

ESPA GWMA Advisory Committee

10/31/2023 Draft Management Plan Goals:

1. Management actions should stabilize the aquifer (prevent further declines in aquifer levels) in all areas of the ESPA on a local and regional scale.
2. The Plan should include actions to increase the system capacity to capture and use, store, or recharge with surface water during high water years. Such actions will reduce the amount of unappropriated water leaving the Upper Snake River Basin.
3. The Plan should identify measurement data that will provide an accurate indicator of aquifer health.
4. Any pumping reductions, diversion limits, allocations, or other thresholds established by the Plan should be monitored and enforced on a real-time basis.
5. The Plan should identify tools that effectively quantify the benefits of management activities.
6. The Plan should include specific benchmarks and metrics.
7. The Plan should provide flexibility to individual water users, allowing a water user to market reduction credits or allocations, use water from next year's allocation, and carry over allocation amounts.
8. The Plan should provide sufficient notice of future allocations or pumping reductions to help water users plan for the future.
9. Compliance with the Plan must be performance based, not outcome based.
10. Allocations or pumping reductions must be divided between ground water users uniformly and fairly, accounting for differences in priority date. Allocations or pumping reductions should reflect the water supply in any given year.
11. Any required reduction in pumping must be a true reduction, not just a paper (accounting) reduction.
12. Metrics for aquifer health should be established on a local basis and tied to local activities. Goals and benchmarks for success must be directly related to the local aquifer levels and correlated with the pumping data for a specific area.

13. Water users should employ current technologies to improve conservation efforts.
14. The Plan should include elements and concepts from other plans and agreements that have proven effective in stabilizing aquifer levels.
15. The Plan should include provisions about enforcement. Unauthorized uses and over diversions must be curtailed.
16. Future uses of water, including domestic uses, must provide mitigation for any new depletions to the aquifer.
17. The Plan should be drafted in a way that the requirements can be easily extended in tributary basins if such basins are subject to the plan.
18. The Plan should ensure a safe and reliable source of water for the citizens of the state of Idaho.
19. The Plan should be drafted using plain language so it can be easily understood and implemented by the average water user.
20. The Plan should be predictable and reliable with clear expectations and requirements for water users.