BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING THE STATEWIDE WATER SUSTAINABILITY AND AQUIFER STABILIZATION, AND THE SECONDARY AQUIFER STABILIZATION, AND SECONDARY AQUIFER PLANNING, MANAGEMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION FUND FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET	RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET

WHEREAS, House Bill 547 passed and approved by the 2014 Legislature allocates $5 million annually through 2019 from the Cigarette Tax to the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund (Secondary Aquifer Fund) for statewide aquifer stabilization; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 256 passed and approved by the 2019 Legislature allocated $5 million in ongoing General Fund dollars to the IWRB's Secondary Aquifer Fund for statewide water sustainability and aquifer stabilization; and

WHEREAS, un-allocated funds already in the Secondary Aquifer Fund will be carried forward into the Fiscal Year 2026 budget; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2025, the IWRB approved Resolution 18-2025 for the use of available funds in the Secondary Aquifer Fund for statewide water sustainability and aquifer stabilization purposes for Fiscal Year 2026; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2025, the IWRB approved Resolution 35-2025 amending Resolution 18-2025 to reflect a potential change in General Fund appropriations of available funds and changes in specific line items of the Fiscal Year 2026 Secondary Aquifer Fund budget for statewide water sustainability and aquifer stabilization purposes; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB amends the adopted Fiscal Year 2026 Budget set forth in Resolution 35-2025 for the continuously-appropriated Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund as shown in Attachment A to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the budget may be adjusted, if necessary, based on the actual amount of Cigarette Tax funds received, interest income received, or the actual amount of carry-over from Fiscal Year 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB may modify this budget during Fiscal Year 2026 at a properly noticed meeting of the IWRB.

DATED this 21st day of November 2025.

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A:

FY2026 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE SECONDARY AQUIFER FUND

Estimated Carry-Over From FY25	$	5,191,425
General Fund (2026)	$	5,000,000
HB547 funds - receipt of Cigarette Tax proceeds	$	5,000,000
Estimated interest	$	750,000
TOTAL	**$**	**15,941,425**

Category		Sub-Category	FY26	
ESPA MANAGED RECHARGE PROGRAM				
ESPA Recharge Operations		Conveyance Cost	$3,500,000	**
		O&M (equipment, supplies, operational fees, etc.)	$200,000	
		AFRD2 MP31 Gate Repair	$50,000	
		NSCC Power to Wilson Canyon	$250,000	
		Recharge Monitoring	$750,000	
		TOTAL	**$4,750,000**	
ESPA Recharge Investigations	**Budgeted Investigations**	Recharge site characterization & canal capacity investigations	$238,000	
		BJGWD - Osgood Canal Improvement Evaluation ($50,000)	$50,000	
		NSCC Wilson Lake Area Study ($50,000)	$50,000	
		USGS WQ Trends Study (312,000)	$312,000	
		TOTAL	**$650,000**	
PROGRAM TOTAL			**$5,400,000**	
CLOUD SEEDING PROGRAM				
Operations & Maintenance	**Upper Snake River Basin**	2024-2025 Project Operations - Aircraft & Remote Ground (=2/3 * $1,945,000)	$1,361,500	
	Wood River Basin	2024-2025 Project Operations - Aircraft & Remote Ground (=2/3 * $802,000)	$561,400	
	Boise River Basin	2024-2025 Project Operations - Aircraft & Remote Ground (=2/3 * $1,079,000)	$755,300	
	Collaborative Program	Estimated Water User Contributions (11.58%)	($442,910)	
	New Basins	Infrastructure, Investigations, Administration | Bear River Basin	$1,006,000	*
	HCRCD Program	2024-2025 Upper Snake Project Operations - Manual Ground	$60,000	*
	Administration	Partnership Collaborations, Staff Travel, WMA/NAWMC Memberships	$20,000	
	Technology	Administration | Operational Modeling and Computing ($64K Total 50/50)	$32,000	
TOTAL			**$3,353,290**	
Capital	**Weather Instrumentation**	(Existing) Replacement/Enhancement/Upgrade	$200,000	
		(Statewide) New Devices	$0	
	Technology	(Infrastructure) Computing and Modeling	$500,000	*
	Equipment	Remote Ground Generators	$0	
TOTAL			**$700,000**	
Research & Development	**Technology & Investigations**	(Development) Weather Instrumentation and Modeling	$1,625,000	*
TOTAL			**$1,625,000**	
Reserve			$250,000	
CLOUD SEEDING PROGRAM TOTAL			**$5,928,290**	
TREASURE VALLEY				
Monitoring in support of the Treasure Valley model (annual)			$150,000	
Treasure Valley Recharge Pilot Project			$50,000	
Starr Watershed Project (1 of 2 years)			$50,000	
TOTAL			**$250,000**	
RAFT RIVER BASIN				
Raft River Hydrologic Studies and Monitoring			$50,000	
RAFT RIVER TOTAL			**$50,000**	
PORTNEUF BASIN				
Portneuf Hydrogeologic Study (Year 3 of 4)			$150,000	
TOTAL			**$150,000**	
BEAR RIVER BASIN				
Water Sustainability			$600,000	*
TOTAL			**$600,000**	
LEMHI BASIN				
Support of Water Sustainability Initiatives per settlement			$600,000	*
TOTAL			**$600,000**	
MID-SNAKE BASIN				
Mid-Snake Water Quality Monitoring (annual)			$50,000	
TOTAL			**$50,000**	
PALOUSE BASIN				
Aquifer monitoring			$200,000	
TOTAL			**$200,000**	
MOUNTAIN HOME BASIN				
Groundwater Model Development Year 2 of 4			$250,000	
TOTAL			**$250,000**	
BIG LOST BASIN				
Monitoring in support of Big Lost model development (annual)			$150,000	
TOTAL			**$150,000**	
WOOD RIVER BASIN				
Conservation, infrastructure fund associated with settlement (year 1 of 3)			$200,000	
Camas GW characterization, drilling, water levels associated with settlement (year 3 of 3)			$0	
TOTAL			**$200,000**	
HYDROLOGY ACTIVITIES				
ESPA monitoring			$300,000	
Statewide surface water and aquifer monitoring			$715,000	
New monitoring wells and instrumentation for ESPAM data gaps			$100,000	
TOTAL			**$1,115,000**	
STATEWIDE				
Professional Services (includes media & federal outreach services) and administrative costs			$250,000	
TOTAL			**$250,000**	
GRAND TOTAL			**$15,193,290**	
Reserve for Work in Other Priority Aquifers Total			**$ 748,135**	

**These items will require the IWRB pass an additional resolution to authorize funding.*

***Since FY2019, $3.5 M has been budgeted for ESPA Recharge Conveyance annually with the understanding that money budgeted but not spent within a fiscal year would stay committed and accrue for years when there is a large magnitude of water available for managed recharge. For the current fiscal year (FY26) there* is $3.5M allocated plus $10.5M carried over from previous years for future conveyance fees.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD'S WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SECOND AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2026 WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT SPENDING PLAN

WHEREAS, the Water Management Account (WMA) was created pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1760 and is administered by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB); and

WHEREAS, through House Bill (HB) 285, the 2019 Idaho Legislature appropriated $20 Million to the WMA to be used for the Anderson Ranch Reservoir Enlargement (Anderson Ranch Dam Raise) or the Mountain Home Air Force Base Sustainable Water Project (MHAFB Project); and

WHEREAS, HB 285 also made amendments to Idaho Code § 42-1760, which state, in part, that the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise, MHAFB Project, additional aquifer recharge infrastructure, and other projects selected by the IWRB may be undertaken with funds in the Water Management Account; and

WHEREAS, through Senate Bill (SB) 1121, the Idaho Legislature appropriated $50 Million to the Water Management Account, and the IWRB, through Resolution No. 07-2021, allocated funds appropriated under HB 285 and SB 1121 to the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise, MAHFB Project, Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) recharge infrastructure, and the Bear Lake Additional Water Storage project; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Idaho Legislature, through House Bill 769, appropriated $75 Million to the WMA to be used for large water projects and directed the IWRB to use the funding for expenditures, loans, or grants for water projects, including studies, to address water sustainability, rehabilitate or improve aging water infrastructure, or support flood management; and

WHEREAS, HB 769 further directed that no more than one-third of the moneys be used for grants and the IWRB shall use criteria that takes into account the public's input for the expenditures of money for grants, that is competitive, and prioritizes projects based on the public benefits they provide; and

WHEREAS, HB 361, passed and approved by the 2023 Idaho Legislature, appropriated $150M to the WMA for large water projects and specified that the funding be used for purposes similar to those specified in HB 769, including the requirement that no more than one-third of the money be used for grants. In accordance with HB 769 and 361 referenced above, the IWRB established the Aging Infrastructure Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Idaho Legislature, through SB 1411, appropriated $30 Million to the WMA to be used for large water projects at the direction of the IWRB; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature, through House Bill 445, appropriated $30 Million ongoing to the WMA to be used for planning, construction, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and improvement of water infrastructure throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, HB 445 further directed that of the $30 Million appropriated in a single year, no more than fifty percent (50%) may be used within a single IWRB district, as defined in Idaho Code § 42-1732

unless there are not competing funding applications for water infrastructure projects in other districts for the current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, for fiscal year 2026 (FY 2026), fifty percent (50%) of the appropriation from HB 445 shall be allocated for use in IWRB District 3 and fifty percent (50%) in District 4 for the purpose of supporting the 2024 *Stipulated Mitigation Plan* entered into by surface and ground water users on the Eastern Snake Plain; and

