necessary and that amendments to the rule language would improve fairness and efficiency and reduce the potential for bias in contested cases before the Board and Department; and

WHEREAS, the Department conducted negotiated rulemaking meetings on July 8 and August 12, 2026, and received no public comment during or after those public meetings; and

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2026, the Board reviewed and adopted the proposed amendments to IDAPA 37.01.01; and

WHEREAS, the Department published the proposed rule in the October 7th Administrative Bulletin and received no public comment on the proposed rule; and

WHEREAS, the Board must adopt the pending rule before the Department may publish it in the January 6, 2027, Administrative Bulletin and submit it for legislative review under Idaho Code § 67-5292 and Idaho Code § 42-1734(19); and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board adopts the pending rules for IDAPA 37.01.01, authorizes publication of the pending rules in the January 6th Administrative Bulletin, and requests that the Legislature and the Idaho Office of Administrative Rules adopt the pending rules.

DATED this 12th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES FROM THE WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT FUNDING	RESOLUTION TO AWARD ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR WATER QUALITY PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, the Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) was established in Fiscal Year 2000 to support the conservation and enhancement of Idaho's water resources, with implementation carried out primarily through Idaho's fifty soil and water conservation districts; and

WHEREAS, WQPA supports voluntary, locally led conservation projects that protect and improve water quality and water resources, including irrigation infrastructure and on-farm irrigation improvements, streambank and riparian improvements, erosion control, livestock best management practices, and soil health practices; and

WHEREAS, WQPA projects are developed through collaboration among landowners and operators, soil and water conservation districts, the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC), the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other project partners; and

WHEREAS, WQPA was not funded from Fiscal Year 2012 through Fiscal Year 2022, and was revitalized beginning in Fiscal Year 2023 following legislative appropriations of $5 million in FY2023, $5 million in FY2024, $1 million in FY2025, and $1 million in FY2026, for a total of $12 million over those four fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, during the four funding years from FY2023 through FY2026, ISWCC received 274 project proposals requesting approximately $26.5 million in WQPA funding, funded 134 projects, and reported that 140 projects could not be funded due to limited available funding; and

WHEREAS, WQPA requires a minimum 35 percent match, limits WQPA cost-share to $75,000 per proposal, and provides up to 10 percent of WQPA cost-share funding for administration by sponsoring soil and water conservation districts, allowing state funding to be leveraged with other public and private resources; and

WHEREAS, the program's year-round project development and collaboration among ISWCC, conservation districts, NRCS, and landowners allow projects to be identified and developed continuously, and the availability of WQPA funding helps move eligible conservation projects into implementation; and

WHEREAS, ISWCC reports that approximately $1.7 million in FY2026 WQPA project requests could not be funded and has identified additional developed projects in conservation districts around the state that are awaiting funding; and

WHEREAS, the WQPA project priority list is established for each funding cycle and is not carried forward for future appropriations, and some projects may pursue other funding sources; therefore, ISWCC would establish a new application period and evaluate and rank applications for any bridge funding awarded; and

WHEREAS, ISWCC has requested one-time funding from the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB, Board) to support WQPA projects statewide while ISWCC continues to seek legislative appropriations for the program; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB Finance Committee considered the request on October 26, 2026, and recommended that the Board consider committing funding from the Water Management Account for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB finds that one-time support for WQPA would help advance locally led conservation projects and leverage matching resources to conserve and enhance Idaho's water resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes allocation of up to $750,000 from the Water Management Account to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission as one-time bridge funding for the Water Quality Program for Agriculture.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funding shall be administered by ISWCC through a new WQPA application period, using the program's established eligibility, matching, project evaluation, ranking, and cost-share requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding shall not be used for WQPA projects within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Groundwater Management Area and basins tributary to the ESPA that would result in the reduction of incidental recharge.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ISWCC shall provide the IWRB with a summary of projects funded, funding awarded, matching contributions, and project outcomes following allocation of the one-time funding.

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

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES FROM THE WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT FUNDING	RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES FOR THE DWORSHAK/CLEARWATER PIPELINE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Water Management Account (WMA) was established pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1760 and is administered by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB, Board); and

WHEREAS, the IWRB's WMA spending plan includes $60 million for the Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline Project, identified as a Governor's Initiative and included on the IWRB's Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List; and

WHEREAS, improving the water supply to the Clearwater Fish Hatchery and Dworshak National Fish Hatchery was recommended by Governor Brad Little's Salmon Workgroup as part of the State's Salmon Recovery initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline Project proposes to develop infrastructure to provide additional water from Dworshak Reservoir to both hatcheries to support increased fish production capacity, improve water supply reliability, reduce disease exposure for steelhead, and improve operational efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the project proponents, the Idaho Governor's Office of Species, Minerals & Energy Coordination and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, have requested $650,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to evaluate alternatives for improving the water supply to the hatcheries and develop preliminary construction cost estimates; and

WHEREAS, the proposed scoping effort will evaluate water supply requirements, pipeline sizing and routing, energy efficiency and hydropower opportunities, operational considerations, infrastructure needs, and permitting requirements; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB Finance Committee considered the request on October 26, 2026, and recommended that the Board consider committing funding from the Water Management Account for this purpose; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditures of up to $650,000 from the WMA funds budgeted for the Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline Project to support the COE's scoping effort, including evaluation of alternatives and development of preliminary construction cost estimates.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that expenditures under this authorization shall be limited to activities necessary to scope the proposed project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its Chairman or Executive Manager, Brian Patton, to execute the agreements or contracts necessary to implement this resolution.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF CLOUD SEEDING IN THE STATE OF IDAHO	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FOR THE HIGH COUNTRY RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT 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 Conservation and 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 No. 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

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS FOR THE COLLABORATIVE CLOUD SEEDING PROGRAM	RESOLUTION TO DEFINE WATER USER CONTRIBUTION FOR THE 2026/2027 SEASON

WHEREAS, Idaho Code § 42-4304 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, since 2014 the IWRB has participated with Idaho Power Company (IPC) and water users in a collaborative cloud seeding program (Collaborative Program) in the Boise, Wood, and Upper Snake River Basins; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB's 2017 through 2023 Fiscal Year Budget Resolutions for the Secondary Aquifer Stabilization and Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund (Secondary Fund) established a goal of shared participation by the State, IPC, and water users, and IWRB Resolution No. 42-2026, adopted September 18, 2026, authorized expenditures for Collaborative Program operations and maintenance (O&M) costs for Fiscal Year 2027; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2017, the IWRB contributed one-third of Collaborative Program O&M costs with the expectation that IPC and water users would each contribute one-third; however, since the 2020/2021 season, IPC has paid one-third of O&M costs while the IWRB has temporarily covered a greater share, offset water user costs, and equalized water user contributions across the three basins pending further analysis and discussions regarding an appropriate cost-sharing arrangement among program beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, for the 2026/2027 season, IPC will pay one-third of total O&M costs, and the IWRB will be responsible for the remaining two-thirds, including collection of water user contributions; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB encourages contributions from water users in all three basins and based on historical contributions, has established an 11.13% water user contribution toward estimated 2026/2027 O&M costs, totaling approximately $443,800, as reflected in the following table:

Water User Contributions by Basin, 2026/2027 Season		
Basin	**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**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the IWRB authorizes expenditure not to exceed $2,657,600 from the Secondary Fund for the 2026/2027 cloud seeding season, representing two-thirds of total program costs as outlined in the table found within this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB anticipates the water user contributions totaling approximately $443,800 to offset a portion of the IWRB's authorized expenditures, thereby reducing the net cost to the Secondary Fund.

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 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST CHANCE CANAL COMPANY LTD LOAN REQUEST	RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LOAN FUNDING FOR COSTS RELATED TO DIVERSION WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS

WHEREAS, the Last Chance Canal Company, LTD (Company) submitted a loan application to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB), requesting $420,000 for costs associated with the repair and replacement of the Bench B and First West canal diversion works; and

WHEREAS, the Company was established in 1899 to serve the Gem Valley, providing irrigation for approximately 29,000 acres from the Last Chance Diversion Dam; and

WHEREAS, the existing Bench B and First West diversion works have become outdated and insufficient for meeting current flow capacity and control needs, requiring the Company to rely solely on the Bench A canal for its deliveries; and

WHEREAS, the proposal is requesting funds to remove and install a new headworks at both the Bench B and First West diversions, located east of the Grace Dam near Grace, Idaho; and

WHEREAS, alternative options were explored but did not provide the Company a long-term solution to deliver water and address its water users current demands; and

WHEREAS, the Company has held loans with the IWRB, and is currently repaying an existing loan with an estimated 11 annual payments remaining; and

WHEREAS, the Company has already established a reserve account with funding well over the estimated annual payment and will raise the current assessments to its users for the costs of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Company is a qualified applicant, and the proposed Project is eligible for a loan from the Board's Revolving Development Account; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project is in the public interest and is in compliance with the State Water Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB provides authority to the Chairman of the Idaho Water Resource Board, or Executive Manager, Brian Patton, to enter into contracts, to effectuate the loan, with the Association on behalf of the IWRB.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB approves a loan not to exceed $420,000 from the Revolving Development Account at 5.5 % interest with a 10-year repayment term.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the approval of the loan are subject to the following conditions:

1) The Company shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations that apply to the proposed Project.
2) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Company shall comply with all statutory requirements for incurring debt.
3) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Company will provide acceptable security for the loan to the IWRB.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT NUMBER 6 LOAN REQUEST	RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LOAN FUNDING FOR COSTS RELATED TO PUMP STATION REPAIRS

WHEREAS, Drainage District Number 6 (District) submitted a loan application to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) in the amount of $385,074 to cover costs associated with the repair and modernization of its existing pump station; and

WHEREAS, the District was established to provide drainage and flood protection for agricultural lands located in the Kootenai River Valley in Boundary County, Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the existing pump station infrastructure was constructed in 1925 and has reached the end of the scheduled useful service life; and

WHEREAS, the main discharge pipe has rusted through, causing the water to erode the bank between the back foundation wall and the dike; and

WHEREAS, the proposal is requesting funds to rebuild and modernize the District's pump station with a new building, new pumps, new piping, and electrical service; and

WHEREAS, alternative options were explored but did not provide the District with a long-term solution; and

WHEREAS, the District was awarded funding through the IWRB Aging Infrastructure program in September of 2026 for this Project and will be used in conjunction with this loan application; and

WHEREAS, the District is a qualified applicant, and the proposed Project is eligible for a loan from the Board's Revolving Development Account; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project is in the public interest and is in compliance with the State Water Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB provides authority to the Chairman of the Idaho Water Resource Board, or Executive Manager, Brian Patton, to enter into contracts, to effectuate the loan, with the Association on behalf of the IWRB.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB approves a loan not to exceed $385,074 from the Revolving Development Account at 5.5 % interest with a 10-year repayment term.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the approval of the loan are subject to the following conditions:

1) The District shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations that apply to the proposed Project.
2) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the District shall comply with all statutory requirements for incurring debt.
3) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the District will provide acceptable security for the loan to the IWRB.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE NORTH SIDE CANAL COMPANY LOAN REQUEST	RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LOAN FUNDING TO REPAIR DELIVERY SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the North Side Canal Company (Company) submitted a loan application to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) in the amount of $5,000,000.00 to cover costs for a project to repair aging delivery system infrastructure (Project); and

WHEREAS, the Company, located in Jerome County, delivers water for 155,000 acres and approximately 2,200 shareholders in Elmore, Gooding, and Jerome counties; and

WHEREAS, the Company's delivery infrastructure was constructed in 1908 with improvements being made most recently as 2017; and

WHEREAS, to remain sustainable for future use and conserve water the Company will need to make repairs and improvements to its aging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, total project costs were estimated to be $7,342,600, of which the Company will cover $342,600, was awarded an Aging Infrastructure grant for $2,000,000, and requested a loan in the amount of $5,000,000 from the IWRB for project costs; and

WHEREAS, the project is underway with a large amount of work completed to date; and

WHEREAS, the Project conditions have changed and require cast-in-place concrete walls rather than the shotcrete that had been included in the project cost estimate; and

WHEREAS, the NSCC is requesting additional funding, in the amount of $500,000 to cover the increase in project costs; and

WHEREAS, the existing loan was approved for $5,000,000 from the Revolving Development Account at 4.38% interest with a 20-year repayment term.

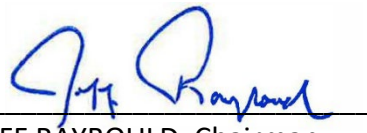
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes additional funding, in the amount of $500,000 for a total of $5,500,000, under contract IWRB1038 between the IWRB and the NSCC, from the Revolving Development Account. The term and interest rate will not be changed as part of the extension of funding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB provides authority to the Chairman of the Idaho Water Resource Board, Executive Manager, Brian Patton, to enter into contracts, to effectuate the loan, with the Company on behalf of the IWRB.

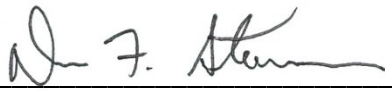
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the approval of the loan are subject to the following conditions:

1) The Company shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations that apply to the proposed Project.
2) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Company shall comply with all statutory requirements for incurring debt.
3) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Company will provide acceptable security for the loan to the IWRB, including but not limited to its water rights and assessment income which the Company collects from its members.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.



JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 

DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD'S EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN AQUIFER MANAGED RECHARGE PROGRAM	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ESPA MANAGED RECHARGE PROGRAM STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, the Idaho State Water Plan references managed recharge may be used as an adaptive mechanism for minimizing the impacts of variability in climate conditions and to ensure the sustainability of Idaho's water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho State Water Plan recognizes that the effects on ground water and surface water budgets and water quality from managed recharge projects must be monitored and evaluated to determine the effectiveness of such projects after implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) supports and assists in the development of managed recharge projects that further water conservation and increase water supplies available for beneficial use; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan and the Idaho State Water Plan established managed recharge as being an appropriate means to enhance ground and surface water supplies, help maintain and increase aquifer levels, and change the timing and availability of water supplies to meet demand; and

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

WHEREAS, the IWRB has been operating the full-scale ESPA Managed Recharge Program since 2014 and recognizes the need to document and standardize program procedures to provide consistency, fairness, ensure compliance with laws and regulations, guide decision-making, and streamline internal processes. These procedures are documented through the ESPA Managed Aquifer Recharge Program Standards & Procedures (Standards & Procedures).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the Standards & Procedures hereto attached.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB may modify the Standards & Procedures at a properly noticed meeting of the IWRB.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

IWRB ESPA Managed Recharge Program Standards and Procedures

November 13, 2026

BRAD LITTLE
Governor

JEFF RAYBOULD
Chairman

Idaho Water Resource Board
322 East Front Street
Boise, ID 83702-7374
208.287.4800
idwr.idaho.gov/iwrb

IWRB ESPA Managed Aquifer Recharge Program Standards & Procedures

The standards and procedures outlined in this document are intended to be advisory only and do not in themselves carry the force and effect of law. Additionally, this document may not include all procedures or guidance documents that solely affect internal processes. Any questions regarding the implementation of this document should be directed to Managed Aquifer Recharge Program staff using the contact information above.

I. OVERVIEW

The goal of the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Program (Program) is to augment aquifer recharge, enhancing water availability and predictability for users, as outlined in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP). *See* IWRB, Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (2009). The standards and procedures outlined below provide guidance to Program staff and transparency to stakeholders in pursuit of the goal.

II. BACKGROUND

The IWRB has the authority to establish programs that address specific water resource issues deemed to be in the public interest, pursuant to Article XV, section 7 of the Idaho Constitution, and Idaho Code § 42-1734(4). Through the development of the ESPA CAMP, MAR was determined to be a tool to address the declines in the aquifer. The ESPA CAMP was adopted by the IWRB in 2008 and passed into law by the Idaho Legislature in 2009. The goal of the ESPA CAMP is to sustain the economic viability and the social and environmental health of the Eastern Snake River Plain by adaptively managing a balance between water use and supplies. In 2016, the Idaho Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 136, which acknowledged the following points:

- As a result of declines in ESPA water levels and total storage content, there is currently an insufficient water supply for some water users leading to water delivery calls, protracted litigation, and curtailment notices issued by the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR).
- The current ESPA water levels and total storage content are inadequate to provide a reasonably safe supply of water for sustainable surface and ground water irrigation, aquaculture,

hydropower, municipal and industrial uses, the curtailment of which would cause severe economic harm to the State of Idaho.
- Sustaining the spring flows in the Thousand Spring reach of the Snake River is essential to maintaining the Murphy minimum stream flows.
- Stabilizing and enhancing the ESPA water level is in the public interest because it will lead to sustainable water supply for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses and minimize harm to Idaho's economy arising from water supply shortages.

In 2016, the Idaho Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 136. The resolution established a goal that the State develop the capacity to achieve 250,000 acre-feet of average annual managed recharge on or before December 31, 2024, and established a goal of 250,000 acre-feet of average annual recharge across the ESPA for state-funded managed recharge. *Id*. In 2025, the Idaho Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 110, which supported increasing the state-funded ESPA managed recharge goal to 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. *See* S. Con. Res. 110, 68th Leg., 1st Reg. Sess. (Idaho 2025).

This document provides a series of standards and procedures developed for the Program. The standards and procedures are divided into the following categories: Coordination, Site Metrics, Conveyance and Delivery, and Monitoring and Evaluation. Aligned with the adaptive management recommendations defined in the ESPA CAMP, this document will be updated periodically to reflect changing conditions, policy, and overall goals. Any substantive changes to the document will be approved by the IWRB.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

These standards and procedures shall become effective immediately. The Idaho Water Resource Board may modify or revoke these standards and procedures at any time.

The IWRB ESPA Managed Aquifer Recharge Program Standards & Procedures were first approved through Resolution No. 59-2024 adopted on November 22, 2024.

This amended document was approved through Resolution No.64-2026 adopted on November 13, 2026.

I. INTRODUCTION

The IWRB MAR Program has evolved significantly in the ten years since its creation. Based on experience from full-scale operations of the Program, procedural issues have been identified, which this document seeks to clarify. It is intended that this document will be updated periodically based on staff experience, evaluation of Program effectiveness, and changes in policy or goals. All substantive changes will be submitted for approval by the IWRB in accordance with the adaptive management recommendations defined in the ESPA CAMP. Some of the topics formalize standard procedures, while others address more complex programmatic considerations and may require separate memorandums to provide the necessary background and methodologies.

It should be noted that these standards are specifically intended for ESPA MAR completed by or on behalf of the IWRB. Entities conducting MAR privately may not be subject to these standards.

II. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CAMP: Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan
CFS: cubic feet per second
Contractor: Any entity contracted to conduct MAR operations on behalf of the IWRB.
ESPA: Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer
ESPAM: Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model
GWQMP: Ground Water Quality Monitoring Plan
IDEQ: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
IDWR: Idaho Department of Water Resources
In-canal Recharge: MAR conducted utilizing canal systems outside of the irrigation season.
Infiltration Basin: Any natural or constructed basin used to conduct MAR by filling with water and allowing it to seep into the ground.
IWRB: Idaho Water Resource Board
Lower Valley: For the purposes of this document, "Lower Valley" refers to the ESPA downstream (west) of American Falls Reservoir.
MAR: Managed Aquifer Recharge. For this document, Managed Aquifer Recharge is defined as adding 'new' water to the aquifer—water that would not naturally recharge or result from the normal use of a non-recharge MAR water right.
Natural Flow: Surface water diverted for MAR under a ground water recharge water right, water permit, or temporary approval.
Off-canal MAR Sites: Any MAR site that receives water from a canal or separate water delivery system.
Private Recharge: Recharge that is not associated with the IWRB.
Recharge Well: For the purposes of this document, "recharge well" refers to an injection well used as a method of delivery for MAR.
Storage Water: Surface water stored in the Upper Snake River Basin reservoir system under a storage water right or water permit.
UIC Program: Underground Injection Control Program
Upper Valley: For the purposes of this document, "Upper Valley" refers to the ESPA upstream (east) of American Falls Reservoir.
Water Delivery System "System": Connected infrastructure which is used to convey water and for which flow is measured as a sum of its parts. An example of this is a set of multiple canals which all share a common endpoint.

III. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

In addition to the constitutional articles and statutes cited above, further statutes and documents of relevance are identified below, providing the framework for this document. This section is not exhaustive, as other rules and statutory frameworks are provided in specific sections below.

Idaho Code § 42-234 establishes the basis for the use of water to conduct managed recharge. The appropriation of water for purposes of recharge of groundwater basins, in accordance with Idaho law and the Idaho State Water Plan, constitutes a beneficial use of water. I.C. § 42-234(1)–(2). To ensure managed recharge projects do not injure existing water rights, Idaho Code § 42-234(4) grants the IDWR Director "the authority to approve, disapprove, or require alterations in the methods employed to achieve ground water recharge." Proposals for managed recharge projects involving the diversion of natural flow water appropriated in accordance with Idaho Code § 42-234, in excess of ten thousand (10,000) acre-

feet on an average annual basis, must be submitted to the IWRB for approval prior to construction commencement. I.C. § 42-1737(a).

The Idaho State Water Plan (Plan) states that "[m]anaged recharge may also be used as an adaptive mechanism for minimizing the impacts of variability in climate conditions." IWRB, Idaho State Water Plan § 1I, at 15 (2012). The Plan recognizes that managed recharge is one of the implementation strategies to ensure the sustainability of Idaho's water resources. *Id*. Recharging aquifers as a water supply alternative has significant potential to address water supply needs as well as conjunctive management issues. "The [IWRB] supports and assists in the development of managed recharge projects that further water conservation and increase water supplies available for beneficial use." *Id*. Specific to the ESPA, successful adaptive management strategies "will accomplish two goals: 1) ensure an adequate and sustainable water supply for existing and future uses, and 2) reduce conflicts between ground and surface water users." *Id*. § 4D, at 54. The Plan recognizes that recharge program effectiveness monitoring and evaluation results are key components to selecting and designing managed recharge strategies and projects. *See id*. § 4E, at 55.

Managed aquifer recharge is considered distinct from incidental ground water recharge. The legislature recognizes that incidental ground water recharge benefits are often obtained from the diversion and use of water for various beneficial purposes. However, such "incidental recharge may not be used as the basis for claim of a separate or expanded water right." I.C. § 42-234(5). To meet the goals established for the ESPA through the legislature and ESPA CAMP, the IWRB does not consider incidental ground water recharge as managed aquifer recharge.

IV. PROGRAM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

The IWRB recharge season is defined as August 1 through July 31. This period was determined based on when natural flow was historically available for MAR. Water used for MAR in the State of Idaho must have a beneficial use designated as Ground Water Recharge. Typically, there are two sources of water available to the ESPA MAR Program, natural flow and storage water.

Natural flow water can be diverted for MAR under an Idaho water permit or license with a beneficial use of Ground Water Recharge or a temporary approval of water use designated for recharge. *See* I.C. § 42-103, -104, 42-202A(4a). The oldest priority date for a IWRB recharge water right is 1980. The IWRB's recharge water rights are generally in priority outside of the irrigation season or when there are flood control releases from the reservoir systems. The recharge water rights are administered by the appropriate water district in accordance with the priority date on the permit or license. A temporary approval of water use cannot cause injury to existing water rights; one can only be used when all other water rights are met. Therefore, temporary approvals are only available to the IWRB MAR Program when there are flood control releases.

The IWRB will conduct MAR for other entities using storage water. The storage water must be transferred to the IWRB through the appropriate water district procedures. Storage water is generally available during the irrigation season, but must be used by November 30th of the year the transfer takes place.

The IWRB utilizes infiltration basins and recharge wells ("off-canal" recharge sites) and canal conveyance losses for MAR. The Program generally contracts with entities such as canal companies or

irrigation districts that own diversion infrastructure on the Snake River and its tributaries to accomplish MAR. Except for specific sites, the IWRB does not own the infrastructure or dedicated recharge sites, and the IWRB is not accountable for contractor operations. Specific MAR site types may have statutory requirements such as those established by the IDWR UIC Program for recharge wells or by IDEQ for infiltration basins. This document establishes standards for the MAR Program outside of any additional statutory requirements.

New recharge projects are reviewed by IWRB staff and presented to the IWRB at public meetings. Projects are first presented to the IWRB's Aquifer Stabilization Committee during a public committee meeting. IWRB Committee members and the public become familiar with proposed projects and have an opportunity to provide comments at these meetings. If the Aquifer Stabilization Committee supports a project, it will be presented for consideration during a public IWRB meeting. IWRB meetings include an additional opportunity for input from IWRB members and the public. All meeting materials for both Committee and full IWRB meetings are posted on the IWRB webpage before the meeting and remain available on the IWRB webpage after the meeting. Any meeting documents not listed on the IWRB webpage are available at the State Archives for public research. The URL for the IWRB webpage is included at the end of this document.

V. COORDINATION STANDARDS & PROCEDURES

The IWRB relies on its contracted partners to perform managed aquifer recharge, requiring a high level of coordination between partners, the IWRB, and other governing agencies. The following standards serve to clarify the responsibilities of a contractor regarding communication and compliance with these entities. It cannot be guaranteed that the standards listed here are a comprehensive list of all legal requirements; it is ultimately the responsibility of the contractor to ensure compliance with all governing bodies.

1. COORDINATION WITH IWRB
    a. Any entity providing recharge services for the MAR Program must have a valid water conveyance contract with the IWRB, signed by a representative of both parties, prior to commencing recharge operations.
    b. The Contractor shall not divert recharge water until the IWRB has issued a notice to proceed specifically designating the date that the Contractor may begin diverting water for recharge, the contractual dollar limit per recharge season, and other key conditions related to IWRB recharge. The rate and/or volume of water the Contractor is authorized to divert for recharge may be modified by the IWRB to achieve the geographic distribution of recharge consistent with the ESPA CAMP.
    c. The Contractor may reduce or cease delivery of the IWRB's water at its discretion to provide for the needs of its shareholders. The Contractor shall notify the IWRB within 24 hours of ceasing delivery of the IWRB's water.

2. COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES
    a. All procedures, rules, regulations, laws, or other requirements of local, state, and federal agencies must be complied with.
    b. Recharge infiltration basins developed or modified after January 1, 1985, must have and comply with an approved IDEQ ground water quality monitoring plan. *See* IDAPA

58.01.16.600; IDEQ, Guidance for Developing a Ground Water Quality Monitoring Program for Managed Recharge Projects by Land Application § 1, at 1 (2017).

c. All recharge wells utilized for the MAR Program must have and comply with a permit issued by the UIC Program and comply with all other UIC Program requirements. *See* IDAPA 37.03.03. IDWR is responsible for the operation of the UIC Program.
d. Off-canal recharge sites located on Federal or State land must have an easement from the appropriate entity and a noxious weed abatement program in place, which is the sole responsibility of the Contractor.

VI. SITE METRICS STANDARDS & PROCEDURES

These standards provide minimum metrics that must be met for sites conducting IWRB MAR. Recharge sites, including but not limited to infiltration basins and recharge wells, that were utilized or funded prior to the adoption of this document could be exempt from these standards. Exemptions for existing recharge sites will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

1. WATER LEVELS
   a. The pre-recharge ground water table should be a minimum of 30 feet below ground surface, as measured in the closest accessible well. This limit is recommended to protect subterranean infrastructure (e.g., basements, septic systems) and to ensure recharge water does not cause issues with flooding or sub-irrigating farmland, or with returning as surface water, providing minimal benefit to the aquifer.
   b. It is recommended that recharge operations cease when the ground water table elevation rises to 15 feet or less below ground surface during MAR operations, as measured in the closest accessible well.
   c. If a recharge well is used to conduct MAR and the well is designed not to impact the uppermost aquifer, 1.a and 1.b may not apply and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
   d. If standing water is present in an infiltration basin prior to a recharge operation, the basin will not be used to conduct IDWR MAR. It is assumed that such a site does not offer the opportunity to increase recharge to, or storage in, the aquifer and therefore will not be used.

