

Framework Summary

Goals/Objectives:

“the starting point is the statutory requirement that a ground water management plan shall provide for managing the effects of ground water withdrawals on the aquifer...and on any other hydraulically connected sources of water.” *Director’s GWMA Order*.

- To avoid, to the extent possible, curtailment or reduction of ground water withdrawals by ensuring a reasonably safe supply of water for uses that rely upon the ESPA.
- To recognize the impacts and responsibility of legacy withdrawals on ESPA storage and spring discharges.
- To address the water supply for all water users of the ESPA and discharges.
- To arrest declines and improve ESPA storage and spring discharges throughout reaches of the Snake River to protect existing water rights.
- To minimize the risk of additional administrative actions (Trust Water violations, potential cancellation, delivery call administration).
- Compliance with the Plan shall protect water users from Plan administration.

Goal:

Restoring discharges and ground water levels to 2001 levels throughout the reaches of the Snake River, springs and within the ESPA, and initially addressing areas where water supply deficits have created conflicts, as the goal, is legally defensible and consistent with the purpose behind the 2009 ESPA CAMP, Idaho statutes and prior agency decisions.

Timeframe: 25-year recovery period: 5 years to stop declines and then 20 years to recover and stabilize at 2001 levels

Step 1 - *Stopping Declines/Stabilization*

Step 2 - *Rate of recovery to 2001 level: average rate of recovery (using 3-5 year running averages)*

Measuring points: W/Benchmarks (Check-ins)

Blackfoot – Neeley/Milner RGs (NBNRG)

Milner – Swan Falls RGs

Box Canyon gage

Alpheus Creek

Curren Tunnel

A&B wells (other wells?)

Potential Actions:

Near-term actions to address water supply shortfalls and *Step 1* stabilization.

1. Reduce Aquifer withdrawals through verified consumptive use reductions from 2023 GW withdrawals.
2. Prioritize IWRB recharge and new site development in locations to address immediate water supply shortfalls in areas where administrative or data driven actions are supported.
3. Directed cloudseeding in basins experiencing deficits.
4. Review 2009 ESPA CAMP management strategies (CAMP pg. 10) to identify additional actions.

Other Actions/considerations

ESPA/Water District Administration:

- i.* All water rights within the ESPA GWMA boundary will be brought into GWDs/Water Districts.
- ii.* The State shall prioritize modeling and data collection, and policy changes to support expanding the boundary of the GWMA and uses covered (domestics) which impact water budget allocations and benchmark obligations.

Water Districts 100, 110, 120, 130 and 140 assessing their water users to fund performing measuring, monitoring and enforcement.

Compliance with the Plan shall constitute protection from administration of the Plan. However, compliance with the Plan shall not preclude administration under the Conjunctive Management Rules as recognized by statute.

IWRB Programs (Managed Recharge & Cloudseeding)

Adaptive Water Management Measures

Plan Compliance

Continued compliance with the Plan or Director ordered modifications shall result in protection from administration under the Plan. This protection shall not extend to administrative actions pursuant to the Conjunctive Management Rules (individual delivery calls / priority administration).