



AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Water Resource Planning Committee Meeting No. 1-25

May 16, 2025

1:00 PM (MT) / Noon (PT)

Brad Little
Governor

Jeff Raybould
Chairman
St. Anthony
At Large

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen
Vice Chair
Lewiston
At Large

Dean Stevenson
Secretary
Paul
District 3

Dale Van Stone
Hope
District 1

Albert Barker
Boise
District 2

Brian Olmstead
Twin Falls
At Large

Marcus Gibbs
Grace
District 4

Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

Water Center
Conference Room 602 C & D
322 E. Front St.
BOISE

Livestream available at <https://www.youtube.com/@iwrwb>

-
1. Introductions and Attendance
 2. Senate Concurrent Resolution 110
 3. State Water Plan & ESPA CAMP *
 4. Other Items
 5. Adjourn

Committee Members: Chair Albert Barker, Jeff Raybould, Marc Gibbs, Dean Stevenson, and Jo Ann Cole-Hansen

Finance Committee Meeting No. 4-25

Upon Adjournment of Water Resource Planning Meeting

-
1. Introductions and Attendance
 2. FY 2026 Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund Budget *
 3. Water Management Account and ARPA Spending Plans FY 2026 *
 4. Telemetry Grant Recommendations *
 5. Criteria Recommendations
 - a. Aging Infrastructure Grant *
 - b. ESPA Ground Water to Surface Water Conversion Grant *
 - c. Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program *
 - d. SWC Measuring & Monitoring Support Grant *
 6. Regional Water Sustainability Priority Projects List and Criteria Update *
 7. Other Items
 8. Adjourn

Committee Members: Chair Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Jeff Raybould, Marc Gibbs, Dale Van Stone, and Dean Stevenson.

* Action Item: A vote regarding this item may be made at this meeting. Identifying an item as an action item on the agenda does not require a vote to be taken on the item. **Americans with Disabilities:** The meeting will be held in person and online. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please make advance arrangements by contacting Department staff by email jennifer.strange@idwr.idaho.gov or by phone at (208) 287-4800.

Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)

From: Neeley Miller

Date: May 15, 2025

Re: Proposed Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management & Implementation Fund – FY 2026 Budget

REQUIRED ACTION: Recommend Proposed FY 2026 Secondary Aquifer Fund Budget to IWRB for Adoption

Staff will discuss the FY 2026 proposed budget for the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management & Implementation Fund (Secondary Aquifer Fund).

Attachment:

- 1) Proposed Secondary Aquifer Fund – FY 2026 Budget

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
		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
	HCRC D 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.

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) Finance Committee
From: Cynthia Bridge Clark
Date: May 15, 2025
Re: Water Manage Account Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Spending Plan



REQUIRED ACTION: Committee recommendation of a Water Management Account spending plan for FY 2026.

Background:

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) manages three accounts to fund programs and provide financial assistance for water development projects: the Revolving Development Account (RDA), Water Management Account (WMA), and the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management and Implementation Fund (Secondary Fund). In addition, the 2022 Idaho Legislature allocated approximately \$250 million of the State's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support IWRB-approved projects.

The RDA funds specific programs and projects, including loans for water development projects. The IWRB approves annual budgets and spending plans for the Secondary Fund and WMA to direct funding to regional water sustainability projects, grants, loans, and other IWRB-approved projects.

To help guide investment in projects that support water supply sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide scale in accordance with legislative direction, the IWRB maintains a Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List. The IWRB also oversees grant programs focused on aging infrastructure, flood management, and groundwater to surface water conversion projects, utilizing appropriations and revolving development funds. The IWRB is also planning new grant programs targeting delivery system efficiency and capacity improvements, and monitoring and measurement activities.

Finance Committee:

Staff will review the draft spending plan for the Water Management Account for FY 2026. This plan incorporates the \$30 million ongoing appropriation authorized under House Bill 445, enacted during the 2025 legislative session. The legislation includes specific direction for FY 2026, requiring that fifty percent (50%) of the appropriation for water projects be allocated to Board District 3 and fifty percent (50%) to Board District 4. In FY 2026, these funds are designated to support implementation of the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan entered into by surface and ground water users on the Eastern Snake Plain.

On May 14, 2025, the Finance Committee recommended adding the ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Project to the Priority Projects List. The Committee also identified programs to receive funding under this new project in alignment with the legislative direction for spending of the \$30 million in FY 2026. These recommendations are reflected in the draft spending plan.