WHEREAS, since July 2021, the IWRB has maintained a list of priority Regional Water Sustainability Projects (RWSP Priority List). The RWSP Priority List is intended to help guide the IWRB's spending from state general funds, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, or other applicable sources for projects that support water supply sustainability on a regional, basin, or statewide scale. The IWRB also adopts criteria for inclusion of projects on the RWSP Priority List and has approved funding for projects on a case-by-case basis; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2025, through Resolution 16-2025, the IWRB added the ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Project to the RWSP Priority list to support projects and programs that contribute to aquifer stabilization; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2025, through Resolution 19-2025, the IWRB approved a spending plan for appropriations made to the WMA under the legislation referenced above, including estimated interest. The WMA Spending Plan considers projects on the RWSP Priority List, grant programs, certain IWRB approved loans, and allocates the FY 2026 $30 million appropriation for programs and projects under the ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Project that meet the spending requirements defined in HB 445 for fiscal year 2026; and

WHEREAS, a number of projects on the RWSP Priority List were determined eligible for funding from ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund. Given that ARPA funding has specific federal and state spending requirements, the spending plan includes allocation of additional funds from the WMA to be used if additional funding is required for project completion or if it is determined that ARPA funds are not authorized for specific project tasks; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2025, the IWRB passed Resolution 34-2025, amending the WMA Spending Plan to apply a 3% reduction to FY 2026 General Fund Appropriations as directed under Governor Little's Executive Order No. 2025-05; however, it was subsequently determined that general funds appropriated to the WMA, including the FY 2026 $30 million appropriation and $1 million appropriation for Flood Management Grants, are not subject to the reduction; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2025, the IWRB Finance Committee recommended a second amended spending plan for FY 2026 to the full IWRB that reinstates 3% reduction applied through IWRB Resolution 34-2025 and that obligates funding for the following projects as reflected in Attachment A:

- Anderson Ranch Dam Raise – Obligation of funds to supplement ARPA funding for the non-federal cost-share if needed.
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – Obligation of funds for use by the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission for program administration.

- Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline & Other Statewide Special Projects – Obligation of funds for implementation of Governor Little's Salmon Recovery Plan projects and other statewide special projects.
- Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project (MHAFB Project) & Other Regional Projects – Obligation of funds to supplement ARPA funding for remaining MHAFB Project expenses or to support future Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer/Elmore County sustainability projects.
- Palouse Basin Aquifer Water Supply Planning – Obligation of funds for engineering design and development of a proposed regional water supply project in the Palouse Basin.
- Raft River Pipeline – Obligation of funds for construction of a pipeline from the Snake River to offset groundwater pumping in the Raft River Basin.
- Statewide Recharge Infrastructure – Obligation of funds to support planning and implementation of recharge infrastructure in various basins statewide such as the Treasure Valley, Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer, and Lemhi River basin.
- Thousand Springs Area Water Subordination Agreements – Obligation of funds to help resolve water supply issues in the Thousand Springs area.
- Upper Snake River Basin Study – Obligation of funds for the non-federal cost-share portion of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart *Upper Snake River Basin Study*.
- Upper Payette Basin Storage Water Project – Obligation of funds for actions necessary to secure uncontracted water storage space in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Cascade and Deadwood Reservoirs.
- ESPA Improvement Projects and Near Blackfoot to Minidoka Reach Gain Improvements Projects – Obligation of funds in accordance with Governor Little's direction to commit $10 million towards projects to improve the long-term health of the ESPA, authorized under IWRB Resolution no. 40-2024.
- ESPA Groundwater Measurement Database – Obligation of funds to develop and maintain a new database to manage monthly groundwater pumping measurements as required under the 2024 *Stipulated Mitigation Plan* entered into by surface and ground water users on the Eastern Snake Plain.
- Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Support – Obligation of funds to obtain technical outside review of injection well applications for aquifer storage and recharge on the ESPA, authorizing funding up to $100,000 per year for five years.
- ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant (FY 2026 Round 2) – Obligation of funds for a second grant application period in FY 2026.
- Statewide Aging Infrastructure Grants – Obligation of funds for a seventh grant application period.
- Statewide Flood Management Grants - Obligation of funds for a second grant application period in FY 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the *Second Amended FY 2026 WMA Spending Plan* (Spending Plan) attached to this resolution (Attachment A), as recommended by the IWRB Finance Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the projects marked with an asterisk in the

attached Spending Plan are hereby obligated for the referenced purposes but require additional IWRB approval of the project plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in accordance with the attached Spending Plan, Twin Falls Canal Company Surface Water Efficiency Project, authorized under IWRB Resolution no. 36-2025, shall be funded as part of the ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Program, using existing WMA funds, including allocations from the $30M FY 2026 Earmark.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding is authorized for the development of an ESPA Groundwater Measurement Database to manage monthly groundwater pumping measurements as required under the 2024 *Stipulated Mitigation Plan* between surface and groundwater users on the Eastern Snake Plain. Initial development activities up to $50,000 are authorized under this resolution without further IWRB approval.

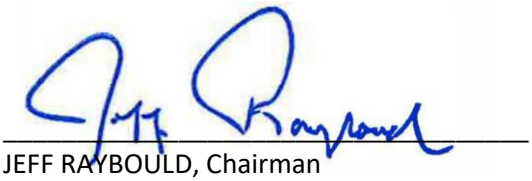
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding is authorized for IDWR's UIC Program Support to obtain technical outside review of injection well applications for aquifer recharge in the ESPA, authorizing funding up to $100,000 per year for five years and expenditure of up to $100,000 without further IWRB approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or Executive Manager, Brian Patton, to execute the necessary agreements or contracts for the purpose of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for projects identified in the attached Spending Plan and approved by the IWRB for funding from the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund, the IWRB authorizes the expenditure of WMA funds to cover project activities determined to be ineligible or in excess of available ARPA funding.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attached Spending Plan shall be automatically amended to reflect WMA expenditures approved through future IWRB resolutions.

DATED this 21st day of November 2025.



JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

Idaho Water Resource Board - Water Management Account

Second Amended FY 2026 Spending Plan

November 21, 2025

Appropriations for Regional Water Sustainability Projects, Loans, Aging Infrastructure & Other Grants

FY 2020 *(HB 285, Sec 1, Leg 2019)*	$20,000,000
FY 2022 *(SB 1121, Sec 1, Leg 2021)*	$50,000,000
FY 2023 *(HB 769, Sec 6, Leg 2022 - 1/3 or $25M to be used for AI Grants)*	$75,000,000
FY 2024 *(HB 361, Sec 1, Leg 2023 - 1/3 or $50M to be used for AI Grants)*	$150,000,000
FY 2025 *(SB 1411, Sec 3, Leg 2024)*	$30,000,000
FY2026 *(HB 445, Sec 4, Receive after July 1, 2025)*	$30,000,000
Flood Management Grant Appropriations (FY 2019 - FY 2026)	$7,400,000
Water Quality Collection Program Appropriation (FY 2020 - FY 2022)	$600,000
Interest Earned State Treasury *(as of Oct 31, 2025)*	$34,270,371
Water Project Loan Interest *(as of Oct 31, 2025)*	$5,276
	$397,275,647

STATEWIDE REGIONAL WATER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS & OTHER LARGE PROJECTS *(Projects listed in alphbetical order)*	**Budgeted Amount**	**Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 11/21/2025)**	**Funds Expended (as of 10/31/2025)**
Anderson Ranch Dam Raise **	$10,000,000	$10,000,000 *	$1,232,047
Bear Lake Additional Storage	$2,000,000	$1,200,000 *	$0
City of Gooding - Little Wood River Channel Flood Control Project	$5,197,000	$5,197,000	$3,600,000
City of Nampa Wastewater-to-Irrigation Reuse	$3,000,000	$3,000,000	$312,770
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	$100,000	$100,000	$0
Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline (Governor's Initiative) & Other Statewide Special Projects	$60,000,000	$60,000,000 *	$0
Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project **	$1,287,000	$1,287,000	$1,287,000
Lost Valley Reservoir Enlargement - Planning	$560,000	$560,000	$185,138
Milner Dam Rehabilitation Project	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	$0
Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project & Other Regional Projects **	$10,000,000	$10,000,000 *	$104,000
Nampa Meridian Irrigation District Ridenbaugh Canal Diversion Modernization Project	$9,169,047	$9,169,047	$0
North Fremont Canal Systems Phase 5 Pipeline Project	$7,811,056	$7,811,056	$7,811,056
Palouse Basin Aquifer Water Supply Planning	$5,000,000	$5,000,000 *	$0
Priest Lake Water Management Project	$5,420,000	$5,420,000	$4,854,477
Priest Lake Outlet Dam Litigation	$2,748,000	$2,748,000	$2,424,597
Raft River Pipeline Project	$7,000,000	$7,000,000 *	$0
Statewide Recharge Infrastructure	$20,000,000	$20,000,000 *	$0
Thousand Springs Area Water Subordination Agreements	$8,000,000	$8,000,000 *	$0
Treasure Valley Water Supply Assessment Project (WD 63)	$474,320	$474,320	$139,950
Upper Snake River Basin Study	$3,000,000	$3,000,000 *	$0
Upper Payette Basin Storage Water Project	$5,000,000	$5,000,000 *	$0
Total:	**$167,266,423**	**$166,466,423**	**$21,951,035**

