

AQUIFER STABILIZATION FRAMEWORK

1. Objective: Stabilize at 2001 levels throughout the ESPA and discharge in a manner that keeps as many acres of farmland in production, and as many businesses in operation, as possible.
4-01.1 Goal: See Surface Water Framework while respecting Idaho Law, Constitution and Sustainability Policyming the Resource.

2. Management Framework: Develop a management plan, implement and enforce the plan, observe groundwater levels, adjust plan as needed to achieve and maintain stabilization.

Commented: Generally agree but compliance is critical to the success of the Plan

3. Management Plan Overview (additional details below)

Commented: Generally Agree

3.1 Water in:

- (a) Preserve incidental recharge.
- (b) Efficiently eExpand managed aquifer recharge to address certain areas of the ESPA.
- (c) Increase inflows from tributary basins.
- (d) Continue cloud seeding.

3.2 Water out:

- (a) Expand conversions.
- (b) Implement an achievable and enforceable diversion reduction/consumptive use program.
- (c) Better management tools & incentives.

Commented: Generally Agree these are the tools available to decrease withdrawals

3.3 Implementation:

- (a) Pragmatic Eenforcement process.
- (b) Designated checkpoints & adjustment process (adaptive management).
- (c) Stakeholder committee.
 - (i) Monitor plan implementation.
 - (ii) Make adjustments at checkpoints.
 - (iii) Work collectively to develop management tools & incentives.

Commented: Generally Agree

4. Water In (Groundwater Augmentation)

4.1 Preserve incidental recharge.

- (a) Incentivize incidental recharge.
- (b) Consider effects of IWRB & USDA infrastructure grants on aquifer stabilization, and encourage state-sponsored recharge to offset impacts - Recharge solely in hands of State?-
- (c) Consider effects of out-of-basin water transfers on aquifer stabilization.
- (d) Sustain the interest of Milner 0 flow and Two Rivers Doctrine.

Commented: Generally Agree with State sponsored programs

4.2 Expand managed aquifer recharge.

- (a) Increase IWRB goal from 250k AF to 350k AF consistent with law and agreements-
- (b) Expand recharge capacity above American Falls to address certain areas of the ESPA.
- (c) Continued state funding of managed aquifer recharge.
- (d) Leverage state & federal funding to expand aquifer recharge.
- (e) Incentivize private recharge - inconsistent with 4.1.b.

Commented: Not part of a GWMA Plan

Commented : Generally agree with identified comments

4.3 Increase inflows from tributary basins.

- (a) Regulate groundwater diversions in tributary basins through the Plan.
- (b) Encourage state to take actions needed to regulate tributary basins.

Commented: Generally agree so long as IDWR has necessary data and modeling

4.4 Continue cloud seeding.

- (a) Work with Idaho Power and IWRB to ensure cloud seeding continues.

Commented: Generally agree with recognized benefits to parties

5. Water Out (Groundwater Conservation)

- 5.1 Diversion reduction program:
- (a) Determine the amount of conservation needed to stabilize and recover the ESPA after accounting for actions to increase inflow to the aquifer.
 - (b) Allocate maximum sustainable yield among user groups.
 - (i) User groups determine allocation among patrons, taking into account priority need for uniformity across areas, date and other relevant factors.
 - (ii) Groundwater users not represented by IGWA, the cities, or another user group will be allocated a pro rata share. Equity given consideration of priority.
- 5.2 Management tools (Okay if objective/measurable):
- (a) Conservation incentives
 - (i) End-gun removal program
 - (ii) Groundwater conservation easements (Colorado/Kansas)
 - (iii) Modified CREP (conservation without fallowing)
 - (b) Groundwater Market (Fox Canyon/Mammoth Water)
 - (i) Mechanism to meet the water needs of industrial users and other water demands that are not capable of on-farm reductions, and to incentivize the growing of low water use crops.
 - (ii) Develop software specific to ESPA.
- 5.3 Enforcement:
- (a) Excess allocation may be carried forward. Sideboards to be determined. No
 - (b) Excess use must be remedied by purchasing allocation from other users and/or reducing use the following year. Yes and Penalty
 - (c) If excess use is not remedied the following year, a penalty equal to X% of the excess use will be imposed, and the full amount (excess use + penalty) must be remedied the following irrigation season by fallowing.
6. Adaptive Management (McVay Statement)
- 6.1 Progress toward aquifer stabilization/recovery evaluated at predetermined intervals. Agree, see our policy surface water framework.
- 6.2 Aquifer stabilization Goals monitored regionally.
- (a) Define regions.
 - (b) Establish regional groundwater indices.
 - (i) Regional well index vs. regional Mann-Kendall analysis.
 - (ii) Water levels at specific points vs. regional storage change.
- 6.3 Adjust management plan as needed to achieve and maintain stabilization goal.
- (a) Adjustments may be made to groundwater augmentation actions based on learned experience and opportunities for enhancement.
 - (b) Adjustments to groundwater conservation program may be made to achieve and maintain aquifer stabilization. Adjustments may not be uniform between regions as needed to initially address areas of concern. Hot spots.
 - (c) Develop relationship between regions.
7. Stakeholder Committee
- 7.1 Meets three times annually to review progress.
 - (a) Develop reporting process.
 - 7.2 At designated intervals (benchmarks), evaluates changes to the management plan that may be appropriate to achieve and maintain aquifer stabilization.
 - 7.3 Submits recommended plan amendments to the Director.
 - 7.4 Pragmatic dispute resolution process.

Commented: Generally agree consistent with goals and benchmarks

Commented: Need to define

Commented: Generally Agree

Commented: Need for strict enforcement. History has shown that leniency is abused.

Commented: Generally Agree. Adaptive management recognizes uncertain given

Commented: McVay questioned appropriateness. Does the regionalization discussion influence whether tributaries are addressed?

Commented: Generally agree with comments noted