

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE
LOWER LEMHI RIVER PERMANENT
SUBORDINATION AGREEMENTS FOR WATER
RIGHT NOS. 74-324K, 74-326C, 74-328C, 74-
804, 74-15444

RESOLUTION TO MAKE A FUNDING
COMMITMENT

1 WHEREAS, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout habitat in the Lemhi River Basin is
2 limited by low flow in the Lower Lemhi River; and
3

4 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State of Idaho to permanently reconnect the Lower
5 Lemhi River to encourage recovery of ESA-listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho committed to maintaining flows of 25 cfs to 35 cfs at the L-
8 6 Diversion on the Lower Lemhi River in the Lemhi Framework which was developed as part of
9 the 2004 Snake River Water Rights Agreement; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the Lemhi Framework carries forward target goals which were included in
12 earlier conservation agreements developed and approved by local water users, and state and
13 federal agencies; and
14

15 WHEREAS, though enacting Idaho Code 42-1506 and 42-1765A, the Idaho Legislature
16 directed the Board to establish a minimum streamflow water right of 35 cfs in the Lower Lemhi
17 River to be met through water right rentals or other appropriate methods under state law; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board has the authority to enter into water right
20 agreements and undertake water projects; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board is authorized to expend Bonneville Power
23 Administration funds for flow restoration through the Columbia Basin Water Transaction
24 Program and the Bonneville Fish Accord Water Transaction Fund; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board promotes water transactions that maintain
27 the local agricultural economy by retaining irrigated agriculture; and
28

29 WHEREAS, Board staff has developed short-term and permanent subordination
30 agreements, also known as the Lemhi Subordination Agreements (agreements) with local water
31 users to improve stream flow for anadromous and resident fish; and
32

33 WHEREAS, Board staff has developed a long-term subordination agreement to improve
34 stream flow for anadromous and resident fish with owners of water rights 74-324K, 74-326C, 74-
35 328C, 74-804 and 74-15444; and
36

37 WHEREAS, the water right owners desire to enter into subordination agreements that
38 permanently limit their diversions during times of low flow; and
39

40 WHEREAS, for these agreements, the water users will continue to irrigate to their full
41 extent when flows exceed the flow targets; and
42

43 WHEREAS, the Lemhi Subordination Agreements are in the public interest and in
44 compliance with the State Water Plan.
45

46 WHEREAS, \$114,000 is available through the Idaho Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
47 Fish Accord Water Transaction Program or the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program to
48 fund the cost of said agreements; and
49

50 WHEREAS, \$6,240 is available through the Idaho (MOA)/Fish Accord Water Transaction
51 Program or the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program to fund the administration of said
52 agreements by Water District 74; and
53

54 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes the Chairman to enter into
55 permanent subordination agreements with the current or subsequent owners of water rights 74-
56 324K, 74-326C, 74-328C, 74-804 and 74-15444 to subordinate their diversions from the Lemhi
57 River to the IWRB's Lemhi River minimum streamflow water right (74-14993), using an amount
58 not to exceed \$114,000.
59

60 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes the Chairman to enter into
61 contracts with Water District 74 using administration funds in the amount of \$6,240.
62

63 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is subject to the condition
64 that the IWRB receives the requested funding from the Bonneville Power Administration through
65 the Idaho (MOA)/Fish Accord Water Transaction Program or the Columbia Basin Water
66 Transaction Program in the amount of \$120,240.
67

DATED this 23rd day of May 2025.



JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 

DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF RECLAMATION FUNDED
IWRB TELEMETRY & MONITORING GRANTS

RESOLUTION TO AWARD FUNDS

1 WHEREAS, a resolution was adopted (Res. 57-2024) by the Idaho Water Resource Board
2 (IWRB) on November 22, 2024 outlining criteria for the award of grants for the purchase of
3 Telemetry & Monitoring Equipment and, to set an application deadline of March 28, 2025; and
4

5 WHEREAS, funding for the program was awarded to the IWRB from the Bureau of
6 Reclamation through the Investing in America – Inflation Reduction Act; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the funds are intended to provide real-time information on both surface water
9 and groundwater diversions, enabling more effective and efficient management of limited water
10 supplies during periods of drought; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the program is an effort to promote water conservation efforts throughout
13 the Eastern Snake River Plain (ESPA) supporting the 2024 SWC/IGWA agreement; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the program is focused on helping irrigators throughout the ESPA with the
16 costs of purchasing telemetry and monitoring equipment for ground and surface water
17 diversions; and
18

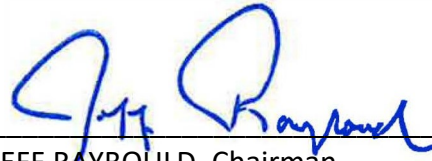
19 WHEREAS, the IWRB received eleven Telemetry & Monitoring Grant applications by the
20 deadline. The applications were evaluated according to the criteria adopted by the IWRB; and
21

22 WHEREAS, on May 16, 2025, the Finance Committee met and discussed the applications,
23 and recommended that the IWRB approve grant awards as specified in Attachment A to this
24 resolution; and
25

26 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB approves the award of Telemetry &
27 Monitoring Grant funding as specified in Attachment A to this resolution not to exceed
28 \$566,504.43.
29

30 NOW IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for the projects will be disbursed as funding
31 is made available from the Bureau of Reclamation.

DATED this 23rd day of May 2025.



JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 

DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Attachment A

Telemetry & Monitoring Applications (3/2025)			
Project	Funds Requested	Total Project Costs	Grant Award
Bingham GWD - Existing Well Telemetry Project	\$ 30,362.50	\$ 60,725.00	\$ 30,362.50
Bingham GWD - Ethos-developed Telemetry System Deployment	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 1,079,620.00	\$ 250,000.00
Fremont-Madison HFGWD - Groundwater Level & Recharge Telemetry	\$ 6,610.73	\$ 13,221.46	\$ 6,610.73
Minidoka Irrigation District - Moveable Flume Purchase	\$ 22,534.00	\$ 45,068.09	\$ 22,534.00
Milner Dam Inc. - Dam Piezometer & Observation Well Improvement	\$ 9,394.80	\$ 18,789.60	\$ 9,394.80
Magic Valley GWD - BID Soft Conversion Monitoring System Development	\$ 40,450.00	\$ 80,900.00	\$ 40,450.00
Southwest Irr. District - BID Soft Conversion Monitoring System Development	\$ 63,790.00	\$ 127,580.00	\$ 63,790.00
Southwest Irr. District - Milner Irr. District Flowmeter & Telemetry Equipment	\$ 43,900.00	\$ 87,800.00	\$ 43,900.00
Southwest Irr. District - Twin Falls Canal Co. Pump Station Telemetry Equipment	\$ 18,748.40	\$ 42,496.80	\$ 18,748.40
Southwest Irr. District - West Cassia Irr. LLC Telemetry Equipment Replacement	\$ 54,426.00	\$ 120,852.00	\$ 54,426.00
Twin Falls Canal Co. - 2025 Rubicon SlipMeter TAP 59 & TAP 3.5 Project	\$ 26,288.00	\$ 52,576.00	\$ 26,288.00
Total Funds Requested	\$ 566,504.43	\$ 1,729,628.95	\$ 566,504.43