** Funds are obligated by IWRB resolution but require additional IWRB approval of project plan.*

*** Eligible for ARPA Funding.*

Idaho Water Resource Board - Water Management Account

Second Amended FY 2026 Spending Plan

November 20, 2025

ESPA REGIONAL WATER SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM	Budgeted Amount	Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 11/21/2025)	Funds Expended (as of 10/31/2025)
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Improvement Projects	$5,000,000	$5,000,000 *	$0
Near Blackfoot to Minidoka Reach Gain Improvements Projects	$5,000,000	$5,000,000 *	$0
ESPA Recharge Infrastructure **	$2,685,087	$2,685,087	$121,908
ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant (FY 2025)	$13,330,625	$13,330,625	$123,481
ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant (FY 2026 - Round 1)	$12,060,936	$12,060,936	$0
ESPA GW to SW Conversion Projects Grant (FY 2026 Scheduled Round 2)	$6,669,375	$6,669,375 *	$0
Twin Falls Canal Company Operations Efficiency Project *(total $26,340,915)*	$19,088,118	$19,088,118	$7,375,263
FY 2026 Earmark *($30M Appropriation) ****			
Measuring & Monitoring Support Grant	$815,102	$815,102	$2,653,347
ESPA Recharge Infrastructure **	$13,314,500	$13,314,500	$0
ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant (Round 2)	$6,626,001	$6,626,001	$0
Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program *(AFRD2 & Portion of TFCC Projects)*	$8,244,397	$8,244,397	$0
ESPA Groundwater Measurement Database	$500,000	$500,000 *	$0
IDWR Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Support	$500,000	$500,000 *	$0
FY 2026 ESPA Earmark Total:	**$30,000,000**	**$30,000,000**	**$2,653,347**
ESPA Regional Sustainability Program Total:	**$93,834,141**	**$93,834,141**	**$10,273,999**

** Funds are obligated by IWRB resolution but require additional IWRB approval of project plan. ** Eligible for ARPA Funding.*

**** FY 2026 $30M Earmark: IWRB Districts 3 & 4 each must receive 50% of FY 2026 appropriation (HB 445, FY 2026). More than $93M has been obligated to ESPA stabilization*

STATEWIDE AGING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS ^	Budgeted Amount	Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 11/21/2025)	Funds Expended (as of 10/31/2025)
Round 1	$10,679,952	$10,679,952	$6,914,875
Round 2	$14,320,048	$14,320,048	$6,266,252
Round 3	$11,083,621	$11,083,621	$4,967,521
Round 4	$7,678,350	$7,678,350	$1,445,073
Round 5 (FY 2025)	$11,569,271	$11,569,271	$1,560,915
Round 6 (scheduled FY 2026)	$22,919,008	$22,919,008	$0
Round 7 (scheduled FY 2027)	$24,428,500	$24,428,500 *	$0
Total:	**$102,678,750**	**$102,678,750**	**$21,154,636**

** Funds are obligated by IWRB resolution but require additional IWRB approval of project plan.*

^ Additional funding has been committed to the AIG program, supplementing the initial $75 million appropriated under HB 769 and HB 361.

Idaho Water Resource Board - Water Management Account
Second Amended FY 2026 Spending Plan
November 21, 2025

STATEWIDE FLOOD MANAGEMENT GRANTS	Budgeted Amount	Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 11/21/2025)	Funds Expended (as of 10/31/2025)
FY 2019 (Approp. $1M)	$901,678	$901,678	$901,678
FY 2020 (Approp. $800K)	$624,251	$624,251	$624,251
FY 2021 (Approp. $800K)	$860,945	$860,945	$688,743
FY 2022 (Approp. $800K)	$980,936	$980,936	$693,346
FY 2023 (Approp. $1M)	$1,153,253	$1,153,253	$483,774
FY 2024 (Approp. $1M)	$921,088	$921,088	$507,015
FY 2025 (Approp. $1M)	$702,304	$702,304	$59,438
FY 2026 (Approp. $1M total for FY 2026) - Round 1	$460,646	$460,646	$0
FY 2026 (Approp. $1M total for FY 2026) - Round 2	$794,899	$794,899 *	$0
Total:	**$7,400,000**	**$7,400,000**	**$3,958,245**

** Funds are obligated by IWRB resolution but require additional IWRB approval of project plan.*

STATEWIDE LOANS, GRANTS, & OTHER POTENTIAL NEEDS	Budgeted Amount	Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 11/21/2025)	Funds Expended or Loan Principal Balance (as of 10/31/2025)
Loans Committed *(Funds will be available for reallocation upon repayment)*	$15,496,333	$15,496,333	$84,560
Statewide Efficiency and Capacity Improvements to Canal Systems Grant	$5,000,000	$0	$0
Statewide Monitoring and Measurement Grant	$5,000,000	$0	$0
Total:	**$25,496,333**	**$15,496,333**	**$84,560**

WATER QUALITY COLLECTION PROGRAM	Budgeted Amount	Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 11/21/2025)	Funds Expended (as of 10/31/2025)
DOI-USGS Agreement FY 2020 - Mid-Snake River (HB 285, Sec 3, 2019)	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000
DOI-USGS Agreement FY 2021 - Mid-Snake River (HB 646, 2020)	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000
DOI-USGS Agreement FY 2022 - Mid-Snake River (HB 646, Sec 5, 2021)	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000
Total:	**$600,000**	**$600,000**	**$600,000**

Grand Total:	**$397,275,647**	**$386,475,647**	**$58,022,475**
Remainder Available:	**$0**		

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF AGING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS	RESOLUTION TO AWARD FUNDS

WHEREAS, House Bill 769 and House Bill 361 passed and approved by the Idaho Legislature appropriated to the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) Water Management Account $75,000,000 to be used for grants to improve aging water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 the IWRB adopted updated criteria for the award of Aging Infrastructure grants (resolution no. 21-2025) and set an application deadline of August 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, forty-five (45) aging Infrastructure grant applications were received by the deadline and the applications were evaluated, scored and ranked according to the criteria adopted by IWRB; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2025 the Finance Committee met and recommended the IWRB approve Aging Infrastructure Grant awards as specified in the Attachment A included with the resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB approves the award of Aging Infrastructure Grants from the Water Management Account as specified in Attachment A to this resolution.

DATED this 21st day of November 2025.

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

Attachment A

2025 Aging Infrastructure Grant Applications

Entity	District	Score	Funding Award
Aberdeen Springfield Canal Co.	4	109.8	$ 670,647.00
AFRD2	3	109.3	$ 2,000,000.00
District 45 Board of Control	3	108.8	$ 999,900.00
Last Chance Canal Co.	4	105.0	$ 487,000.00
Goose Creek FCD	3	103.8	$ 1,849,231.16
Enterprize Canal Co.	4	102.5	$ 181,297.50
Farmers Land and Irrigation Company	4	102.5	$ 180,000.00
Teton Island Feeder Canal Co.	4	102.3	$ 124,054.00
Dalton Gardens	1	101.3	$ 1,404,500.00
Boise City Canal Co.	2	100.5	$ 108,400.00
Southeast Idaho Canal Co.	4	100.0	$ 221,415.00
Upper Wood River Water Users	3	99.8	$ 200,000.00
Canyon Creek Canal Co. and FTR	4	98.0	$ 2,000,000.00
LOID	1	96.5	$ 2,000,000.00
King Hill Irrigation District	2	95.5	$ 2,000,000.00
Consolidated Irrigation Co.	4	95.3	$ 76,549.00
Squaw Creek Ditch Co.	2	95.3	$ 535,400.00
Little Lost River Watershed Improvement District	3	95.0	$ 40,475.00
Valley Soil and Water Conservation District	2	94.3	$ 1,000,000.00
Trail Creek Irrigation Co.	4	92.3	$ 62,397.00
Adams SWCD	2	91.5	$ 89,430.00
TFCC Clover Highline phase 3 and 4	3	89.0	$ 137,245.08
North Side Canal Co.	3	88.5	$ 2,000,000.00
Eagleson Park Water User Association	2	87.5	$ 19,000.00
Mountain Home Irrigation District	2	86.5	$ 754,976.00
Henrys Fork GWD	4	84.3	$ 781,797.42
Little Butte Irrigation Co.	4	84.0	$ 15,303.00
Boise Project Board of Control	2	81.3	$ 20,000.00
Timberdome Canal Co.	3	80.0	$ 2,000,000.00
Boise Valley Irrigation Ditch Co.	2	78.8	$ 95,794.00
City of Boise	2	76.5	$ 109,444.00
BLRID Arco Diversion	3	73.8	$ 350,000.00
Water District 65	2	72.3	$ 100,261.00
BLRID Mackay Dam Sediment Removal	3	67.0	$ 75,000.00
BLRID Beck Evans Canal Diversion Replacement	3	66.3	$ 85,000.00
FMID	4	65.8	$ 23,391.50
BLRID Swauger Diversion Replacement	3	63.5	$ 12,500.00
Caribou Soil Conservation District	4	60.7	$ 108,600.55
Total:			**$ 22,919,008.21**