2. MINIMUM INFILTRATION VOLUME / DIVERSION RATE
   a. A canal system used for IWRB MAR must have at least an average diversion rate of 20 cfs. This minimum is designed to ensure MAR is occurring at a sufficient rate to impact the aquifer and to reduce administrative oversight and operational costs. Other standards or procedures might necessitate a higher rate than defined here.
   b. An individual “off-canal” recharge site must be capable of infiltrating at least 10 cfs per day or 600 acre-feet per month. This minimum is designed to ensure MAR is occurring at a sufficient rate or volume to impact the aquifer and to reduce administrative oversight and operational costs. Other standards or procedures might necessitate a higher rate or volume than defined here.

3. MAR LOCATION REQUIREMENTS
   a. IWRB MAR locations must retain at least 15% of five-year volumetric recharge in the aquifer and/or have a 50% volumetric travel time exceeding four months to any reach of the Snake River or its tributaries. In this document, 50% volumetric travel time refers to the time required for 50% of the recharged volume to discharge to any modeled reaches of the Snake

River. A primary goal of the Program, as defined in the ESPA CAMP, is to increase predictability for water users by managing for a reliable supply. Any site with a five-year retention of less than 15% or 50% volumetric travel time of less than four months does not aid the Program in achieving that goal. Rapid returns to the Snake River result in minimal impact to the aquifer or the capture of water that would otherwise flow past the Upper Snake River Basin reservoir system.

i. The retention time and the travel time shall be determined by the most current, published version of the ESPAM model as determined by IDWR.
ii. The calculation methods used to determine these values are further defined in a supporting document included in Appendix A.
iii. Recharge basins and recharge wells that were utilized or funded prior to the adoption of this document or for which the minimum requirements were determined by a previous version of ESPAM may be exempt from this requirement. Exemptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

b. The primary purpose of recharge sites is MAR when IWRB recharge water is available. Pastures will not be considered for IWRB MAR. Irrigated fields will only be considered for IWRB MAR if there is no evapotranspiration from vegetation during recharge activities.

VII. CONVEYANCE AND DELIVERY STANDARDS & PROCEDURES

A goal of the MAR Program is to add additional, "new," water to the aquifer beyond what is provided by incidental recharge. The Program also aims to maximize geographical distribution, allowing for the greatest hydrologic benefits to the aquifer and the Snake River. However, the availability of IWRB recharge water changes from year to year. These standards intend to maximize Program goals while working with an unpredictable supply.

1. CONVEYANCE SYSTEMS

a. Entities contracted to deliver IWRB water for MAR are responsible for all operations, maintenance, management, and liability insurance for all aspects of the system(s) used to conduct MAR.
b. IWRB participation in significant maintenance or replacement expenses related to recharge facilities and systems will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
c. Canals being used to transport water for irrigation cannot simultaneously be used for IWRB MAR. Canals can be used to transport water to a designated recharge site when delivering irrigation water, however, water lost in the canal cannot be counted as IWRB recharge.
d. IWRB in-canal recharge shall not occur during the system's Average Irrigation Season. A canal system's Average Irrigation Season is defined by its average first and last irrigation diversion dates, referred to as the Average Start Date of Irrigation Diversion and the Average Last Date of Irrigation Diversion. The methodology for calculating the Average Start Date and the Average Last Date of Diversion are included in Appendix B.
e. Canals may still be used for recharge outside their Average Irrigation Season when transporting water for non-irrigation uses. In some cases, canal systems operate outside their Average Irrigation Season to deliver water for non-irrigation beneficial uses (e.g., stockwater). Diversions for these other uses are commonly less than they are for irrigation. A 'base flow' will be established to account for the water typically diverted water for the other beneficial uses. The volume of water considered MAR will be determined by subtracting the

base flow and any spill out of the system from the total volume diverted from the source. The methodology for calculating the base flow is included in Appendix C.

f. Use of natural stream channels can only be used for IWRB MAR after consultation and approval by Program staff. If any flow is occurring in the stream channel, not attributed to the beneficial use of ground water recharge, the channel shall not be used for IWRB MAR.

2. CONVEYANCE FEES

a. Payment for conveyance of the IWRB's recharge right or other waters specifically identified for managed recharge purposes will be based on the reported flow and volume measurements submitted by the Contractor, and any adjustments based on measurements obtained by water district or IWRB staff.
b. Conveyance fees will be evaluated every five years in line with the recharge season.
c. Conveyance fees for conducting IWRB recharge will be established through an IWRB resolution at an IWRB board meeting. The current resolution can be found in Appendix D.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF IWRB RECHARGE WATER

a. To the extent possible, the IWRB shall manage the geographical distribution of recharge in accordance with the ESPA CAMP goals, which may include prioritizing areas with greater retention rates and diversifying the location of IWRB MAR.
b. Distribution of available IWRB MAR water will be evaluated separately for the Upper Valley and the Lower Valley.
c. Any water transferred to the IWRB will be recharged at locations determined by the IWRB.
d. The IWRB shall not recharge storage water in a location that will reduce the rate of natural flow water available.

VIII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION STANDARDS & PROCEDURES

Comprehensive monitoring of IWRB recharge water quantity and quality is necessary to ensure compliance and to collect accurate data essential for assessing the impact of IWRB MAR on the aquifer. These standards outline the monitoring requirements for sites conducting IWRB MAR.

1. MONITORING OF IWRB RECHARGE WATER QUANTITY

a. Entities contracted to deliver IWRB water for MAR shall establish a water quantity monitoring plan and have the plan approved by the IWRB MAR Program before diverting water for recharge. The plan must include, but is not limited to, measurement of flow at the diversion(s) into the system, return flow out of the system, and measurement into any off-canal recharge sites.
b. The Contractor or designee shall measure daily flow rates of water delivered to the Contractor's canal system, individual recharge sites, and any spilled water. Daily recharge flow rates shall be reported to a representative of the Program on a regular basis, but no less than once weekly during recharge operations.
c. Measurement of IWRB recharge water, including but not limited to the devices and methods used, must minimally meet IDWR Water Measurement Guidelines and Minimum Acceptable Standards and Requirements for Open Channel and Closed Conduit Measuring Devices. *See* IDWR, Water Measurement Guidelines (vers. 7.c June 2009); IDWR, Minimum Acceptable Standards and Requirements for Open Channel and Closed Conduit Measuring Devices (Mar. 2023).

d. A conversion factor of 1.9835 acre-feet per day (af/d) per cubic feet per second (cfs) shall be used when computing accomplished recharge. Miner's inches shall be defined as 50 inches equal to 1.0 cfs.
e. In the event a recharge report is delinquent for one week, the IWRB reserves the right to reallocate the Contractor's flow allocation as stipulated in its notice to proceed. In the event a recharge report is delinquent for two consecutive weeks, the IWRB reserves the right to deduct 10% from the total conveyance payment.
f. The appropriate water district shall make the final determination concerning the quantity of water diverted for recharge.

2. MONITORING OF IWRB RECHARGE WATER QUALITY

a. Recharge infiltration basins developed or modified after January 1, 1985, must have and comply with an approved IDEQ ground water quality monitoring plan. *See* IDAPA 58.01.16.600; IDEQ, Guidance for Developing a Ground Water Quality Monitoring Program for Managed Recharge Projects by Land Application § 1, at 1 (2017).
b. Annual water quality summary reports for IWRB recharge will be compiled and submitted to IDEQ and the MAR Program.
c. Recharge well sites must comply with all UIC permit conditions and UIC Program requirements, including water quality sampling and reporting. All required water quality reporting shall be submitted to both the UIC Program and the MAR Program.
d. Water quality monitoring associated with the IWRB MAR Program, including sampling and reporting, required for compliance with an approved GWQMP or UIC permit, will be funded or conducted by the IWRB MAR Program.
e. If IWRB recharge occurs concurrently with private recharge, the Program will organize and pay a proportionate share of monitoring costs associated with a monitoring plan.
f. Any costs not associated with IWRB MAR as outlined above shall be the sole responsibility of the Contractor.

3. EVALUATION

a. The IWRB, or designated representatives, reserve the right to inspect and verify all aspects of monitoring plans, diversion structures, off-canal recharge sites or review the work for compliance within the conveyance contract's scope of work during the terms of the contract.
b. Inspections shall allow the IWRB representatives to:
    - Ensure all monitoring plan requirements are being met.
    - Verify the measurement devices and methodologies are sufficient.
    - Ensure the system used for MAR is acceptable under the Program's site metrics criteria.
    - Ensure the system used to conduct IWRB MAR is in accordance with all IWRB standards and procedures.

For more information on the Departments and Programs mentioned above, please visit their websites:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	https://www.deq.idaho.gov/
Idaho Department of Water Resources	https://idwr.idaho.gov/
Idaho Water Resource Board	https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrb/

Underground Injection Control Program https://idwr.idaho.gov/wells/injection-wells/

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

Methodology for Determination of Volumetric Retention and 50% Travel Time

Background

A primary goal of the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Program (Program) as defined in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) is to increase predictability for water users by managing for a reliable supply. In 2016, the Idaho Legislature passed Idaho Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 136 (S. Res. 136, 2016). The resolution recognized that stabilizing and enhancing the ESPA water level is in the public interest because it will lead to sustainable water supply for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses and minimize harm to Idaho's economy arising from water supply shortages. The resolution set a goal for the state to develop the capacity for 250,000 acre-feet of average annual managed recharge by December 31, 2024 and to achieve 250,000 acre-feet of average annual recharge across the ESPA through state-funded managed recharge. In 2025, the Idaho Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 110 which supported increasing the state-funded ESPA managed recharge goal to 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis (S. Res. 110, 2025). However, rapid returns of recharged water to the Snake River result in minimal impact to the aquifer or the capture of water that would otherwise flow past the ESPA reservoir system. The Program therefore requires that IWRB MAR locations must have a minimum of a 15% 5-year volumetric retention in the aquifer and/or a 50% volumetric travel time to a reach of the Snake River or one of its tributaries that is greater than four months.

Overview of Procedure

This document outlines the methodology IWRB MAR Program staff follow to determine the 5-year volumetric retention and 50% travel time for recharge sites. Individual sites may have unique factors that require alterations or additions to this methodology. This methodology shall not inhibit IWRB MAR Program staff from performing additional site evaluations.

5-Year Volumetric Retention

The procedures to determine site retention utilize a 5-year volumetric retention map which illustrates the percentage (expressed as a decimal) of water retained in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer five years after a one-month recharge event, based on the recharge location.

The retention map data were generated by running the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model version 2.2 (ESPAM2.2) in superposition mode for each active model cell. In this mode, external stresses on the aquifer, such as precipitation and irrigation, are excluded, and the model results focus solely on the impacts of the recharge event.

Recharge in each cell was simulated as a one-month event, followed by five years without additional recharge. The percentage of recharge retained in the aquifer was calculated by dividing the volume of water remaining in storage five years after the event by the volume of recharge that occurred during the initial one month of recharge.

50% Travel Time to the Snake River

The procedure to determine the 50% travel time to the Snake River uses the ESPA Model Transfer Spreadsheet (ETRAN) to evaluate returns to the Snake River. For the purposes of this document, a 50% volumetric travel time is defined as the time it takes for 50% of the water recharged to return to any modeled reaches of the Snake River. The ETRAN transfer tool is

normally used to evaluate water right transfers by modeling effects on the Snake River of pumping water from the aquifer. This procedure instead models the addition of water to the aquifer to determine MAR's effects on the Snake River. This specific analysis is only used to determine percentage of returns of recharge water to the surface water system. This methodology is not intended to be used to evaluate or quantify specific reach impacts or impacts over short time intervals (anything less than trimesters).

Procedure to Determine 5-Year Volumetric Retention

Retention for off-canal recharge sites must be calculated slightly differently than it is for in-canal recharge, however both methods use a 5-year volumetric retention map as their basis.

Off-Canal Recharge Sites – Individual Grid Cell

For off-canal recharge sites (e.g. infiltration basins and recharge wells), a single cell within the 5-year retention map is used. If a site overlaps multiple cells, the 5-year volumetric retention for the site should be taken from the map cell which the greatest portion of the site falls within.

In-Canal Recharge – Length Averaged Linear Retention

For in-canal recharge, the main canal of a system is evaluated, which most often spans several retention cells. Therefore, retention for in-canal recharge is calculated as a weighted average relative to the length of the canal within each of the overlapped retention cells. The steps for utilizing this method are as follows.

1. Create a shapefile which represents the main canal and intersect this with the ESPAM-based retention layer. This results in a table which includes the length of the canal within each retention grid cell.
2. Take the canal length within each grid cell divided by the total canal length to determine the proportion of the main canal in each grid cell.
3. Multiply each of these proportions by the retention value of the respective grid cell.
4. Add all of these products (the proportion times the retention value). This is the weighted average retention for the canal system, which is considered the retention for systems spanning multiple retention grid cells. If this value is equal to or greater than 15%, the criteria is met.

