2025 - 2027 Action Items
October 2025 Update

- **Develop and evaluate the April 1 Allotment ("A1A") Model for Consumptive Use Allotment Estimations to determine if it can be the basis for a longer-term management plan.**

  The BWRGWMA technical working group has begun this project. Mike McVay will provide an update at the October 29th BWRGWMA Advisory Committee Meeting.

- **Evaluate options for improving and increasing monitoring and reporting of surface water flow and diversions.** This would include exploring options for improving existing monitoring sites, developing additional monitoring locations, and exploring technological advances in data collection and reporting, such as SCADA. This will allow for more "real time" adjustments to assist water users in making quicker management decisions. (The BWRGWMA technical working group envisions this project being part of the A1A project discussed above.)

  The BWRGWMA technical working group has begun this project. Mike McVay will provide an update at the October 29th BWRGWMA Advisory Committee Meeting.

- **Update calibration of the Wood River Valley Groundwater Flow Model.**

  IDWR and the Wood River Valley Model Technical Advisory Committee have scheduled this project to be completed in 2026. Note that IDWR's FY 26-FY 29 Strategic Plan (page 15) lists an objective of…

  > *"Revise and recalibrate the Wood River groundwater model and publish the final project report, by **December 31, 2026**."*

  Alex Moody, Technical Hydrologist with IDWR's Hydrology Section, shared the following on September 9, 2025…

  > *"I am the main modeler working on updating the WRV groundwater model to version 1.2. I am actively working on re-calibrating and am on track to completing the reports in 2026. We had a MTAC meeting last April and there will be more as I have enough material for updates to the MTAC. The water budget runs through 2023 as compared to 2014 for WRV 1.1."*

- **Support the Camas Prairie Hydrologic Project.**

The USGS has scheduled this project to be completed in early 2027. An open house was held in Fairfield on September 11, 2024, detailing the project and the overall project timeline. The following summary was presented during the meeting…

Project Timeline

Item	Entity	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1) Streamflow Measurements & Synthetic Hydrographs						
Streamflow measurements	IDWR					
Produce synthetic hydrographs	USGS					
Data release	USGS					
2) Groundwater Level Mass Measurement Events						
Measure groundwater levels	USGS					
Data release	USGS					
3) Hydrogeologic Framework						
Hydrogeologic framework development	USGS					
Publish report	USGS					
4) Water Budgets						
Develop water budgets	USGS					
Publish report	USGS					
5) Monitoring Wells & Borehole Geophysics						
Bidding for wells released & awarded	IDWR					
Monitoring well installation	IDWR					
Borehole and surface geophysics	USGS					
Data release	USGS					

Project Details / Status

1) Streamflow Measurement & Synthetic Hydrographs
   - IDWR staff are making discharge measurements every 4-6 weeks on 5 tributaries to Magic Reservoir.
   - USGS will develop statistical relationships between these measurements and nearby continuous streamgages to estimate continuous streamflow to help quantify inflow to Magic Reservoir.

2) Groundwater Level Mass Measurement Events
   - Measurements are planned for spring and fall 2025 at over 150 wells.
   - Data will be used to develop detailed potentiometric (groundwater flow) maps.

3) Hydrogeologic Framework
   - The USGS is building a 3D hydrogeologic model using existing well logs in the study area.
   - 340 well logs have been input into the model so far; 535 total are planned.

4) Water Budgets
   - The USGS is developing water budgets for wet (2019), dry (2021), and average (2016) years.
   - Water budgets will be developed for the aquifer and Magic Reservoir for the above years.
   - IDWR staff has digitized irrigated lands for 2021 and is completing datasets for the remaining years.

5) Monitoring Wells & Borehole Geophysics
   - IDWR drilled five monitoring wells in April and May 2024.
   - Borehole geophysics is planned in up to 10 wells in fall 2024.
   - Surface geophysics is planned at approximately 5 sites in late July and early August 2024.

Note that IDWR's FY 26-FY 29 Strategic Plan (page 16) lists an objective of…

> "*Prepare a peer-reviewed technical report characterizing and summarizing the surface and groundwater hydrology of the Camas Prairie sub-basin within the Wood River basin, by* ***June 30, 2027****."*

Amy Steimke, Water Resources Supervisor with IDWR's Hydrology Section, shared the following on September 9, 2025….

> *"The project is still on track to be completed in 2027, but it could be later (instead of earlier) in 2027 due to delays on the USGS's publishing network. They've lost a lot of positions that they haven't been able to fill."*

- **Complete at least a prototype of the Water District 37 accounting model.**

IDWR has begun this project. Mat Anders, former Bureau Chief of IDWR's Technical Services Bureau, presented on the project status at the January 2025 Water District 37 Annual Meeting. Note that IDWR's FY 26-FY 29 Strategic Plan (page 15) lists an objective of…

> *"Develop a Big Wood River Basin Water Right Accounting program,* ***by June 30, 2027****."*

Heidi Smith, Staff Hydrologist with IDWR's Hydrology Section, shared the following on September 9, 2025….

"Currently, I have built the base model in Excel that will be used for WD37 that successfully allocates natural flow to right holders. To this model, I have added rights for Silver Creek and Little Wood downstream to the confluence with the Big Wood. Next steps will be adding the rights on the Big Wood upstream of Magic Reservoir and then downstream of Magic Reservoir. I aim to be finished with this prototype by December 20."

- **Prepare a report evaluating the applicability of the Management Plan's 32 cfs four-day moving average flow rate from May 1 through September 30 at Station 10 on the Little Wood River near Richfield.**

Tim Luke has begun this project. Tim will provide an update at the October 29th BWRGWMA Advisory Committee Meeting.

- **Prepare a report on the effects of administering water rights consistent with Tim Luke's April 27, 2021, memo *Delivery of Water Rights in Water District 37 from the Big Wood and Little Wood Rivers having the BOR-AFRD2-BWCC Exchange Condition*.** This report will enable the Advisory Committee and IDWR to assess the need for, and amount of, stream flow targets and Snake River storage water acquisition and deliveries as elements of a future management plan.

  Tim Luke plans to roll this report into the 32-cfs target flow report. He will provide an update at the October 29th BWRGWMA Advisory Committee Meeting.

- **Explore options, including possible enforcement, for increasing participation by additional BWRGWMA water users in a longer-term management plan.** (This project will likely be a collaboration among the Advisory Committee, IDWR, and Water Districts 37 and 37B.)

  IDWR has three potential Notice of Violation cases in the BWRGWMA during the 2025 season.

  IDWR is in the development stages of drafting a surface water measurement order for Water District 37.

- **Prepare a report evaluating a Management Plan flow rate for the combined Magic Reservoir inflow (comprised of the sum of flows at Camas Creek, Willow Creek, and Stanton Crossing gauges).**

  This project may be a collaboration among IDWR, Water District 37, the BWLWWUA, and the BWRGWMA technical working group.)

- **Evaluate options for Water Districts 37 and 37B to report groundwater diversions during the irrigation season.** This may facilitate the use of pumping reductions as a management tool. (Water Districts 37, 37B, and South Valley Ground Water District may collaborate on this project.)

- **Investigate and evaluate the correlation between depth-to groundwater and stream flows as a predictive tool, especially with respect to in-season flows and application to groundwater season of use.** (The BWRGWMA technical working group has begun this project.)