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGES TO THE IDAHO STATE WATER PLAN AND THE EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN AQUIFER COMPREHENSIVE AQUIFER MANAGEMENT PLAN	RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CHANGES

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature in 2025 passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 110. The purpose of this resolution is to express legislative support for the November 15, 2024 settlement agreement between the members of the Surface Water Coalition and Ground Water Districts along the Eastern Snake Plain; and

WHEREAS, SCR 110 directs the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to revise the Idaho State Water Plan policies 4B, 4D, and 4E and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (ESPA CAMP) to increase the goal of the state-funded ESPA managed recharge from 250,000 acre-feet to 350,000 acre-feet; and

WHEREAS**,** the IWRB, pursuant to its planning authorities in Article XV, Section 7 of the Idaho Constitution, and Idaho Code 42-1734, 1734A, and 1734B developed proposed changes to State Water Plan (SWP) policies 4B, 4D, and 4E, and the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP); and

WHEREAS, as required under Idaho Code 42-1734A, the Board has sought substantial public participation and comment on the proposed changes by providing a public comment period greater than 60 days, including opportunity for submission of written comments and for oral testimony at two public hearings; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2025 the IWRB's Planning Committee reviewed the record of public comments consisting of oral testimony and written comments and considered the comments when proposing the recommended changes to the SWP and ESPA CAMP; and.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, having considered the proposed draft changes to the SWP and ESPA CAMP and the record of public comments, the Board hereby adopts the attached changes to SWP policies 4B, 4D, and 4E and the ESPA Management Plan (CAMP) increasing the goal of the state-funded ESPA managed recharge from 250,000 acre-feet to 350,000 acre-feet; The Board directs that the adopted changes be submitted to the Idaho Legislature as required by Idaho Constitution Article XV, Section 7 and Idaho Code 42-1734B(6)–(7).

DATED this 21st day of November 2025.

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

4B - SNAKE RIVER MILNER ZERO MINIMUM FLOW

Water resource policy, planning, and practice should continue to provide for full development of the Snake River above Milner Dam recognizing that the exercise of water rights above Milner Dam has and may reduce flow at the Dam to zero.

Discussion:

Idaho Code § 42-203B(2) provides that "[f]or the purpose of the determination and administration of rights to the use of the waters of the Snake River or its tributaries downstream from Milner Dam, no portion of the waters of the Snake River or surface or ground water tributary to the Snake River upstream from Milner Dam shall be considered." This provision was enacted in 1986 to confirm and clarify the Milner zero minimum stream flow and the "two rivers" concept. Policy 4B reaffirms the Milner zero minimum stream flow and the "two rivers" concept, which have appeared in each successive revision of the Idaho State Water Plan.

Figure 1 shows the annual volume of natural flow passing Milner Dam from 1980 through 2011. Because of year-to-year variability of the natural flow passing Milner Dam, the optimum development of the natural flow will be achieved through storage in surface water reservoirs above Milner Dam and in the ESPA.

Implementation of managed recharge will have an effect on the flow characteristics of the Snake River above and below Milner Dam. The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Management Plan ("ESPA CAMP") established a long-term annual hydrologic target of 150,000 to 250,000 acre-feet of managed recharge to be phased in to allow for informed water management and planning. The Phase I managed recharge hydrologic target for the Snake River Basin above Milner was to recharge between 100,000 and 175,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. The recharge target was subsequently raised to 250,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. [1]

The initial recharge goals of the ESPA CAMP have been achieved. In 2025, the Idaho Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 which recognized that ESPA groundwater levels, Snake River reach gains, and ESPA spring discharges increased from 2015 to 2020, but have since declined to near 2015 levels despite considerable groundwater conservation, and managed aquifer recharge Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 directed the IWRB to establish a state-funded ESPA managed recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. The state-sponsored 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis will be based on a 15-year rolling average. Achieving the state-sponsored 350,000 acre-feet recharge goal may require

[1] The Board entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Idaho Power Company as part of the 2009 Framework Reaffirming the Swan Falls Settlement dated May 6, 2009, that sets forth additional understandings between the Idaho Power Company and the Board regarding implementation of managed recharge.

development of additional managed recharge infrastructure. It is recognized that, given the variability of the water supply, this goal may be developed over time.

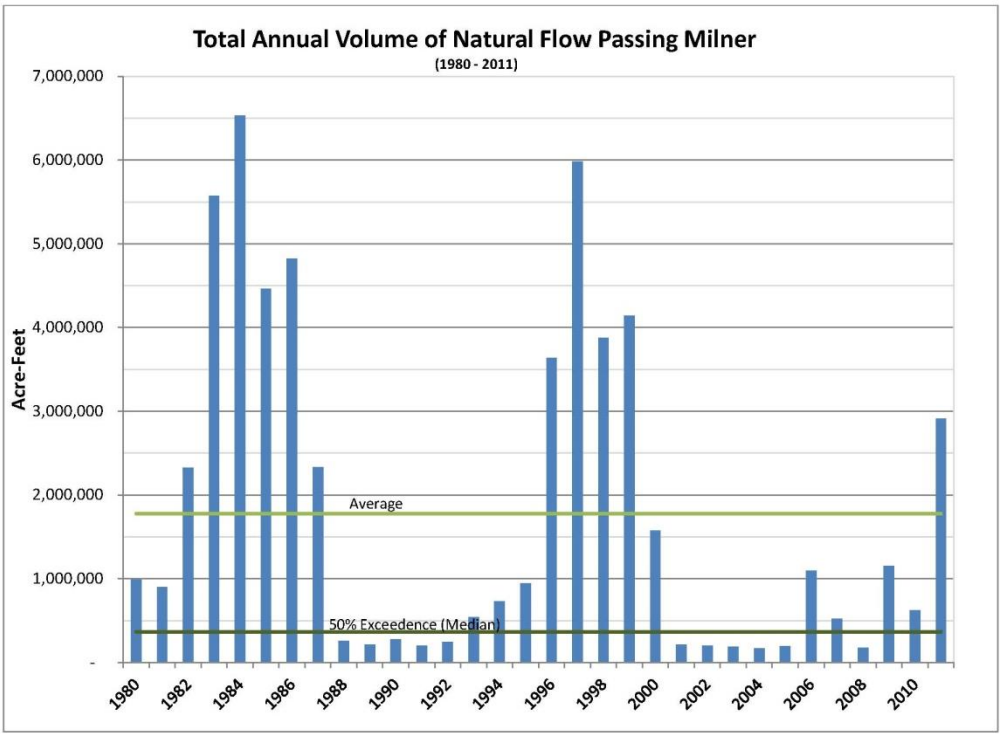


Figure 1 Total Annual Volume of Natural Flow Passing Milner Dam

As discussed in Policy 4E, development of new surface storage will take time. In the interim, the Board will cooperate with stakeholders to explore ways to optimize the management of flows that are currently passing over Milner Dam to first meet water supply needs above Milner Dam, and second to shape any remaining unappropriated flows for hydropower and other uses below Milner Dam.

Consistent with Idaho Code § 42-203B(2), no use of unappropriated flows passing Milner Dam by downstream users establishes a right to call on such flows now or in the future.

Implementation Strategies:

- Develop and maintain a reliable supply of water for existing uses and future beneficial uses above Milner Dam.
- Assess the feasibility of construction of new on-stream and off-stream storage in the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam.
- Implement a sustainable aquifer recharge program
- Address water management and reservoir operation needs through the Upper Snake River Advisory Committee.
- Measurement and Monitoring Implementation Strategy:

  - Continuously improve the Eastern Snake River Aquifer Model ("ESPAM"), the Snake River Planning Model ("SRPM"), and the Snake River Water Right Accounting Program.
  - Promote linkage of the models and their use in evaluation of impacts of various management decisions on Snake River flows, aquifer levels, and reservoir operations.
  - Undertake measurement and monitoring of the combined river and aquifer system to facilitate water management and planning in the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam.
  - Investigate, test, and adopt new water measurement and modeling methods and technologies that improve water management capabilities.
- Implement and maintain cooperative water resource agreements and partnerships with neighboring states, the federal government, and Indian tribes in managing the water resources of the Snake River above Milner Dam.

Milestones:

- Process in place that provides recommendations to optimize the management of the water resources and the reservoir system above Milner Dam.
- Projects implemented that enhance the water supply above Milner Dam, including projects that improve reach gains to the Snake River between Blackfoot and Minidoka Dam
- Achieve a state-sponsored managed aquifer recharge program with a goal of achieving 350,000 acre-feet of recharge on an average annual basis, as measured by a 15-year rolling average.

