BIG WOOD RIVER GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

SVGWD & GGWD

MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES - DRAFT

Forecasting and Water Supply - Water supply forecasting is vitally important to all water users. Forecasting tools have been and continue to be developed that will assist with water year planning and strategies.

Based upon IDWR Staff / Philip Blankenau's May 17, 2021 memorandum and his testimony, the 2013 water supply was adequate in the Little Wood and Silver Creek. The 2013 Apr-Sep discharge at the Hailey gage was 154 KAF.

IDWR Staff / Jennifer Sukow's developed a linear regression approach to stream flow and identified that 83 cfs will be maintained on average during July-Sep at the Sportsman gage on Silver Creek.

Water Master Kevin Lakey testified that a discharge of 80 to 85 cfs at the Sportsman gage on Silver Creek is adequate water supply for delivery to downstream surface water users.

In dry years, further predictions would be reviewed on June 1 to assure that reductions are adequate.

Fallowing - The Districts intends to fallow 1,500 acres in 2022, continuing annually.

Recharge - Using irrigation water rights appurtenant to fallowed acres (POD unchanged) water diverted in District 45 Canal and Baseline Canal will be used for groundwater recharge to improve aquifer conditions, continuing annually.

Cloud Seeding - The Plan supports opportunities for enhanced cloud seeding in addition to the existing cloud seeding program in the Big Wood River basin.

Storage Water - The Plan will seek to acquire a long-term contract for the rental of 1500 acre feet of Snake River storage water, including delivery losses, that can be used through the Milner-Gooding Canal to augment the water supply, primarily in the Little Wood River. Delivery of this rented water will be provided on years above 154 KAF in exchange for an equal amount of water storage in Magic Reservoir, including transport losses. Dry years would be those below Apr-Sep discharge of 154 KAF at Hailey.

Additional Dry Year Mitigation - If additional actions are needed there are a variety of options to reduce ground water depletion. Actions include making storage water available as described above, methods to reduce the depletion of ground water being pumped such as end gun removal, reducing water application rates and injections from groundwater pumps of fallowed acres. Actions to provide mitigation in dry years will be

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evaluated with the most recent version of the WRV Groundwater Model for analog water years.

Moratorium on New Water Rights - maintain the moratorium on new water rights that could result in a depletion.

Infrastructure Upgrades and Funding - provide resources to assist in funding of water delivery system projects that result in improved efficiencies and water savings. Request $100,000 annually from the Cities and Sun Valley Company to provide assistance to the surface water users.

Monitoring - develop plan for improved monitoring, data collection and reporting.

Water Right Accounting – a water right accounting program for Water District 37. This includes implementation of IDWR's computerized accounting system.

Adaptive Management - develop a systematic process for improving management strategies and practices by learning from the outcomes of implemented actions.

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