



AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Finance Committee Meeting No. 7-25

Thursday, November 20, 2025

8:00 a.m. (MT) / 7:00 a.m. (PT)

Water Center

Conference Rooms 602 B – D

322 E. Front Street

BOISE

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

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

1. Introductions and Attendance
2. Aging Infrastructure Grant Awards *
3. Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management & Implementation Fund *
4. Water Management Account Spending Plan *
5. Lost Valley Reservoir Enlargement Project Update *
6. Other Items
7. Adjourn

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

Board Meeting No. 14-25 WORK SESSION

Upon Adjournment of Finance Comm. Meeting 7-25

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

1. Roll Call
2. Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Update
3. Water Supply Bank & Rental Pool Annual Report
4. Upper Snake Basin Study—Letter of Interest
5. Administrative Rules Update
6. Priest Lake Operations
7. Langdon Group Recommendations Report—Evaluation of SWCC-IDWR Merger
8. Non-Action Items for Discussion
9. Adjourn

The board will break for lunch at approximately noon. Upon adjournment they will attend a field trip to Nampa Meridian construction site. Transportation will be provided for board members and invited guests only.

* 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 Act:** If you require special accommodation to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact the Department no later than five days before the meeting. To request an accommodation, please send an email to Megan.Jenkins@idwr.idaho.gov or call (208) 287-4800.

322 East Front Street • P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 287-4800 Fax: (208) 287-6700 Website: idwr.idaho.gov/IWRB/



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702-4520



IN REPLY REFER TO:

CPN-6427

2.2.4.21

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mr. Jeff Raybould
Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board
322 East Front Street
Boise, ID 83702

Mr. Ryan Alcorn
Acting Area Manager
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702

Subject: Boise River Basin Feasibility Study / Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Status Update,
Boise Project, Idaho

Dear Mr. Raybould and Mr. Alcorn:

This status update is being sent in preparation for the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) meeting on November 20, 2025.

The IWRB and Reclamation partnered to complete a feasibility study of new surface water storage opportunities in the Boise River Basin (Study). Authorized under Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016, the Study focused on a 6-foot raise of Anderson Ranch Dam in Idaho to achieve approximately 29,000 acre-feet of new water storage.

Upcoming Key Milestones

Early 2026	Update the total project cost estimate
Spring 2026	Complete final designs for Dam Raise
2026	Initiate preliminary federal acquisition processes
2026/2027	Complete environmental compliance

Project Activities / Awareness

Recent:

- Reservoir Rim Project – 100% design drawings and specifications were completed September 2025.
- Dam Raise – 90% designs were provided October 2025. The project team and stakeholders

are conducting reviews of these designs. 100% design is expected by Spring 2026.

- Consultant Review Board has conducted and completed their technical review of the current dam raise designs, with a final report to be provided Fall 2025.
- Updates to components of the total project cost estimate are in progress.
- Project's environmental compliance has re-initiated.

Ongoing:

- Coordination between dam raise and reservoir rim project teams.
- Coordination and revisions to documents for re-initiation of environmental compliance.
- Stakeholder coordination, project awareness, and request for review support.
- Frequent coordination between Reclamation and IWRB staff.

Completed Key Milestones

New:

September 10, 2025	Completed Reservoir Rim Projects 100% design.
October 9, 2025	Completed Dam Raise 90% design.
November 6, 2025	Completed an updated risk neutrality and construction risk analysis, Dam Safety Advisory Team review and concurrence.

Past:

Nov. 2017 – Jan. 2019	Reclamation completed initial screening of the three potential dam raise alternatives and developed a project management plan.
July 27, 2018	IWRB passed a resolution supporting the narrowed focus of the Study to a raise at Anderson Ranch Dam.
August 28, 2018	Reclamation and IWRB hosted a Legislative Infrastructure Tour to discuss large water infrastructure projects in Idaho with representatives from Idaho's Congressional delegation.
November 8, 2018	Reclamation and IWRB hosted an informational public open house on the Study in Boise, Idaho.
December 3-7, 2018	Reclamation conducted a Value Planning Study with a final Accountability Report received in February 2019.
December 25, 2018	Reclamation awarded an Indefinite Delivery / Indefinite Quality contract for architect and engineering services to Sundance-EA Joint Venture (Consultant) to complete the Study and environmental compliance activities.
April 30, 2019	Consultant submitted land, structure, infrastructure, and real estate impact assessment (Rim Analysis) for Anderson Ranch Reservoir.
June 7, 2019	IWRB filed a water right permit application for the potential

	additional storage (Water Right No. 63-34753).
June 19, 2019	Reclamation's Technical Service Center (TSC) completed feasibility-level design and cost estimates for Anderson Ranch Dam raise.
August 9, 2019	Reclamation published the Notice of Intent for an environmental impact statement (EIS) in the Federal Register.
August 27-29, 2019	Reclamation conducted Public Scoping Open Houses in Pine, Boise, and Mountain Home, Idaho.
February 3-7, 2020	Reclamation completed the Design, Estimate, and Construction review of the feasibility-level designs.
April 6-10, 2020	Reclamation completed the Peer Review of the Water Operations Technical Memorandum
July 31, 2020	Reclamation released the Draft EIS and Draft Feasibility Report.
October 30, 2020	Reclamation initiated formal Endangered Species Act consultation with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service and submitted its biological assessment.
December 2020	The Secretary of the Interior determined the Study's recommended plan to be feasible in accordance with the WIIN Act.
December 2020	Reclamation transmitted the Final Feasibility Report to Congress.
December 2020	Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations legislation secured \$12.88 million in WIIN Act funding for completing the Study, environmental compliance, and construction.
May 2021	Initiated pause in environmental compliance process pending further development of final design.
July / August 2021	Reclamation's Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region requested delegation of authority and received approval from the Commissioner to negotiate, execute, and administer a cost-share agreement pursuant to section 4007 of the WIIN Act with the IWRB.
Sept. / Oct. 2021	Reclamation and IWRB completed cost-share contract negotiation sessions: Sept. 22, Oct. 5, Oct. 19, and Oct. 28.
November 2021	IWRB and Reclamation signed and executed cost-share contract. IWRB provided first interval payment of advanced funds. TSC initiated final design activities.
June 2022	Reclamation's TSC completed dam spillway overlay feasibility design and conducted risk neutrality and construction risk workshop.
September 2022	Reclamation's risk neutrality and construction risk analysis, Dam Safety Advisory Team review and concurrence.
September 2022	Received total non-federal project funding based on the feasibility level total project cost estimate.
May 2023	Completed Dam Raise and Reservoir Rim Projects 30% Designs.

June 2023	Completed Dam Raise and Reservoir Rim Projects 30% design reviews, Value Engineering Studies, and Dam Raise Constructability Review.
November 2023	Completed on-site field explorations.
Jan. / Feb. 2024	Completed Reservoir Rim Projects 60% designs and Constructability Review.
May 2024	Completed Dam Raise 60% Design.
June 2024	Completed Reservoir Rim Projects Geotechnical Field Explorations Report.
November 2024	Completed: Dam Raise Geotechnical Field Explorations Report, potential hazardous materials site-survey report, initial plan for reservoir operations during construction, and the Reclamation / US Forest Service concurrence document for how accessibility requirements will be incorporated into reservoir rim projects designs.
December 18, 2024	Completed Reservoir Rim Projects 90% designs.
Sept. – Dec. 2024	Completed updated analysis for potential water supply mitigation during construction shared it more broadly with the water user community.
March 2025	Received \$7,000,000 of additional federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
July 2025	Completed Dam Raise Updated Risk Neutrality and Construction Risk Analysis meeting.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide an update on the Boise River Basin Feasibility Study / Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (208) 378-5360 or via email at ckeith@usbr.gov. *If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.*

Sincerely,

Chris Keith
Project Manager

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Mary Condon
Date: November 20, 2025
Re: Water Supply Bank Annual Reports



REQUIRED ACTION: No action is required.

The Annual Reports for Rental Pools and for the Board's Bank for years 2023 and 2024 are included in the IWRB's November meeting materials. Staff will provide a summary of the four annual reports through a PowerPoint presentation, beginning with the Rental Pools and followed by the Board's Bank.

Attachments:

1. Rental Pools Annual Report for 2023
2. Rental Pools Annual Report for 2024
3. Board's Bank Annual Report for 2023
4. Board's Bank Annual Report for 2024
5. WSB Presentation 2023 2024 Annual Report



Idaho Water Supply Bank

2023 Rental Pools Report

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Introduction

The Water Supply Bank is a water exchange market operated by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB; Board), through the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), in association water districts with IWRB-appointed local rental committees, to facilitate the acquisition (lease) and exchange (rental) of water use authorizations, to accommodate new and supplemental water uses in Idaho. The Bank is operated pursuant to sections 42-1761 through 42-1766 of Idaho Code, and governed by Board-adopted rules (IDAPA 37.02.03). IDWR staff facilitate the statewide lease and rental of water rights through the **Board's water supply bank**, while IWRB-appointed local committees facilitate the lease and rental of water use authorizations via water-source specific regional **rental pools**.

Storage water rental pools exist to facilitate the lease and rental of water from reservoirs located on the Upper Snake, Boise and Payette Rivers, as well as reservoirs within the Lake Fork Creek basin. A natural flow rental pool has been established to facilitate one-year leases and rentals of water rights within the Lemhi River basin. Additionally, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes operate a Tribal Water Supply Bank to lease and rent Tribal storage water use authorizations from Palisades and American Falls reservoirs in the Upper Snake River basin. This report summarizes 2023 lease and rental transactions reported by IWRB-appointed local committees for the Upper Snake River, Boise River, Payette River, Lake Fork Creek, and Lemhi River rental pools.

Activity Summary 2023

A sum total of 528,632 acre-feet (AF) of stored water was leased to storage water rental pools during 2023, from which 526,423 AF (99.5%) was rented for new and supplemental water uses, which is 5% less than the previous five-year average volumes.

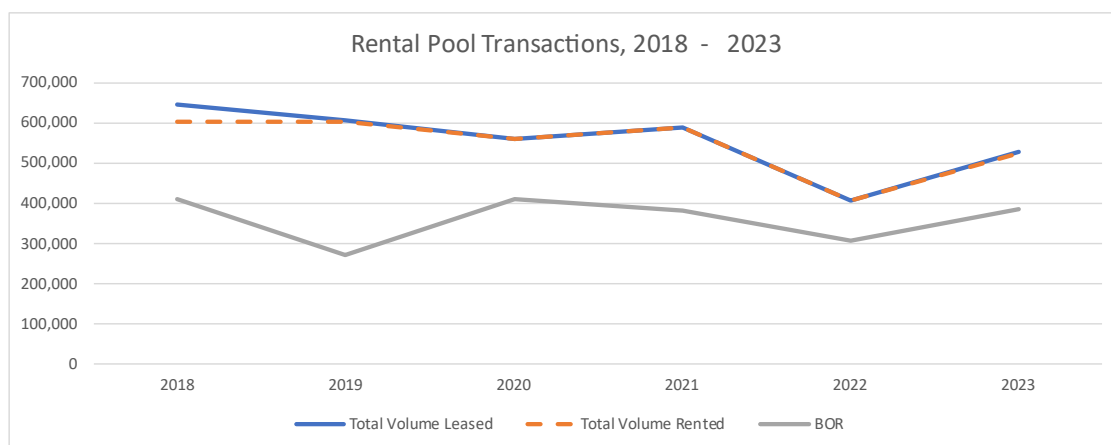


Chart 1 - Total Rental Pool Volumes Leased and Rented, 2018-2023

Approximately 117 rental requests were processed by local rental pool committees. The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR) rented 384,489 AF (73%) of the leased storage water during 2023 to satisfy annual flow augmentation commitments. A sum total of \$13,272,278 was exchanged through rental pool transactions, of which an estimated \$11,375,914 went to lessors, \$759,176 went to local water districts, and \$1,137,188 was delivered to the IWRB.

Upper Snake River Rental Pool

The Upper Snake River Rental Pool is comprised of storage water from Henrys Lake, Island Park, Grassy Lake, Jackson Lake, Palisades Reservoir, Ririe Reservoir, American Falls Reservoir, Lake Walcott and the Milner Pool Reservoir. The total storage contents of these reservoirs is 4,185,695 AF, of which 3% (284,590 AF) was leased and rented during 2023, plus another 5,668.3 AF of prior year excess use. The Water District 01 Advisory Committee (also known as the Committee of Nine) is the IWRB-appointed local committee authorized to facilitate Upper Snake River Rental Pool transactions.

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
- USBOR Pool	150,000	150,000	\$23/AF	\$2,959,500.00	\$295,500.00	\$1.30/AF	\$195,000.00
- Small Pool	802	802	\$20/AF	\$13,634.00	\$1,363.40	\$1.30/AF	\$1,042.60
Extraordinary Circumstances	Zero	Zero	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.30/AF	\$0.00
Assignment Pool	Zero	Zero	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.30/AF	\$0.00
Supplemental Pool	Zero	Zero	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.30/AF	\$0.00
Private Pools							
Private Pool	133,788.4	133,788.4	Variable	*Undisclosed	\$614,721.00	\$1.30/AF	\$173,924.92
USBOR Uncontracted	Zero	Zero	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.30/AF	\$0.00
2022 Excess Use	5,668.3	5,668.3	\$25/AF	\$141,707.50	\$14,170.75	\$1.30/AF	\$7,368.79
Totals	290,258.7	290,258.7	Variable	*\$3,114,841.5	\$925,755.15	\$1.30/AF	\$377,336.31

Table 1 - Upper Snake River Rental Pool Transactions during 2023

The 2023 Upper Snake River Rental Pool procedures provided for: a **common pool**, which allow for storage water rentals at pre-established rental rates for USBOR flow-augmentation pool and a small pool (for rentals less than 100 AF); an **extraordinary**

circumstances pool, which allow for flow augmentation rentals in excess of the common pool at pre-established rental rates; an **assignment pool**, which allow for participant storage for rentals above Milner at pre-established rental rates and for flow augmentation below Milner after the extraordinary circumstances pool; a **supplemental pool**, which allow for participant supplied storage for hydropower below Milner when authorized on or after April 1 of each year at annually established rental rates; and, a **private pool**, which allow for storage water rentals at negotiated rental rates. Categories of private pools include two-party leases, recharge, IWRB storage, BOR uncontracted storage, and BOR powerhead storage.