4D - CONJUNCTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE ESPA AND SNAKE RIVER

The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and the Snake River should be conjunctively managed to provide a sustainable water supply for all existing and future beneficial uses within and hydraulically connected to the ESPA.

Discussion:

The ESPA is approximately the size of Lake Erie and underlies more than 10,800 square miles of southern Idaho, stretching from St. Anthony to King Hill. It is one of the largest and most productive aquifers in the world, estimated to contain 1-billion-acre feet of water. Most of the ESPA is in direct hydraulic connection with the Snake River. The Snake River alternately contributes water to and receives water from the ESPA. Small changes in aquifer storage can have significant impacts on the Snake River

The volume of water stored in the ESPA derives from natural inputs (precipitation, tributary underflow, seepage from rivers) and from irrigation related inputs (seepage from canals and farm fields). The volume of water stored in the ESPA increased dramatically during the first half of the 20th century as large irrigation canals transported millions of acre feet of water from the Snake River out on to the Eastern Snake River Plain. Crops were irrigated by flood irrigation, and the water not consumed by the crops percolated into the ESPA as incidental recharge. As a result, the groundwater table rose across the ESPA by as much as 30-50 feet. The flow of springs near American Falls and in the Thousand Springs reach also increased dramatically. Thousand Springs flows increased from 4,200 cfs prior to irrigation to about 6,800 cfs by the late 1950s. Since then spring flows have declined as a result of more efficient surface water irrigation practices, the termination of winter canal flows, ground water pumping, and drought. Spring flows in the Thousand Springs reach in 2024 are about 4,500 cfs, a decline of just over 30%. While spring discharges from the ESPA remain above pre-irrigation levels, the decline from peak levels has created conflicts between surface and groundwater users, and in some instances between senior and junior groundwater users.

In most years when irrigation demands exceed water being accumulated to upstream storage reservoirs, flows at Milner Dam are reduced to zero until the end of the irrigation season. At these times the Snake River flow at the Murphy Gage consists mostly of ESPA discharge from the Thousand Springs area.

Recognizing a hydraulic connection between the ESPA and the Snake River, the 1986 State Water Plan identified the need conjunctive management of ground and surface water resources. In recent years, the State has implemented scientific measures to increase knowledge of the hydraulic connection between the ESPA and the Snake River, and implemented measures to improve aquifer conditions in, and spring discharge from, the ESPA, including establishing a groundwater management area and a moratorium. Continuation of these efforts is fundamental to ensuring an adequate water supply for existing and future water demands within the Eastern Snake River Basin.

Conjunctive management of the Snake River Basin water resources is also key to meeting the Murphy minimum stream flows. The 1984 Swan Falls Settlement explicitly recognized effective water management of the ESPA and Snake River – and associated policies and recommendations laid out in the State Water Plan – as the means of ensuring the Murphy minimum average daily flow while optimizing the development of the Snake River Basin: "[t]he State Water Plan is the cornerstone of the effective management of the Snake River and its vigorous enforcement is contemplated as a part of the settlement." [2]

[2] This policy addresses conjunctive management of the Eastern Snake River Aquifer and the Snake River and not water rights administration. Water rights administration is the enforcement of the relative rights of water right holders under the prior appropriation doctrine. As noted in Policy 1E conjunctive management is broader and encompasses actions that can be taken to optimize the benefits and value of Idaho's water resources. While conjunctive management is not a substitute for water rights administration, it is in the public interest to conjunctively manage the ESPA and the Snake River to lessen or obviate the need for broad-scale water rights administration to accomplish general water-management goals.

Building on the existing conjunctive management efforts, the Idaho Legislature in 2006, adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 136, which requested the Idaho Water Resource Board to develop a CAMP for the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer. In January 2009, the Board adopted the ESPA CAMP the goal of which is to "[s]ustain the economic viability and social and environmental health of the Eastern Snake Plain by adaptively managing the balance between water use and supplies." The objectives of the plan are to increase predictability for water users by managing for a reliable supply, creating alternatives to administrative curtailment, managing overall demand for water within the Eastern Snake Plain, increasing recharge to the aquifer, and reducing withdrawals from the aquifer.

The long-term objective of the ESPA CAMP is to effectuate a net annual ESPA water budget change of 600 thousand acre-feet (kaf) by the year 2030. This change is to be achieved through implementation of measures designed to reduce demand on and to augment the water supply of the ESPA. Approximately 100 kaf of demand reduction is to be achieved through groundwater to surface water conversions, and another 250-350 kaf of demand reduction is to be achieved through various measures designed to retire existing water rights. Aquifer recharge is expected to increase the ESPA water supply by 150-350 kaf.

The ESPA CAMP uses a phased approach to achieving the long-term change in the water budget. The goal of the ESPA CAMP is to implement measures that will result in a net annual change in the ESPA water budget of 600 kaf. The recommended actions to achieve this change include ground-to-surface water irrigation conversions, managed aquifer recharge, and augmentation of supplies through demand reduction and weather modification.

The initial recharge goals of the ESPA CAMP have been achieved. In 2025, the Idaho Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 which directed the IWRB to establish a state-funded ESPA managed recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. The state-sponsored 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis will be based on a 15-year rolling average. Achieving the state-sponsored 350,000 acre-feet recharge goal may require development of additional managed recharge infrastructure. It is recognized that, given the variability of the water supply, this goal may be developed over time.

Policy 4D embraces the conjunctive management goals and objectives of the ESPA CAMP. Implementation of the ESPA CAMP will improve the opportunities to adaptively manage and optimize water supplies within and downstream of the ESPA, may result in: increased gains in some river reaches; improved storage carryover; increased aquifer levels; opportunities for municipal and industrial growth; reductions in overall consumptive use; increased spring discharge rates; and an ongoing public process for assessing the hydrologic, economic, and environmental issues related to the implementation of management strategies.

Most of the human made changes to the ESPA water balance during the past decades are reflected in current aquifer levels and spring flows. Continued changes in irrigation practices (e.g., conversion from gravity irrigation to sprinkler irrigation) and future climate variability, however, may create additional impacts to ESPA aquifer levels and aggregate spring discharge. Such impacts affect not only the ESPA area but also the Snake River downstream of the ESPA,

because aggregate spring discharge from the Thousand Springs reach is the primary source of river flows in the Milner to Murphy reach during portions of some years.

To date, efforts to monitor and measure ESPA groundwater levels, diversion volumes, and river reach/gains have focused on the ESPA, individual springs discharging water from the ESPA, and reaches of the Snake River hydraulically-connected with the ESPA. Because of the importance of the ESPA discharge on downstream reaches of the Snake River, however, it is imperative that an enhanced spring-flow monitoring program be developed to provide the information necessary for identifying, tracking, and predicting future spring discharge trends. Such a monitoring program needs to include long-term measurements of aggregate annual spring discharge (as opposed to point-in-time discharge from individual springs) and ESPA ground water levels.

Sustaining Snake River minimum stream flows downstream of the ESPA may require short-term and long-term adaptive management measures. A monitoring program aimed at identifying long-term spring discharge trends in the Snake River Thousand Springs reach should be designed to support the development of one or more adaptive management "triggers" based on pre-determined observed or predicted change in aggregate spring discharge rate, aquifer levels, and/or Snake River flow. The triggers should be used to initiate adaptive management measures that address the cause – or impacts – of any unacceptable decline in Snake River flow downstream of the ESPA.

Monitoring efforts and adaptive management measures are crucial to sustaining the economic viability and social and environmental health of the ESPA and the Snake River. Successful adaptive management strategies, built on the principles of conjunctive management of ground and surface water, supported by scientific understanding and reliable data that take into account the complex and interrelated nature of Snake River subbasins, will accomplish two goals: 1) ensure an adequate and sustainable water supply for existing and future uses, and 2) reduce conflicts between ground and surface water users.

Implementation Strategies:

- Implement actions delineated in the ESPA CAMP that will enhance aquifer levels and spring flows.
- Continue existing efforts to measure and monitor ground and surface water diversions, water levels, spring discharge rates, and Snake River reach gains/losses, and quantify ground and surface water interactions.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program to better predict the occurrence and duration of future low flows in the Snake River.
- Create a working group to assist in the development of a spring monitoring program.
- Update the Snake River: Milner Dam to King Hill Part B State Water Plan to incorporate ESPA CAMP goals and objectives and to account for water management developments since its adoption.

- Implement a state-sponsored managed aquifer recharge program with a goal of achieving 350,000 acre-feet of recharge on an average annual basis, as measured by a 15-year rolling average.

Milestones:

- ESPA CAMP hydrologic conjunctive management targets met or exceeded.
- Snake River flows at the Murphy and Weiser Gages remain at or above established minimum stream flows.
- Reduced water-related conflict in the Snake River Basin.
- Revision of Part B of the State Water Plan.

4E - SNAKE RIVER BASIN NEW STORAGE

Development of new on-stream, off-stream, and aquifer storage is in the public interest; provided, however, applications for large surface storage projects in the Milner to Murphy reach of the Snake River should be required to mitigate for impacts on hydropower generation.