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE IDAHO WATER
RESOURCE BOARD'S REGIONAL WATER
SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS PRIORITY LIST

RESOLUTION TO ADD THE ESPA REGIONAL
WATER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT TO THE
PRIORITY LIST

1 WHEREAS, since July 2021, the IWRB has maintained a list of priority Regional Water Sustainability
2 Projects (RWSP Priority List). The RWSP Priority List is intended to help guide the IWRB's spending from
3 state general funds, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, or other applicable sources for projects that
4 support water supply sustainability on a regional, basin, or statewide scale. The IWRB also adopts criteria
5 for inclusion of projects on the RWSP Priority List and has approved funding for projects on a case-by-case
6 basis; and
7

8 WHEREAS, on April 14, 2025, the IWRB's Finance Committee recommended the addition of an
9 ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Project (RWSP) to the RWSP Priority list to support projects and
10 programs that contribute to aquifer stabilization; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the Finance Committee also recommended the creation of specific ESPA RWSP
13 activities to receive funding from the IWRB's Water Management Account to expedite development of
14 water infrastructure, including but not limited to, programs and specific projects that support Surface
15 Water Coalition measuring and monitoring capabilities, ESPA recharge infrastructure, ESPA groundwater
16 to surface water conversion projects, and surface water operational efficiencies; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature, through House Bill 445, appropriated \$30 Million to the
19 WMA to be used for planning, construction, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and improvement of water
20 infrastructure throughout the state; and
21

22 WHEREAS, HB 445 further directed that, for fiscal year 2026, fifty percent (50%) of the
23 appropriation from HB 445 shall be allocated for use in IWRB district 3 and fifty percent (50%) in IWRB
24 district 4 for the purpose of supporting the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan entered into by surface and
25 ground water users on the Eastern Snake Plain; and
26

27 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB approves the addition of the ESPA RWSP to the
28 RWSP Priority list as recommended by the Finance Committee.
29

30 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB shall develop programs and identify
31 specific projects under the ESPA RWSP and commit funding from the WMA, or other sources, to cover
32 eligible projects.

DATED this 23rd day of May 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 SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITY LIST

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CRITERIA


1 WHEREAS, since July 2021, the IWRB has maintained a list of priority Regional Water
2 Sustainability Projects (RWSP Priority List). The RWSP Priority List is intended to help guide the
3 IWRB's spending from state general funds, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, or other
4 applicable sources for projects that support water supply sustainability on a regional, basin, or
5 statewide scale. The IWRB also has approved funding for projects on a case-by-case basis; and
6

7 WHEREAS, on October 26th 2022 the IWRB adopted criteria for the inclusion of projects
8 on the RWSP Priority List; and
9


10 WHEREAS, on May 12th 2025 the IWRB's Finance Committee met to recommend updated
11 criteria for the inclusion of projects on the RWSP Priority List; and
12

13 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the
14 inclusion of projects on the RWSP Priority List.
15

DATED this 23rd day of May 2025.



JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 

DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List

The IWRB maintains the [Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List](#) (List) to help guide spending for large, regional water sustainability projects from ARPA funds, state general funds, or other applicable sources. The IWRB will support implementation of water sustainability projects, including studies (collectively projects), that provide benefits on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide scale.

Eligible Entities: Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Flood Control Districts, Regional Water Supply Organizations, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 42, chapter 18, Idaho Code), Water Districts, cities, counties, and water-related stakeholders.

Eligible Geographic Area: Statewide.

Eligible Projects: The IWRB defines an eligible project as any new project that helps to achieve water sustainability on a regional basis. For purposes of this program, an eligible project does not include municipal drinking or wastewater systems.

Expectations for inclusion on the list: Inclusion on the List is not a funding commitment, but rather a recognition that the project has the potential to help achieve water sustainability. For projects that are included on the List, the IWRB may 1) help advocate for Federal funding opportunities for these projects, 2) facilitate state funding consideration, and 3) help with letters of support related to necessary funding and/or permitting authorizations.

To obtain funding from an existing grant, loan or other funding program, the Project Sponsor will be required to submit the requisite application(s), and the project will be considered for funding pursuant to the procedures and criteria of the program. Additionally, the IWRB may at its discretion assist the Project Sponsor in obtaining funding from other funding sources.

Each project on the List is unique and will have its own implementation timeline and milestones.

Process for inclusion on the List: There are two ways for a project to be included on the list: 1) Project Sponsors can submit a request to the IWRB for a project to be added to the List anytime throughout the year, and 2) the IWRB can add projects to the List at its discretion.

The IWRB Finance Committee will consider these requests and make a recommendation to the IWRB. The List will be reviewed annually at the regularly scheduled January IWRB meeting.

Project Sponsors will provide the following information:

- Cover letter with project summary.
- Project background (infrastructure description, repair, rehabilitation, improvement needs/objectives/benefits).

- Project Sponsor description (organization type, background, revenue sources, current operations).
- Project description (narrative, map, conceptual plan and design, land entitlements at project location, description of any known environmental issues).
- Cost estimate and budget.
- Project funding sources.
- Project implementation schedule.

Considerations for inclusion on the list:

- Project demonstrates broad stakeholder support, including legislative support.
- Project provides or contributes to resolution of long-standing water supply challenges or anticipated water use conflicts.
- Project provides sustainability benefits on a regional scale (basin-wide or statewide) based on geographic area or number of impacted individuals. Projects with multiple benefits may be prioritized.
- Project leads to stabilization and recovery of groundwater levels in basins where groundwater declines are occurring.
- Relative economic and public benefits including consideration of public benefits such as how the project:
 1. Protects existing water rights and uses identified in I.C. § 42-1760(2)(d), including consideration of the value of existing hydropower to the state's economy. I.C. § 42-1760(2)(d) states: Any project selected pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection must protect all existing water rights and consider the effects of such projects on other water uses, such as water quality, fish and wildlife, recreation, and hydropower, that provide economic value, stability, water sustainability, drought resiliency, and other benefits to the citizens of the state.
 2. Provides water for future development; and
 3. Addresses aging water storage and delivery infrastructure for projects that provide environmental, safety or recreational benefits

How a project is removed from the List:

- Project is fully funded and/or implemented.
- Sponsor of the project requests the project be removed.
- IWRB at its discretion removes project.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF 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 PASS FISCAL YEAR 2026
BUDGET

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

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

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

10 WHEREAS, many aquifers across Idaho are declining or have existing or potential conjunctive
11 administration water use conflicts, including the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, Mountain Home Aquifer,
12 Wood River Valley Aquifer, Big Lost Aquifer, Raft River Aquifer, Malad Valley Aquifer, Treasure Valley
13 Aquifer, Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, Palouse Basin Aquifer, Lewiston Plateau Aquifer, and others; and