Boise River Rental Pool

The Boise River Rental Pool consists of storage water from Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock, Lucky Peak, and Lake Lowell reservoirs. The total storage content of these four reservoirs is 1,109,065 AF, of which 54,956 AF (5%) was leased and 54,796 AF was rented through the Boise River Rental Pool during 2023. The Water District 63 Advisory Committee is the IWRB-appointed local committee authorized to facilitate Boise River Rental Pool transactions.

Per Boise River Rental Pool procedures, common pools exist for in basin and out of basin rentals at pre-established rental rates, while privately negotiated rentals are permissible at variable rental rates. Table 2 summarizes volumes and financial payments associated with Boise River Rental Pool transactions during 2023.

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
In Basin Pool	1700	1540.1	\$23/AF	\$30,031.95	\$3,003.00	\$1.55/AF	\$2387.15
Out of Basin Pool	2324	2324	\$23/AF	\$45,318	\$4,531.80	\$1.55/AF	\$3,602.20
Private Pools							
Private Pool	10,000	10,000	\$23/AF	\$195,000.00	\$19,500.00	\$1.55/AF	\$15,500.00
USBOR Uncontracted	40,932	40,932	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.55/AF	\$63,444.60
Totals	54,956	54,796.1	Variable	\$270,349.95	\$27,034.80	\$1.55/AF	\$84,933.95

Table 2 - Boise River Rental Pool Transactions during 2023

Payette River Rental Pool

The Payette River Rental Pool consists of storage water from Cascade and Deadwood reservoirs. The total storage contents of these two reservoirs is 800,452 AF, of which 23 % (186,684 AF) was leased and rented during 2023. The Water District 65 Advisory Committee is the IWRB-appointed local committee authorized to facilitate Payette River Rental Pool transactions.

Per Payette River Rental Pool procedures, common pools exist for in-basin and out of basin rentals at pre-established rental rates, while privately-negotiated rentals are permissible at variable rental rates. Table 3 summarizes volumes and financial payments associated with Payette River Rental Pool transactions during 2023.

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
In Basin Pool	7,500	5,451	\$7/AF	\$27,030.45	\$2,673.87	\$1.55/AF	\$8,449.05
Out of Basin Pool	85,625	85,625	\$23/AF	\$1,669,687.50	\$166,968.75	\$1.55/AF	\$132,718.75
Private Pool							
Private Pool	Zero	Zero	Variable	N/A	N/A	\$1.30/AF	N/A
USBOR Uncontracted	95,608	95,608	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.55/AF	\$148,192.40
Totals	186,684	186,684	Variable	\$1,696,717.95	\$169,642.62		\$289,360.20

Table 3 - Payette River Rental Pool Transactions during 2023

Lake Fork Creek Rental Pool

The Lake Fork Creek Rental Pool consists of storage water from Little Payette Lake, Browns Pond and Cruickshank reservoirs, which combined authorize storage of up to 24,840 AF of water. A total of 2% (352.74 AF) was leased and rented during 2023. The Water District 65-K Advisory Committee is the IWRB-appointed local committee authorized to facilitate Lake Fork Rental Pool transactions.

Per Lake Fork Rental Pool procedures, in basin rentals (rentals upstream of the mouth of Lake Fork Creek) are permissible. Table 4 summarizes the volume and financial payments associated with Lake Fork Creek storage water transactions during 2023:

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
In Basin Pool	352.74	352.74	\$16.58	\$5,087.59	\$584.89	\$0.50/AF	\$176.37

Table 4 - Lake Fork Creek Rental Pool Transactions during 2023

Lemhi River Rental Pool

The advisory committee for Water District 74 (Lemhi River) is the IWRB-appointed local committee authorized to facilitate one-year leases and rentals of Lemhi River water rights. Presently, the only active rental through the rental pool is the IWRB's indefinite rental of water rights 74-1588 and 74-1594 to supplement the IWRB's minimum streamflow water right 74-14993. No new rental pool leases or rentals were reported for 2023.

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Idaho Water Supply Bank

2024 Rental Pools Report

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Introduction

The Water Supply Bank is a water exchange market operated by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB; Board), through the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), in association water districts with IWRB-appointed local rental committees, to facilitate the acquisition (lease) and exchange (rental) of water use authorizations, to accommodate new and supplemental water uses in Idaho. The Bank is operated pursuant to sections 42-1761 through 42-1766 of Idaho Code, and governed by Board-adopted rules (IDAPA 37.02.03). IDWR staff facilitate the statewide lease and rental of water rights through the *Board’s water supply bank*, while IWRB-appointed local committees facilitate the lease and rental of water use authorizations via water-source specific regional *rental pools*.

Storage water rental pools exist to facilitate the lease and rental of water from reservoirs located on the Upper Snake, Boise and Payette Rivers, as well as reservoirs within the Lake Fork Creek basin. A natural flow rental pool has been established to facilitate one-year leases and rentals of water rights within the Lemhi River basin. Additionally, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes operate a Tribal Water Supply Bank to lease and rent Tribal storage water use authorizations from Palisades and American Falls reservoirs in the Upper Snake River basin. This report summarizes 2024 lease and rental transactions reported by IWRB-appointed local committees for the Upper Snake River, Boise River, Payette River, Lake Fork Creek, and Lemhi River rental pools.

Activity Summary 2024

A sum total of 585,997.65 acre-feet (AF) of stored water was leased to storage water rental pools during 2024, from which 583,930.11 AF (99.9%) was rented for new and supplemental water uses, an 8% increase from the previous five-year average volumes.

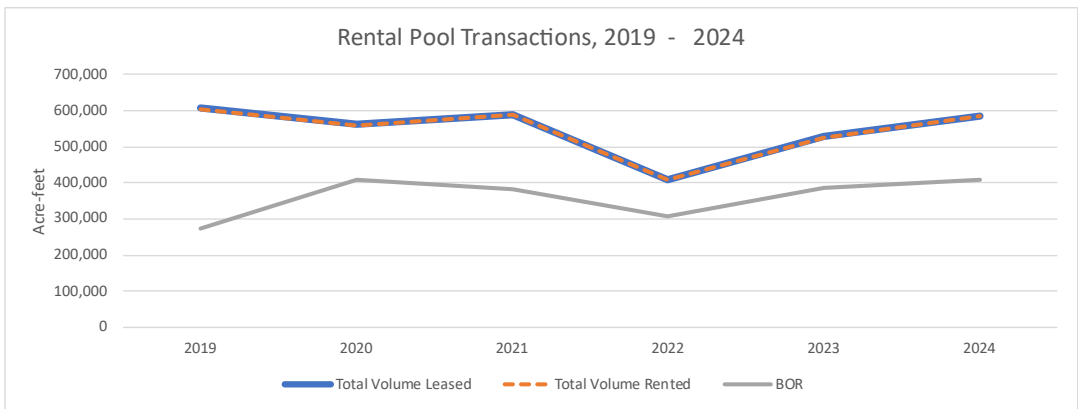


Chart 1 - Total Rental Pool Volumes Leased and Rented, 2019-2024

Approximately 153 rental requests were processed by local rental pool committees. The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR) rented 409,351 AF (70%) of the leased storage water during 2024 to satisfy annual flow augmentation commitments. A sum total of \$12,292,276 was exchanged through rental pool transactions, of which an estimated \$10,390,458 went to lessors, \$884,458 went to local water districts, and \$1,017,360 was delivered to the IWRB.

Upper Snake River Rental Pool

The Upper Snake River Rental Pool is comprised of storage water from Henrys Lake, Island Park, Grassy Lake, Jackson Lake, Palisades Reservoir, Ririe Reservoir, American Falls Reservoir, Lake Walcott and the Milner Pool Reservoir. The total storage contents of these reservoirs is 4,172,708 AF, of which 8% (336,841 AF) was leased and rented during 2024, plus 242.6 AF of prior year excess use. The Water District 01 Advisory Committee (also known as the Committee of Nine) is the IWRB-appointed local committee authorized to facilitate Upper Snake River Rental Pool transactions.

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
- USBOR Pool	150,000	150,000	\$23/AF	\$2,959,500.00	\$295,500.00	\$1.30/AF	\$195,000.00
- Small Pool (5 KAF)	923.05	923.05	\$9/AF	\$6,461.35	\$646.14	\$1.30/AF	\$1,199.97
Extraordinary Circumstances	4,349.0	4,349.0	\$23/AF	\$85,805.77	\$8,567.53	\$1.30/AF	\$5,653.70
Assignment Pool	Zero	Zero	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.30/AF	N/A
Supplemental Pool	Zero	Zero	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.30/AF	N/A
Private Pools							
Private Pool	146,205.6	146,205.6	Variable	*Undisclosed	\$520,342.27	\$1.30/AF	\$190,067.22
USBOR Uncontracted	35,363.0	35,363.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.30/AF	\$45,971.90
2023 Excess Use	242.6	242.6	\$20/AF	\$4,124.20	\$412.42	\$1.30/AF	\$315.38
Totals	337,083.25	337,083.25	Variable	*\$3,055,891.32	\$825,468.36	\$1.30/AF	\$438,208.16

Table 1 - Upper Snake River Rental Pool Transactions during 2024

The 2024 Upper Snake River Rental Pool procedures provided for: a **common pool**, which allow for storage water rentals at pre-established rental rates for USBOR flow-augmentation pool and a small pool (for rentals less than 100 AF); an **extraordinary**

circumstances pool, which allow for flow augmentation rentals in excess of the common pool at pre-established rental rates; an **assignment pool**, which allow for participant storage for rentals above Milner at pre-established rental rates and for flow augmentation below Milner after the extraordinary circumstances pool; a **supplemental pool**, which allow for participant supplied storage for hydropower below Milner when authorized on or after April 1 of each year at annually established rental rates; and, a **private pool**, which allow for storage water rentals at negotiated rental rates. Categories of private pools include two-party leases, recharge, IWRB storage, BOR uncontracted storage, and BOR powerhead storage.

Boise River Rental Pool

The Boise River Rental Pool consists of storage water from Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock, Lucky Peak, and Lake Lowell reservoirs. The total storage content of these four reservoirs is 1,109,065 AF, of which 5 % (58,806 AF) was leased and 56,738.46 AF was rented through the Boise River Rental Pool during 2024. The Water District 63 Advisory Committee is the IWRB-appointed local committee authorized to facilitate Boise River Rental Pool transactions.

Per Boise River Rental Pool procedures, common pools exist for in-basin and out of basin rentals at pre-established rental rates, while privately negotiated rentals are permissible at variable rental rates. Table 2 summarizes volumes and financial payments associated with Boise River Rental Pool transactions during 2024.

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
In Basin Pool	3,400	2088.43	\$23/AF	\$40,724.40	\$4,072.44	\$1.55/AF	\$3,237.07
Out of Basin Pool	2,474	2,474	\$23/AF	\$48,243.00	\$4,824.30	\$1.55/AF	\$3,834.70
Private Pools							
Private Pool - In Basin	12,000	12,000	Variable	*Undisclosed	\$23,400.00	\$1.55/AF	\$18,600.00
USBOR Uncontracted	40,932	40,932	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.55/AF	\$63,444.60
Totals	58,806	58,494.43	Variable	*\$74,225.98	\$32,296.80	\$1.55/AF	\$89,116.37
*2023 paid in 2024 Private Pool - In Basin	1,000	1,000	Variable	*Undisclosed	\$1,950.00	\$1.55/AF	\$1,550.00

Table 2 - Boise River Rental Pool Transactions during 2024

Payette River Rental Pool

The Payette River Rental Pool consists of storage water from Cascade and Deadwood reservoirs. The total storage contents of these two reservoirs is 800,452 AF, of which 24 % (189,876 AF) was leased and rented through the Payette River Rental Pool during 2024. The Water District 65 Advisory Committee is the IWRB-appointed local committee authorized to facilitate Payette River Rental Pool transactions.

Per Payette River Rental Pool procedures, common pools exist for in-basin and out of basin rentals at pre-established rental rates, while privately negotiated rentals are permissible at variable rental rates. Table 3 summarizes volumes and financial payments associated with Payette River Rental Pool transactions during 2024.

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
In Basin Pool	478	478	\$7/AF	\$2,370.31	\$234.37	\$1.55/AF	\$740.90
Out of Basin Pool	80,625	80,625	\$23/AF	\$1,572,187.50	\$157,218.75	\$1.55/AF	\$124,968.75
Private Pool							
Private Pool - In Basin	13,165	13,165	Variable	*Undisclosed	\$2,369.70	\$1.55/AF	\$20,405.75
USBOR Uncontracted	95,608	95,608	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.55/AF	\$148,192.40
Totals	186,148	185,986.6	Variable	*\$1,574,557.81	\$159,822.82	\$1.55/AF	\$294,307.80

Table 3 - Payette River Rental Pool Transactions during 2024

Lake Fork Creek Rental Pool

The Lake Fork Creek Rental Pool consists of storage water from Little Payette Lake, Browns Pond and Cruickshank reservoirs, which combined authorize storage of up to 24,840 AF of water. A total of 2% (475.0 AF) was leased and rented during 2024. The Water District 65-K Advisory Committee is the IWRB-appointed local committee authorized to facilitate Lake Fork Rental Pool transactions.