Discussion:

ESPA Managed Recharge Pilot program

Recharging aquifers as a water supply alternative has significant potential to address water supply needs, in addition to addressing conjunctive management issues. The Board has completed a five-year pilot program of managed aquifer recharge to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. One of the potential benefits of managed recharge in the ESPA is increased water storage in the aquifer. Effectiveness monitoring and evaluation results will be used to select and design future managed recharge strategies and projects.

Surface Water Projects

New Snake River surface storage projects should be investigated and constructed if determined to be feasible. Although there are major dams and reservoirs designed for water storage, flow regulation, and flood control on the Snake River and its tributaries, their existing capacity is insufficient to provide the water supply and management flexibility needed for the myriad of existing and future beneficial uses.

Diversion of water from the main stem of the Snake River between Milner and the Murphy Gaging station for storage during the period November 1 to March 31 will have a significant impact on hydropower generation. Thus, any new storage projects in this reach should be coupled with provisions that mitigate for the impact of such storage depletions on hydropower

generation. The term "mitigation" is defined as causing to become less harsh or hostile, and is used here rather than "compensate" which connotes equivalence. Methodology will be developed for use in calculating impacts on hydropower generation as part of any application to construct new storage within this reach of the Snake River.

A number of studies focusing on water storage as one potential measure for addressing water supply demand and flood risk reduction are underway. This section provides a brief description of the most significant studies that have been initiated or are in the planning process.

Henry's Fork Project/Teton River Basins

The Board and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation are conducting a study of water resources in the Henry's Fork/Teton River Basins to develop alternatives for improving water supply conditions in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and upper Snake River Basin. These alternatives include new water storage projects, enlargement of existing reservoirs, and conservation and water management strategies, including managed aquifer recharge and automated water delivery systems.

Minidoka Dam Enlargement

In the 1980s, the Bureau of Reclamation and irrigation districts initiated the required planning process and feasibility studies to replace the spillway and two canal headworks due to the state of deterioration and potential for ongoing damage to sections of the Minidoka Dam. In 2008, the Board partnered with the Bureau of Reclamation to also evaluate the structural raising of Minidoka Dam to accommodate a 5-foot rise in normal reservoir surface elevation, in conjunction with planned spillway repairs. The study found that a 5-foot rise is technically feasible, and would provide an additional 67,000 acre-feet of storage with an average annual yield of 33,000 acre-feet. Funding for the enlargement of Minidoka Dam, however, is currently not available. If economic or other conditions change, the Board will consider further evaluation of this storage option.

Lower Boise River Interim Feasibility Study

The lower Boise River corridor, from Lucky Peak Dam to its confluence with the Snake River has experienced rapid population growth and significant urban development over the past several decades. As a consequence, there is renewed interest in addressing water supply and flood control issues. Interest has also been expressed in environmental restoration, to include habitat preservation, aesthetics and recreation along the Boise River.

In 2009, the Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partnered to conduct an Interim Feasibility Study focused on water storage potential and flood reduction in the Boise River Basin. A preliminary analysis ranked an enlargement of Arrowrock Reservoir as the highest priority alternative, followed by the construction of a new reservoir at the Alexander Flat site and a new reservoir at the Twin Springs site. A preliminary analysis completed in 2011 concluded that based on existing information, raising Arrowrock Dam is technically feasible. The

evaluation identified a number of uncertainties that will be addressed during future study and data collection efforts, as funding becomes available.

To help address future water needs in the Treasure Valley and southwest Idaho, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) partnered with the Bureau of Reclamation to investigate and undertake a project to raise Anderson Ranch Dam 6 feet that should be completed by 2031. This would provide an additional 29 kaf.

Weiser-Galloway Gap Analysis, Economic Evaluation and Risk-Based Cost Analysis (Gap Analysis)

Water storage on the Weiser River and at the Galloway site has been studied for decades. In 1954, the Corps received a study authorization resolution for the Galloway Project from the U.S. Senate Public Works Committee. In the early 1970s, federal lands for the potential Galloway dam and reservoir site were classified and withdrawn for hydropower purposes by the Federal Power Commission (now FERC). In 2008, Idaho House Joint Memorial 8 directed the Board to investigate water storage projects statewide, including the Weiser-Galloway Project. The Board and the Corps partnered to conduct a "Gap Analysis" which was completed in March 2011. The Gap Analysis was designed to inform decision makers of critical information gaps that need to be addressed before deciding whether to move forward with comprehensive new environmental, engineering, and economic feasibility studies. The analysis identified two critical information gaps that must be resolved before moving forward:

1. Determine the safety, suitability, and integrity of geologic structures at the potential dam and reservoir site.
2. Evaluate whether basin and system benefits would be realized by analyzing a series of system operating scenarios with a range of new storage options on the Weiser River. Potential benefits include flood risk reduction, hydropower, additional water storage, pump back, irrigation, recreation, and flow augmentation requirements for anadromous fish recovery. On July 29, 2011, the Idaho Water Resource Board authorized expenditure of up to $2 million to address these questions, and the required studies are currently underway.

Implementation Strategies:

- Expand state-sponsored managed recharge capacity to allow for the opportunistic capture of flood flows.
- Evaluate the economic, social and environmental benefits and costs of the proposed surface projects.
- Continue partnership with BOR on Anderson Ranch Dam raise

Milestones:

- Increase managed aquifer recharge capacity.
- Actions taken to determine feasibility of identified storage projects.
- Completion of Anderson Ranch Dam raise.

ESPA CAMP Changes

Review View Help

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Long-Term Hydrologic Goal

The Plan establishes a long-term goal of 600 kaf average annual change to the aquifer water budget with implementation occurring over a 20-year period. A 600 kaf water budget change is considered an appropriate long-term goal considering present and future water needs, hydrologic impacts, and cost. It is currently estimated that achieving the long-term 600 kaf goal will cost more than $600 million. Full implementation of the long-term goal is dependent on many variables including water availability and funding. As such, specific actions will need to be developed by the Board after consideration of the recommendations submitted by the Implementation Committee. The Plan, by adopting a mix of strategies, represents a balanced approach to modifying the water budget. Specifically, the Plan includes aquifer recharge, groundwater to surface water conversions, and demand reduction efforts. Careful consideration was given to the following factors in the development of the long-term goal:

- Ability to target actions to accomplish specific hydrologic goals in specific locations.
- Time frame and ease of implementation.
- Environmental and economic impacts.
- Practicality, including financing and public and political acceptance.

The Plan provides for the implementation of the following management strategies:

Ground Water to Surface Water Conversions	Approximately 100 kaf/year annual average (by acquiring water supplies below Milner Dam to replace water required from the Upper Snake River for salmon flow augmentation).
Aquifer Recharge	Approximately 150-350 kaf/year (using the Board's natural flow water permit and storage water when available).
Demand Reduction	Approximately 250-350 kaf/year (using voluntary mechanisms based on the principle of willing seller/willing buyer to reduce aquifer and spring flow demands, including CREP, purchases, subordination agreements, fallowing and crop mix changes, and other mechanisms).
Pilot Weather Modification Program	Implement a 5-year pilot weather modification project in the Upper Snake River Basin and potentially the Wood River system, with state, local and other agency support. Include a detailed monitoring program for the weather modification program.

Table 2 — Plan Hydrologic Targets

PLAN HYDROLOGIC TARGETS		
ACTION	**PHASE I TARGET (KAF)**	**LONG-TERM TARGET (KAF)**
Ground Water to Surface Water Conversion	100	100
Managed Aquifer Recharge	100	150-350
Demand Reduction		250-350
Surface Water Conservation	*50*	
Crop Mix Modification	*5*	
Rotating Fallowing, Dry-Year Lease Agreements and CREP Enhancements.	*40*	
Buy Outs, Buy Downs, and/or Subordination Agreements	*No Target (Opportunity-Based)*	
Weather Modification	50*	No Target
TOTAL	**200-300**	**600**

*50 KAF was used in hydrologic modeling, based on a conservative estimate provided in the Upper Snake Weather Modification Feasibility Study.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOUTH FORK CLEARWATER STREAM CHANNEL ALTERATION PERMIT No. S82-20206 and No. S82-20207	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE STREAM CHANNEL ALTERATIONS

WHEREAS**,** in 1994 the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) adopted the South Fork Clearwater Comprehensive Basin Plan (Plan) and the Plan specifies that alterations to stream channel for new private stream access facilities may be allowed with approval by the Idaho Water Resource Board; and

WHEREAS, The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) was notified of potential alterations to the American River in the summer of 2023. IDWR was unable to find any permit approvals for work along the American River; and

WHEREAS, IDWR sent Notice of Violations to both property owners (Mr. and Mrs. Maushak and Mr. and Mrs. Frantz) in early 2025 instructing the landowners to cease and desist any further work below the MHWM. IDWR held separate compliance conferences with both parties, and each signed a Consent Order and Agreement (COA). A term of the COA was to submit a Joint Application for Permits that proposed a plan to remove all unauthorized material below the MHWM and restore the bed and banks of the American River. Both property owners have submitted a Joint Application for Permit to Alter a Stream Channel (S82-20206 and No. S82-20207) to the IDWR and plans to meet the terms of the COA, and are continuing to refine the design to meet IDWR objectives as well as other Federal requirements; and

WHEREAS, IDWR Stream Channel Alteration staff have reviewed the project and have indicated they will issue the permit for the project pending IWRB approval; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Mr. and Mrs. Maushak and Mr. and Mrs. Frantz projects as filed with the Department through Permit No. S82-20206 and No. S82-20207.