Attachment(s):

- Draft Fiscal Year Water Management Account Spending Plan

Idaho Water Resource Board - Water Management Account

FY 2026 Draft Spending Plan

IWRB Approved Funding Commitments as of May 16, 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 Feb 2025)	\$25,258,371

Total Appropriations: \$380,258,371

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 Projects 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)	\$12,394,271
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.	\$96,156,242

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 Program	\$20,000,000
Efficiency and Capacity Improvements to Canal Systems Grant	\$20,000,000
Statewide Monitoring and Measurement Grant Program	\$10,000,000
Other Regional Water Sustainability Projects, Loans, or Grants	\$705,420
Total:	\$71,701,753

Grand Total: \$380,258,371

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Justin Ferguson
Date: May 16, 2025
Subject: Telemetry Grant Program Scoring & Recommendation

REQUIRED ACTION: The Board will consider approval of the recommended grant applications for funding

Background

On November 22, 2024 the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) passed resolution 57-2024 adopting criteria to award grant funding for Telemetry & Monitoring equipment. The application deadline for the program was March 28th 2025; 11 applications were received and evaluated by Staff for consideration by the IWRB.

Funding for the program was awarded to the IWRB from the Bureau of Reclamation through the Investing in America – Inflation Reduction Act. The federal funding is intended to provide real-time information on both surface water and groundwater diversions, enabling more effective and efficient management of limited water supplies during periods of drought.

Key Elements of the Criteria

Eligible Projects: Projects considered under this program are for the purchase of monitoring and telemetry equipment for both surface and groundwater diversions within the ESPA.

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

Eligible Geographic Area: Projects are limited to diversions within the Eastern Snake River Plain Common Groundwater Boundary

Grant Award Limit: 50% cost share up to \$250,000 per application

- This program is focused on helping irrigators throughout the ESPA with the costs of purchasing telemetry and monitoring equipment for ground and surface water diversions
- Grant funding must be used for the purchase of Telemetry and/or Monitoring equipment
- All installation costs will be covered by the applicant as part of the in-kind/cost share portion

Staff Recommendation

Staff have evaluated the applications according to the criteria adopted by IWRB. Staff recommend the IWRB approve the grant awards as specified in Attachment A to this resolution.

Attachment(s):

Attachment A – Applications Received & Funding Recommendation
Proposed Telemetry & Monitoring Funding Resolution

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 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.
28

29 NOW IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for the projects will be disbursed as funding
30 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

Resolution No. _____

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Attachment A

Telemetry & Monitoring Applications (3/2025)			
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Total Funds Requested	\$ 566,504.43	\$ 1,729,628.95	\$ 566,504.43

Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau
Date: May 15, 2025
Re: Aging Infrastructure Grant criteria - update

Action: Consider resolution to adopt Aging Infrastructure criteria

Staff will discuss the proposed update to the Aging Infrastructure Grant criteria.

Attachment(s):

Proposed criteria



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's August 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.*

Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau

Date: May 15, 2025

Re: *ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant Criteria*

Action: Recommend criteria to the IWRB

Staff will discuss draft criteria for a new grant funding opportunity to be used for water projects targeted at converting lands irrigated from groundwater to surface water irrigation on the ESPA

Attachment(s):
Proposed Criteria

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.
- Conversion projects are required to replace at least 80% of their groundwater usage with surface water. Demonstrate, with historic pumping records, the groundwater savings of the conversion.
- 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*)

May 2025

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 the July 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

Memorandum



To: File

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 diversions associated with the ESPA

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:

Surface Water users within the ESPA are eligible for funding under this program.

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

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.

DRAFT

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: File

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 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

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.

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 \$2 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: Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau

Date: May 15, 2025

Re: Regional Water Sustainability Priority Project List – criteria update

Action: Make a recommendation to the IWRB

Background

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. The IWRB also, in January 2022, adopted a threshold criteria indicating that for a project to be included on the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List it must "help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or state wide basis."

On October 26th 2022 the IWRB adopted criteria for the inclusion of projects on the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List. The criteria include a process for how projects can be added, types of information required to be submitted in requests, considerations for inclusion, and a process for removing projects from the list.

Staff will discuss proposed updates to the criteria with the Finance Committee.

Attachment(s):

Proposed Updated Regional Water Sustainability Priority Projects List Criteria

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List

The IWRB maintains the [Regional Water Sustainability 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 updated 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.