Per Lake Fork Rental Pool procedures, in basin rentals (rentals upstream of the mouth of Lake Fork Creek) are permissible. Table 4 summarizes the volume and financial payments associated with Lake Fork Creek storage water transactions during 2024:

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
In Basin Pool	475.0	475.0	\$17.55	\$7,265.13	\$833.63	\$0.50/AF	\$237.50

Table 4 - Lake Fork Creek Rental Pool Transactions during 2024

Lemhi River Rental Pool

The advisory committee for Water District 74 (Lemhi River) is the IWRB-appointed local committee authorized to facilitate one-year leases and rentals of Lemhi River water rights. Presently, the only active rental through the rental pool is the IWRB's indefinite rental of water rights 74-1588 and 74-1594 to supplement the IWRB's minimum streamflow water right 74-14993. No new rental pool leases or rentals were reported for 2024.

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Water Supply Bank

2023 Report for the Board's Water Supply Bank

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Introduction & Background

The Water Supply Bank is a water exchange program operated by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB; Board), through the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), in association with water districts and IWRB-appointed local rental committees, to facilitate the acquisition and voluntary exchange of water rights, for new and supplemental water uses. The Bank is operated pursuant to Sections 42-1761 through 42-1766 Idaho Code and Idaho Administrative Code IDAPA 37.02.03 (Water Supply Bank Rules).

The Water Supply Bank program consists of two water exchange initiatives: the *Board's water supply bank* (Board's bank) and *rental pools*. The *Board's bank* facilitates the statewide lease and rental of water rights and is operated by IDWR personnel while *rental pools* facilitate the lease and rental of water rights associated with specific watersheds or water sources (e.g. river drainages and/or reservoir systems) and are operated by IWRB-appointed local committees.

This report summarizes operations of the *Board's bank* during calendar year 2023 and features recent data and trends specific to the:

- processing of lease and rental applications during 2023;
- administration of lease and rental transactions approved for 2023;
- productivity and work accomplishments of Water Supply Bank staff during 2023; and
- management of finances associated with operations during 2023.

Executive Summary

The median number of days required to process a rental rose to 62 days during 2023 from 41 days in 2022, and the median number of days required to process a lease rose to 30 days in 2023 from 29 days in 2022.

The total volume rented during 2023 jumped to a new high of 90,000 acre-feet annually, with 70% of the demand attributable to only five basins. Simultaneously, annual revenue from rental fees also jumped due to the increase in volume rented as well as due to the increase in rental rates from \$20/acre-foot to \$23/acre-foot, while the revenue generated from lease filing fees remained stable compared to 2022. A significant portion of the 2023 calendar year operating costs are unavailable due to statewide changes to tracking billable hours in Luma.

2023 Accomplishments

Key accomplishments of the Water Supply Bank during the past year include:

- Continued early issuance of annual warrant payments and rental fee reminders;
- Increase in the number of rental proposals processed;
- Increase in volume rented.

Programmatic Operations

The primary operational functions of the Board's bank are to:

- 1) process lease and rental applications;
- 2) manage active lease and rental transactions;
- 3) communicate and coordinate aspects of application processing and transaction management with program stakeholders; and,
- 4) conduct research and development work to implement program improvements and efficiencies.

Water Supply Bank Calendar

Month	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Season	Summer			Fall			Winter			Spring		
Process Rental Proposals	Standard Priority					High Priority					Standard Priority	
Process Lease Proposals	Standard Priority			High Priority	Medium Priority					Standard Priority		
Request Rental Fees					Standard Priority							
Cancel Unpaid Rentals								Standard Priority				
Issue Lessor Payments				High Priority								
Process Lease Releases	Standard P...	High Priority			Standard Priority							
Expiration Reminders		Standard Priority										
Close Expired Leases							Standard Priority					
Close Expired Rentals							Standard Priority					

Graphic 1. Board's bank calendar

The processing of lease and rental applications, as well as transactional management of the bank and their priority level are shown in the calendar above, with overlap of several high priorities in the late summer to fall. Dedicated Bank staff (WSB Program Coordinator and WSB Specialist) are primarily responsible for transaction management, which are the tasks 'Requesting Rental Fees' through 'Closing Expired Leases and Rentals,' while additional IDWR staff are assigned from September through March for processing Lease and Rental proposals, rows 1 and 2, above.

Lease and Rental Application Processing

If a water user does not intend to fully exercise their authorized water use during a calendar year, they can propose to lease the authorized but unused extent of their water rights to the Idaho Water Resource Board. Approved lease applications allow the IWRB to enter into a contract with the water right holder to acquire the unused water right authorizations proposed to be deposited into the Board's bank in order to provide a supply for rental applications.

Water rights under contractual lease to the Board's bank form a supply of water from which new and supplemental water uses can be authorized, by means of an approved rental from the Board's bank. Subject to review and approval by the Director of IDWR, successful applications to rent from the Board's bank enable the Board to provide rental agreements with water users who have requested an authorization for a new or supplemental use of water.

Summary of Lease and Rental Applications Processed Annually

Chart 1, below, summarizes the total number of water right lease proposals and rental requests that were processed via the Board's bank annually from 2013 through 2023. Beginning in 2017, the number of unique lease contracts, which can contain individual or multiple stacked water rights, is also reported. In 2022, there was a dramatic 30% decline in the number of lease and rental applications processed, as observed in Chart 3 below, compared to previous recent years, which slightly improved overall in 2023.

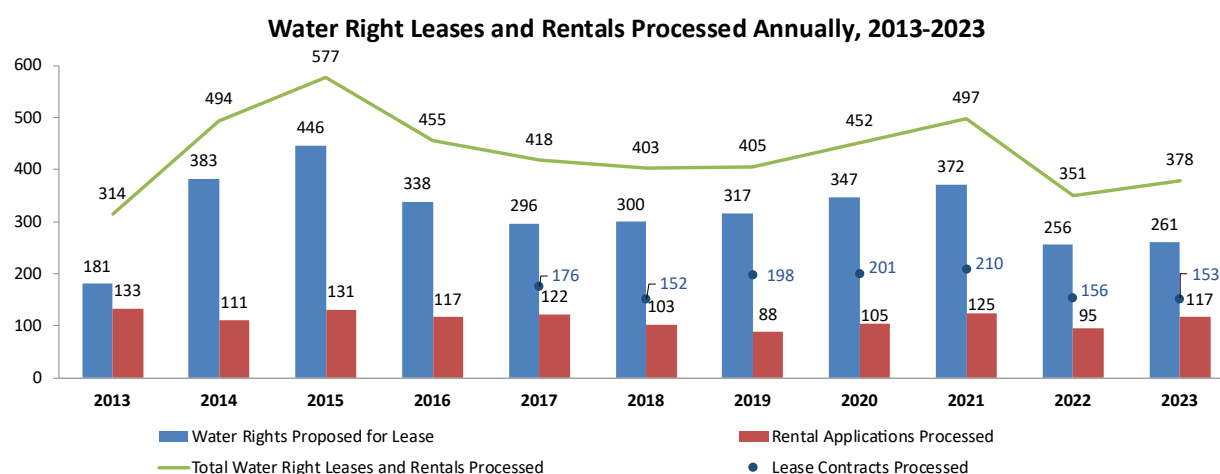


Chart 1. Total applications processed, 2013 - 2023.

Application Processing Times

The Bank endeavors to process all applications as quickly as possible, on a first-come, first-served basis. Generally, the stages associated with application processing include: 1) receipt of an application and preliminary review for completeness; 2) active review of an application, resulting in a recommendation of approval or denial; and 3) completion of application processing through the execution of a lease contract or rental agreement with a water user.

Firstly, it is important to acknowledge the number and timing of applications received for each year to understand processing timelines and prioritizing resources (staff). Chart 2 on the next page illustrates the number of rental applications received each month for years 2020 - 2023.

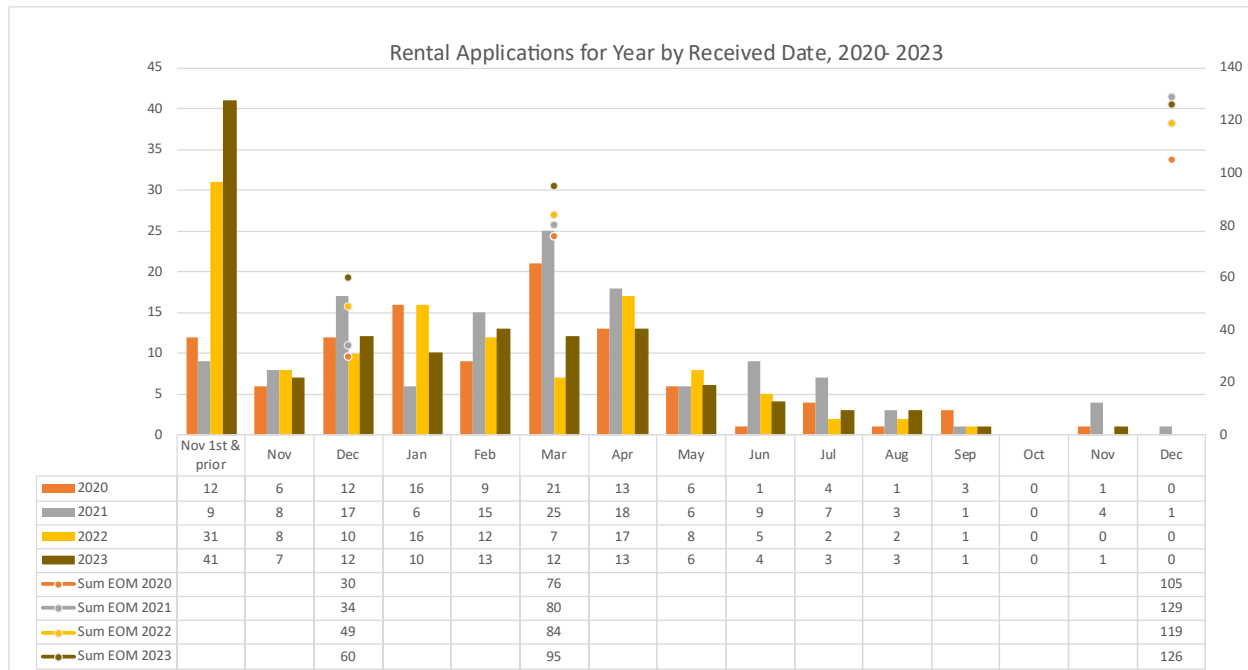


Chart 2. Rental Applications Received by Month for a Specific Start Year, 2020 - 2023

Rental applications that are received on or before November 1st preceding the year in which the use is requested to start, shown in the first column in Chart 2 above, have priority processing. The jump in the number of rental applications received by November 1st for years 2022 and 2023 compared to 2020 and 2021 is largely due to earlier issuance of conclusion notices in July and August for expiring rental agreements; however, 17 of the 41 rental applications in 2023 were due to changes made by applicants to push their late season 2022 proposal to instead begin in 2023. The earlier application submissions also reduced the number of late rental applications received in March by 50-60% in 2022 and 2023 when compared to 2020 and 2021.

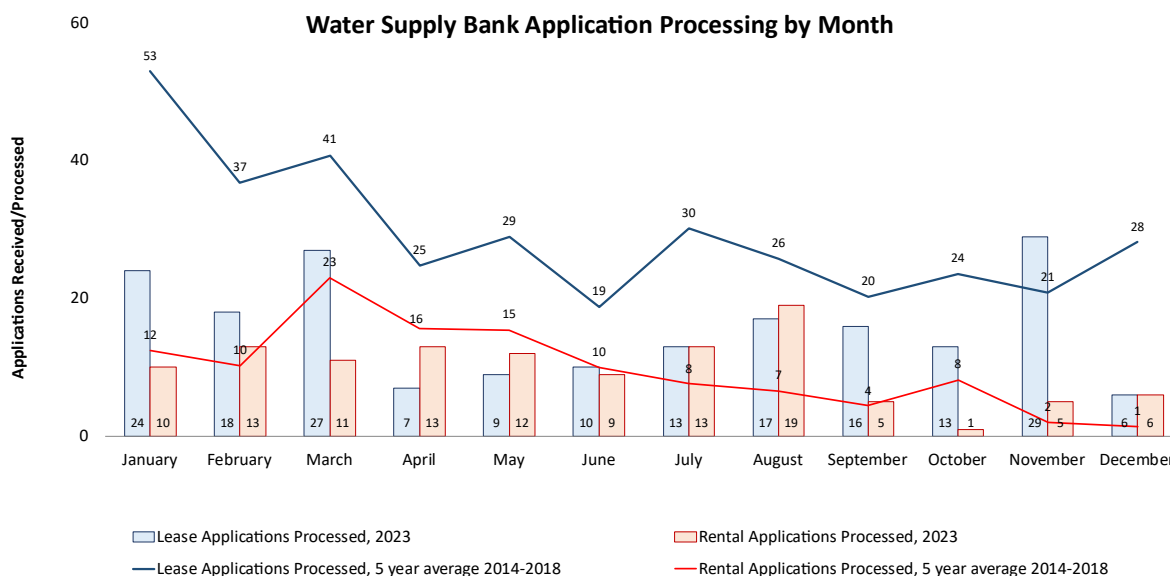


Chart 3. Applications Processed by Month in 2023 with 2014-2018 Average Comparison

Chart 3 on the previous page depicts lease and rental applications completely processed by each month during 2023, regardless of the actual start year requested, with comparisons to the averages from years 2014-2018. The blue line for average lease application processing for years 2014 - 2018 shows a healthy start in supply early in the review season to fulfill rental requests. The red line is the average of rental applications processed for the same five-year period, with a peak prior to the beginning of the irrigation season and slight tapering through the summer to finalize rental proposals for the given year.