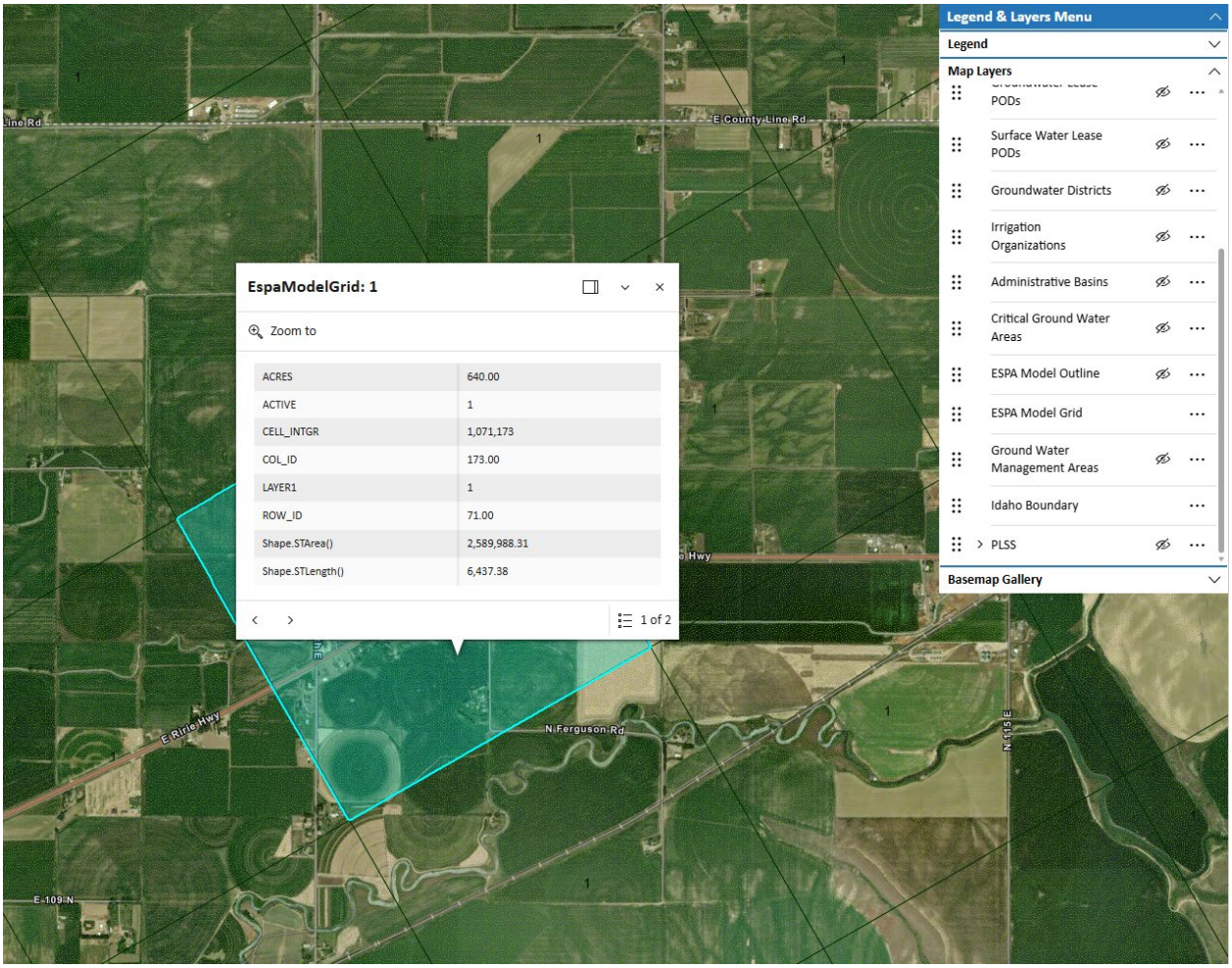
Image 1. Average linear retention steps 2–4.

Retention	Section Length	Proportion	Weighted Retention			
Retention	Section Length	Section Length / Total Length	Retention*Proportion			
0.2303	1654.346727	0.035848784	0.008255975			Copied from Attribute Table
0.221	2446.563811	0.053015693	0.011716468			
0.2122	2700.038131	0.058508342	0.01241547			
0.2038	2502.586415	0.054229672	0.011052007			
0.1956	2325.881176	0.050400566	0.009858351			
0.1872	2662.872462	0.057702982	0.010801998			
0.1782	2595.050798	0.056233324	0.010020778			
0.1527	2226.758125	0.048252624	0.007368176			
0.1175	2184.738953	0.047342092	0.005562696			
0.1682	2306.571802	0.049982143	0.008406996			
0.1372	2888.338025	0.062588697	0.008587169			
0.1029	2309.929445	0.050054901	0.005150649			
0.156	861.950103	0.018677985	0.002913766			
0.1221	336.083282	0.00728274	0.000889223			
0.0883	2193.743204	0.047537209	0.004197536			
0.0001	1231.545313	0.02668691	2.66869E-06			
0.054	355.677764	0.007707342	0.000416196			
0.0002	2560.491154	0.055484436	1.10969E-05			
0.0719	2178.761033	0.047212554	0.003394583			
0.0321	3026.432889	0.065581137	0.002105154			
0.0897	49.862605	0.001080495	9.69204E-05			
0	1529.705566	0.033147879	0			
0.0527	2444.661866	0.052974479	0.002791755			
0.0001	381.556232	0.008268114	8.26811E-07			
0.0696	193.770637	0.004198903	0.000292244			
Total Canal Length:	46147.91752	Total Retention:	0.126308703			

Procedure to Determine 50% Travel Time to the Snake River

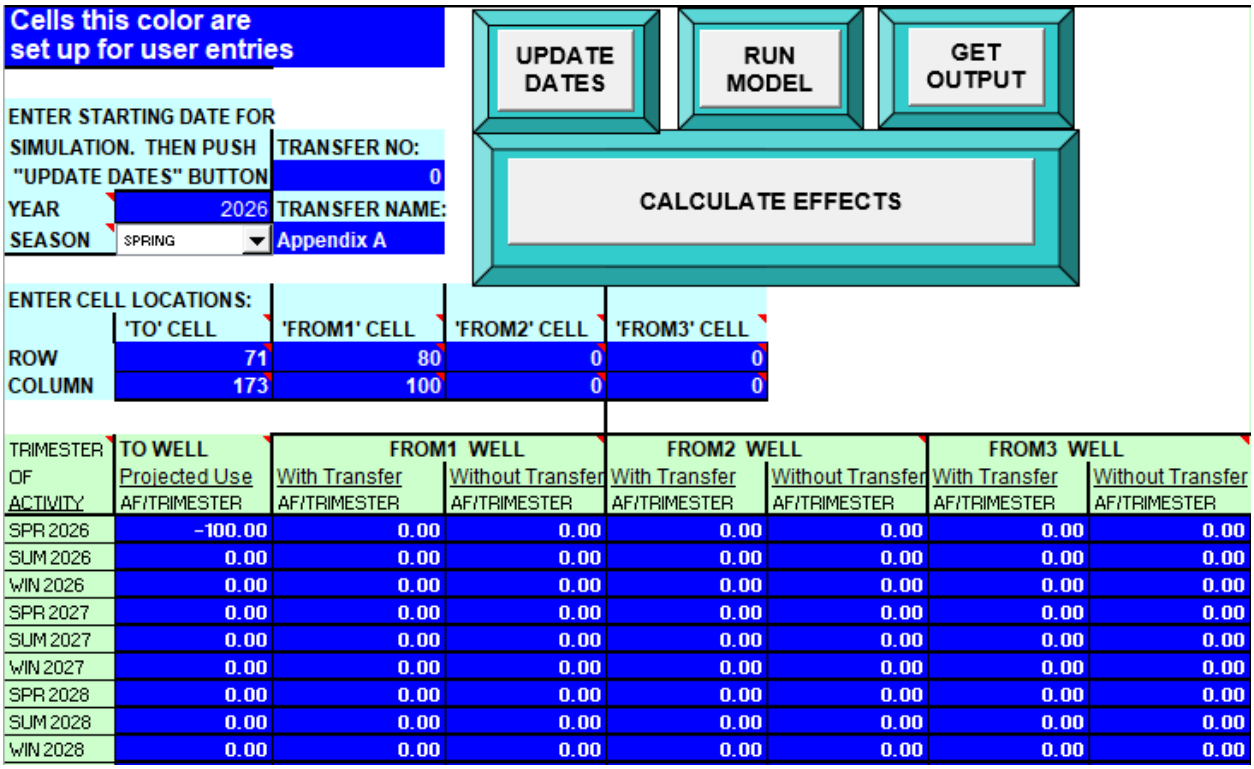
1. Download or open the current version of the ESPA Model Transfer Spreadsheet (ETRAN). This can be procured from the IDWR website at: https://idwr.idaho.gov/water-rights/transfers/resources/
   Alternatively, search for "ETRAN" on the IDWR home page.
2. Navigate to https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/93e4010e00fb46d6a0660f326ef61073/page/Water-Supply-Bank .
3. Use the Search Tool at the top of the screen or zoom in to the recharge site location on the map.
4. Click on the model grid cell which contains the recharge location. A pop-up will appear showing a Row ID and a Column ID. See Image 2 below.

Image 2. Water Right Locator Map used to find the “TO CELL” row and column ID’s as outlined in Steps 2-4.



5. In the most current version of ETRAN, in the “DataEntry” sheet, enter the row and column values from Step 4 in the “TO CELL” row and column cells. See Image 3 below for an example of Steps 5-8.
6. For the “’FROM1’ CELL”; enter any number between 1 and 104 for the row value and any number between 1 and 209 for the column value. These are arbitrary numbers that do not affect the results of the analysis, but these cells must be populated to run the model. A row value of 80 and column value of 100 were used in the example below.
7. In the “YEAR” cell, type in the current year and update the “SEASON” dropdown to the current season. Click “UPDATE DATES”.
8. Additionally, enter an estimated volume of recharge for the site in acre-feet into the first cell in the “TO WELL” column, or simply enter “-100”. The amount entered will not affect the result of the analysis, but these cells must be populated to run the model. The value should be entered as a negative because recharge is adding water to the aquifer while the transfer tool models water pumped from the aquifer.

Image 3. Example of ETRAN spreadsheet data entry.



Cells this color are set up for user entries

UPDATE DATES | RUN MODEL | GET OUTPUT | CALCULATE EFFECTS

ENTER STARTING DATE FOR SIMULATION. THEN PUSH "UPDATE DATES" BUTTON

YEAR: 2026 | SEASON: SPRING | TRANSFER NO: 0 | TRANSFER NAME: Appendix A

ENTER CELL LOCATIONS:

	'TO' CELL	'FROM1' CELL	'FROM2' CELL	'FROM3' CELL
ROW	71	80	0	0
COLUMN	173	100	0	0

TRIMESTER OF ACTIVITY	TO WELL	FROM1 WELL		FROM2 WELL		FROM3 WELL	
	Projected Use AF/TRIMESTER	With Transfer AF/TRIMESTER	Without Transfer AF/TRIMESTER	With Transfer AF/TRIMESTER	Without Transfer AF/TRIMESTER	With Transfer AF/TRIMESTER	Without Transfer AF/TRIMESTER
SPR 2026	-100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUM 2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WIN 2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SPR 2027	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUM 2027	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WIN 2027	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SPR 2028	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUM 2028	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WIN 2028	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

9. Click “RUN MODEL”, then “GET OUTPUT”, and finally “CALCULATE EFFECTS”. Once the model has finished running, the spreadsheet will auto-direct to the “Graphs Above Milner” tab. Click instead on the “Calculated Effects” tab.
10. Select the data from columns A-L, Total Effect with Transfer. See Image 4 below. Copy this data to a new, blank Excel workbook.

Image 4. Calculated Effects tab in ETRAN spreadsheet with data described in Step 10 highlighted.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1												
2												
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4		TOTAL EFFECT WITH TRANSFER (AF/four months)										
5		Ashton to	Heise to	Shelley to	Nr Blckft to	Neeley to	Dev. Wbl.	Buhl to	Kspr	Kspr to	Malad	Malad to
6		Rexburg	Shelley	Nr Blckft	Neeley	Minidoka	Buhl	Kspr		Malad		Bancroft
7	SPR 2026	0.0	-16.8	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
8	SUM 2026	0.0	-14.7	-1.5	-0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
9	WIN 2026	0.0	-9.5	-1.8	-0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10	SPR 2027	0.0	-5.8	-1.7	-0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
11	SUM 2027	0.0	-3.6	-1.6	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
12	WIN 2027	-0.1	-2.3	-1.4	-1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
13	SPR 2028	-0.1	-1.5	-1.2	-1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
14	SUM 2028	-0.1	-1.1	-1.0	-1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	WIN 2028	-0.1	-0.8	-0.8	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
16	SPR 2029	-0.1	-0.6	-0.7	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
17	SUM 2029	-0.1	-0.4	-0.6	-0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
18	WIN 2029	-0.1	-0.4	-0.5	-0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19	SPR 2030	-0.1	-0.3	-0.4	-0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20	SUM 2030	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	-0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
21	WIN 2030	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
22	SPR 2031	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
23	SUM 2031	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
24	WIN 2031	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

11. Take the sum of all the first trimester values in the first row of data across all reaches (columns). If the sum of these values is less than 50% of the estimated total recharge volume entered into the "TO WELL" cell in Step 8, then the minimum criteria is met. See Image 5 below.

Image 5. Excel analysis of ETRAN results.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1																
2																
3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
4		TOTAL EFFECT WITH TRANSFER (AF/four months)														
5		Ashton to	Heise to	Shelley to	Nr Blckft	Neeley to	Dev. Wbl.	Buhl to	Kspr	Kspr to	Malad	Malad to				
6		Rexburg	Shelley	Nr Blckft	Neeley	Minidoka	Buhl	Kspr		Malad		Bancroft		Total Volume Entered		-100
7	SPR 2026	0.0	-16.8	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		Sum of 1st Trimester		-17.7
8	SUM 2026	0.0	-14.7	-1.5	-0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		% Return		17.7%
9	WIN 2026	0.0	-9.5	-1.8	-0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
10	SPR 2027	0.0	-5.8	-1.7	-0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
11	SUM 2027	0.0	-3.6	-1.6	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
12	WIN 2027	-0.1	-2.3	-1.4	-1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
13	SPR 2028	-0.1	-1.5	-1.2	-1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
14	SUM 2028	-0.1	-1.1	-1.0	-1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
15	WIN 2028	-0.1	-0.8	-0.8	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
16	SPR 2029	-0.1	-0.6	-0.7	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
17	SUM 2029	-0.1	-0.4	-0.6	-0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
18	WIN 2029	-0.1	-0.4	-0.5	-0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
19	SPR 2030	-0.1	-0.3	-0.4	-0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
20	SUM 2030	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	-0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
21	WIN 2030	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
22	SPR 2031	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
23	SUM 2031	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
24	WIN 2031	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				

APPENDIX B

Methodology for Determination of Historical System Operation Dates

Background

Whenever a water delivery system diverts water for any beneficial use, incidental aquifer recharge occurs as a byproduct. Therefore, incidental recharge occurs throughout the entirety of system's typical operation dates. This incidental recharge is recognized as a public benefit (Idaho Code 42-234) but is not considered Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR). MAR is additional, or "new," water added to the aquifer which thereby increases aquifer storage.
To effectively perform MAR, the program utilizes systems outside their historical operation dates, also known as the Average Irrigation Season. This procedure aims to identify the typical annual dates when irrigation delivery operations occur within a system ('system operation dates' or 'Average Irrigation Season'). The goal is to differentiate managed aquifer recharge from historical incidental recharge generated through routine irrigation system operations. Recharge performed outside of the bounds of the calculated system's irrigation operation dates should then be considered new water added to the aquifer. This document provides a standardized, transparent methodology, based on historic practices of a system, that can be applied to all program partners conducting IWRB recharge.