DATED this 21st day of November 2025.

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____

Dean Stevenson, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGIONAL WATER SUSTAINBILITY PRIORITY LIST	RESOLUTION TO AWARD ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE CITY OF GOODING FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature, through House Bill 769 passed in 2022, appropriated $75 million to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to be used for certain ARPA-eligible water projects and projects that have been identified by the IWRB as high priority sustainability projects; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature, through Senate Bill 1181 passed in 2023 appropriated $150 million to the IWRB to be used for certain ARPA-eligible water projects and projects that have been identified by the IWRB as high priority sustainability projects; and

WHEREAS, in July 2021 the IWRB adopted an initial Regional Water Sustainability Priority List to help guide the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB's) spending for large, regional water sustainability projects from ARPA funds, state general funds, or other applicable sources.

WHEREAS, in January 2022 the IWRB adopted threshold criteria indicating for a project to be included on the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List the project must help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide basis; and

WHEREAS, on July 12th, 2023, the Finance Committee recommended the IWRB provide $4,000,000 for the City of Gooding Flood Control Project; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB passed Resolution 05-2024 on January 19, 2024, approving contract Terms and Conditions, including $4,000,000 from the Water Management Account for the Gooding Flood Control Project; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2025, the Finance Committee (Committee) heard a presentation from the City of Gooding regarding changes in the project budget and the need for an additional $1,260,000 for the project. The Committee recommended the IWRB provide an additional $1,197,000 for the City of Gooding Flood Control Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB approves an additional $1,197,000 for the City of Gooding Flood Control Project using funds from the Water Management Account.

DATED the 21st day of November 2025.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE MANAGED RECHARGE AGREEMENT NOT TO DIVERT	RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Policy 1I of the 2-12 Idaho State Water Plan provides that “aquifer recharge should be promoted and encouraged, consistent with state law”; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) is hydraulically connected to the Snake River and discharges to the Snake River via tributary springs, which supply surface water for multiple beneficial uses, including aquaculture, hydropower, and the irrigation of nearly one million acres; and

WHEREAS, Policy 4D of the 2012 Idaho State Water Plan provides that "[t]he Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and the Snake River below Milner Dam should be conjunctively managed to provide a sustainable water supply for all existing and future beneficial uses within and downstream of the ESPA"; and

WHEREAS, Policy 4E provides that "[d]evelopment of new . . . aquifer storage is in the public interest"; and

WHEREAS, The Board holds water rights 01-7142, and 01-10609 (“Water Rights”), among others, for the purpose of recharging the ESPA, and

WHEREAS, a 2009 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan ("ESPA CAMP") goal is to "[s]ustain the economic viability and social and environmental health of the Eastern Snake Plain by adaptively managing a balance between water use and supplies"; and

WHEREAS, the ESPA CAMP established a long-term goal of 600,000 acre-feet average annual change to the ESPA aquifer budget by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the ESPA CAMP established a long-term hydrologic target for managed aquifer recharge of 150,000 to 250,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis; and

WHEREAS, Phase I of the ESPA CAMP established a 100,000 acre-feet average annual managed hydrologic target; and

WHEREAS, a 2009 Memorandum of Agreement between the Board and the Company provides that "[i]f the Board proposes to increase the 100,000 acre-feet average annual ESPA CAMP Phase I target for managed aquifer recharge by more than 75,000 acre-feet prior to January 1,2019, the Board must obtain legislative approval for such increase"; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, through Senate Concurrent Resolution 138 recognized the need for managed recharge of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and established a managed recharge goal of 250,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis across the ESPA to consistent with the ESPA

CAMP goals; and

WHEREAS, after SCR 138, the parties agreed to discuss how the managed recharge goal could be achieved while addressing in-river flow needs, including hydropower; and

WHEREAS, stabilizing and enhancing the ESPA water level is still in the public interest because it will lead to a sustainable water supply for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses, satisfy existing water rights, and minimize harm to Idaho's economy arising from water supply shortages; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 adopted by the legislature in 2025, the Board recognizes the opportunity to increase the established managed recharge goal to 350,000 acre-feet while maintaining a balance between ESPA aquifer storage and sustainability, and the increasing value of hydropower to Idaho's economy, consistent with ESPA CAMP objectives; and

WHEREAS, cooperative agreements between the Board and the Company would provide both parties the ability to address resource management and planning objectives related to managed aquifer recharge and hydropower; and

WHEREAS, to recognize the interests of water users relying upon the ESPA, the Company entered into a separate Milner Bypass Agreement with the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc. dated March 13, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the IWRB authorizes its Chairman to execute the Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert included as Attachment A to this resolution, which specifies certain conditions under which the IWRB would not divert all of the water available to it under water rights 01-7054 and 01-10609.

DATED this 21st day of November 2025.

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

Attachment A

Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert

This Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the Idaho Water Resource Board (the "Board") and Idaho Power Company (the "Company") as a part of the Board's continued implementation of the IWRB's managed aquifer recharge actions on the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer ("ESPA"). The Board and the Company may be referred to herein individually as a "party" and collectively as the "parties."

Background Recitals

WHEREAS, Policy 1I of the 2012 Idaho State Water Plan provides that "aquifer recharge should be promoted and encouraged, consistent with state law"; and

WHEREAS, the ESPA is hydraulically connected to the Snake River and discharges to the Snake River via tributary springs, which supply surface water for multiple beneficial uses, including aquaculture, hydropower, and the irrigation of nearly one million acres; and

WHEREAS, Policy 4D of the 2012 Idaho State Water Plan provides that "[t]he Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and the Snake River below Milner Dam should be conjunctively managed to provide a sustainable water supply for all existing and future beneficial uses within and downstream of the ESPA"; and

WHEREAS, Policy 4E provides that "[d]evelopment of new . . . aquifer storage is in the public interest"; and

WHEREAS, The Board holds water rights 01-7142, and 01-10609 ("Water Rights"), among others, for the purpose of recharging the ESPA.

WHEREAS, a 2009 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan ("ESPA CAMP") goal is to "[s]ustain the economic viability and social and environmental health of the Eastern Snake Plain by adaptively managing a balance between water use and supplies"; and

WHEREAS, the ESPA CAMP established a long-term goal of 600,000 acre-feet average annual change to the ESPA aquifer budget by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the ESPA CAMP established a long-term hydrologic target for managed aquifer recharge of 150,000 to 250,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis; and

WHEREAS, Phase I of the ESPA CAMP established a 100,000 acre-feet average annual managed hydrologic target; and

WHEREAS, a 2009 Memorandum of Agreement between the Board and the Company provides that "[i]f the Board proposes to increase the 100,000 acre-feet average annual ESPA CAMP Phase I target for managed aquifer recharge by more than 75,000 acre-feet prior to January 1, 2019, the Board must obtain legislative approval for such increase"; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, through SCR 138 recognized the need for managed recharge of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and established a managed recharge goal of 250,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis across the ESPA to consistent with the ESPA CAMP

goals; and

WHEREAS, after SCR 138, the parties agreed to discuss how the managed recharge goal could be achieved while addressing in-river flow needs, including hydropower; and

WHEREAS, stabilizing and enhancing the ESPA water level is still in the public interest because it will lead to a sustainable water supply for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses, satisfy existing water rights, and minimize harm to Idaho's economy arising from water supply shortages; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the opportunity to increase the established managed recharge goal to 350,000 acre-feet while maintaining a balance between ESPA aquifer storage and sustainability, and the increasing value of hydropower to Idaho's economy, consistent with ESPA CAMP objectives; and

WHEREAS, cooperative agreements between the Board and the Company would provide both parties the ability to address resource management and planning objectives related to managed aquifer recharge and hydropower.

WHEREAS, to recognize the interests of water users relying upon the ESPA, the Company entered into a separate Milner Bypass Agreement with the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc. dated March 13, 2025.

Agreement

Therefore, with the foregoing background incorporated herein by reference, and in consideration of the terms, conditions, and obligations set forth below, the parties agree as follows:

1. **Effective Date and Term of the Agreement.** The terms of this Agreement shall be implemented beginning in the managed recharge season commencing on November 1, 2025, and shall be effective on the date signed by the last signatory hereto ("Effective Date"). The Agreement shall continue for a term of five (5) years from the effective date. This Agreement shall automatically renew for successive five-year terms unless either party provides written notice of termination to the other party at least 30 days prior to the end of the current term.

2. **Board's Recharge Average.** Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 directed the IWRB to establish a state-funded ESPA managed recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis ("Board's Recharge Average"). The Board's Recharge Average shall be measured based upon the volume (acre-feet) diverted under the recharge water rights owned by the Board. The Board's Recharge Average will be based on a 15-year rolling average on an annual basis beginning with water year 2016. "Annual basis" will be based on the water year October 1–September 30.