Beginning in 2017, the Bank began calculating the time required to complete all work associated with steps two (agent review) and three (execution) for all applications processed to better understand efficiency and time commitments associated with application processing. Table 1, below, summarizes the median length in days required to fully review and finalize a lease and rental application for the requested year.

Year	Median Time Required to Process a Lease Application	Median Time Required to Process a Rental Application
2023	30 days	62 days
2022	29 days	41 days
2021	51 days	55 days
2020	24 days	70 days
2019	45 days	52 days

Table 1. Median Time Required to Process Lease and Rental Applications, 2019-2023

By understanding the median time required to complete an application, as well as the timing of receiving applications each year, the appropriate number of additional IDWR staff can be allocated early in the season to process applications by the requested start date. Processing rental applications earlier in the season not only provides the renter with certainty, but it also secures administrative fees from the rental fees to cover the operating costs. For example, there were 35 rental applications for 2022 received after March 31, 2022, and in response notice was provided to the rental applicants that due to the late submittals and current workload, a review and recommendation was not likely to be made before the end of the irrigation season. Upon receiving the notice, 17 rental applicants opted to push their requested start date to 2023, and forgo a rental in 2022. Similarly, and just as importantly, processing lease applications as early as possible ahead of November 1st ensures reasonable supply for priority rental applications.

Human Resources

The Water Supply Bank Program Coordinator and the Water Supply Bank Specialist positions were both fully staffed during 2023 to provide programmatic operations of the Water Supply Bank. IDWR staff within the Water Allocations Bureau assigned to review and recommend lease and rental applications between September through March 31st included a Water Right Section Supervisor and a Technical Records Specialist, consistent with previous years' staffing, as well four Water Resource Agents for lease and rental application processing.

Unfortunately, the number of hours spent processing lease and rental applications by Water Right Section staff cannot be reported for most of 2023 due to a change in time sheet reporting when the State switched to Luma. The number of hours billed to the Board's bank for years 2018 through

2022, split between WSB staff hours and Water Right Section staff, and the total number of bank applications processed during the same calendar year, is depicted in Chart 4, below.

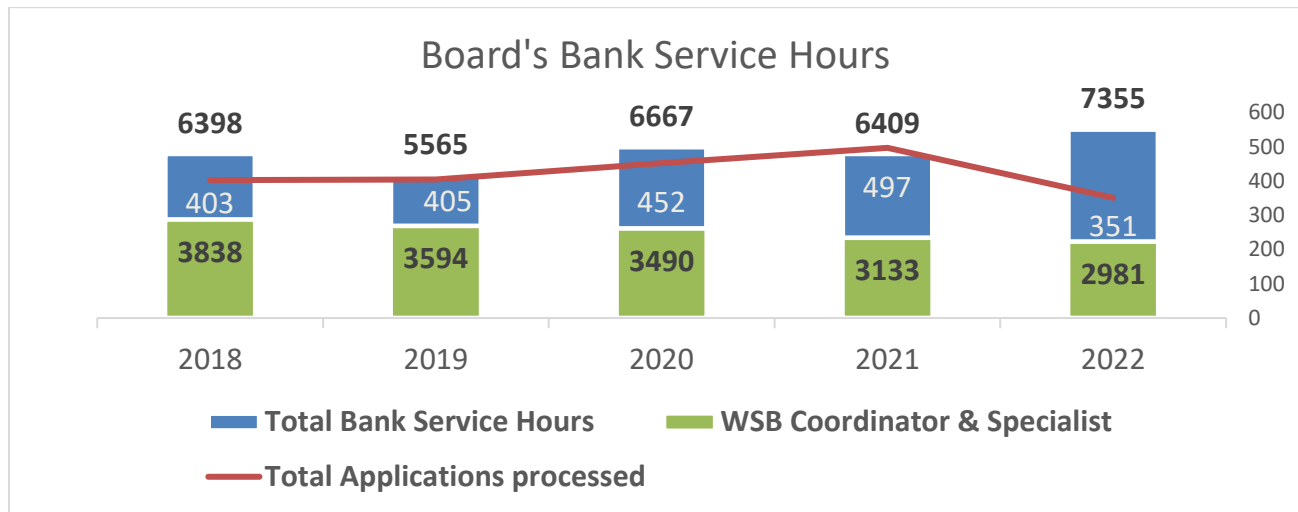


Chart 4. Hours logged to the Bank with comparison to total applications processed, 2018-2022

Processing Applications & Managing Transactions

By considering the specific work tasks performed by IDWR staff who provide the Board's bank services, it is possible to estimate the percentage of all time allocated to specific functions. Of the nearly 7,360 hours logged providing Board's bank services during 2022, more than 60% of the total billed hours were spent processing lease and rental applications. The chart below further breaks out the number of hours for agents and bank staff to review bank proposals as well as the number of hours for a water right supervisor to review a recommendation and issue an approval.

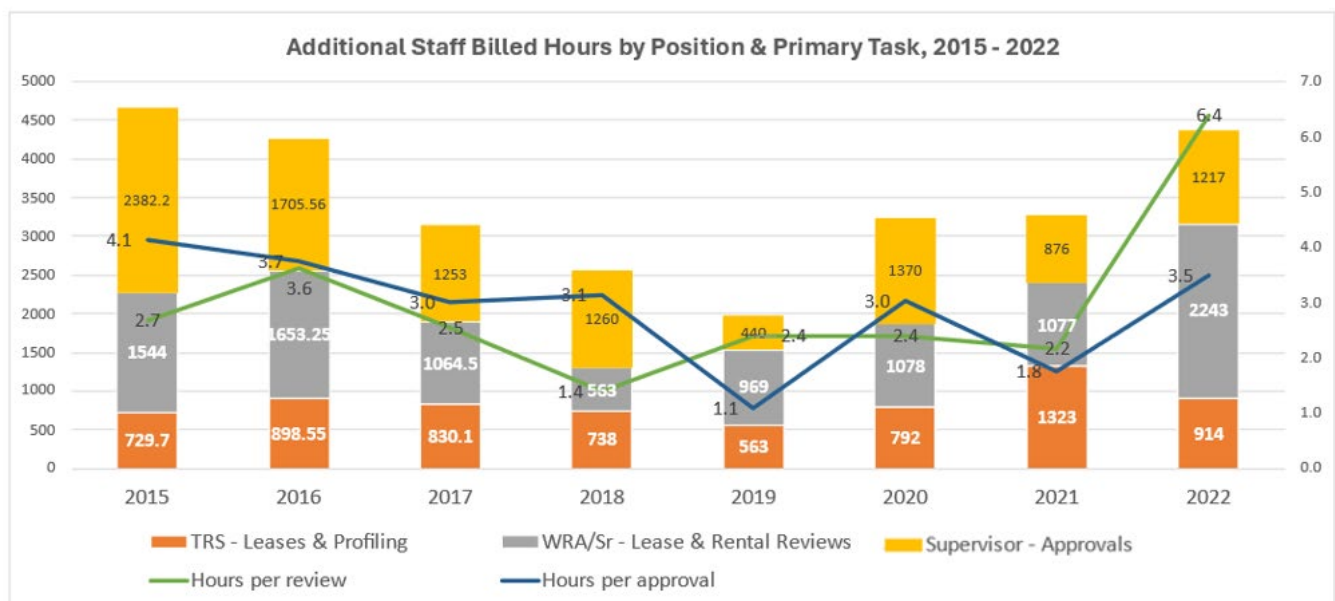


Chart 5. Hours to review, approve, and profile bank applications processed, 2015-2022

Similarly, the number of hours billed by IDWR staff can be further analyzed as a percentage of all bank service functions, as well as by comparing the hours logged by water rights section staff and those logged by bank staff. Water right section staff primarily process lease and rental applications, with nearly 80% of their billed hours spent on these two service functions, while bank staff primarily preform the majority of the program supporting service functions, as shown in Table 2 for hours billed in 2022.

Service Function	Total Hours Logged	Additional Staff Percent of Hours	WSB Staff Percent of Hours
Processing lease applications	1,674	27 %	6%
Processing rental applications	2,889	51 %	13%
<i>Processing applications, total</i>	4,563	78 %	19%
Managing lease contracts	427	2 %	9%
Managing rental agreements	476	2.5 %	11%
<i>Managing transactions, total</i>	903	4.5 %	20%
Communications & coordination	1,190	12.5 %	28%
Research & development	703	5 %	33%
<i>All services</i>	7,359	100 %	100%

Table 2. Board's bank service hours during 2022, by service function

The service functions that support the bank program are transaction management, communications & coordination, and research & development. Transaction management includes processing release requests, issuing conclusion notices for expiring lease contracts and rental agreements, calculating and issuing warrant payments to owners of rented rights, and requesting and recording rental fees. Chart 6, below, illustrates annual transaction management for 2023, with a total of 423 letters against 1,015 water rights generated and sent between July 2023 through January 2024, which is separate and distinct from letters generated through processing lease and rental applications.

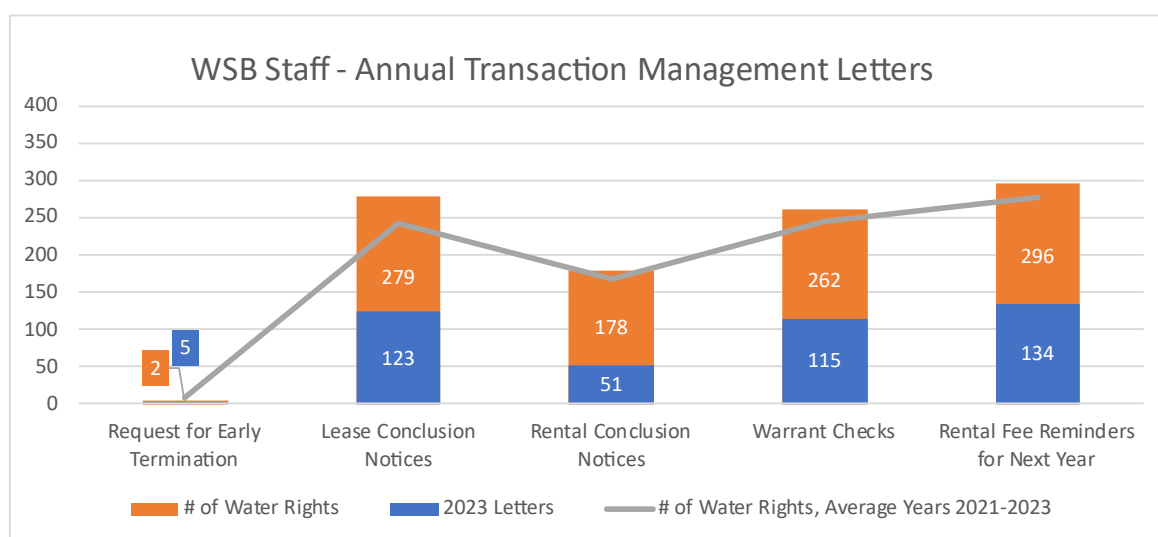


Chart 6. Transaction Management, 2023

Communications & Coordination and Research & Development

During 2022, the Water Supply Bank Coordinator and Water Right Section supervisor coordinated with IDWR leadership, IWRB members, and members of the public through several public meetings to participate in the Governor’s Zero-Based Regulation initiative to review, repeal, and propose a new rule for the Water Supply Bank, IDAPA 37.02.03, by October 2022 for presentation to Legislature in the 2023 session. The proposed rule was presented to Legislature during the 2023 session but was rejected. The Rule reverted to the previously adopted version prior to the 2022-2023 rulemaking.

Volume Rented

During 2023, approximately 90,000 acre-feet of water was rented from the Bank, which is a noticeable increase of 11,000 acre-feet from the previous year. The total volume rented from the Board’s bank has averaged 70,000 acre-feet annually from 2016 through 2022. For the same period, Basin 02 Middle Snake River rentals have made up 30% of the total annual volume rented.