Overview of Procedure

The procedure to determine system operation dates examines median diversion time-periods in each calendar year from 1990 through 2015, inclusive. This time period is recent enough to take into account large-scale conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation, it is after the construction of the reservoirs on the Snake River in the 1960s, but before MAR operations began in earnest in 2017, and it is broad enough to include wet periods (e.g. 1995 - 1999) and dry cycles (e.g. 1990 – 1992, 2001 – 2004). Use of the median value assists in smoothing out anomalous data to determine a long-term representative value.

These calculations provide a base for determining system operation dates. With the realization that a canal's operations could significantly alter over time, the system's operation dates could be altered with sufficient data or by resolution.
The proposed methodology provides a standardized method for determining when IWRB recharge could be conducted above "normal" system operations. Basic assumptions:

- The 26 years proposed for examination are representative of current operations and provide enough data to discern patterns.
- Only official, finalized data from the relevant diversion-reporting entity (e.g. USGS, Water District 1, etc) will be utilized.
- Collaboration with partners/operators and adaptive management will be essential. The goal is to add new water to the aquifer.

Procedure to Determine Historical System Operation Dates

1. Obtain the historical diversion data for the system of interest, typically via authoritative sources (e.g. Water District 01, USGS, etc). In the case of Water District 01, the data is provided as "Flow (CFS)," also known as the "Sum of Flow (cfs)," through the system's headgate (example of the data shown in Image 1).
2. Record the first and last date of diversion into each system's headgate during each calendar year (example shown in Image 2).
    a. Some discretion by the reviewer will be necessary. In Image 2, the system continues to divert a small amount of water from October 29 – 31. This diversion rate is clearly distinct from the primary delivery operations that ended on October 28, and likely represents minimal, unintentional leakage through the headgate.
    b. If a system "pauses" during the normal delivery season, and then resumes a subsequent delivery operation, the date of the end of the final delivery operation would be used. These pauses are generally towards the end of the irrigation season.
    c. If a system participated in MAR operations during the historic time period analyzed those deliveries will be excluded.
3. The historical system operation dates are determined by calculating the median calendar date for the 26 years analyzed (1990-2015) for the first and last dates of diversion (example shown in Image 3).
4. Once the calculations are complete the results will be sent to the recharge partner for their review and feedback before being applied.

The following should also be considered when calculating system operation dates:

1. All diversions that drain to a common end, or otherwise serve the same general area, should be considered as a single system containing multiple points of diversion. The earliest first and latest last dates should be applied across all points of diversion.
    For example: Two separate canals drain to a single endpoint. One canal has historical system operation dates of April 1 through October 31, and the other operates only through the month of July. The system operation dates for both points of diversion would be April 1 through October 31. Both canals could be used to conduct MAR outside of the bounds of those dates.
2. IWRB staff, in consultation with the recharge partner, will have discretion to adaptively manage any unforeseen circumstances not covered by the method described above, with the primary goal of adding new water to the aquifer.

Image 1. Sample of Water District 01 (WD-01) system diversion data.

SiteID	SiteType	Flow (CFS)	Gage Height (Feet)	HSTDate	Irrigation Year
XXXXXXX	D	0	0	5/4/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	0	0	5/5/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	86	1.19	5/6/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	137	1.51	5/7/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	227	1.96	5/8/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	267	2.13	5/9/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	311	2.31	5/10/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	309	2.3	5/11/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	340	2.42	5/12/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	371	2.53	5/13/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	351	2.46	5/14/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	353	2.47	5/15/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	366	2.52	5/16/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	385	2.59	5/17/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	353	2.48	5/18/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	328	2.39	5/19/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	328	2.39	5/20/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	332	2.41	5/21/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	351	2.48	5/22/1991	1991
XXXXXXX	D	392	2.63	5/23/1991	1991

Image 2. Sample of determining end and start dates for “normal” operational deliveries in a given year.

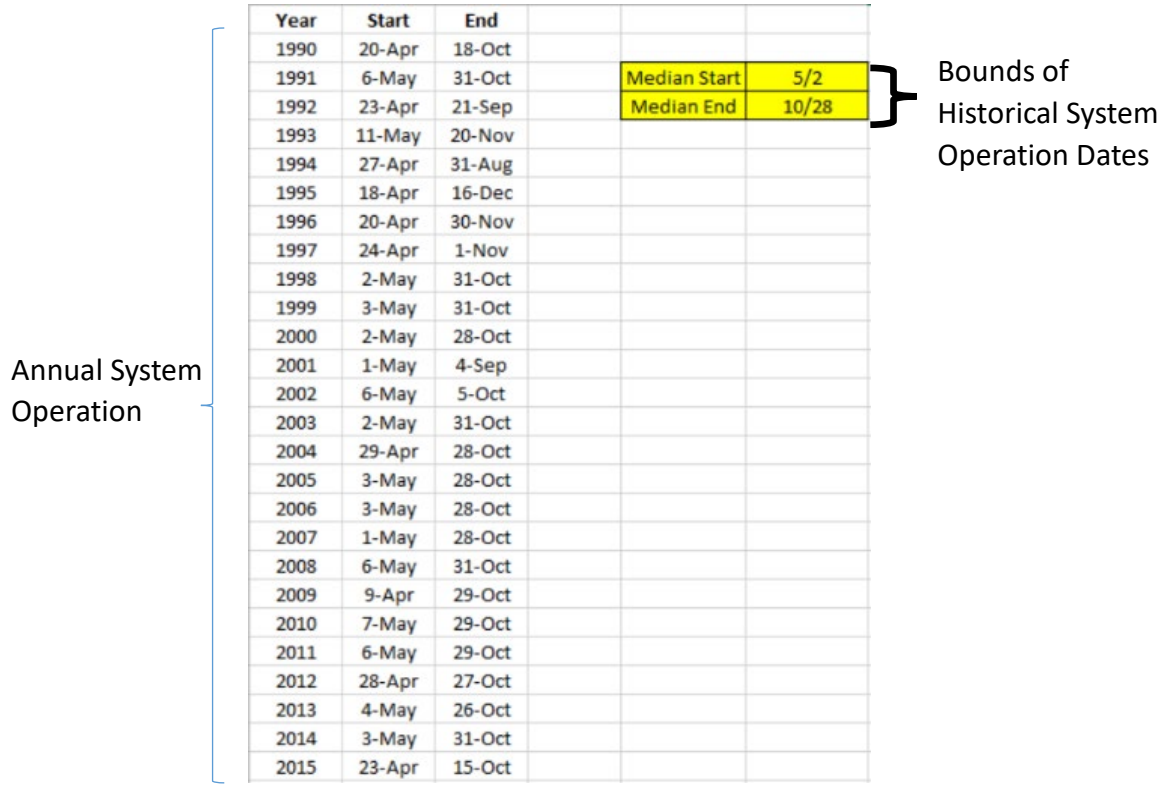
	A	B
1	Date	Sum of Flow (CFS)
71	21-Oct	372
72	22-Oct	372
73	23-Oct	375
74	24-Oct	375
75	25-Oct	375
76	26-Oct	375
77	27-Oct	375
78	28-Oct	180
79	29-Oct	21
80	30-Oct	22
81	31-Oct	22
82	2001	
83	May	
84	1-May	240
85	2-May	443
86	3-May	678
87	4-May	777
88	5-May	801
89	6-May	805
90	7-May	809

End of Irrigation

No readings for diversions in April

Start of Irrigation

Image 3. Sample of determining end and start dates for “normal” operational deliveries for a system.



APPENDIX C

Methodology for Determination of Historical Diversion Rates of Non-irrigation Water

Background

Some water delivery systems have historically operated during the non-irrigation season to support uses such as stock water, subirrigation, and flow maintenance. These routine operations have provided incidental recharge to the aquifer as a byproduct. This incidental recharge is recognized as a public benefit (Idaho Code 42-234) but is not considered Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR). MAR is additional, or "new," water added to the aquifer which thereby augments aquifer storage. This methodology differentiates between managed aquifer recharge and historical incidental recharge resulting from routine non-irrigation operations.

Typically, a significant portion of a system's capacity is used during irrigation operations, and it is common for some water to be returned to the river ("return flows"). However, when systems are used for routine non-irrigation purposes, only a fraction of the system capacity is utilized and commonly there are no return flows. This means that all water diverted during routine non-irrigation operations seeps into the aquifer and, as a byproduct, provides incidental aquifer recharge. Therefore, median diversion rates during the non-irrigation season provide a reasonable measure of historical incidental recharge rates. The lack of return flows also indicates there is additional room in the systems for MAR.

Some systems divert non-irrigation water consistently. Others only divert non-irrigation water during non-drought years under water rights that are senior to the IWRB recharge rights. During these drought years it is unlikely that IWRB recharge operations would occur under the Board's current recharge diversion procedures.

A preliminary review of historical non-irrigation diversion rates shows significant annual variability within most systems, driven by factors such as water availability, weather conditions, canal operations, and demand. To introduce additional water into the aquifer, it is essential to quantify the incidental recharge that has historically occurred.

Overview of Procedure

The procedure to determine historical diversion rates of non-irrigation water examines median monthly diversion rates during the non-irrigation season from calendar years 1990 through 2015. This time period is recent enough to take into account large-scale conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation, it is after the construction of the reservoirs on the Snake River in the 1960s, but before MAR operations began in earnest in 2017, and it is broad enough to include wet periods (e.g. 1995 - 1999) and dry cycles (e.g. 1990 – 1992, 2001 – 2004). Use of the median value assists in smoothing out anomalous data to determine a long-term representative value. These calculations provide a base for determining non-irrigation diversions when water is available for MAR. With the realization that a canal's operations could significantly alter over time, the determination of diversion rates for non-irrigation could be altered with sufficient data or by resolution.

Basic assumptions:

- The 26 years proposed for examination are representative of current operations and provide enough data to discern patterns.
- Only official, finalized data from the relevant diversion-reporting entity (e.g. Water District 1, USGS, etc) will be utilized.
- New water added to the aquifer is any additional water added above the amount provided by historical incidental recharge.
- Only years in which diversions occurred will be used in the determinations. Years in which diversions did not occur would have been too dry for IWRB managed aquifer recharge operations, as explained above.
- Any water recharged in systems above their historical incidental recharge rate will be considered new water added to the aquifer, and therefore to be managed aquifer recharge.
- Any water leaving the system would be deducted from the managed aquifer recharge volume.
- Cooperation with partners/operators and adaptive management will be essential. The goal is to add new water to the aquifer.

Procedure to Determine Historical Incidental Recharge Rates

1. Obtain the historical daily diversion data for the system of interest, typically via Water District 01, USGS, or other authoritative sources. For example, the data is provided by Water District 01 as "Flow (CFS)" or the "Sum of Flow (cfs)" through the system's headgate (example of the data shown in Image 1).
2. Using the daily cfs data from Step 1, calculate the monthly sum, in cfs, through the headgate for each month from irrigation year 1990 to 2015 (Image 2).
    a. Months in which a system participated in a managed recharge operation will be excluded as not indicative of a normal base flow.
    b. Months in which a system did not divert water will be excluded from the calculation as not representative of conditions that IWRB recharge water would normally be available.
3. Calculate the median monthly sum for each month over the evaluation period (1990-2015), taking into account the exclusions noted above.
4. Divide the monthly median values by the number of days in the respective month to determine the historical daily median baseflow (cfs) for each month. This is the Historical Incidental Recharge Rate.

Staff will verify the Historical Incidental Recharge Rate calculations with the recharge partner for their review and feedback before being applied.

For recharge to be counted as part of the IWRB program, the daily amount of water diverted for managed recharge would be subtracted by the Historical Incidental Recharge Rate (for that month) and any return flows for that day.

Other factors to be considered when calculating the historical incidental recharge rate:

1. All diversions that drain to a common end should be considered as a single system containing multiple points of diversion. The baseflow should be applied across all points of diversion.

   For example: Two separate canals drain to a single endpoint, or otherwise serve the same general area. One canal has a Historical Incidental Recharge Rate of 100 cfs whereas the other has 0 cfs. The total Historic Incidental Recharge Rate for both points of diversion would be 100 cfs. Therefore, a combined diversion of 101 cfs from both canals would result in 1 cfs of IWRB recharge, assuming no spill out of the system.
2. Both irrigation and non-irrigation operations may occur during "shoulder months" at the beginning and end of the irrigation season (e.g. April and October). The Historical Operation Dates will be calculated as detailed in the Determination of Historical System Operation Dates procedure. For the remainder of the shoulder month, the baseflow from the previous month will be utilized prior the start date, and the following month's baseflow will be utilized after the season's end date.

   For example: A system's historical incidental recharge rate for November is 20 cfs, as calculated under this document's procedures. The system's switch from irrigation to non-irrigation operations occurs on October 20, as calculated under the Determination of Historical System Operation Dates memo's procedures. A historical incidental recharge rate of 20 cfs would be applied from October 21 through November 30.
3. IWRB staff, in consultation with the recharge partner, will have discretion to adaptively manage any unforeseen circumstances not covered by the method described above, with the primary goal of adding new water to the aquifer.

Image 1. Sample of Water District 01 (WD-01) system diversion data.

SiteID	SiteType	Flow (CFS)	Gage Height (Feet)	HSTDate	Irrigation Year
XXXXXXXX	D	0	0	3/1/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	10.54	0.24	3/2/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	8.79	0.21	3/3/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	24.27	0.43	3/4/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	41.03	0.61	3/5/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	62.2	0.8	3/6/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	73.39	0.89	3/7/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	74.68	0.9	3/8/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	81.24	0.95	3/9/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	93.6	1.04	3/10/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	93.6	1.04	3/11/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	111.1	1.16	3/12/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	123.41	1.24	3/13/2010	2010
XXXXXXXX	D	123.41	1.24	3/14/2010	2010

Image 2. Sample of determining a system's "normal" diversion rate during non-irrigation operations.

Calendar Year	Monthly Sum cfs
⊞1996	70165.27
⊟1997	
Jan	292
Feb	1298
Mar	2047
Apr	5697
May	8911
Jun	8780
Jul	12041
Aug	8984
Sep	6530
Oct	4859
Nov	2625
Dec	1782
⊞1998	59826
⊞1999	62558.9
⊞2000	67422.2
⊞2001	59170.6
⊞2002	52643
⊞2003	64901.37
⊞2004	56106
⊞2005	54704
⊞2006	52788.45

Months of Interest in Each Year

Image 3. Sample of determining end and start dates for "normal" operational deliveries for a system.

Step 3

Step 4

	Sum of Total cfs Through Headgate Per Month				
Irrigation Year	November	December	January	Februrary	March
2005					
2006					63
2007	170.55				1718
2008					86.1
2009	4465.64	1450.19	3.1	2.8	1466
2010	1544.24				3472
2011	2537.38	84			1353
2012	1520.28	275.76	167	159	2415
2013					519.2
2014	220.11				1943
2015	395			898.75	3241
Monthly Median Sum of cfs	1381	1450.19	1612	1410	2048
Historical Incidental Recharge Rate (cfs)	46.03	46.78	52.00	49.91	66.07

Any rate above that in the green row would be considered new water added to the aquifer.

APPENDIX D

IWRB Resolutions Approving Managed Aquifer Recharge Program Payment Schedule

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING A RECHARGE CONVEYANCE PAYMENT STRUCTURE AND DISTRIBUTION PLAN FOR IWRB ESPA RECHARGE PROGRAM	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ESPA MANAGED RECHARGE PROGRAM STANDARDS AND PROCESSES

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

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

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

WHEREAS, House Bill 547 passed and approved by the 2014 legislature allocates $5 million annually from the Cigarette Tax to the IWRB for statewide aquifer stabilization; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1402 passed and approved by the 2016 Legislature allocated $5 million in ongoing General Fund dollars to the IWRB's Secondary Aquifer Fund for statewide water sustainability and aquifer stabilization; and

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

WHEREAS, the IWRB intends to provide financial incentives to maximize the recharge of water available to it. This will allow for a consistent pay schedule throughout the ESPA and reduce variability in annual payments, assisting the IWRB and their recharge partners in budgeting for variability in the volume of managed recharge that can be conducted in a given year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts a $7.50 per acre-foot of recharge conveyance fee for recharge conducted as part of the IWRB ESPA Managed Recharge Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB will offer conveyance and operational contracts of up to 5-year terms, and the designated rate will apply for the term of the conveyance and operational contract; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB will work with the individual partners of the IWRB ESPA Recharge Program to determine a Maximum Yearly Conveyance (MYC) fee payment which can be adjusted at any time during the 5-year contract. Conveyance fees on any given year will not

exceed the MYC. Earned conveyance fees above the maximum yearly fee will be paid out in subsequent years, however, the payment will not exceed the MYC on any given year; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB's ESPA managed recharge program will be coupled with a continuous monitoring program to verify the effects of managed recharge, and if necessary, modify the recharge program based on evaluation of the effects; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB provides authority to the Chairman of the Idaho Water Resource Board, or his designee, to execute the necessary agreements or contracts for the IWRB ESPA Managed Recharge Program on behalf of the IWRB.

DATED this 25th day of July 2025.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGIONAL WATER SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITY LIST	RESOLUTION TO ADOPT UPDATED CRITERIA

WHEREAS, in July 2021 the IWRB adopted an initial Regional Water Sustainability (RWS) Priority List to help guide the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB's) spending for large, regional water sustainability projects from state general funds, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, or other applicable sources; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2022, the IWRB adopted Resolution No. 02-2022 establishing a qualifying criteria requiring that a project "help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide basis" to be included on the RWS Priority List; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB last updated the criteria for the RWS Priority List through Resolution No. 22-2026 on May 21, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2026, the IWRB Finance Committee recommended newly updated criteria for inclusion of projects on the RWS Priority List for consideration by the full Board.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for inclusion on the RWS Priority List.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-substantive changes made to the adopted criteria by IWRB staff will be considered approved by the IWRB unless specifically disapproved at the first regular IWRB meeting following the proposed changes.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List Criteria

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) maintains the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List (RWS Priority List) to identify and promote projects that have the potential to improve long-term water sustainability across Idaho. As stated in the Idaho State Water Plan, sustainability requires the active stewardship of Idaho's water resources to satisfy current uses while ensuring water availability for future generations. Surface and groundwater systems are not limitless, and many regions of the state are experiencing increased pressure due to declining water levels, growing demand, aging infrastructure, and changing hydrologic conditions.

To support effective statewide water management, the IWRB uses the RWS Priority List as a planning tool to highlight regional scale (basin-wide, multi-entity, and statewide) projects—both studies and capital improvements—that address significant water resource challenges. These projects may contribute to stabilizing aquifer levels, modernizing critical infrastructure, improving drought resilience, resolving anticipated water supply conflicts, and protecting existing water rights and beneficial uses identified in Idaho Code. The IWRB may group related efforts into a single program or establish programs to support coordinated regional implementation.

The RWS Priority List also supports implementation of the Idaho State Water Plan, including the prioritization of IWRB funding programs, development of cooperative regional solutions, and early engagement with federal, state, tribal, and local partners. Inclusion on the RWS Priority List does not constitute a funding commitment, but elevates a project for consideration, supports coordination, and enables the Board to advocate for funding and technical resources (federal and state).

This document outlines the requirements and considerations for project sponsors seeking inclusion on the RWS Priority List. Inclusion on the RWS List is not a funding commitment, but rather a recognition that the project has the potential to help achieve water sustainability or address a regional water related issue.

I. IWRB Considerations

The IWRB takes into account a wide range of factors when considering potential projects for the RWS Priority List. Projects that are not chosen to be on the RWS Priority list may be eligible for other IWRB programs. The IWRB is guided by direction from the Governor and Idaho Legislature through funding allocations and related directives, including:

- Projects that support and forward the Idaho State Water Plan.
- Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 137 (2016) – directs the IWRB address statewide aquifer stabilization and sustainability projects and studies in key basins within the state.
- House Concurrent Resolution No. 7 (2023) – directs the IWRB to establish a long-term plan that identifies future projects intended to protect, improve, and secure the state's water resources for the benefit of the citizens of the state and for future generations.
- Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 110 (2025) – recognizes the need to continue activities by water users and the IWRB to improve Snake River reach gains between Blackfoot and the Minidoka Dam to support the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan.
- House Joint Memorial No. 14 (2026) - supports the development of new reservoirs through research on the feasibility, planning, and design for the raising of current dams and the development of new dams to create 750,000 acre-feet of new water storage.

Additional prioritization factors that may affect prioritizations of projects include:

- Ability to resolve long-standing or emerging water supply challenges
- Magnitude and regional scale of benefits
- Contribution to aquifer stabilization or groundwater recovery
- Protection of existing water rights and consideration of benefits to hydropower, fish and wildlife, recreation, and water quality
- Anticipation of future water demands, including municipal, agricultural, or industrial development
- Modernization or improvement of aging water infrastructure
- Development of new surface water storage, protection of existing storage assets, and enhancement of statewide surface water storage capacity

II. Regional Water Sustainability Priority List Eligibility Criteria

Projects added to the RWS Priority List provide regional scale benefits and meaningfully contribute to long-term water sustainability in Idaho. These projects generally fall into the following categories:

- **Aquifer Stabilization**
  Projects that help reverse declining groundwater trends, improve aquifer storage, and strengthen long-term water reliability.

- **Regional Water Supply and Water Management**
  Projects that support long-term water planning or management through analysis, improved regional data collection, modeling, forecasting, or basin-wide evaluations that improve understanding of water availability, trends, infrastructure needs, hydrologic interactions, or future demands.
- **Infrastructure Modernization and Rehabilitation**
  Upgrades or replacement of aging storage, diversion, and delivery systems that impact multiple users, or address infrastructure at risk of failure with regional consequences.
- **Surface Water Storage and Operational Improvements**
  Projects that enhance reservoir capacity, optimize operations, improve system connectivity, or enable more effective management of surface and groundwater resources. This includes the development of new surface water storage, protection of existing storage assets, and enhancement of statewide storage capacity, consistent with legislative direction in House Joint Memorial No. 14 (2026), the Idaho State Water Plan, and IWRB strategic priorities for long-term water supply reliability and resilience.
- **Multi-Benefit and Integrated Water Management Projects**
  Projects affecting a regional area involving multiple partners or districts that improve drought resilience, protect existing water rights, support hydropower, improve water quality, or provide other regional water management benefits.

Eligible Entities:

Entities eligible to submit a request include:

- Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, and Water Districts
- Drainage Districts, Flood Control Districts, Groundwater Districts, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Municipal Irrigation Districts (Title 50, Chapter 18, Idaho Code)
- Regional Water Supply Organizations
- State agencies, tribes, and municipalities

Eligible Geographic Area:

Statewide.

Eligible Projects:

Projects must provide regional-scale water sustainability benefits.

To qualify, a project must meet **all** three of the following:

1. Address a significant regional water sustainability issue, such as declining groundwater levels, surface-groundwater interaction challenges, enhancement of water supply, drought resilience, aging or inadequate delivery or storage systems, infrastructure deficiencies that pose demonstrable safety risk, or anticipated water supply conflicts.

2. Improve water management at the basin or regional level and provide benefits that extend beyond a single entity.
3. Align with the sustainability goals outlined in the Idaho State Water Plan, including active stewardship, protection of existing water rights, and support for future water needs.

Ineligible Projects:

Municipal drinking water or wastewater system improvements do **not** qualify for inclusion on the List.

III. Required Proposal Materials

Sponsors requesting inclusion on the RWS Priority List must submit a written request containing the following:

1. **Cover Letter**
   - Project name, sponsor, and geographic area
   - Brief project summary
   - Sponsor contact information

2. **Proposal,** must clearly address the following:

   - **Sponsor Description**
     I. Organization type, governance structure, and operational background
     II. Service area and population served (if applicable)
     III. Revenue sources and financial capacity to complete the project
     IV. Overview of current operations relevant to the project

   - **Project Background**
     I. Description of existing infrastructure or system
     II. Identify regional water supply issues, deficiencies, risks, or declining trends

   - **Project Description**
     Narrative of project overview

     I. Define the regional issue
     Identify the basin-wide or regional water sustainability challenge being addressed, including whether it represents a long-standing or emerging issue.

     II. Explain how the project / program addresses the regional issue
     Describe the mechanism (e.g., managed recharge, infrastructure or operational improvements, construction of new infrastructure, etc.)

III. **Identify and quantify impact(s) to the regional issue**
Include metrics such as water savings, recharge volumes, impact to groundwater levels, heightened reliability, improved safety, economic, or environmental conditions, or other measurable outcomes.

IV. **Identify and quantify all potential impacts (positive and negative)**
Impacts to groundwater and surface water, hydrologic impacts locally and regionally, alignment with regional settlement agreements, operational changes, construction disturbance, and/or long-term benefit.

- **Demonstrate regional support**
  Provide evidence such as letters, MOUs, partnerships, or stakeholder endorsements.
- **Map showing project location and regional context**
- **Conceptual design or plan**
- **Known permitting requirements**
- **Environmental considerations**

3. **Additional Information** (If Available)
   - Preliminary cost estimates and budget
   - Potential / Other funding sources; i.e., federal, IWRB, other state grants and funding
   - Proposed project schedule

IV. IWRB Support – what type of support can the IWRB provide?

Funding Support

- Eligibility for IWRB funding programs for planning, design, or implementation phases
- Cost-share participation determined on a case-by-case basis, considering project scope, regional benefit, and sponsor capacity
- Potential for phased funding (e.g., feasibility, design, construction)
- Inclusion on the RWS Priority List may improve competitiveness for state and federal funding opportunities

Advocacy and Funding Coordination

- Advocacy for state and federal funding, including coordination with agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Support for legislative awareness and potential appropriations aligned with statewide water priorities
- Inclusion in broader state water resource initiatives or funding strategies

Technical Assistance

- Support for hydrologic analysis, modeling, and data evaluation
- Assistance with feasibility studies and alternatives analysis
- Coordination and integration with statewide data and monitoring efforts
- Facilitation of interagency technical collaboration

Project Development and Coordination

- Assistance refining project scope, phasing, and alternatives
- Support in identifying and coordinating regional partners
- Convening stakeholders to advance multi-entity or basin-wide solutions

V. Additions to the RWS Priority List

The IWRB may add projects to the RWS Priority List at its discretion. Project sponsors may submit a request at any time.

IWRB staff will work with the Project Sponsor to ensure the application is complete and the project meets the eligibility criteria. A complete application will be presented to the IWRB for consideration.

Submittal Instructions

Requests must be submitted electronically to:
IWRB-Info@idwr.idaho.gov

VI. Additional resources and information

Navigate to the IWRB Financial Programs and Grants webpage at https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrb-overview/iwrb-financial-programs-grants/ and select the "Resources & Guidance" tab for additional resources and information.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT GRANTS	RESOLUTION TO ADOPT UPDATED CRITERIA

WHEREAS, House Bill 712 passed and approved by the 2018 Idaho Legislature created a Flood Management Grant Program administered by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to be used for the purpose of flood-damaged stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, or flood prevention projects; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 42-1760, Idaho Code, state general funds deposited into the Water Management Account (WMA) are continuously appropriated to the IWRB for water projects that conserve or increase water supply, improve drought resiliency, address water sustainability, or support flood management, including the development of grant programs pursuant to Section 42-1760 (2) (c), Idaho Code; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB last updated the criteria for the award of Flood Management Grants through Resolution No. 12-2026 on March 27, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2026, the IWRB Finance Committee recommended newly updated criteria for the award of Flood Management Grants for consideration by the full Board.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the award of Flood Management Grants from the Water Management Account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-substantive changes made to the adopted criteria by IWRB staff will be considered approved by the IWRB unless specifically disapproved at the first regular IWRB meeting following the proposed changes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB may consider scheduling a single or multiple award cycle(s) in a fiscal year, as funds are available, which will be announced at least 45 days prior to an application deadline.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

November 2026

IWRB Flood Management Grant Criteria

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has developed these criteria for the Flood Management Grant to provide financial assistance on a competitive statewide basis to Flood Control Districts, Drainage Districts, Irrigation Districts, Canal Companies, Municipalities, Counties and other public entities interested in pursuing flood damaged stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, and flood prevention projects.