14 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho relies on spring discharge from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer
15 (ESPA) through the Thousand Springs to assist in meeting the minimum streamflow water rights at the
16 Murphy Gage established under the Swan Falls Agreement; and

17 WHEREAS, prior to the initiation of significant aquifer stabilization efforts around 2014, the ESPA
18 had been losing approximately 216,000 acre-feet annually from aquifer storage since the 1950's resulting
19 in declining ground water levels in the aquifer and declining spring flows from the aquifer; and

20 WHEREAS, during parts of 2013 and 2014 flows at the Murphy Gage approached the minimum
21 flow, and in 2015 flows at the Murphy Gage went below minimum flows; and

22 WHEREAS, the ESPA experienced conjunctive administration water use conflicts over the past two
23 decades that had the potential to significantly impact Idaho's economy; and

24 WHEREAS, on June 30, 2015 members of the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators entered into an
25 agreement with the Surface Water Coalition whereby the ground water users agreed to reduce their
26 consumptive use from the ESPA by 240,000 acre-feet annually and take other actions, and

27 WHEREAS, the 2016 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 138
28 supporting this agreement; and

29 WHEREAS, the State Water Plan includes a goal to accomplish managed recharge in the ESPA
30 averaging 250,000 acre-feet annually; and

31 WHEREAS, the 2016 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 136
32 directing the IWRB to develop the capacity to achieve 250,000 acre-feet of annual average managed
33 recharge to the ESPA by December 31, 2024; and

34 WHEREAS, in 2018 the cities on the ESPA entered into an agreement with the Surface Water
35 Coalition and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators whereby the cities agreed to enhance the ESPA by
36 an average of 7,650 acre-feet annually; and

37 WHEREAS, the 2019 Idaho Legislature passed and approved House Concurrent Resolution 10
38 supporting this agreement; and

39 WHEREAS, the ground water use reduction and managed recharge are together designed to
40 stabilize and then recover the ESPA; and

41 WHEREAS, on November 15, 2024 the members of the Surface Water Coalition and Ground Water
42 Districts on the ESPA entered into a new settlement agreement that increases the Water Resource Board's
43 annual ESPA recharge goal from 250,000 acre feet to 350,000 acre feet; and

44 WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 to
45 express legislative support for the November 15, 2024 settlement agreement between the members of
46 the Surface Water Coalition and Ground Water Districts along the Eastern Snake Plain. The legislation also
47 expresses support for the ongoing efforts of the State of Idaho to address water supply challenges along
48 the Eastern Snake plain and supports the Water Board's efforts to increase aquifer recharge goals from
49 250,000 acre feet to 350,000 acre feet; and

50 WHEREAS, a 2016 study commissioned by the IWRB predicts the growing Treasure Valley
51 population could result in an increase in Domestic, Commercial, Municipal, and Industrial water-demand
52 ranging from 109,000 to 188,000 acre-feet per year by the year 2065; and

53 WHEREAS, the IWRB approved development of the Treasure Valley Ground Water Model in
54 partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey to support future monitoring of ground water conditions,
55 water use, and administration of ground water and surface water rights, and approved entering into an
56 agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to complete the Boise River Storage Feasibility Study to
57 provide additional water supply through new surface water storage, and

WHEREAS, conjunctive administration water delivery calls have been made in the Big and Little Wood River Basins against junior-priority upstream ground water uses; and

WHEREAS, the Mountain Home aquifer is being over-drafted by about 30,000 acre-feet annually;

WHEREAS, the deep aquifer in the Palouse Basin has been declining for decades despite aggressive conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Water Resources recently enacted Ground Water Management Areas in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, Big Wood River Aquifer, Malad Valley Aquifer, Mountain Home Aquifer and the Lewiston Plateau Aquifer in response to declining ground water levels in those aquifers; and

WHEREAS, ground water levels in many aquifers are inadequate to sustain a supply of water for surface and ground water irrigation, hydropower, municipal, industrial, and other uses, the curtailment of which would cause severe economic harm to Idaho's economy; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 137 which recognized that stabilizing and enhancing aquifer levels is in public interest, and directs the IWRB to take actions in aquifers across the state to stabilize and enhance aquifer levels thereby maintaining water supply for consumptive and non-consumptive uses and minimizing harm to Idaho's economy arising from water supply shortages; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2025 the IWRB Finance Committee recommended the approval of a Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the use of available funds in the Secondary Aquifer Fund for statewide water sustainability and aquifer stabilization purposes; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget 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 expenditures for identified ESPA managed recharge operations, and investigations for further ESPA managed recharge capacity development may proceed with no further approvals; however, the IWRB shall be kept apprised of such expenditures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that expenditures for monitoring in support of the Treasure Valley model and Big Lost Ground Water Model, and for hydrologic studies/monitoring in the Portneuf Basin/Raft River Basin/Mid Snake Basin, for statewide surface water and aquifer monitoring, new monitoring wells and instrumentation for ESPAM data gaps, Palouse Aquifer monitoring, to support the settlement

91 in the Wood River Basin, professional assistance for securing federal funding, and administrative expenses
92 may proceed with no further approvals; however, the IWRB shall be kept apprised of such expenditures.

93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that expenditures for the Operations and Maintenance costs for the
94 Cooperative Cloud Seeding Program may proceed with no further approvals; however, the IWRB shall be
95 kept apprised of such expenditures. Further, it is the IWRB's stated goal that both the state and the water
96 users financially participate with Idaho Power in the Cooperative Cloud Seeding Program.

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

99
DATED this 23rd day of May 2025.



Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 

Dean Stevenson, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A: Resolution No. 18-2025
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	
		Recharge Monitoring	\$750,000	
		TOTAL	\$4,450,000	
ESPA Recharge Investigations	Budgeted Investigations	Recharge site characterization & canal capacity investigations	\$250,000	
		TOTAL	\$250,000	
PROGRAM TOTAL			\$4,700,000	
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	\$1,906,000	*
	HCRCDC 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			\$4,253,290	
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			\$6,828,290	
TREASURE VALLEY				
Monitoring in support of the Treasure Valley model (annual)			\$150,000	
TOTAL			\$150,000	
RAFT RIVER				
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			\$600,000	
New monitoring wells and instrumentation for ESPAM data gaps			\$100,000	
TOTAL			\$1,000,000	
STATEWIDE				
Professional Services (includes media & federal outreach services) and administrative costs			\$250,000	
TOTAL			\$250,000	
GRAND TOTAL			\$15,178,290	
Reserve for Work in Other Priority Aquifers Total			\$ 763,135	

*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. Counting the current fiscal year (FY25) there is ~\$9.5 M reserved 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 WATER
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT SPENDING PLAN
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

1 WHEREAS, the Water Management Account (WMA) was created pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-
2 1760 and is administered by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB); and