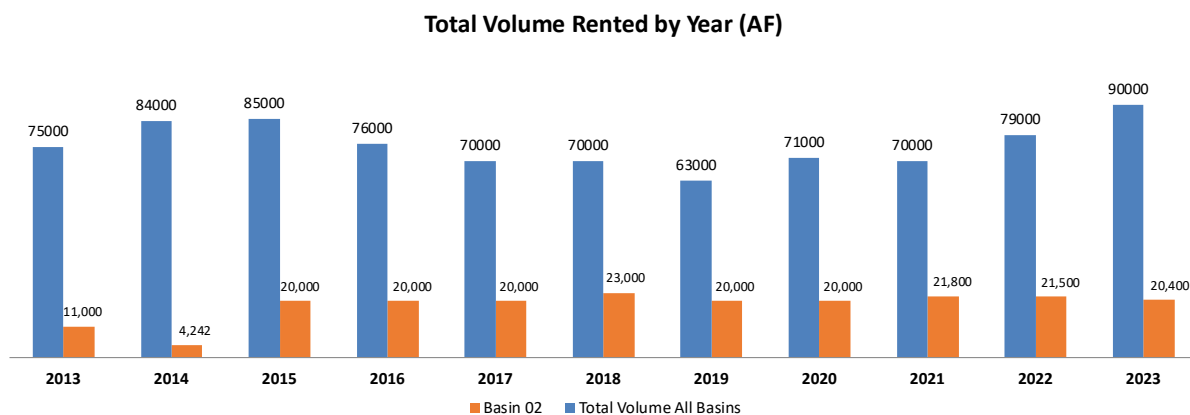
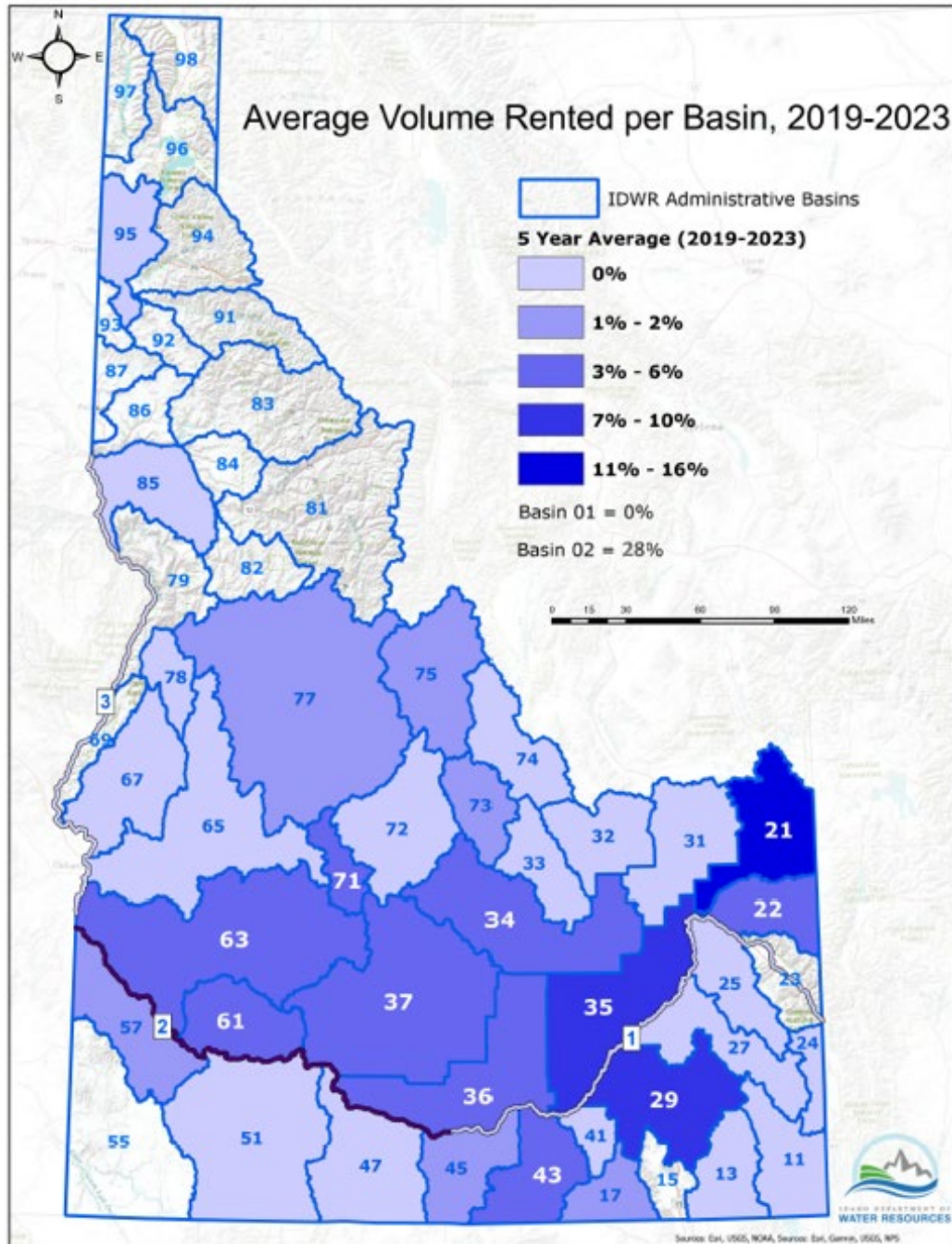


Chart 7. Total Acre-Feet Rented by Year, 2013-2023

Of the 90,000 acre-feet rented in 2023, nearly 70% of that volume was supplied from just five administrative basins, as shown in Tables 3 and 4, below. Consistent with recent trends, most of the water rented in 2023, and for the five-year average from 2019-2023, came from basins 02 (Snake River, below Milner Dam) and 21 (Henrys Fork basin). Basin 71 (Stanley Area) joined the top five in 2022 after several large rentals were approved. Additionally, at least 90% of the volume rented in basins 02, 21, and 71 rentals were from surface water sources in 2023, compared to basins 29 and 35 which were at minimum 85% ground water rentals.

2023					Annual Average: Most Recent Five Years (2019-2023)				
#	Basin	Water Source	Volume	% of Total	#	Basin	Water Source	Volume	% of Total
1	2	Snake River	20,400	23%	1	2	Snake River	20,740	28%
2	21	Henrys Fork Basin	20,290	23%	2	21	Henrys Fork Basin	11,575	16%
3	35	ESPA - American Falls	8,884	10%	3	35	ESPA - American Falls	7,317	10%
4	71	Stanley Area	7,527	8%	4	29	Blackfoot River Basin	5,508	7%
5	29	Blackfoot River Basin	5,136	6%	5	71	Stanley Area	4,352	6%
2023 Rental Volume: 79,000 AF			62,237	69%	Average Five Year Rental Vol: 75,000 AF			49,491	66%

Table 3 & 4. Most Active Basins by Annual Acre-Foot Rental Volumes



Graphic 2. Average Volume Rented by Basin Across Idaho, 2019-2023

The above graphic illustrates the total volume rented on average over five years for the entire state, with gradient shading based on percentages of the total volume rented by each administrative basin. Basin 02 (Snake River, below Milner Dam) has averaged 28% (20,720 af) of the total volume rented per year over the five-year period and basin 21 (Henry's Fork) increased to 16% (11,575 af) of the total volume, while basins with shading representing 0% have had less than 450 acre-feet rented per year in that basin for the same five-year period. Basins without shading indicate zero volume has been rented from that basin during the five-year period.

Financial Management

The cost to lease a water right to the Water Supply Bank is \$250, however when two or more water rights can be collectively leased together into the Bank on a single application, the maximum fee for a multi-water right lease application is \$500. There is no fee to submit a rental application; the Bank collects rental revenue by levying an administrative fee of 10% of the standard or negotiated annual rental fees for rental agreements, based on the acre-feet rented. In 2023, the Bank revenue increased significantly for the rental administrative fees, as represented in Chart 8 below.

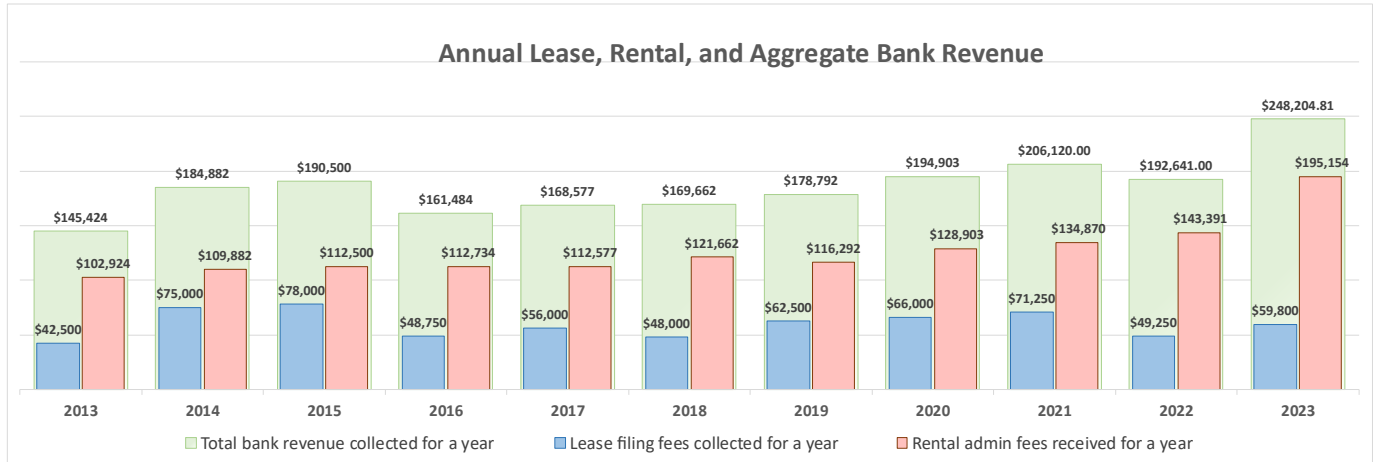
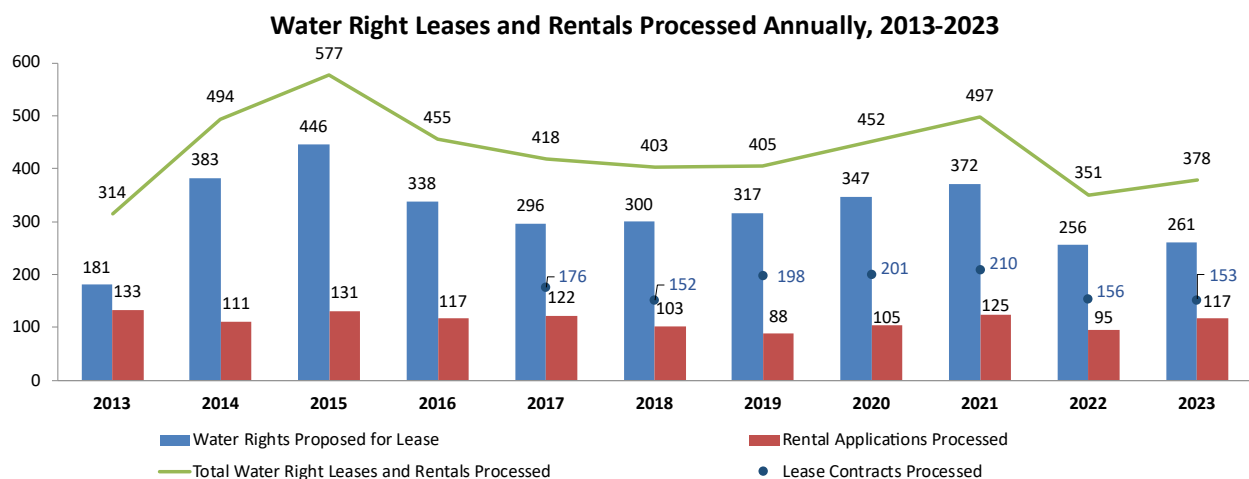


Chart 8. Annual Revenue from Lease Application Filing Fees and Rental Administrative Fees

In 2023, the standard rental rate rose from \$20.00 per acre-foot to \$23.00 per acre-foot, of which the minimum administrative fee levied also rose from \$2.00 per acre-foot to \$2.30 per acre-foot. However, the filing fee for lease applications has not changed since 2010. The total bank revenue collected each year tends to follow the same trend as the total number of applications processed, as does the revenue from lease application filing fees when compared to applications processed for the same years, as seen between Chart 8 above and Chart 3 from page 6, again below.



Programmatic Solvency

The primary expenditures necessary to operate the Board's bank include:

- 1) staff compensation and overhead (salaries, office equipment and office service costs);
- 2) coordination and communication charges (advertising and stakeholder engagement costs); and
- 3) resource research and development charges (technology development and maintenance costs, staff education and consulting fees);

The total operational expenses are unknown for 2023 due to the transition to Luma for individual employee time reporting. The previous year operational cost of \$287,884 was used to best guess operational costs for 2023, as depicted below in Chart 9, since the number of hours to process applications has been inconsistent each year, and therefore a cost per hour cannot be reasonably estimated. Total revenue rose by nearly 28% in 2023 to \$248,205, making it the largest jump in revenue since 2012. The increased revenue is directly attributable to 23% more rental applications processed in 2023 than 2022 and 14% more volume rented during 2023 than 2022. Lease application revenue had a minimal change from the previous year. By using the proxy operating cost, the overall deficit for the Board's bank may have been as low as \$40,000 in 2023.

