

GWMP Goals – Proposed revisions, Sections IV & V.
To: BWR GWMA Advisory Committee
Submitted by L. Schoen
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Part A. Proposed changes to Section IV. Management Plan Goals:

“IV. Management Plan Goals

The ~~purpose/main goal~~ of this Management Plan is “to provide for managing 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*. The goals of the Management Plan established to meet this purpose are to manage the Wood River aquifer so as to:

- Sustain natural stream flows to support delivery of priority surface water rights
- Enable optimal use of groundwater
- Sustain natural stream flows to ensure the health of aquatic ecosystems
- Buffer demand for water delivery in drier years.

The primary strategic objectives for meeting these goals are:

- To replenish and maintain the Wood River aquifer so as to avoid “withdrawing of the ground water supply at a rate beyond the reasonably anticipated average rate of future natural recharge.” *Idaho Code § 42-237a.g*. ~~In doing so, the parties have agreed upon~~
- To encourage continual improvements in water supply forecasting and reliability in delivering water for irrigation for all users.

~~Baseline management actions~~ actions supporting these goals and objectives are that include, among other elements described in Section V. Water Use Management and Implementation Strategies 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*.”

Part B. In addition to amendments proposed for Section IV., above, I propose the following amendments to Section V. of the plan entitled Water Use Management and Implementation Strategies:

1. Paragraph E. Stream Flow Target becomes Paragraph A. Stream Flow Target – Silver Creek/Little Wood [NOTE: I propose moving up this paragraph, as it is one of the most important actions in support of the goals & objectives. A flow target is not a ‘goal’ of the GWMP. It is a management action taken to achieve the broader goals, as re-stated in

Section IV.] Some amendment to the paragraph is required to agree with the revisions to Section IV., as follows:

“~~A~~E. Stream Flow Target

A ~~flow target of goal of the Management Plan is to maintain a 32~~ F_1 cfs four-day moving average streamflow ~~shall be maintained~~target from May 1 through September 30 at Station 10 on the Little Wood River near Richfield. This flow target is intended to support delivery of senior surface water rights and both stream and aquifer health. The target allows for consumptive use of ground water within the forecasted water supply tiers shown in Table 1, provided that the ~~32~~ F_1 cfs four-day moving average streamflow target is met. The target may be achieved by implementing....” etc.

2. Insert new Paragraph B. Water Table Target Range. [NOTE: The paragraph shall outline maintaining average aquifer water table levels within a range of D_1 to D_2 feet below the ground surface, according to readings at established, designated monitoring sites (see proposed map, figure M). This is a new concept and incorporating it into the management actions section would be subject to TWG review & approval of its basis & utility.]

3. A flow target on the BWR may be warranted, subject to TWG review & approval of its basis & utility.

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