3
4 WHEREAS, through House Bill (HB) 285, the 2019 Idaho Legislature appropriated \$20 Million to
5 the WMA to be used for the Anderson Ranch Reservoir Enlargement (Anderson Ranch Dam Raise) or the
6 Mountain Home Air Force Base Sustainable Water Project (MHAFB Project); and

7
8 WHEREAS, HB 285 also made amendments to Idaho Code § 42-1760, which state, in part, that the
9 Anderson Ranch Dam Raise, MHAFB Project, additional aquifer recharge infrastructure, and other projects
10 selected by the IWRB may be undertaken with funds in the Water Management Account; and

11
12 WHEREAS, through Senate Bill (SB) 1121, the 2021 Idaho Legislature appropriated \$50 Million to
13 the Water Management Account; and

14
15 WHEREAS, in March 2021, through Resolution No. 07-2021, the IWRB allocated funds
16 appropriated under HB 285 and SB 1121 to the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise, MAHFB Project, Eastern Snake
17 Plain Aquifer recharge infrastructure, and the Bear Lake Additional Water Storage project; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the 2022 Idaho Legislature, through House Bill 769, appropriated \$75 Million to the
20 WMA to be used for large water projects and directed the IWRB to use the funding for expenditures,
21 loans, or grants for water projects, including studies, to address water sustainability, rehabilitate or
22 improve aging water infrastructure, or support flood management; and

23
24 WHEREAS, HB 769 further directed that no more than one-third of the moneys be used for grants
25 and the IWRB shall use criteria that takes into account the public's input for the expenditures of money
26 for grants, that is competitive, and prioritizes projects based on the public benefits they provide; and

27
28 WHEREAS, HB 361, passed and approved by the 2023 Idaho Legislature, appropriated \$150M to
29 the WMA for large water projects and specified that the funding be used for purposes similar to those
30 specified in HB 769, including the requirement that no more than one-third of the money be used for
31 grants; and

32
33 WHEREAS, the 2024 Idaho Legislature, through SB 1411, appropriated \$30 Million to the WMA to
34 be used for large water projects at the direction of the IWRB; and

35
36 WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature, through House Bill 445, appropriated \$30 Million to the
37 WMA to be used for planning, construction, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and improvement of water
38 infrastructure throughout the state; and

39
40 WHEREAS, HB 445 further directed that of the \$30 Million appropriated in a single year, no more
41 than fifty percent (50%) may be used within a single IWRB district, as defined in Idaho Code § 42-1732
42 unless there are not competing funding applications for water infrastructure projects in other districts for
43 the current fiscal year; and
44

45 WHEREAS, for fiscal year 2026, fifty percent (50%) of the appropriation from HB 445 shall be
46 allocated for use in IWRB district 3 and fifty percent (50%) in district 4 for the purpose of supporting the
47 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan entered into by surface and ground water users on the Eastern Snake
48 Plain; and
49

50 WHEREAS, in accordance with HB 769 and 361 referenced above, the IWRB established the Aging
51 Infrastructure Grant Program and, over five application rounds, awarded \$55,331,242 in grant money
52 during fiscal years 2022 through 2025; and
53

54 WHEREAS, since July 2021, the IWRB has maintained a list of priority Regional Water Sustainability
55 Projects (RWSP Priority List). The RWSP Priority List is intended to help guide the IWRB's spending from
56 state general funds, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, or other applicable sources for projects that
57 support water supply sustainability on a regional, basin, or statewide scale. The IWRB also adopts criteria
58 for inclusion of projects on the RWSP Priority List and has approved funding for projects on a case-by-case
59 basis; and
60

61 WHEREAS, on April 14, 2025, the IWRB's Finance Committee recommended the addition of an
62 ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Project to the RWSP Priority list to support projects and programs that
63 contribute to aquifer stabilization; and
64

65 WHEREAS, on May 16, 2025, the IWRB's Finance Committee recommended a spending plan for
66 appropriations made to the WMA under the legislation referenced above, including estimated interest.
67 The recommended WMA Spending Plan considers projects currently identified on the RWSP Priority List,
68 Aging Infrastructure Grants, certain IWRB approved loans, and other potential projects and programs; and
69

70 WHEREAS, the recommended spending plan also allocates the \$30 million appropriation for
71 programs and projects under the ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Project that meet the spending
72 requirements defined in HB 445 for fiscal year 2026; and
73

74 WHEREAS, a number of projects on the RWSP Priority List were determined eligible for funding
75 from ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund. Given that ARPA funding has specific federal and state spending
76 requirements, the spending plan includes allocation of additional funds from the WMA to be used if
77 additional funding is required for project completion or if it is determined that ARPA funds are not
78 authorized for specific project tasks; and
79

80 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached WMA Spending Plan as
81 recommended by the Finance Committee.
82

83 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for projects identified in the attached spending
84 plan and approved by the IWRB for funding from the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund, the IWRB

85 authorizes expenditures from the WMA to cover project activities deemed ineligible for ARPA funding.

DATED this 23rd day of May 2025.



JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 

DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Idaho Water Resource Board - Water Management Account
FY 2026 Spending Plan
May 23, 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)	\$30,000,000
FY2026 (HB 445, Sec 4, Receive after July 1, 2025)	\$30,000,000
Interest Earned (as of March 2025)	\$26,283,323

Total Appropriations: \$381,283,323

Regional Water Sustainability Projects & Other Large Projects	Budgeted Amount
Anderson Ranch Dam Raise *	\$10,000,000
Bear Lake Additional Storage	\$2,000,000
City of Gooding - Little Wood River Channel Flood Control Project	\$4,000,000
City of Nampa Wastewater-to-Irrigation Reuse	\$3,000,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	\$100,000
Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline (Governor's Initiative)	\$60,000,000
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Improvement Projects	\$5,000,000
Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project *	\$1,287,000
Lost Valley Reservoir Enlargement - Planning	\$560,000
Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project *	\$10,000,000
Near Blackfoot to Minidoka Reach Gain Improvements Projects	\$5,000,000
North Fremont Canal Systems Phase 5 Pipeline Project	\$7,811,056
Palouse Basin Aquifer Water Supply Planning	\$5,000,000
Priest Lake Water Management Project	\$5,420,000
Priest Lake Outlet Dam Litigation	\$2,748,000
Raft River Pipeline Project	\$7,000,000
Thousand Springs Area Water Subordination Agreements	\$8,000,000
Statewide Recharge Infrastructure *	\$40,000,000
Treasure Valley Water Supply Assessment Project	\$474,320
Upper Payette Basin Storage Water Project	\$5,000,000
Total:	\$182,400,376

*Projects listed in alphabetical order. * Eligible for ARPA Funding.*

ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Project FY 2026 Earmark (\$30M Appropriation) **	Budgeted Amount
Surface Water Coalition Measuring & Monitoring Support Grant	\$1,000,000
ESPA Recharge Infrastructure	\$4,000,000
ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant	\$20,000,000
Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program	\$5,000,000
Total:	\$30,000,000