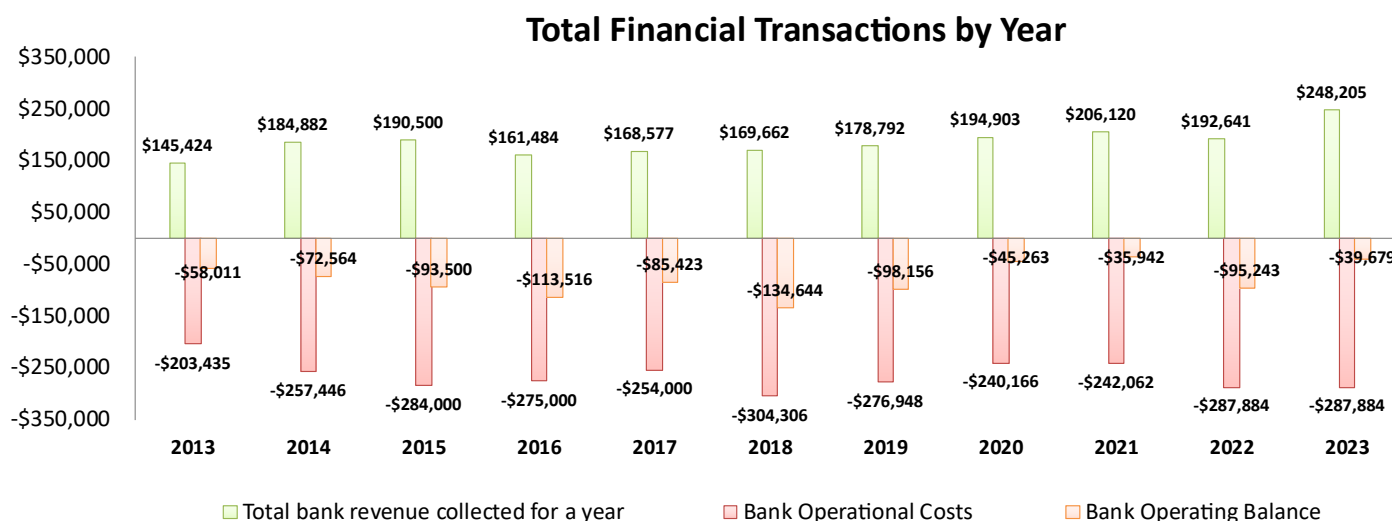


Chart 9. Board's Bank Operational Finances, 2013-2023

Operational expenses in the form of staff compensation can fluctuate each year due to Department priorities, staff turnover, training, bringing in more experienced staff with higher pay grades, and assigning certain tasks without considering the skill required and job classification. For example, operating costs rose in 2022 due to a significant increase in the number of hours logged to the bank training four new hires, addressing a backlog in lease and rental applications from 2021 through the summer of 2022, and an increase in hours billed to the Bank due to the 2023 Negotiated Rule-Making effort. Unfortunately, the lack of trained, seasoned staff resulted in less applications processed for the year at a much higher cost per application processed. The Operating Costs and Revenue sheet on the next page breaks down the cost per service function, and the revenue generated by each for years 2016 through 2023, except where year 2023 uses the same operating costs from 2022.

Operating Costs and Revenue

Operating Costs and Revenue

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1 Lease Applications Processed	152	198	201	210	150	153
2 Hrs billed processing leases	1736	1400	1465	1775	1340	unk
3 % of time for program	27%	25%	22%	28%	18%	unk
4 Hrs per lease application	11.4	7.1	7.3	8.5	8.9	unk
5 Total cost to process	\$ 82,569	\$ 69,678	\$ 52,784	\$ 67,042	\$ 52,448	\$ 52,448
6 Cost per Application	\$ 543	\$ 352	\$ 263	\$ 319	\$ 350	\$ 343
7 + Lease revenue from applications	\$ 48,000	\$ 62,500	\$ 66,000	\$ 71,250	\$ 49,250	\$ 59,800
8 Dollar return per application	\$ 315.79	\$ 315.66	\$ 328.36	\$ 339.29	\$ 328.33	\$ 390.85
9 Approved Contracts / Multi-year	504	678	675	622	593	618
10 Hrs billed managing leases	624	490	378	581	368	unk
11 % of time for program	10%	9%	6%	9%	5%	unk
12 Hrs per lease to manage	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.6	unk
13 Total cost to manage	\$ 29,679	\$ 24,387	\$ 13,619	\$ 21,944	\$ 14,404	\$ 14,404
14 Cost per contract to manage	\$ 59	\$ 36	\$ 20	\$ 35	\$ 24	\$ 23
15 - Leases - Total Cost	\$ 112,248	\$ 94,065	\$ 66,403	\$ 88,986	\$ 66,851	\$ 66,851
16 Leases - Gain/Loss	\$ (64,248)	\$ (31,565)	\$ (403)	\$ (17,736)	\$ (17,601)	\$ (7,051)
17						
18 Rental Applications Processed	103	88	105	125	95	117
19 Hrs billed processing rentals	1727	1650	2396	1912	2633	unk
20 % of time for program	27%	30%	36%	30%	36%	unk
21 Hrs per rental application	16.3	18.8	22.8	15.3	27.7	unk
22 Total cost to process	\$ 79,662	\$ 82,121	\$ 86,328	\$ 72,216	\$ 103,056	\$ 103,056
23 Cost per Application	\$ 773	\$ 933	\$ 822	\$ 578	\$ 1,085	\$ 881
24 + Rental revenue from admin fees	\$ 121,662	\$ 116,292	\$ 128,903	\$ 134,870	\$ 143,391	\$ 195,155
25 Approved Rentals / Multi-year	107	184	192	207	224	260
26 Hrs billed managing rentals	517	437	789	711	437	unk
27 % of time for program	8%	8%	12%	11%	6%	unk
28 Hrs per rental to manage	4.8	2.4	4.1	3.4	2.0	unk
29 Total cost to manage	\$ 24,590	\$ 21,749	\$ 28,428	\$ 26,854	\$ 17,104	\$ 17,104
30 Cost per agreement to manage	\$ 230	\$ 118	\$ 148	\$ 130	\$ 76	\$ 66
31 - Rentals - Total Cost	\$ 104,252	\$ 103,870	\$ 114,756	\$ 99,071	\$ 120,160	\$ 120,160
32 Rentals - Gain/Loss	\$ 17,410	\$ 12,422	\$ 14,147	\$ 35,799	\$ 23,231	\$ 74,995
33 Rental volume annually (acre-feet charged)	61,890	59,712	65,283	68,997	73,439	86,593
34 Dollar per acre-foot average	\$ 1.97	\$ 1.95	\$ 1.97	\$ 1.95	\$ 1.95	\$ 2.25
35						
36 Total revenue from leases + rentals	\$ 169,662	\$ 178,792	\$ 194,903	\$ 206,120	\$ 192,641	\$ 254,955
37 Total costs of leases + rentals	\$ 216,500	\$ 197,936	\$ 181,159	\$ 188,057	\$ 187,011	\$ 187,011
38 Lease/Rental Gain or Loss	(\$46,838)	(\$19,144)	\$13,744	\$18,063	\$5,630	\$67,944
39						
40 Communication & Coordination (C&C)	\$ 49,180	\$ 28,618	\$ 16,898	\$ 23,946	\$ 54,248	\$ 54,248
41 Research & Development (R&D)	\$ 39,049	\$ 52,259	\$ 42,299	\$ 30,027	\$ 46,733	\$ 46,733
42 Hrs billed	1855	1625	1643	1429	2580	unk
43 % of time for program	29%	29%	25%	22%	35%	unk
44 - Total C&C and R&D Cost	\$ 88,229	\$ 80,876	\$ 59,197	\$ 53,973	\$ 100,981	\$ 100,981
45						
46 Ave annual hrly cost total hrs billed	\$ 47.56	\$ 49.77	\$ 36.03	\$ 37.77	\$ 39.14	\$ 39.14
47						
48 - Actual Operating cost of Bank (hrs billed)	\$304,306	\$276,948	\$240,166	\$242,062	\$287,884	\$287,884
49 Actual Total Gain or Loss	(\$134,644)	(\$98,156)	(\$45,263)	(\$35,942)	(\$95,243)	(\$32,929)
50 Total Hours Billed	6459	5602	6671	6408	7358	unk

Table 5. Analysis of Costs and Revenue associated with functions of the Board's bank, 2018-2023

Disclaimer: It is important to note that some amounts are rounded to the nearest tenth or whole number while some other values are unrounded. There is a small and reasonable margin of error if calculating from the amounts shown within the sheet due to rounding. Additionally, the volume of water rented each year within Table 5 is less than the volumes represented in earlier charts within this report, since the rental fee is based on the combined limit volume rented, rather than the total additive rental volumes for stacked rights. Finally, operating costs for 2023 are based on 2022 costs, while revenue is actual for 2023.

As previously discussed within this report, lease applications have an associated filing fee of \$250 per water right, with a maximum cost of \$500 per contract with multiple water rights for the same place of use. Additionally, the total operating cost during 2023 cannot be determined due to a change in timesheet reporting, and so the same costs marked herein with an asterisk (*) from 2022 have been used as a reasonable space holder. Filing fees generated \$59,800 in revenue during 2023 for 153 processed lease applications (Table 5, line 7), compared to an estimated cost of \$52,500* to process the applications (Table 5, line 5). The lease filing fees received for applications not yet processed are not included in the reported revenue, since the fee may be refunded due to a withdrawal from the applicant or a change in the requested start date to the next calendar year. Approved lease applications become contracts and must be managed and tracked each year through issuing owner payments and/or conclusion notices. Lease management of contracts which were active and maintained prior to and during 2023 cost approximately \$14,400* in 2023 (Table 5, line 13). The total cost of processing lease applications and managing lease contracts is higher than the revenue they generate each year, with a loss of an estimated \$7,000 during 2023 (Table 5, line 16). The cost per lease to manage has decreased since 2018, averaging \$23* per contract in 2023 compared to \$65 per contract in 2018 (Table 5, line 14) . An increase in the lease filing fees should be explored, as the fees have not increased since they were implemented more than a decade ago.

Rental applications do not have a filing fee and incurred an estimated processing cost of about \$103,000* to review 117 applications in 2023 (Table 5, line 22). Approved rental agreements must also be managed each year through requesting and receipting rental fees and when applicable issuing conclusion notices. Managing rentals had an estimated cost of \$17,000* in 2023 (Table 5, line 29). The cost per agreement to manage has also significantly decreased since 2018, averaging \$76 per agreement in 2022 compared to \$371 per agreement in 2018 (Table 5, line 30). Rental agreements through approved rental applications are charged an annual administrative fee based on the volume rented, which increased to \$2.30 per acre-foot during 2023, and returned just over \$195,000 in revenue for new and existing rentals (Table 5, line 24). The total cost of processing and managing rentals is estimated to be less than the revenue generated in 2023, with an estimated gain of \$75,000 for the year (Table 5, line 32). Solicitation of valid water rights for the Board's bank in high demand basins for lease to fulfill rental applications as well as increasing the rental administrative fee or imposing a rental application filing fee could also increase the revenue annually.

As was previously discussed, additional operational costs which are not directly or solely incurred from processing or managing leases and rentals but are directly tied to Bank activity are Communications & Coordination and Research & Development, as was shown in Table 2 on page 8. The percentage of time estimated to be spent on these functions based on priorities and special projects multiplied by the average hourly cost per billed hour to the bank each year resulted in a cost exceeding \$100,000 in 2022 (Table 5, line 44). There is not a revenue directly associated with offsetting these costs, since they are the result of the program and management.

Programmatic Forecasts and Future Objectives

In order to maintain the solvency of the Board's bank, through revenue neutral or revenue positive operations, one or more of the following must occur:

- solicitation of valid water rights for lease and market for rental is expected to increase revenue;
- hours logged to process applications need to be controlled and kept as low as possible;
- filing fees for lease applications must be increased;
- filing fees for rental applications should be considered; and
- research and development initiatives must continue, to find ways for increasing productivity, by maintaining or increasing application processing capacity without increasing overall operational expenditures or the number of hours logged to process applications.

In 2018, it was forecast that the Board's bank could reasonably be expected to operate with annual expenditures of approximately \$250,000, down from a projected cost of \$305,000 in 2019, if IDWR staff hours logged to the Board's bank held at or below 5,200, based on the operation of the Bank with 2.5 FTEs. Chart 10 below plots actual annual operational amounts in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 compared to the targeted operational amounts established in 2018, with callouts of the actual amount when a target was exceeded.