3. **Support for Increase in Board's Recharge Average:** The Board and Company agree to support increasing the Board's Recharge Average goal from 250,000 acre-feet to 350,000 acre-feet per year.

4. **Milner Flow Distribution.** The Board agrees not to divert a portion of the "Water Available" for IWRB managed recharge below Minidoka Dam under water rights 1-7142 and 1-10609. "Water Available" under water rights 01-7142 and 01-10609 will be determined by Water District 01. The portion of the "Water Available" that shall not be diverted is as follows:

    a. The Board may divert 100 percent (%) of the Water Available when:
        i. The Board's Recharge Average is 250,000 acre-feet or less, or

ii. If the Idaho Department of Water Resources adopts a groundwater management plan or issues any other order requiring groundwater users to conserve more groundwater than is required under the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan approved in IDWR Docket No. CM-MP-2024-003);

b. When the Board's Recharge Average exceeds 250,000 acre-feet but is less than 350,000 acre-feet, then for the period December 1–February 15, the Board shall only divert 50 percent (%) of the Water Available, or 200 cfs (whichever is greater);

c. When the Board's Recharge Average is 350,000 acre-or more, then for the period December 1–March 1, the Board shall only divert 40 percent (%) of the Water Available or 200 cfs (whichever is greater);

d. When the Board's Recharge Average exceeds 355,000 acre-feet for three (3) consecutive years then for the period November 1–April 1, the Board shall only divert 40 percent (%) of the Water Available or 200 cfs (whichever is greater).

5. **Support of Agreement Not to Divert.** It is the mutual desire of the parties to ensure that each party realizes the benefits of this Agreement. The Board's directive from the legislature is to expand and achieve an ESPA managed recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. While supporting the legislature's directive, the Company expects benefit through the implementation of this Agreement is to realize increased hydropower generation during its winter peak operations. If either party believes they are not getting the benefits of this Agreement, or the intent of this Agreement is being frustrated, the parties agree to meet and confer to discuss whether modifications to the Agreement should be made.

6. **Cloud Seeding.** Idaho Power agrees to continue the Upper Snake collaborative cloud seeding program during the term of this Agreement, so long as the cloud seeding program is authorized and funded.

7. **State Water Plan.** The Parties agree that nothing in this agreement is intended to affect the State Water Plan, the Zero Flow at Milner Policy, the Board's ability to pursue its recharge goal of 350KAF on an annual average basis, or the 1984 Swan Falls Agreement and 2009 Framework Reaffirming the Swan Fall Settlement.

8. **Modification or Termination.** This Agreement may be modified or terminated upon written consent by both parties during the term of this Agreement. Any negotiation, amendments, or extension of this Agreement shall comply with the Idaho Open Meeting Law, Idaho Code §§ 74-201 through 74-208.

9. **Dispute Resolution.** Any material dispute between the parties concerning this Agreement will be resolved in accordance with the following provisions:

   a. **Good Faith Negotiation.** Upon written notice from one party to the other, authorized representatives of the parties will attempt in good faith to resolve the dispute by negotiation prior to either party taking legal action. The written notice shall include a general statement of the claims and positions of the aggrieved party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, either Party may seek provisional legal remedies if in such Party's judgement such action is necessary to avoid irreparable damage or preserve the status quo.

   b. **Litigation.** Litigation regarding this Agreement is allowed between the parties only for the

purpose of enforcing this Agreement.

10. **Attorney's Fees.** In the event that legal action arises between the parties relating to this Agreement, the prevailing Party shall be entitled to recover attorney's fees and costs incurred in prosecution or defense of the legal action (including without limitation any fees on appeal).

11. **Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue.** This Agreement will be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Idaho notwithstanding its choice of law provisions. Exclusive venue shall be in Ada County, Idaho.

12. **Miscellaneous.**

    a. **Binding Effect.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties and the successors and assigns of the parties.

    b. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement sets forth all understandings between the parties with respect to subject matter hereof. There are no other understandings, covenants, promises, plans, conditions, either oral or written, between the parties other than those contained herein. The parties expressly reserve all rights not settled by this Agreement.

    c. **Amendment.** This Agreement may be amended only by a written instrument signed by both parties.

    d. **Effect of Headings.** Headings appearing in this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and shall not be construed as interpretations of the text.

    e. **Notices.** Notices required or permitted to be given to any party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be effective (a) when personally delivered, (b) certified mail, return receipt requested, with postage prepaid, or (d) upon delivery by a nationally recognized express courier for delivery within two business days, with delivery charges prepaid. Notices shall be sent to the following addresses:

    Idaho Power Company
    1221 W. Idaho St.
    Boise, ID USA 83702
    Attn: Water Resources and Policy

    Simultaneously to:
    1221 W. Idaho St.
    Boise, ID USA 83702
    Attn: Legal Department

    Idaho Water Resource Board
    322 E. Front St.
    Boise, ID USA 83702
    Attention:

    f. **No Third-Party Obligations or Beneficiaries.** The obligations and benefits of this Agreement apply only to the parties. No persons or entities shall be deemed to be third-party beneficiaries of this Agreement.

    g. **Construction.** Each party participated in the negotiation and drafting of this Agreement;

therefore, this Agreement shall not be construed more strongly in favor of or against any party regardless of who was more responsible for its preparation and shall be construed simply according to its fair meaning.

h. **Waiver.** No term or provision hereof shall be deemed waived, and no performance shall be excused hereunder unless prior waiver or consent shall be given in writing signed by the party against whom it is sought to be enforced. Any waiver of any default by either party shall not constitute a waiver of the same or different default on a separate occasion.

i. **Severability.** Whenever possible, each provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted so as to be effective and valid under applicable law. If any provision is adjudged to be invalid, the remaining provisions in this Agreement shall remain in force.

j. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original, and which together, shall constitute one and the same instrument.

k. **Digital Signatures.** Digital and scanned signatures to this Agreement shall be valid and effective to bind the party so signing.

Idaho Water Resource Board

By:_____ Date:_____

Idaho Power Company

By:_____ Date:_____

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE LOWER LEMHI 2026−2028 WATER RIGHT SUBORDINATION AGREEMENTS	RESOLUTION TO MAKE A FUNDING COMMITMENT

WHEREAS, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout habitat in the Lemhi River Basin is limited by low flow in the Lower Lemhi River; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State of Idaho to permanently reconnect the Lower Lemhi River to encourage recovery of ESA-listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho committed to maintaining flows of 25 cfs to 35 cfs at the L-6 Diversion on the Lower Lemhi River in the Lemhi Framework which was developed as part of the 2004 Snake River Water Rights Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Lemhi Framework carries forward target goals which were included in earlier conservation agreements developed and approved by local water users, and state and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, through enacting Idaho Code 42-1506 and 42-1765A, the Idaho Legislature directed the Idaho Water Resource Board (Board) to establish a minimum streamflow water right of 35 cfs in the Lower Lemhi River to be met through water right rentals or other appropriate methods under state law; and WHEREAS, the Board has the authority to enter into agreements to improve flow for anadromous and resident fish; and

WHEREAS, the Board is authorized to expend Bonneville Power Administration funds for flow restoration through the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program and the Bonneville Fish Accord Water Transaction Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Board promotes water transactions that maintain the local agricultural economy by retaining irrigated agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Board staff has developed short-term subordination agreements from 2026–2028, also known as the Lemhi Subordination Agreements (agreements) with local water users to improve stream flow for anadromous and resident fish; and

WHEREAS, for all agreements with water users owning the following water rights: 74-318B, 74-318C, 74-820, 74-826, 74-843, 74-15956, and 74-16014, totaling 12.41 cubic feet per

second, the water users have agreed to limit their diversions during times of low flow for a maximum of 100 days per year; and

WHEREAS, for agreement with water user owning the following water rights: 74-605C, 74-837, and 74-840, totaling 4.11 cubic feet per second, the water user has agreed to limit their diversions during times of low flow for a maximum of 5 days per year; and

WHEREAS, for agreement with water user owning the following water rights: 74-324B, 74-324F, 74-325B, 74-325H, 74-325J, and 74-325L, totaling 5.0 cubic feet per second, the water user has agreed to limit their diversions during times of low flow for a maximum of 30 days per year; and

WHEREAS, the total diversion rate secured under short-term subordination agreements from 2026–2028 to help maintain flows of 25 to 35 cfs at the L-6 Diversion on the Lower Lemhi River is 21.52 cubic feet per second; and

WHEREAS, funding is available through the Idaho MOA/Fish Accord Water Transaction Program to fund the cost of said agreements; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Chairman or designee to enter into 3-year agreements with lower Lemhi River irrigators to not divert out of the Lemhi River, using a total amount not to exceed $465,811.50; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is subject to the condition that the Board receives the requested funding from the Bonneville Power Administration through the Idaho MOA/Fish Accord Water Transaction Program or the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Fund in an amount up to $465,811.50.

DATED this 21st day of November, 2025.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary