

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS

The main goal of this Management Plan is “to manage the effects of ground water withdrawals on the aquifers from which the withdrawals are made and any other hydraulically connected sources of water.” *Idaho Code § 42-233b*. In doing so, the parties have agreed upon management actions that include, among other elements described herein, maintaining a 32 cfs four-day moving average streamflow target from May 1 through September 30 at Station 10, Little Wood River near Richfield (see figure 1). The benefits of managing the effects of ground water withdrawals and maintaining 32 cfs at Station 10 include supporting the supply of water for senior surface water rights, supporting stream health, and improving and maintaining aquifer health. For BWRGWMA ground water users who participate in and abide by the terms of this Management Plan, adoption of the Management Plan establishes safe harbor from curtailment. *Idaho Code § 42-233b*.

GOALS

- Manage the effects of ground water withdrawals within the Big Wood Ground Water Management Area on hydraulically connected surface water sources to benefit senior surface water rights in the Big and Little Wood Rivers, as authorized by Idaho Code 42-233b.
- Provide seasonal predictability of available surface and ground water supplies for all users such that they can develop practical plans to optimize their use.
- Establish safe harbor from time priority curtailment for BWRGWMA ground water users who participate in and abide by the terms of this Management Plan.

The expected benefits of achieving the above goals through management of ground water and hydraulically connected surface water include:

- Stream flows that serve senior water rights above and below the Timmerman Hills
- Access to ground water resources scaled to each year’s water supply forecast
- Reduced conflict around water delivery
- Water to support stream and riparian habitats

STRATEGIES

- Develop and implement a suite of methods for ground water users to mitigate for the impacts of their water use on senior water rights.
- Vary management plan actions to account for the differences in aquifer conditions and hydraulically connected stream flows in wet years and dry years.

- Develop and distribute funding for local water conservation, efficiency, and infrastructure improvements.
- Encourage continual improvements in water supply forecasting for the Wood River watershed.
- Incentivize all ground water users in the ground water management area to implement the management plan and abide by its terms.
- Continue the Order Establishing Moratorium for the Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area.
- Increase enforcement of water rights by priority according to the statutes among those not participating in the plan.