Eligible Projects: Pursuing flood damage repair and improvement projects can help prevent or reduce flood damage in Idaho's streams and rivers. To be considered for grant funding, entities must be able to provide evidence of flood damage, or evidence of conditions that create the risk of flooding in a stream channel and submit a funding request document outlining the proposed repairs and/or improvements to the stream channel.

Ineligible Projects: Projects already completed or underway by the application deadline.

Eligible Entities: Flood Control Districts, Drainage Districts, Irrigation Districts, Canal Companies, Municipalities, Counties, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Other public entities are eligible to apply. Individuals must apply through one of the eligible entities.

Eligible Geographic Area: Statewide

Program Budget: No more than 50% of the total budget may be spent within a single IWRB district. This limit may be waived if there are no competing funding demands.

Funding Details:

- Funding Details: Up to $200,000 per project; one project per application.
- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed 50% of total project costs. Projects that include higher cost share amounts will be prioritized during project evaluations (see evaluation criteria).
- Eligible entity is responsible for providing permit documentation to IWRB staff.
- Costs incurred prior to the grant award date are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Project costs related to the installation of road appurtenances (road signs, guard rails, etc.) are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Reimbursement requests can be made once a cost-reimbursement contract is established between the awardee and IWRB.

- Reimbursement of invoices will not exceed 50% of the invoice amount ("Reimbursable Funds") submitted to IWRB Staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% will be retained until Sponsor submits a certificate of completion.
- Contract term will not exceed 3 years after the grant funding award (date of IWRB Resolution) unless an extension is approved by IWRB's contract manager
- Funds may be reallocated if a project is not completed within the term of the cost-reimbursement contract, or if no response is received by the awardee within 90 days after the grant award date
- If your project has been partially funded through a different IWRB funding program (loan, Regional Water Sustainability Priority List, grant), please call and speak to an IWRB staff member before submitting your grant application.

Application Requirements and Evaluation Criteria:

For the grant proposal to be considered, the following documents and information must be provided. Projects that do not meet eligibility requirements or are determined not to be flood-related by staff shall be declared ineligible and not scored. Applications missing required documents or information shall be returned to the applicant. To maximize the effective and efficient use of available funds, the applications will be evaluated, scored *(130-point scale),* and ranked according to the following criteria:

- **Completed** **Applicant Information Sheet** provided by IWRB.
- A **cover letter** addressed to the IWRB and with the eligible entity's letterhead. The letter shall contain a project summary and the project manager's contact information. The summary shall include the funding request dollar amount and expected total project cost, as well as all other funding sources.
- An **application** containing all the following information:

1. **Project Details — Up to 25 Points**
   - **First Time Applicant — 5 points** (if applicable)
   - **Eligible Entity — 5 points:** Description of the project sponsor, including organization type, background, revenue sources, and current operations.
   - **Project Proposal — 10 points:** Description of the project purpose, project objectives including evidence of flood damage or conditions that create a flood risk and demonstrate how the project addresses flood conditions.
   - **Project Location – 5 Points:** Description of project location, water source, county, coordinates or PLS information, photographs where applicable, and detailed project map(s).

2. **Urgency of Project — Up to 20 Points**
   - The application must describe the urgency of the proposed project, including relevant factors such as risk to human life or property damage.

3. **Public Interest of Project — Up to 30 Points**
   - **Public Support — 15 points:** Documentation that local stakeholders have been consulted. If the project is within an active Flood Control District, the eligible entity must include a letter of **support**.

- **Public Benefits — 15 points:** Benefits identified pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1760, including applicable benefits related to stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, other ecological benefits.

4. **Budget Planning and Cost-Effectiveness — Up to 25 Points**
   - **Cost-Effectiveness — 10 points:** Description of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project compared with other alternatives considered, including longevity of the project.
   - **Project Budget — 10 points:** Detailed cost estimates for labor, materials, and other anticipated project costs, including justification of costs and identification of all funding sources and amounts, including any IWRB awarded grants or loans. The application must include a summary table identifying the cost-share percentage for each funding source including in-kind work. If other grants are required to complete the project (USACE, NRCS, FEMA, etc.), include timelines for receiving those funds. In-kind work must be detailed and included in cost estimates.
   - **Non-State Funds – 5 points**: At least 50% of the matching funds provided by parties other than the state.

5. **Project Readiness – Up to 30 points**
   - **Project Schedule — 10 points:** Timeline identifying important project milestones, including anticipated funding, permitting, construction start, and project completion.
   - **Plans and Specifications — 10 points:** Relevant design plans, drawings, material specifications, land entitlements, known environmental issues, and regulatory approvals or permits. If permits have not yet been obtained, the anticipated permitting schedule must be identified.
   - **Project Team and Experience — 10 points:** Identification of the organizations and personnel responsible for completing the project, including their roles, anticipated time commitment, and relevant experience.

Application Submission:

- Applications can be emailed to IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov. Applications that are emailed must be received by the application due date.

- Applications that are mailed must be received on the application due date. Mailing address:
  ATTENTION: GRANTS TEAM
  IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
  PO BOX 83720
  BOISE, ID 83720-0098

- Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise. Applications must be dropped off on weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Idaho Water Center is located at:
  IDAHO WATER CENTER
  322 E FRONT ST STE 648
  BOISE, ID 83702-7371

Grant Process:

- IWRB staff evaluate and score applications based on IWRB approved evaluation criteria
- IWRB staff present funding recommendations to IWRB Finance Committee
- Funding awarded at the IWRB meeting
- IWRB staff will notify eligible entity of grant approval and will administer cost-reimbursement contracts

Additional Conditions of Award:

- Sponsor shall obtain and maintain liability insurance for the duration of the grant contract. The Sponsor shall provide the IWRB certificates of insurance within 15 days of the execution of the grant contract.
- Funding may be reallocated if:
  - No response is received from the awardee within 90 days of the award dated resolution
  - A proposed contract is not signed and returned within 60 days of issuance
  - If the project is not completed within the award contract term
  - The contract expires without a renewal or extension request from the awardee

Cost-Reimbursement Process:

- Awardee must be registered with the Idaho Secretary of State (SCO) in IPRO Supplier Portal and in PaymentWorks, See "Action Center" on the homepage of SCO at https://www.sco.idaho.gov/LivePages/scohome.aspx
- Funds will be distributed upon awardee submitting an acceptable funding reimbursement request to the IWRB.
- Reimbursement of invoices will not exceed 50% of the invoice amount ("Reimbursable Funds") submitted to IWRB staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% of funds will be retained until Sponsor submits a certificate of completion.
- The IWRB and IDWR staff will review and pay invoices, upon approval, in accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2302
- In-kind services, labor, and materials must be invoiced to IWRB to be eligible for reimbursement
- The IWRB shall determine the value of in-kind contributions of materials and labor
- Invoices should be sent to IdwrPayable@idwr.idaho.gov
- A certificate of project completion and a financial summary of the total project cost shall be submitted by the awardee in order to receive final reimbursement

In-kind Matching Funds Documentation. In-kind matching contributions must be adequately documented and verifiable from the awardee's official records. Documentation must be sufficient to answer the following:

- Awardee must be able to demonstrate that the contribution is from an acceptable source.
- Awardee must be able to demonstrate what is being used as match is suitable for match.
- The IWRB shall determine the value of the in-kind contribution
  - Awardee is responsible for providing accurate documentation to support their in-kind valuation; and
  - Value shall be based on standard objective sources rather than awardee's estimates.
- Awardee must affirm that the information is correct and IWRB will review and may approve.

Accounting records must be supported by source documentation such as vouchers, canceled checks, invoices, payroll, time and attendance records, contract and sub-grant award documents, or other required forms.

Force account labor and equipment. The use of the awardee's staff (labor) and/or equipment costs must be verifiable from the awardee's accounting system. For labor, the records must include: the name of each worker, dates worked, hourly rate of pay, number of hours worked specific to the grant activity, and the total cost for each worker. Documentation of equipment costs must include the type of equipment used, dates used, hourly rate value, number of hours used, how the hourly rate was determined and total cost.

Donated contract labor and volunteer services may be counted as matching share if they are an integral and necessary part of the approved work.

- Rates claimed for volunteer services must be consistent with those rates paid for similar work in other activities and must not include fringe benefits and overhead costs.
- Match must be documented and, to the extent feasible, supported by the same methods used by the awardee for its own employees.

At minimum this includes signed and dated time sheets filled out by volunteers working and approved by the supervisor with first-hand knowledge of the activity

Additional resources and information

Navigate to the IWRB Financial Programs and Grants webpage at https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrb-overview/iwrb-financial-programs-grants/ and select the "Resources & Guidance" tab for additional resources and information.

IWRB Districts are as follows:

District No. 1: Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, and Idaho counties.
District No. 2: Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, and Owyhee counties.
District No. 3: Camas, Gooding, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia, Blaine, Lincoln, Minidoka, Lemhi, Custer, and Butte counties.
District No. 4: Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bingham, Bonneville, Power, Bannock, Caribou, Oneida, Franklin, and Bear Lake counties.

** No more than 50% of the total budget may be spent within a single IWRB district. This limit may be waived if there are no competing funding demands.*

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF ESPA GROUNDWATER TO SURFACE WATER CONVERSION GRANTS	RESOLUTION TO ADOPT UPDATED CRITERIA

WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) adopted criteria creating the ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant program through Resolution No. 22-2025 on May 23, 2025, as part of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Regional Water Sustainability (RWS) Project Priority List; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 42-1760, Idaho Code, state general funds deposited into the Water Management Account (WMA) are continuously appropriated to the IWRB for water projects that conserve or increase water supply, improve drought resiliency, address water sustainability, or support flood management, including the development of grant programs pursuant to Section 42-1760 (2) (c), Idaho Code; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB last updated the criteria for the award of ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Grants through Resolution No. 26-2026 on May 21, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2026, the IWRB Finance Committee recommended newly updated criteria for the award of ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Grants for consideration by the full Board.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the award of ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Grants from the Water Management Account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-substantive changes made to the adopted criteria by IWRB staff will be considered approved by the IWRB unless specifically disapproved at the first regular IWRB meeting following the proposed changes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB may consider scheduling a single or multiple award cycle(s) in a fiscal year, as funds are available, which will be announced at least 45 days prior to an application deadline.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

November 2026

IWRB ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant Criteria

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) is offering grant funding to be used for water projects targeted at converting lands irrigated from groundwater to surface water irrigation (Conversion Projects).

Projects that convert irrigated lands from groundwater to surface water irrigation support the Idaho economy, provide economic value, and ensure long-term water resource stability and sustainability. The IWRB has developed these criteria to provide financial assistance on a competitive basis through grants to eligible entities in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) area of common groundwater supply interested in pursuing eligible projects to convert existing irrigated lands from groundwater to surface water irrigation.

Eligible Projects: Projects located in an eligible geographic area that propose to convert from groundwater to surface water irrigation. "Hard Conversions" are projects that would permanently convert to the use of surface water. "Soft Conversions" would partially convert to the use of surface water but may have to use groundwater when surface water is not available.

Ineligible Projects: Projects that are already completed before the application deadline.

Eligible Entities: Groundwater Districts, Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, and Municipalities. Individuals must apply through one of the eligible entities.

Eligible Geographic Area: Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) area of common groundwater supply.

Funding Details:

- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed (50%) of total project costs for soft conversions. IWRB grant portion cannot exceed (75%) of total project costs for hard conversions.
- Must agree to cease pumping the proposed portion of groundwater related to project and that delivered conversion water will be used only on lands with an existing ground water right tied to this project. Ground water rights previously used on the conversion project lands cannot be put in the Water Bank for lease.

- If project construction is completed by the application deadline the project is not eligible for this funding opportunity. Projects that have previously been awarded conversion grant funding are eligible to apply for additional funding.
- Costs incurred prior to the grant award date are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Reimbursement requests can be made once a cost-reimbursement contract is established between the awardee and IWRB.
- Reimbursement of invoices will not exceed 50% for soft and 75% for hard conversions of the invoice amount ("Reimbursable Funds") submitted to Board Staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% will be retained until Awardee submits a certificate of completion.
- Contract term will not exceed 3 years after the grant funding award (date of IWRB Resolution) unless an extension is approved by IWRB's contract manager.
- Funds may be reallocated if a project is not completed within the term of the cost-reimbursement contract, or if the Awardee does not provide contract development information requested within 90 days after the grant award date.
- If your project has been partially funded through a different IWRB funding program (loan, Regional Water Sustainability Priority List, grant), please call and speak to an IWRB staff member before submitting your grant application.

Application Requirements & Evaluation Criteria:

For the grant proposal to be considered, the following must be provided. Projects that do not meet eligibility requirements shall be declared ineligible and not scored. Applications missing required documents or information shall be returned to the applicant. To maximize the effective and efficient use of available funds, the applications will be evaluated, scored (130-point scale), and ranked according to the following criteria:

- Documentation is required from **Irrigation District/Canal Company** of **support** for the project **and agreement to deliver** the surface water supply for the conversion project. Documentation of long-term leases, storage water, existing shares, etc. to support the proposed project *if* not directly diverted from a river. Documentation should address the term of the surface water delivery agreement and how often water will be available to support the project.
- Documentation from **Groundwater District** of **support** for the project and agreement to administer the pumping reduction.
- **List of groundwater rights** on conversion project lands. Include well tag numbers or WMIS ID's
- **Completed** Applicant Information Sheet provided by IWRB.
- A **cover letter** addressed to the IWRB and with the eligible entity's letterhead. The letter shall contain a project summary and the project manager's contact information. The summary shall include the funding request dollar amount and expected total project cost, as well as all other funding sources.
- An **application** containing all the following information:

1. **Project Details — Up to 15 Points**
   - **Eligible Entity — 5 points:** Description of the project sponsor, including organization type, background, revenue sources, and current operations.

- **Project Proposal — 5 points:** Description of the project purpose, existing infrastructure, improvement needs/objectives/benefits, 30% design plans, land entitlements at project location, description of any known environmental issues.
- **Project Location — 5 points:** Description of project location, water source, county, coordinates or PLS information, photographs where applicable, and detailed project map(s).

2. **Benefits/Effectiveness of Project — Up to 75 Points**

Applicants should submit modeling results to support their claims.

- **Pumping Offset – 15 points:** Project with a greater percentage of pumping offset will receive more points when ranked against all eligible project proposals
- **Groundwater pumping reduction – 10 points:** The application demonstrates a reduction in average annual groundwater pumping in acre-feet associated with this project
- **Surface water supply – 5 points:** The applicant demonstrates the dependability of the surface water supply in terms of quantity and seasonal availability
- **Aquifer / Reach gain benefits – 20 points:** The applicant demonstrates aquifer storage benefits and/or reach gain benefits associated with the project
- **Regionally focused – 5 points:** The applicant demonstrates the project involves multiple entities, or the project is regionally focused
- **Recharge component – 10 points:** A recharge component is a priority of the project
- **Efficiency – 10 points:** Conversions that are greater than 85% efficient will receive more points. Efficiency is calculated by the ground water saved based on historic baseline pumping divided by the surface water diverted. (1 acre-foot of surface water compared to historic 0.85 acre-feet of ground water = 85% efficiency)

Conversion Efficiency Table		Ground Water Acre-Feet Baseline					
		0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1	1.1
Surface Water Acre-Feet Diverted	0.6	100%	117%	133%	150%	167%	183%
	0.7	86%	100%	114%	129%	143%	157%
	0.8	75%	88%	100%	113%	125%	138%
	0.9	67%	78%	89%	100%	111%	122%
	1	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	110%
	1.1	55%	64%	73%	82%	91%	100%
	1.2	50%	58%	67%	75%	83%	92%
	1.3	46%	54%	62%	69%	77%	85%
	1.4	43%	50%	57%	64%	71%	79%
	1.5	40%	47%	53%	60%	67%	73%
	1.6	38%	44%	50%	56%	63%	69%

3. **Urgency of Project — Up to 10 Points**

- The application must describe the urgency of the proposed project. The project is necessary to avoid curtailment or to help support a settlement.

4. **Budget Planning and Cost-Effectiveness — Up to 15 Points**
   - **Cost-Effectiveness — 5 points:** Description of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project compared with other alternatives considered, including longevity of the project.
   - **Project Budget — 5 points:** Detailed cost estimates for labor, materials, and other anticipated project costs, including justification of costs and identification of all funding sources and amounts, including any IWRB awarded grants or loans. The application must include a summary table identifying the cost-share percentage for each funding source including in-kind work. If other grants are required to complete the project (USBOR,NRCS), include timelines for receiving those funds. In-kind work must be detailed and included in cost estimates.
   - **Non-State Funds – 5 points:** At least 50% of the matching funds provided by parties other than the state.

5. **Project Readiness – Up to 15 points**
   - **Project Schedule — 5 points:** Timeline identifying important project milestones, including anticipated funding, permitting, construction start, and project completion.
   - **Plans and Specifications — 5 points:** Relevant design plans, drawings, material specifications, land entitlements, known environmental issues, and regulatory approvals or permits. If permits have not yet been obtained, the anticipated permitting schedule must be identified.
   - **Project Team and Experience — 5 points:** Identification of the organizations and personnel responsible for completing the project, including their roles, anticipated time commitment, and relevant experience.

Application Submittal:

Applications can be emailed to IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov. Applications that are emailed must be received by the application due date.

Applications that are mailed must be received on the application due date. Mailing address:

ATTENTION: IWRB GRANTS TEAM
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0098

Applications can be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise. Applications must be dropped off on weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Idaho Water Center is located at:

IDAHO WATER CENTER
322 E Front St, Suite 648
Boise, ID 83702-7371

Grant Process:

- IWRB staff evaluate and score applications based on IWRB approved evaluation criteria
- IDWR staff will perform modeling of application conversion scenario to calculate benefit
- IWRB staff present funding recommendations to IWRB Finance Committee
- Funding awarded at a regular IWRB meeting
- IWRB staff will notify project applicants of grant approval and will administer cost-reimbursement contracts

Additional Conditions of Award:

- Sponsor shall obtain and maintain liability insurance for the duration of the grant contract. The Sponsor shall provide the IWRB certificates of insurance within 15 days of the execution of the grant contract.
- Funding may be reallocated if:
  - No response is received from the awardee within 90 days of the award dated resolution
  - A proposed contract is not signed and returned within 60 days of issuance
  - If the project is not completed within the award contract term
  - The contract expires without a renewal or extension request from the awardee

Cost-Reimbursement Process:

- Awardee must be registered with the Idaho Secretary of State (SCO) in IPRO Supplier Portal and in PaymentWorks, See "Action Center" on the homepage of SCO at https://www.sco.idaho.gov/LivePages/scohome.aspx
- Funds will be distributed upon the awardee submitting an IWRB acceptable funding reimbursement request to the IWRB.
- Reimbursement of invoices will not exceed 50% for soft and 75% for hard conversions of the invoice amount ("Reimbursable Funds") submitted to Board Staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% will be retained until Awardee submits a certificate of completion.
- The IWRB and IDWR staff will review and upon approval, pay invoices in accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2302
- In-kind services, labor, and materials must be invoiced to the IWRB to be eligible for reimbursement
- The IWRB shall determine the value of in-kind contributions of materials and labor
- Invoices should be sent to IdwrPayable@idwr.idaho.gov
- A certificate of project completion and a financial summary of the total project cost shall be submitted by the awardee in order to receive final reimbursement

In-kind Matching Funds Documentation. In-kind matching contributions must be adequately documented and verifiable from the awardee's official records. Documentation must be sufficient to answer the following:

- Awardee must be able to demonstrate that the contribution is from an acceptable source.
- Awardee must be able to demonstrate what is being used as match is suitable for match.
- The IWRB shall determine the value of the in-kind contribution
  -Awardee is responsible for providing accurate documentation to support their in-kind valuation
  -Value shall be based on standard objective sources rather than awardees' estimate
- Awardee must certify that the information is correct and IWRB must review and approve

Accounting records must be supported by source documentation such as vouchers, canceled checks, invoices, payroll, time and attendance records, contract and sub-grant award documents, or other required forms.

Force account labor and equipment. The use of the awardee's staff (labor) and/or equipment costs must be verifiable from the awardee's accounting system. For labor, the records must include: the name of each worker, dates worked, hourly rate of pay, number of hours worked specific to the grant activity, and the total cost for each worker. Documentation of equipment costs must include the type of equipment used, dates used, hourly rate value, number of hours used, how the hourly rate was determined and total cost.

Donated contract labor and volunteer services may be counted as matching share if they are an integral and necessary part of the approved work.

- Rates claimed for volunteer services must be consistent with those rates paid for similar work in other activities and must not include fringe benefits and overhead costs.
- Match must be documented and, to the extent feasible, supported by the same methods used by the awardee for its own employees.
- At minimum this includes signed and dated time sheets filled out by volunteers working and approved by the supervisor with first-hand knowledge of the activity

Additional resources and information

Navigate to the IWRB Financial Programs and Grants webpage at https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrb-overview/iwrb-financial-programs-grants/ and select the "Resources & Guidance" tab for additional resources and information.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF MEASURING & MONITORING SUPPORT GRANTS	RESOLUTION TO ADOPT UPDATED CRITERIA

WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) adopted criteria creating the Monitoring Support Grant Program, through Resolution No. 24-2025 on May 23, 2025, to provide financial assistance within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Area of Common Ground Water Supply (ACGWS), to increase the measurement and monitoring capability of irrigators within the ESPA ACGWS; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 42-1760, Idaho Code, state general funds deposited into the Water Management Account (WMA) are continuously appropriated to the IWRB for water projects that conserve or increase water supply, improve drought resiliency, address water sustainability, or support flood management, including priority consideration for certain water measurement infrastructure projects above Milner Dam; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) has issued orders requiring measuring devices (Measurement Orders) to specified water users within designated water districts across the state of Idaho to better administer water resources, and there is a great number of water users within water districts, including outside of the ESPA ACGWS, in need of funding assistance to comply with measurement orders; and

WHEREAS, staff have developed criteria for the award of Measuring & Monitoring Support Grants open to the entire state of Idaho with a preference for projects above Milner Dam; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB last updated the criteria for the award of Measuring & Monitoring Support Grants through Resolution No. 27-2026 on May 21, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2026, the IWRB Finance Committee recommended newly updated criteria for the award of Measuring & Monitoring Support Grants for consideration by the full Board.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the award of Measuring & Monitoring Support Grants from the Water Management Account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-substantive changes made to the adopted criteria by IWRB staff will be considered approved by the IWRB unless specifically disapproved at the first regular IWRB meeting following the proposed changes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB may consider scheduling a single or multiple award cycle(s) in a fiscal year, as funds are available, which will be announced at least 45 days prior to an application deadline.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

IWRB Measuring & Monitoring Support Grant Criteria

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has allocated funding to continue to promote water conservation efforts throughout the state of Idaho through the purchase and installation of monitoring equipment, measurement devices, or other supportive infrastructure for ground and surface water diversions.

Funding under this program seeks to continue and expand upon the previous Telemetry grant utilizing funding from the Bureau of Reclamation. Measurement and monitoring equipment must meet current Idaho Department of Water Resources Standards – IDWR Water Measurement Information.

Eligible Projects: Projects considered under this program are for the purchase and installation of monitoring and measurement equipment for both surface and groundwater diversions. *Example projects: New monitoring wells, flumes, weirs, telemetry equipment, software development, automation equipment, etc.*

Ineligible Projects:

- Projects that are completed before the application deadline are not eligible for this program.

Eligible Entities: Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Lateral Ditch Users Associations, Reservoir Districts, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 50, Chapter 18, Idaho Code), Municipalities, Counties, and Water Districts. Individuals must apply through one of the eligible entities.

Eligible Geographic Area: Statewide, with preference for projects in response to an active measurement order issued by the IDWR Director.

Funding Details:

- Funding Details: Up to a maximum of $250,000 per project; one project per application
- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed 50% of total project costs Projects that include higher cost share amounts will be prioritized during project evaluations (see evaluation criteria).
- Reimbursement requests can be made once a cost-reimbursement contract is established between the applicant and IWRB
- Reimbursement of invoices will not surpass 50% of the invoice amount (“Reimbursable Funds”) submitted to Board Staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% will be retained until Awardee submits a certificate of completion.

- Contract term will not exceed 3 years after the grant funding award (date of IWRB Resolution) unless an extension is approved by IWRB's contract manager.
- Funds may be reallocated if a project is not completed within the term of the cost-reimbursement contract, or if the awardee does not provide contract development information requested within 90 days after the grant award date.
- If your project has been partially funded through a different IWRB funding program (loan, Regional Water Sustainability Priority List, grant), please call and speak to an IWRB staff member before submitting your grant application.

Application Requirements and Evaluation Criteria:

For the grant proposal to be considered, the following documents and information must be provided. Projects that do not meet eligibility requirements shall be declared ineligible and not scored. Applications missing required documents or information shall be returned to the applicant. To maximize the effective and efficient use of available funds, the applications will be evaluated, scored *(120-point scale),* and ranked according to the following criteria:

- **Completed** **Applicant Information Sheet** provided by IWRB.
- A **cover letter** addressed to the IWRB and with the eligible entity's letterhead. The letter shall contain a project summary and the project manager's contact information. The summary shall include the funding request dollar amount and expected total project cost, as well as all other funding sources.
- An **application** containing all the following information:

1. **Project Details — Up to 15 Points**
   - **Eligible Entity — 5 points:** Description of the project sponsor, including organization type, background, revenue sources, and current operations.
   - **Project Proposal — 5 points:** Description of the project purpose, project objectives including how the project addresses measurement needs and the equipment being installed.
   - **Project Location – 5 Points:** Description of project location, water source, county, coordinates or PLS information, photographs where applicable, and detailed project map(s). Tabulate locations of equipment for proposals with more than 5 installation locations.

2. **Urgency of Project — Up to 10 Points**
   - **Measurement Order – 10 points:** Applicant is complying with an active measurement order issued by the IDWR Director

3. **Public Interest of Project — Up to 30 Points**
   - **2024 SWC/Ground Water District Settlement Agreement in the ESPA – 30 points:** The applicant can demonstrate how this project will further agreement priorities regarding water resources.

4. **Budget Planning and Cost-Effectiveness — Up to 30 Points**
   - **Cost-Effectiveness — Up to 20 points:** Description of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project compared with other alternatives considered, including longevity of the project:
     - **New equipment – 20 points:** A new install of monitoring, telemetry, and/or measurement equipment on the Project diversion works*; or*
     - **Retrofit – 5 points:** A retrofit of existing monitoring, telemetry and/or measurement

equipment already installed on the Project diversion works.

- **Project Budget — 10 points:** Detailed cost estimates for labor, materials, and other anticipated project costs, including justification of costs and identification of all funding sources and amounts, including any IWRB awarded grants or loans. The application must include a summary table identifying the cost-share percentage for each funding source including in-kind work. If other grants are required to complete the project (USBOR), include timelines for receiving those funds. In-kind work must be detailed and included in cost estimates.
- **Non-State Funds – 5 points:** At least 50% of the matching funds provided by parties other than the state.

5. **Project Readiness – Up to 35 points**
   - **Project Schedule — 15 points:** Timeline identifying important project milestones, including anticipated funding, permitting, construction start, and project completion.
     - The Project will be completed in 1 year; *(15 points) or*
     - The Project will be completed in 2 years; *(10 points) or*
     - The Project will be completed in subsequent years. *(5 points)*
   - **Plans and Specifications — 10 points:** Relevant design plans, drawings, material specifications, land entitlements, known environmental issues, and regulatory approvals or permits. If permits have not yet been obtained, the anticipated permitting schedule must be identified.
   - **Project Team and Experience — 10 points:** Identification of the organizations and personnel responsible for completing the project, including their roles, anticipated time commitment, and relevant experience.

Application Submission:

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- The IWRB and IDWR staff will review and pay invoices, upon approval, in accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2302
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  - Value shall be based on standard objective sources rather than awardee's estimates.
- Awardee must affirm that the information is correct and IWRB will review and may approve.

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