*** IWRB Districts 3 & 4 must receive 50% of FY2026 funding each. Additional funding may be available from pre-FY2026 appropriations.*

Aging Infrastructure Grants ***	Budgeted Amount
Round 1	\$12,500,000
Round 2	\$12,500,000
Round 3	\$11,083,621
Round 4	\$7,678,350
Round 5 (FY 2025)	\$11,569,271
Round 6 (scheduled FY 2026)	\$20,000,000
Round 7 (scheduled FY 2027)	\$20,000,000
***Additional funding committed beyond initial \$75M appropriation for AIGs.	\$95,331,242

Loans, Grants, and Other Potential Needs	Budgeted Amount
Loans Committed <i>(Funds will be available for reallocation upon repayment)</i>	\$20,996,333
Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant (Round 1)	\$13,330,625
Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant (Round 2)	\$6,669,374
Efficiency and Capacity Improvements to Canal Systems Grant	\$20,000,000
Statewide Monitoring and Measurement Grant	\$10,000,000
Other Regional Water Sustainability Projects, Loans, or Grants	\$2,555,373
Total:	\$73,551,705
Grand Total:	\$381,283,323

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF BINGHAM GROUNDWATER
DISTRICT RECHARGE FACILITY

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FROM THE
WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT AND
PROVIDE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

1 WHEREAS, about one-third of Idaho's population resides on the Eastern Snake Plain and the
2 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) is the primary source of drinking water for both cities and most rural
3 residents of the Eastern Snake Plain; and
4

5 WHEREAS, numerous factors, including drought, have contributed to the loss of approximately
6 216,000 acre-feet of storage annually from ESPA since the 1950's resulting in declining groundwater levels
7 in the aquifer and reduced spring flows to the Snake River; and
8

9 WHEREAS, implementation of managed recharge on the ESPA will assist in the stabilization and
10 improvement of aquifer levels to protect municipal and domestic drinking water supplies, support
11 agriculture and other industries important to the state economy, and help address variability in climatic
12 conditions, including drought; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Concurrent Resolution 110 directing
15 the IWRB to increase the annual recharge goal for the IWRB ESPA Managed Recharge Program from
16 250,000 acre-feet to 350,000 acre-feet on average; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the Surface Water Coalition and the Groundwater Districts executed the 2024
19 Stipulated Mitigation Plan to supersede the 2015 agreement and continue groundwater conservation,
20 managed aquifer recharge, and mitigation activities by water users; and
21

22 WHEREAS, Idaho Code § 42-1760 authorizes the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to expend,
23 loan, or grant money from the Water Management Account for water projects that conserve or increase
24 water supply, improve drought resiliency, address water sustainability, or support flood management,
25 including the identification, study, and construction of managed aquifer recharge sites above Milner dam;
26 and
27

28 WHEREAS, Bingham Groundwater District (BGWD) presented a proposal to the IWRB seeking
29 funding to assist in the development of a managed aquifer recharge facility (Project) to increase recharge
30 in the Blackfoot to Neeley reach of the Snake River; specifically for the acquisition of land, engineering
31 assessments and feasibility studies for a proposed cost of \$2,500,000.
32

33 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditure of up to \$2,500,000 from
34 the Water Management Account for the purchase of land and engineering studies associated with the
35 Project.
36

37 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that IWRB may utilize up to 50 percent of the recharge
38 capacity of the Project up to a maximum of 75 cubic-feet per second (cfs), this includes utilizing 50 percent

39 of the delivery capacity available to BGWD for the Project up to a maximum of 75 cfs.
40

41 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if the IWRB does not have water available for managed
42 recharge or the IWRB is using less than 50% of the Project capacity the BGWD may utilize the available
43 capacity of the Project.
44

45 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if the BGWD does not have water available for
46 managed recharge or the BGWD is using less than 50% of the Project capacity the IWRB may utilize the
47 available capacity of the Project.
48

49 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BGWD will provide the IWRB an opportunity
50 to review and provide comment on the plans related to the design and development of the Project.
51

52 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the IWRB may elect to participate further in the cost
53 to develop the property into a recharge site.
54

55 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or designee, to
56 execute the necessary agreements or contracts for the purpose of this resolution.

DATED this 23rd day of May 2025.



JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 

DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF AGING WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CRITERIA

1 WHEREAS, BILL 769 passed and approved in 2022 by the Idaho Legislature appropriates
2 to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) \$25,000,000 to be used to rehabilitate or improve
3 aging water infrastructure; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Bill 361 passed and approved in 2023 by the Idaho Legislature appropriated to
6 the IWRB \$50,000,000 to be used to rehabilitate or improve aging water infrastructure; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature provided that these moneys shall be used for grants and
9 directed the IWRB to develop criteria, taking into account the public's input for the expenditures
10 of money for grants, which shall be competitive, matching grants that prioritize projects based
11 on the public benefits they provide. Considerations of public benefits should include the
12 protection of existing water rights, the uses identified in Section 42-1760(2)(d), Idaho Code,
13 which include consideration of the value of existing hydropower to the state's economy,
14 providing water for future development, and addressing aging water storage and delivery
15 infrastructure for projects that provide environmental, safety, or recreational benefits; and
16


17 WHEREAS, staff prepared an updated criteria for the award for Aging Infrastructure
18 Grants based upon feedback from previous funding rounds; and
19

20 WHEREAS, on May 12th 2025 the IWRB's Finance Committee met to discuss the updated
21 Aging Infrastructure Grant criteria developed by staff. The Finance Committee recommended
22 the attached criteria be adopted by the IWRB; and
23


24 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the
25 award of Aging Infrastructure Grants.
26

27 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB sets a budget for this
28 upcoming round (round 6) of Aging Infrastructure Grants at \$20,000,000 and sets an application
29 deadline of August 1, 2025.
30

DATED this 23th day of May 2025.



JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary



IWRB Aging Infrastructure Grant Criteria

The Idaho legislature has appropriated to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) funding to be used for grants for water projects to ***rehabilitate or improve aging water infrastructure***.

Projects that rehabilitate or improve Idaho's water infrastructure support the Idaho economy, provide economic value, and ensure long-term water resource stability and sustainability. The IWRB has developed these criteria to provide financial assistance on a statewide competitive basis through grants to eligible entities interested in pursuing eligible projects to rehabilitate or improve aging water infrastructure.

Eligible Projects: The IWRB defines an aging water infrastructure project as any new project, or new phase of an improvement project intended to repair, maintain, replace, or improve existing infrastructure that supports irrigation water delivery, storage, drainage, treatment, and use of water for irrigation. Water efficiency projects that reduce incidental recharge will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Ineligible Projects:

- Projects that are already completed or underway by the application deadline
- Municipal drinking or wastewater systems

Eligible Entities: Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Lateral Ditch Users Associations, Reservoir Districts, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 42, chapter 18, Idaho Code), Municipalities, Counties and Water Districts

Eligible Geographic Area: Statewide

Program Budget: No more than 50% of the total budget may be spent within a single IWRB district. This limit may be waived if there are no competing funding demands.

Funding Details:

- Funding Details: Up to \$2,000,000 per project; one project per application
- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed 50% of total project costs
- Legal/Administrative services are limited to 5% of total project costs
- Costs incurred prior to the grant award date are not eligible for reimbursement
- Reimbursement requests can be made once a cost-reimbursement contract is established between the applicant and IWRB
- Reimbursement of invoices will not surpass 50% of the invoice amount submitted to Board Staff.

- Contract term will not exceed 3 years after the grant funding award (date of IWRB Resolution) unless an extension is approved by IWRB's contract manager
- Funds may be reallocated if a project is not completed within the term of the cost-reimbursement contract, or if no response is received by the applicant within a calendar year after the grant award date

Application Requirements: For the grant proposal to be considered, the following must be provided:

- A cover letter that is addressed to the IWRB and with the applicant's letterhead. The letter must contain a project summary and the project manager's contact information. The summary must include the funding request dollar amount and expected total project cost.
- An application containing the following:
- Addresses all evaluation criteria described below
- Required regulatory approval and permit documents; if project has not yet received permit documents, note this in the application's project schedule.

Evaluation Criteria: Grant applications submitted by eligible entities for eligible projects will be evaluated, scored (*120-point scale*), and ranked according to the following criteria. Project scoring will be used to prioritize funding. Applications shall discuss how the project under consideration meets the evaluation criteria.

Project Details (*up to 50 points*)

- Project applicant: Description of the applicant that includes organization type, background, revenue sources, and current operations. (*10 points*)
- Project proposal: Description of the project, where it will occur, and its benefits. Include pictures of the existing infrastructure (if applicable), and maps of the project area that have county and coordinate information. (*10 points*)
- Project schedule: The project's timeline of important milestones, such as obtaining funds, permitting, and construction. The time to complete the project is irrelevant, grading only pertains to the quality of the schedule. (*10 points*)
- Plans and specifications: Relevant drawings and material specifications for construction. (*10 points*)
- Project team: The organization(s) and personnel involved in completing the project. Provide the roles, time commitment, and relevant experience. (*10 points*)

Urgency of Project (*up to 20 points*)

- Urgency of the project (e.g., infrastructure age, infrastructure function) (*20 points*)

Public Interest of Project (*up to 30 points*)

- Economic values supported by the existing and/or additional infrastructure. This includes consideration of the communities, irrigated acres, provision of water for future development and economic activity served by the water infrastructure. (*15 points*)
- Uses/benefits identified in Section 42-1760(2)(d), Idaho Code. (*15 points*):
 - water quality
 - fish and wildlife
 - recreation
 - hydropower
 - water supply stability and sustainability

- drought resiliency
- public safety
- other benefits to the citizens of the State

Budget Planning and Cost-Effectiveness (up to 20 points)

- Cost-effectiveness of the project compared to other options explored by the applicant. (10 points)
- Cost estimate describing all foreseen costs of materials and labor, as well as justification for those costs. Include all sources of funding for the project and their amounts. (10 points)

Grant Process:

- IWRB staff presents funding recommendations to IWRB Finance Committee
- Funding awarded at the IWRB meeting
- IWRB staff will notify project applicants of grant approval and will administer cost-reimbursement contracts
- IWRB will reimburse grantees for project costs upon submittal of funding reimbursement request

Cost-Reimbursement Process:

- Funds will be distributed upon the applicant submitting funding reimbursement requests to the IWRB
- The applicant's funding requests shall include a cover letter which shall include a description of the project activities, dates for performing the project activities, and contractor or supplier invoices
- The Board will review and upon approval, pay invoices in accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2302
- In-kind services, labor, and materials must be invoiced to the applicant to be eligible for reimbursement
- The Board shall determine the value of in-kind contributions of materials and labor
- A certificate of project completion and a financial summary of the total project cost shall be issued by the applicant in order to receive final reimbursement

Application Submission:

- Applications can be emailed to IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov
- Applications that are mailed must be received by 11:59 pm on the application due date. Mailing address:
ATTENTION: GRANTS TEAM
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0098
- Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise. Applications must be dropped off on weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Idaho Water Center is located at:
IDAHO WATER CENTER
322 E FRONT ST STE 648
BOISE, ID 83702-7371

IWRB Districts are as follows:

District No. 1: Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis and Idaho counties.

District No. 2: Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore and Owyhee counties.

District No. 3: Camas, Gooding, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia, Blaine, Lincoln, Minidoka, Lemhi, Custer and Butte counties.

District No. 4: Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bingham, Bonneville, Power, Bannock, Caribou, Oneida, Franklin and Bear Lake counties.

** No more than 50% of the total budget may be spent within a single IWRB district. This limit may be waived if there are no competing funding demands.*

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF ESPA GROUNDWATER
TO SURFACE WATER CONVERSION GRANTS

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CRITERIA

1 WHEREAS, as part of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Regional Water Sustainability
2 Project the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) is budgeting \$20,000,000 for a new ESPA
3 Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion grant from the Water Management Account in FY
4 2026; and

5
6 WHEREAS, staff developed criteria for the award of ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water
7 Grants; and

8
9 WHEREAS, on May 12th 2025 the IWRB's Finance Committee met to discuss the proposed
10 criteria developed by staff. The Finance Committee recommended the attached criteria be
11 adopted by the IWRB; and

12
13 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the
14 award of ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Grants from the Water Management Account.

15
16 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB sets an application deadline
17 of August 1, 2025.

18
DATED this 23rd day of May 2025.



JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 

DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant Criteria

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) is offering grant funding to be used for water projects targeted at converting lands irrigated from groundwater to surface water irrigation (Conversion Projects).

Eligible Projects: Projects located in eligible geographic areas that propose to convert from groundwater to surface water irrigation. Hard Conversions are projects that would permanently convert to the use of surface water. Soft Conversions projects would partially convert to the use of surface water but may have to use groundwater when surface water is not available.

Eligible Entities: **Groundwater** Districts, Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies. Individuals must apply through one of the eligible entities.

Eligible Geographic Area: Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) area of common groundwater supply

Grant Considerations:

- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed (50%) of total project costs for soft conversions. IWRB grant portion cannot exceed (75%) of total project costs for hard conversions.
- Must agree to cease pumping the proposed portion of groundwater related to project and that delivered conversion water will be used only on lands with an existing groundwater right tied to this project. Groundwater rights previously used on the conversion project lands cannot be put in the Water Bank for lease.
- If project construction is underway or completed by the application deadline the project is not eligible for this funding opportunity. Although projects that have previously been awarded conversion grant funding are eligible to apply for additional funding.

Grant Application Requirements: Grant applications will require the applicant to provide the following information:

- Project background (infrastructure description, repair, rehabilitation, improvement needs/objectives/benefits)
- Project sponsor description (organization type, background, revenue sources, current operations)
- Project description (narrative, map, 30% design plans and cost estimates, land entitlements at project location, description of any known environmental issues).
- Project budget and implementation schedule
- Project funding sources (IWRB grant, other state and federal grants, sponsor's contribution)
- If not directly diverting from a river, documentation is required from Irrigation District/Canal Company of support for the project and agreement to deliver the surface water supply for the conversion project, and documentation of long-term leases, storage water, existing shares, etc. to support the proposed project.

Documentation should address the term of the surface water delivery agreement and how often water will be available to support the project.

- Documentation from Groundwater District of support for the project and agreement to administer the pumping reduction.

Evaluation Criteria: To maximize the effective and efficient use of available funds, grant applications submitted by eligible entities for eligible projects will be evaluated, scored (*100-point scale*), and ranked according to the following criteria. Project scoring will be used to prioritize funding. Applications shall discuss how the project under consideration meets the evaluation criteria.

Benefits/Effectiveness (Up to 75 points)

- Project with a greater percentage of pumping offset will receive more points (up to 15 points)
- The application demonstrates a reduction in average annual groundwater pumping in acre-feet associated with this project. (Up to 10 points)
- The applicant demonstrates the dependability of the surface water supply in terms of quantity and seasonal availability. (up to 5 points)
- Applicant has demonstrated aquifer storage benefits and/or reach gain benefits associated with the project? Applicants should submit modeling results to support their claims. (up to 20 points)
- The applicant demonstrates the project involves multiple entities, or is the project regionally focused. (up to 5 points)
- The project includes a recharge component. (up to 10 points)
- More points for conversions that are greater than 85% efficient. (up to 10 points)

Project Proposal Clarity and Detail (up to 15 points)

- Clarity and detail of project proposal: need, description, budget and benefits (*up to 5 points*)
- Plans and specifications included with the grant application (*up to 5 points*)
- Description of the personnel (sponsor employees, contractors and/or volunteers) that will plan, design, construct and implement the proposed project (descriptions may include the number, qualifications (resumes if applicable) and time of personnel that will be involved in the project. (*up to 5 points*)

Urgency of Project (up to 10 points)

- Urgency of the project – The project is necessary to avoid curtailment or to help support a settlement (*up to 10 points*)

Application Submission:

- Applications can be emailed to IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov. Applications that are emailed must be received by 11:59 pm on the application due date.
- Applications that are mailed must be received by 11:59 pm on the application due date.
Mailing address:
ATTENTION: GRANTS TEAM
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0098
- Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise. Applications must be dropped off on weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Idaho Water Center is located at:
IDAHO WATER CENTER
322 E FRONT ST STE 648
BOISE, ID 83702-7371

Grant Process:

- IWRB staff present funding recommendations to IWRB Finance Committee
- Funding awarded at a regular IWRB meeting
- IWRB staff will notify project applicants of grant approval and will administer cost-reimbursement contracts
- IWRB will reimburse grantees for project costs upon submittal of funding reimbursement request

Cost-Reimbursement Process:

- Funds will be distributed upon applicant submitting funding reimbursement requests to the IWRB
- Applicant funding requests shall include a cover letter which shall include a description of the project activities, dates for performing the project activities, and contractor or supplier invoices
- In-kind services, labor, and materials must be invoiced to applicant to be eligible for reimbursement
- Invoices should be sent to IdwrPayable@idwr.idaho.gov
- A certificate of project completion shall be issued by the applicant in order to receive final reimbursement

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE IDAHO WATER
RESOURCE BOARD SURFACE WATER
OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES PROGRAM

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PROGRAM
CRITERIA

1 WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has undertaken various projects and
2 programs to address the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA); and
3

4 WHEREAS, additional funding was appropriated to the IWRB from the State of Idaho to
5 continue its work helping irrigators throughout the State; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Idaho Department of Water Resources continues to model impacts to
8 water users within the ESPA with shortages resulting in several water calls since the mid-2000s;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, improving operational efficiencies within the ESPA can help reduce modeled
11 impacts to senior surface water users; and
12

13 WHEREAS, this program will work with Surface Water users within the ESPA to begin
14 looking at what operational efficiencies may be available for their systems; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the program will accept applications year-round for projects that fit the
17 proposed criteria; and
18

19 WHEREAS, on May 16, 2025, the Finance Committee met and discussed the proposed
20 criteria and recommended them for approval by the IWRB;
21

22 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB approves the Surface Water
23 Operational Efficiencies Program criteria as specified in Attachment A to this resolution.

DATED this 23rd day of May 2025.



JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 

DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: *Justin Ferguson, Project Manager*

Date: April 21, 2025

Re: *DRAFT – Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program Administration Guidelines and Qualification Criteria*

Program Description

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has allocated funding to help surface water entities throughout the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA) area implement innovative operational efficiencies in an effort to improve the demand for surface water. Applications for funding for this program will be accepted year-round.

Program Focus:

Projects considered under this program include purchasing and installing equipment, conducting efficiency studies, and/or other activities designed to improve operational efficiencies that result in reduction in the demand for surface water.

Geographic Area

Limited to surface water diversions within the Snake River Plain Aquifer Area of Common Groundwater Supply are eligible for this program

Application Requirements:

Surface water operational efficiencies funding applications need to include the following criteria:

Efficiency Results Likely to Be Achieved

- What are the proposed project goals and how will the project improve operational efficiency. Please provide sufficient details supporting how the efficiency results were determined.
- Consideration will be given to potential impacts to the ESPA for the efficiency actions and will be reviewed on a case by case basis

Project Proposal Clarity & Implementation Schedule

- Project sponsor description: organization type, background, current operations, etc.
- Project description
 - Proposed project narrative, project map, scope of work (and supporting documents/designs if appropriate) & any other supporting information the applicant would like to include
- Cost estimate and budget
- Project implementation schedule

Additional Project funding sources

- If other funding sources are used to support the project, please provide a list with the agency and funding amount
 - *Sponsor's contributions, IWRB grants, other state and federal grants, etc.*

How Does This Project Promote State and/or Local Priorities

- Demonstrate how this project will support the 2024 SWC agreement.

Eligible Entities:

Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Lateral Ditch Users Associations, Reservoir Districts, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 42, chapter 18, Idaho Code), Municipalities, Counties and Water Districts

Funding Limit

Projects funded under this project are eligible for up to 100% funding per project.

Contract Terms

Funding for projects may be made in annual installments each fiscal year based on the amount of appropriations.

Application Process

Staff will review submitted applications and, when necessary, schedule a meeting with the applicant to discuss the information provided. For a request to be considered complete, all sections of the application must be filled out, with supporting documentation provided where necessary. All incomplete applications will be held for 30 days from receipt; incomplete applications past 30 days will be declined and returned to the applicant, at which time a new, complete application must be submitted.

Funding requests will be presented to an appropriate IWRB Finance Committee for a recommendation to the IWRB. Funding request applications that do not receive funding or do not receive a favorable recommendation will be declined and returned to the applicant. An unfavorable recommendation or incomplete application does not prevent applicants from re-applying.

Program Proposal Submission

Completed applications can be emailed to the Idaho Water Resource Board's Grants Team at IWRBGrants@IDWR.Idaho.gov. Physical copies must be postmarked by the application date and can be mailed to:

Idaho Department of Water Resources
Attn: IWRB Grants Team – Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Team
P.O Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098

Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise, ID. The Idaho Water Center is located at:

322 E. Front Street
Suite 648
Boise, ID 83702-7371

If you have questions about the application package or would like to schedule a meeting with the Grants Team, email us at IWRBGrants@IDWR.Idaho.gov, Attention: Surface Water Ops Program.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF IDAHO WATER
RESOURCE BOARD SWC MONITORING
SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PROGRAM
CRITERIA AND OPEN INITIAL APPLICATION
PERIOD

1 WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has undertaken various projects and
2 programs to address the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA); and
3

4 WHEREAS, part of the 2024 Surface Water Coalition agreement contains increased
5 requirements regarding the measurement and monitoring of diversions throughout the ESPA;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, additional funding was appropriated to the IWRB from the State of Idaho to
8 continue its work helping irrigators throughout the State; and
9

10 WHEREAS, this program is intended to provide financial assistance to irrigators within the
11 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Area of Common Groundwater Supply and will focus on providing
12 funding assistance for projects that will increase the measurement and monitoring ability of
13 irrigators within the ESPA; and
14

15 WHEREAS, on May 16, 2025, the Finance Committee met and discussed the proposed
16 criteria and recommended them for approval by the IWRB;
17

18 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB approves the criteria for the SWC
19 Monitoring Support Grant Program as specified in Attachment A to this resolution.
20

21 NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the application window for the first round of awards
22 will be open until September 2025, with applications due on the last Friday of September, and a
23 total budget amount for this initial round of \$1 million dollars

DATED this 23rd day of May 2025.


JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST 
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Justin Ferguson, Project Manager

Date: May 16, 2025

Re: DRAFT – SWC Monitoring Support Grant Program Administration Guidelines and Qualification Criteria

Program Description

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has allocated funding to continue to promote water conservation efforts throughout the Eastern Snake River Plain (ESPA) through the purchase and installation of monitoring equipment, measurement devices, or other supportive infrastructure for ground and surface water diversions. Funding under this program seeks to continue and expand upon the previous Telemetry grant utilizing funding from the Bureau of Reclamation.

The contracts for this program will be a cost-reimbursement contract, with invoices to be submitted to Staff for review and approval.

Note: Measurement and monitoring equipment must meet current Idaho Department of Water Resources Standards- add link to IDWR

Qualification Criteria

Eligible Projects:

Projects considered under this program are for the purchase and installation of monitoring and measurement equipment for both surface and groundwater diversions within the ESPA. Projects that are completed by the application deadline are not eligible for this program.

Example projects: New monitoring wells, flumes, weirs, telemetry equipment, software development, automation equipment, etc.

Eligible Entities:

Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Lateral Ditch Users Associations, Reservoir Districts, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 42, chapter 18, Idaho Code), Municipalities, Counties and Water Districts

Geographic Area

Limited to diversions within the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer Area of Common Groundwater Supply

Award Limit

Funding under this program will be limited to 50% of project costs up to a maximum of \$250,000 per project

Project Funding Method

Proposals for the purchase of and/or the installation of monitoring equipment, measurement devices, or supporting infrastructure will be scored on the following criteria:

How Does This Project Promote Goals Under the 2024 SWC/Ground Water District Settlement Agreement

- 30 points can be awarded if the applicant can demonstrate how this project will further agreement priorities regarding water resources

Equipment Installation

- Up to 20 points can be awarded if this is a new install of monitoring, telemetry, and/or measurement equipment on the Sponsor's diversion works
- Up to 10 points can be awarded if this is a retrofit of existing monitoring, telemetry and/or measurement equipment already installed on the Sponsor's diversion works

Project Implementation Schedule

- 20 points can be awarded if the project will be completed in 1 year
- 10 points can be awarded if the project will be completed in 2 years
- 5 points can be awarded if the project will be completed in subsequent years

Description of Equipment Installed

- 5 points can be awarded if the Sponsor is able to provide a description of the equipment being installed

Project Proposal & Clarity

- Up to 10 points can be awarded if the Sponsor provides a description of the Project and identifies the Project's need, proposed budget, and public interest
- Up to 5 points can be awarded if the Sponsor can provide plans, timeline, and drawings for the Project

Grant Application Requirements

- Grant applications will require the applicant to provide:
- Project background (infrastructure description, repair, rehabilitation, improvement needs/objectives/benefits)
- Project sponsor description (organization type, background, revenue sources, current operations)
- Project description (narrative, map, conceptual plan and design, land entitlements at project location, description of any known environmental issues).
- Cost estimate and budget
- Project funding sources (IWRB grant, other state and federal grants, sponsor's contribution)
- Project implementation schedule

Program Administration

Contracts under this program will be a 50% cost share of the total project costs. A final accounting of all funding sources used on the project may be requested by Staff at the end of the project for verification.

Funding may be reallocated if the contract expires without a renewal notification from the recipient, if an executed contract isn't received within 60 days of issuance, or if the project is not completed within the award contract duration.

Application Process

Staff will review the funding request and, when necessary, schedule a meeting with the applicant to discuss the information provided. For a request to be considered complete, all sections of the application must be filled out, with supporting documentation provided where necessary. All incomplete applications will be declined and returned to the applicant; at which time a new, complete application must be submitted.

Funding requests will be presented to the IWRB Finance Committee for a recommendation at a scheduled meeting between the close of applications and the November IWRB meeting. Upon the receipt of a favorable recommendation, Staff will take the request to the IWRB for approval via funding resolution. Funding request applications that do not receive funding or do not receive a favorable recommendation will be declined and returned to the applicant. An unfavorable recommendation or incomplete application does not prevent applicants from applying in subsequent funding rounds.

Grant Submission

Completed applications can be emailed to the Idaho Water Resource Board's Grants Team at IWRBGrants@IDWR.Idaho.gov and must be received by 5:00 pm on the application date. Physical copies must be postmarked by the application date and can be mailed to:

Idaho Department of Water Resources
Attn: IWRB Grants Team - Monitoring & Support Grant Team
P.O Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098

Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise, ID, and must be received by 5:00 pm on the application date. The Idaho Water Center is located at:

322 E. Front Street
Suite 648
Boise, ID 83702-7371

For questions on the application package or to schedule a meeting with the Grants Team, email us at IWRBGrants@IDWR.Idaho.gov and please specify the Monitoring & Support Grant Program.