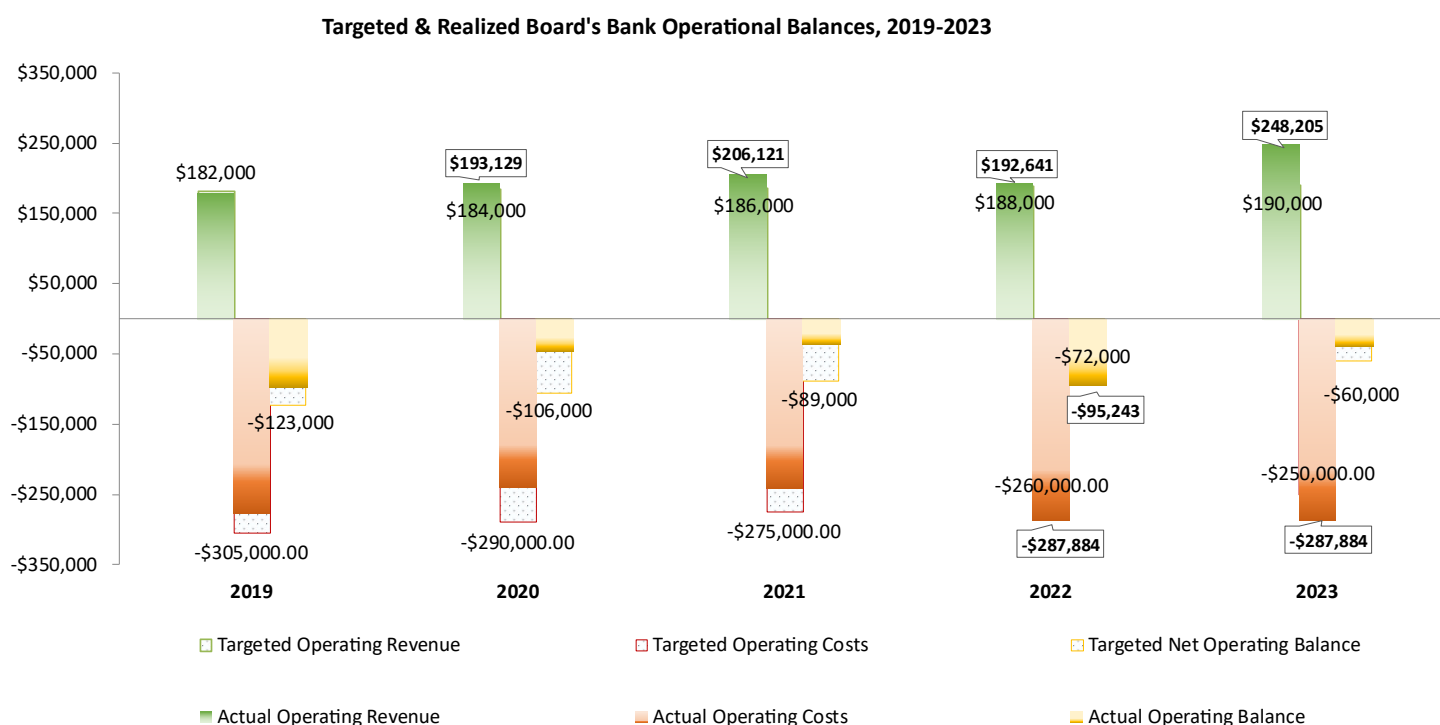


Chart 10. Targeted and Realized Board's Bank Operational Financial Amounts, 2019-2023

The revenue generated in the years 2019 through 2023 has been above the projected targets for the last four years and the operating costs in the first three years were lower than projected, resulting in much lower deficits than projected in the years 2019, 2020, and 2021. The deficit in 2023 is a result of estimating the actual operating cost to equal the operating cost in 2022. For future projections, it is recommended that there be consideration of the growing number of rental applications received each year since 2018 with a reasonable expectation to reach the maximum number of applications seen in 2015, and that the bank is more likely to operate with an annual expenditure of \$300,000 by 2025, and the equivalent of 3 FTEs at 6,240 hours.

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Water Supply Bank

2024 Report for the Board's Water Supply Bank

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Introduction & Background

The Water Supply Bank is a water exchange program operated by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB; Board), through the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), in association with water districts and IWRB-appointed local rental committees, to facilitate the acquisition and voluntary exchange of water rights, for new and supplemental water uses. The Bank is operated pursuant to Sections 42-1761 through 42-1766 Idaho Code and Idaho Administrative Code IDAPA 37.02.03 (Water Supply Bank Rules).

The Water Supply Bank program consists of two water exchange initiatives: the *Board's water supply bank* (Board's bank) and *rental pools*. The *Board's bank* facilitates the statewide lease and rental of water rights and is operated by IDWR personnel while *rental pools* facilitate the lease and rental of water rights associated with specific watersheds or water sources (e.g. river drainages and/or reservoir systems) and are operated by IWRB-appointed local committees.

This report summarizes operations of the *Board's bank* during calendar year 2024 and features recent data and trends specific to the:

- processing of lease and rental applications during 2024;
- administration of lease and rental transactions approved for 2024;
- productivity and work accomplishments of Water Supply Bank staff during 2024; and
- management of finances associated with operations during 2024.

Executive Summary

The median number of days required to process a rental dropped to 55 days during calendar year 2024 from 62 days in 2023, and the median number of days required to process a lease rose to 40 days in 2024 from 30 days in 2023.

The total volume rented during 2024 jumped to a new high of 114,000 acre-feet annually, with 72% of the demand attributable to only five basins. Simultaneously, annual revenue from rental fees increased, while lease filing fees decreased in 2024 compared to 2023. A significant portion of the 2024 calendar year operating costs were unavailable at the time of this report due to statewide changes to tracking billable hours in Luma.

2024 Accomplishments

Key accomplishments of the Water Supply Bank during the past year include:

- Continued early issuance of annual warrant payments and rental fee reminders;
- Reduction in median processing times for rental applications;
- Increase in volume rented; and
- Resolution to increase rental rates in 2025 to \$33 per acre-foot on new rentals

Programmatic Operations

The primary operational functions of the Board's bank are to:

- 1) process lease and rental applications;
- 2) manage active lease and rental transactions;
- 3) communicate and coordinate aspects of application processing and transaction management with program stakeholders; and,
- 4) conduct research and development work to implement program improvements and efficiencies.

Water Supply Bank Calendar

Month	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Season	Summer			Fall			Winter			Spring		
Process Rental Proposals	Standard Priority					High Priority					Standard Priority	
Process Lease Proposals	Standard Priority			High Priority	Medium Priority					Standard Priority		
Request Rental Fees					Standard Priority							
Cancel Unpaid Rentals								Standard Priority				
Issue Lessor Payments				High Priority								
Process Lease Releases	Standard P...	High Priority			Standard Priority							
Expiration Reminders		Standard Priority										
Close Expired Leases							Standard Priority					
Close Expired Rentals							Standard Priority					

Graphic 1. Board's bank calendar

The processing of lease and rental applications, as well as transactional management of the bank and their priority level are shown in the calendar above, with overlap of several high priorities in the late summer to fall. Bank staff are primarily responsible for transaction management, which are the tasks 'Requesting Rental Fees' through 'Closing Expired Leases and Rentals,' while additional IDWR staff are assigned from September through March for 'Processing Lease and Rental Applications.'

Lease and Rental Application Processing

If a water user does not intend to fully exercise their authorized water use during a calendar year, they can propose to lease the authorized but unused extent of their water rights to the Idaho Water Resource Board. Approved lease applications allow the IWRB to enter into a contract with the water right holder to acquire the unused water right authorizations proposed to be deposited into the Board's bank in order to provide a supply for rental applications.

Water rights under contractual lease to the Board's bank form a supply of water from which new and supplemental water uses can be authorized, by means of an approved rental from the Board's bank. Subject to review and approval by the Director of IDWR, successful applications to rent from the Board's bank enable the Board to provide rental agreements with water users who have requested an authorization for a new or supplemental use of water.

Application Processing Times

The Bank endeavors to process all applications as quickly as possible, on a first-come, first-served basis. Generally, the stages associated with application processing include: 1) receipt of an application and preliminary review for completeness; 2) active review of an application, resulting in a recommendation of approval or denial; and 3) completion of application processing through the execution of a lease contract or rental agreement with a water user.

Firstly, it is important to acknowledge the number and timing of applications received for each year to understand processing timelines and prioritizing resources (staff). Chart 1, below, illustrates the number of rental applications received each month for years 2020 - 2024. The running sum of rental applications received for each year is also shown for December, March, and by the end of the year total.

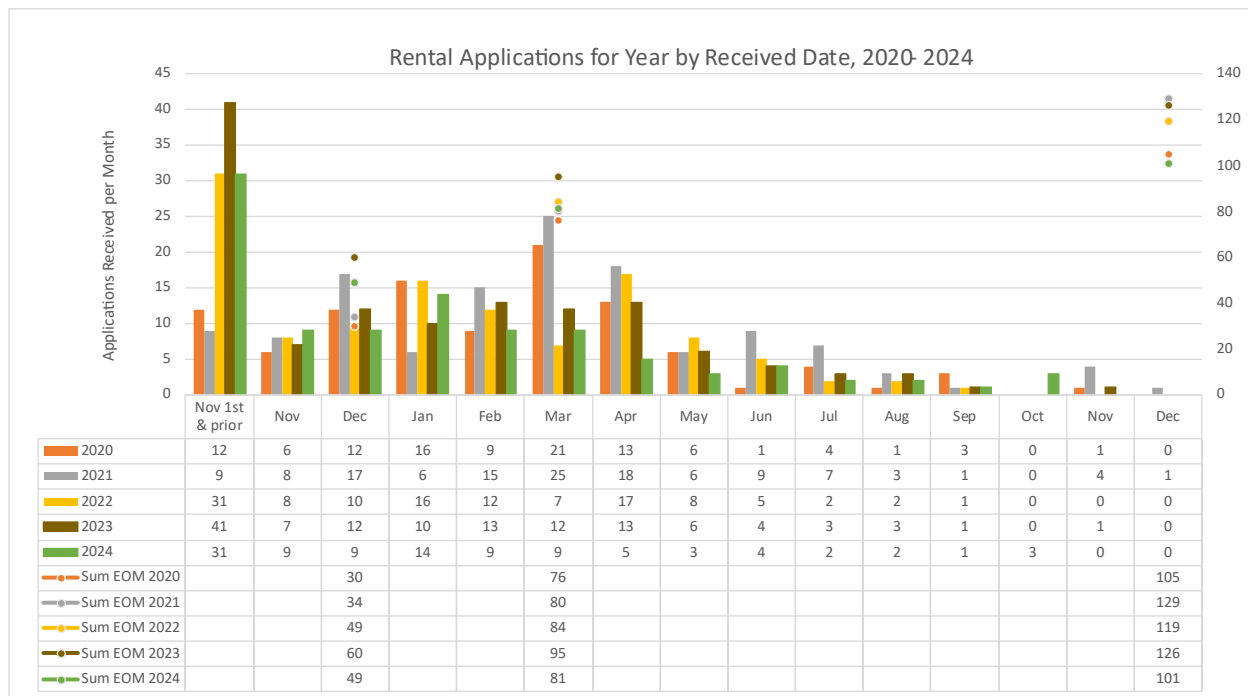


Chart 1. Rental Applications Received by Month for a Specific Start Year

Rental applications that are received on or before November 1st preceding the year in which the use is requested to start, shown in the first column in Chart 1 above, have priority processing. The increase in the number of rental applications received by November 1st for years 2022, 2023, and 2024 compared to 2020 and 2021 is largely due to earlier issuance of conclusion notices in July and August for expiring rental agreements. The earlier application submissions also reduced the number

of late rental applications received in March by 50-67% in years 2022 through 2024 when compared to 2020 and 2021 respectively.

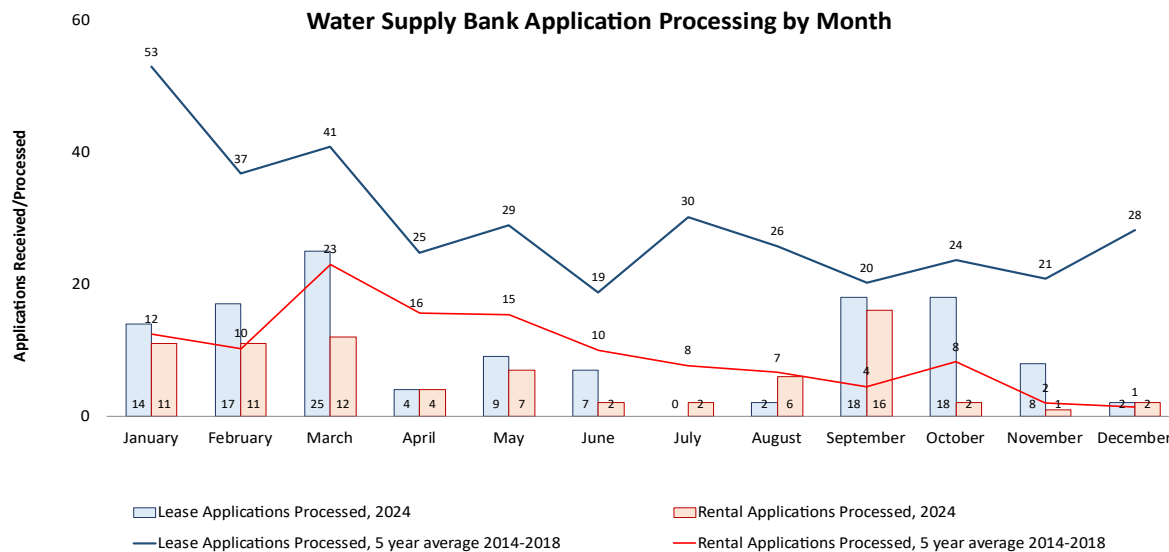


Chart 2. Applications Processed by Month in 2024 with 2014-2018 Average Comparison

Chart 2, above, depicts the number of lease and rental applications completely processed by the last day of each month during 2024, regardless of the actual start year requested, with comparisons to the averages from years 2014-2018. To clarify, applications processed early in the year could include both applications requesting to begin during the prior year or the current year, and applications processed later in the year could include both applications requesting to begin during the current year or begin the next year.

The blue line for average lease application processing for years 2014 - 2018 shows a healthy start in supply early in the review season to fulfill rental requests, whereas lease application processing in 2024 had a slow start in January before peaking in March. The red line is the average of rental applications processed for the same five-year period, with a peak prior to the beginning of the irrigation season and slight tapering through the summer to finalize rental proposals for the given year. Processing rental applications earlier in the season not only provides the renter with certainty, but it also secures administrative fees from the rental fees to cover the operating costs. Similarly, and just as importantly, processing lease applications for the next year as early as possible ahead of November 1st ensures reasonable supply for priority rental applications.

Beginning in 2017, the Bank began calculating the time required to complete all work associated with steps two (agent review) and three (execution) for all applications processed to better understand efficiency and time commitments associated with application processing. The median time does not include the time between when the application was received by the Department through when it is picked up for review by an agent (time in the queue). Table 1, on the next page, summarizes the median number of days required to fully review and finalize a lease and rental application for the requested year. During 2024, lease application processing time increased to a median of 40 days, while rental application processing time decreased to a median of 55 days.

Year	Median Time Required to Process a Lease Application	Median Time Required to Process a Rental Application
2024	40 days	55 days
2023	30 days	62 days
2022	29 days	41 days
2021	51 days	55 days
2020	24 days	70 days

Table 1. Median Time Required to Process Lease and Rental Applications, 2020-2024

Calculating the median time required to complete an application, as well as analyzing the timing of receiving applications each year, can help the Department forecast the appropriate number of additional IDWR staff to be allocated early in the season to process applications by the requested start date.

Summary of Lease and Rental Applications Processed Annually

Chart 3, below, summarizes the total number of water right lease proposals and rental requests that were processed via the Board's bank annually from 2014 through 2024. The number of unique lease contracts, which can contain individual or multiple stacked water rights, is also reported. There has been a dramatic decline in the number of lease and rental applications processed annually for years 2022-2024 compared to previous recent years, and not all bank applications received in or for a year were processed before the end of the start year.

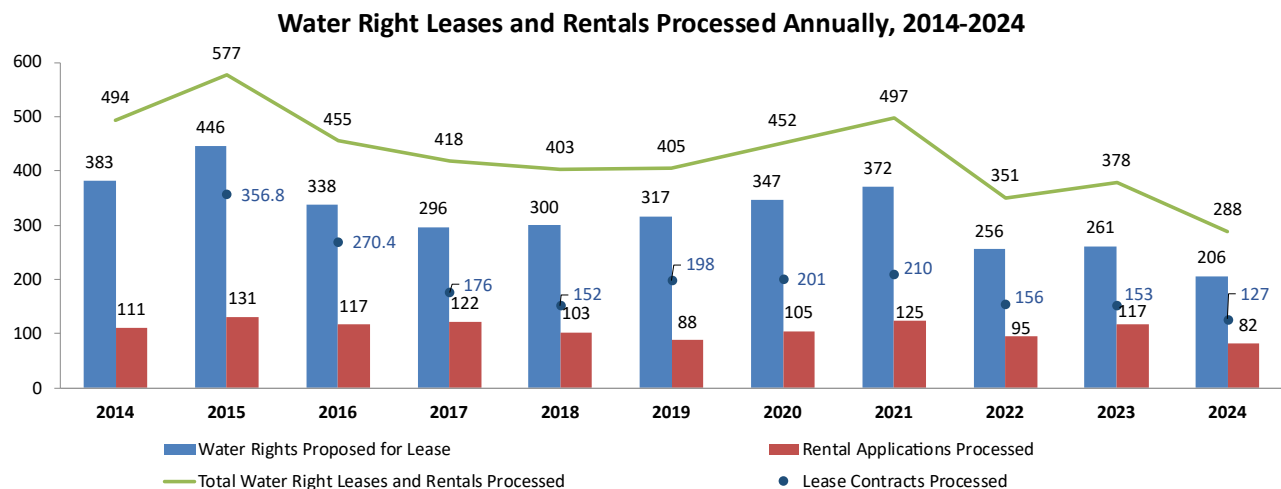


Chart 3. Total applications processed, 2014 - 2024.

Human Resources

The Water Supply Bank Specialist position was only partially staffed during 2024, while the Water Supply Bank Coordinator position was fully staffed to provide programmatic operations of the Water Supply Bank. IDWR staff within the Water Allocations Bureau assigned to review and recommend lease and rental applications between September through March 31st included a Water Right Section

Supervisor and a Technical Records Specialist, consistent with previous years' staffing, as well as four Water Resource Agents for lease and rental application processing.

Unfortunately, the number of hours spent processing lease and rental applications by Water Right Section staff has not been reported for most of 2024 due to a change in time sheet reporting when the State switched to Luma. The number of hours billed to the Board's bank for years 2018 through 2022, split between WSB staff hours and Water Right Section staff, and the total number of bank applications processed during the same calendar year, is depicted in Chart 4, below.

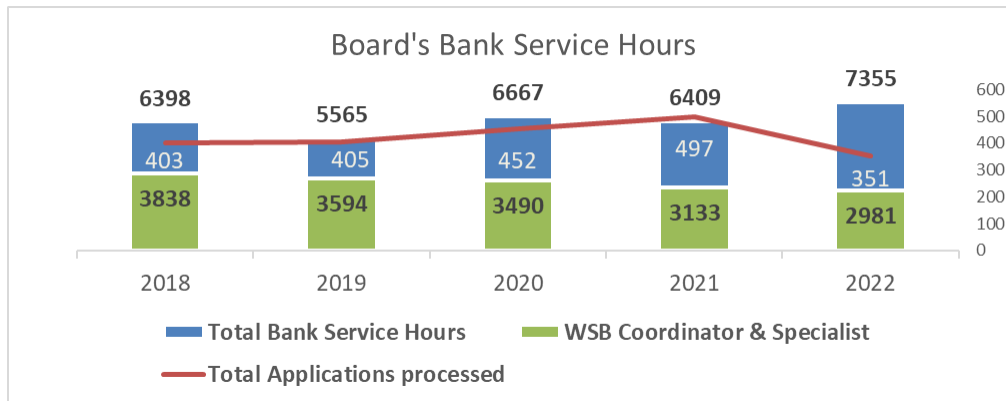


Chart 4. Hours logged to the Bank with comparison to total applications processed, 2018-2022

Processing Applications & Managing Transactions

By considering the specific work tasks performed by IDWR staff who provide the Board's bank services, it is possible to estimate the percentage of all time allocated to specific functions. Of the nearly 7,360 hours logged providing Board's bank services during 2022, more than 60% of the total billed hours were spent processing lease and rental applications. Chart 5, below, further breaks out the number of hours billed by additional staff to review bank proposals as well as the number of hours for a water right supervisor to review a recommendation and issue an approval.

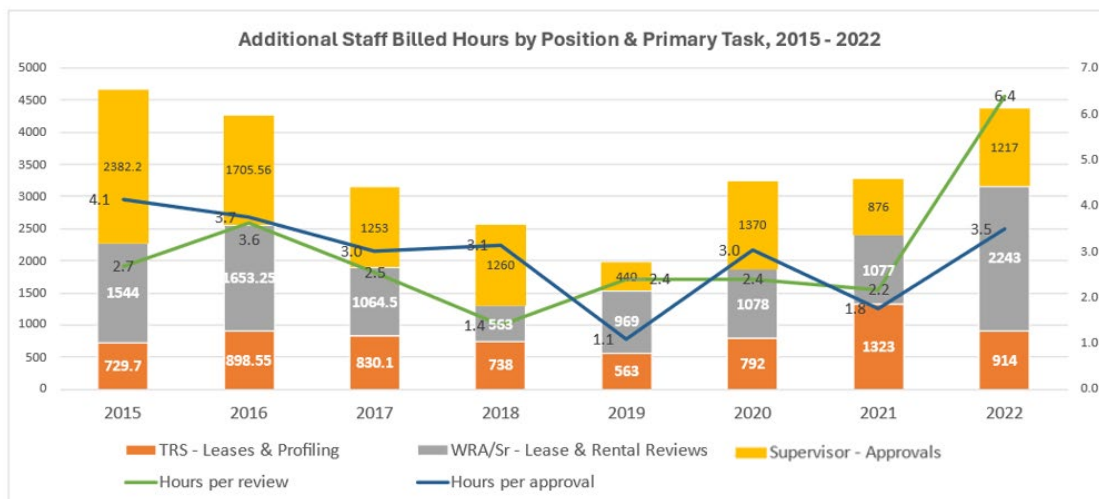


Chart 5. Hours to review, approve, and profile bank applications processed, 2015-2022

Similarly, the number of hours billed by IDWR staff can be further analyzed as a percentage of all bank service functions, as well as by comparing the hours logged by water rights section staff and those logged by bank staff. Water right section staff primarily process lease and rental applications, with nearly 80% of their billed hours spent on these two service functions, while bank staff primarily preform the majority of the program supporting service functions, as shown in Table 2 below for hours billed in 2022. The service functions that support the program include transaction management, communications & coordination, and research & development. Of these service functions, transaction management includes processing release requests, issuing conclusion notices for expiring lease contracts and rental agreements, calculating and issuing warrant payments to owners of rented rights, and requesting and recording rental fees.

Service Function	Total Hours Logged	Additional Staff Percent of Hours	WSB Staff Percent of Hours
Processing lease applications	1,674	27 %	6%
Processing rental applications	2,889	51 %	13%
Processing applications, total	4,563	78 %	19%
Managing lease contracts	427	2 %	9%
Managing rental agreements	476	2.5 %	11%
Managing transactions, total	903	4.5 %	20%
Communications & coordination	1,190	12.5 %	28%
Research & development	703	5 %	33%
All services	7,359	100 %	100%

Table 2. Board's bank service hours during 2022, by service function

The chart below breaks down annual transaction management, with a total of 411 letters against 1,042 water rights generated and sent between July 2024 through January 2025, which is separate and distinct from letters generated through processing lease and rental applications.

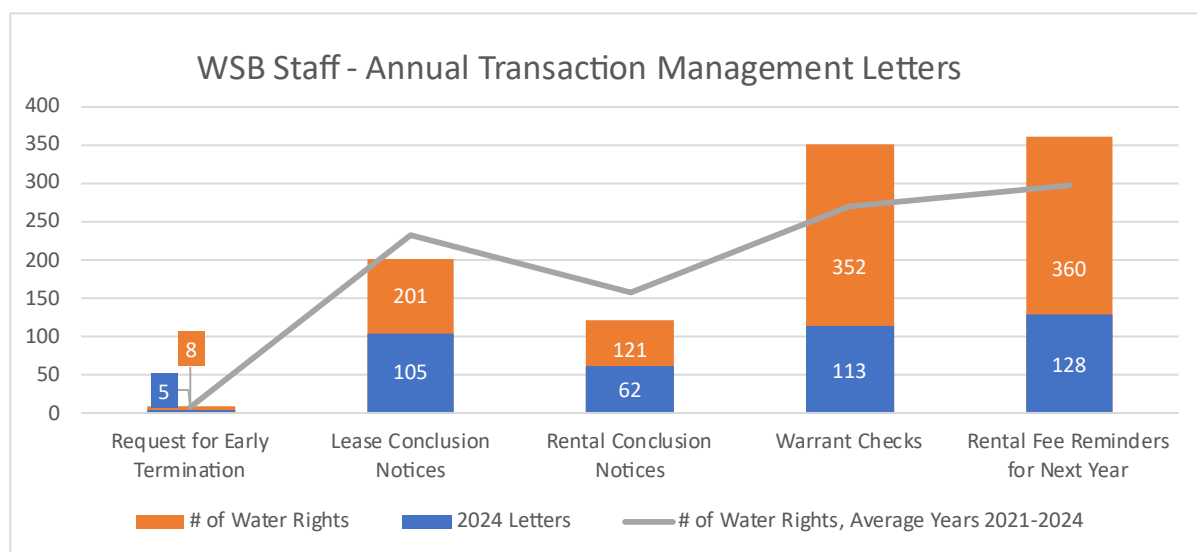


Chart 6. Transaction Management, 2024

Communications & Coordination and Research & Development

Data collected and presented through the [Analysis of Processing Costs vs Revenue - Board's Bank, 2018-2022](#), in December of 2023, resulted in the Idaho Water Resource Board adopting a new rental fee rate of \$33.00 per acre-foot in January of 2024 for new rental agreements beginning in 2025.

Volume Rented

During 2024, just over 114,000 acre-feet of water was rented from the Bank, a noticeable 50% increase over the average volume rented the previous five years. Chart 7, below, shows the total volume rented per year, with an average of nearly 75,000 acre-feet rented annually from 2019 through 2023, as compared to Basin 02 which represents the largest volume of rented in a single basin each year.

Total Volume Rented by Year (AF)

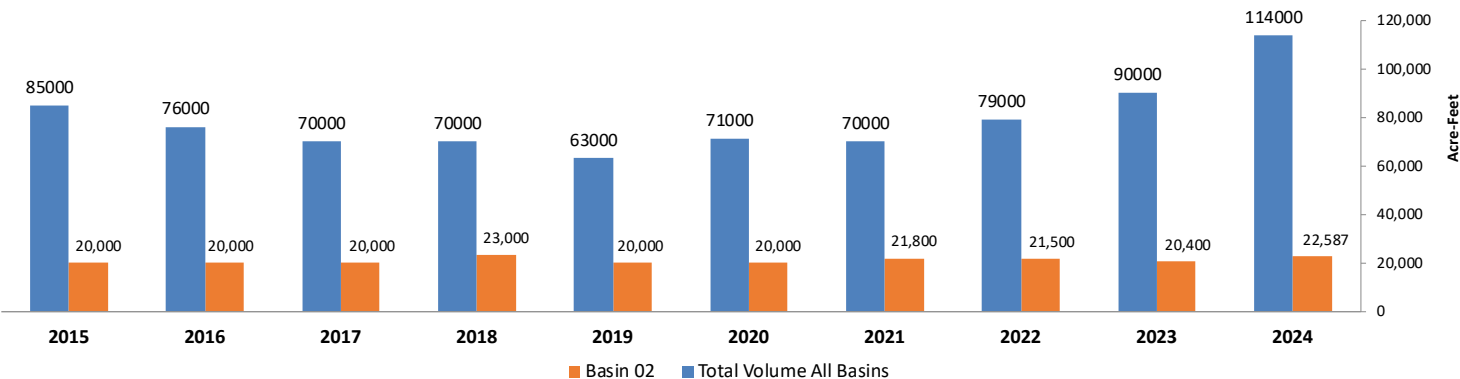


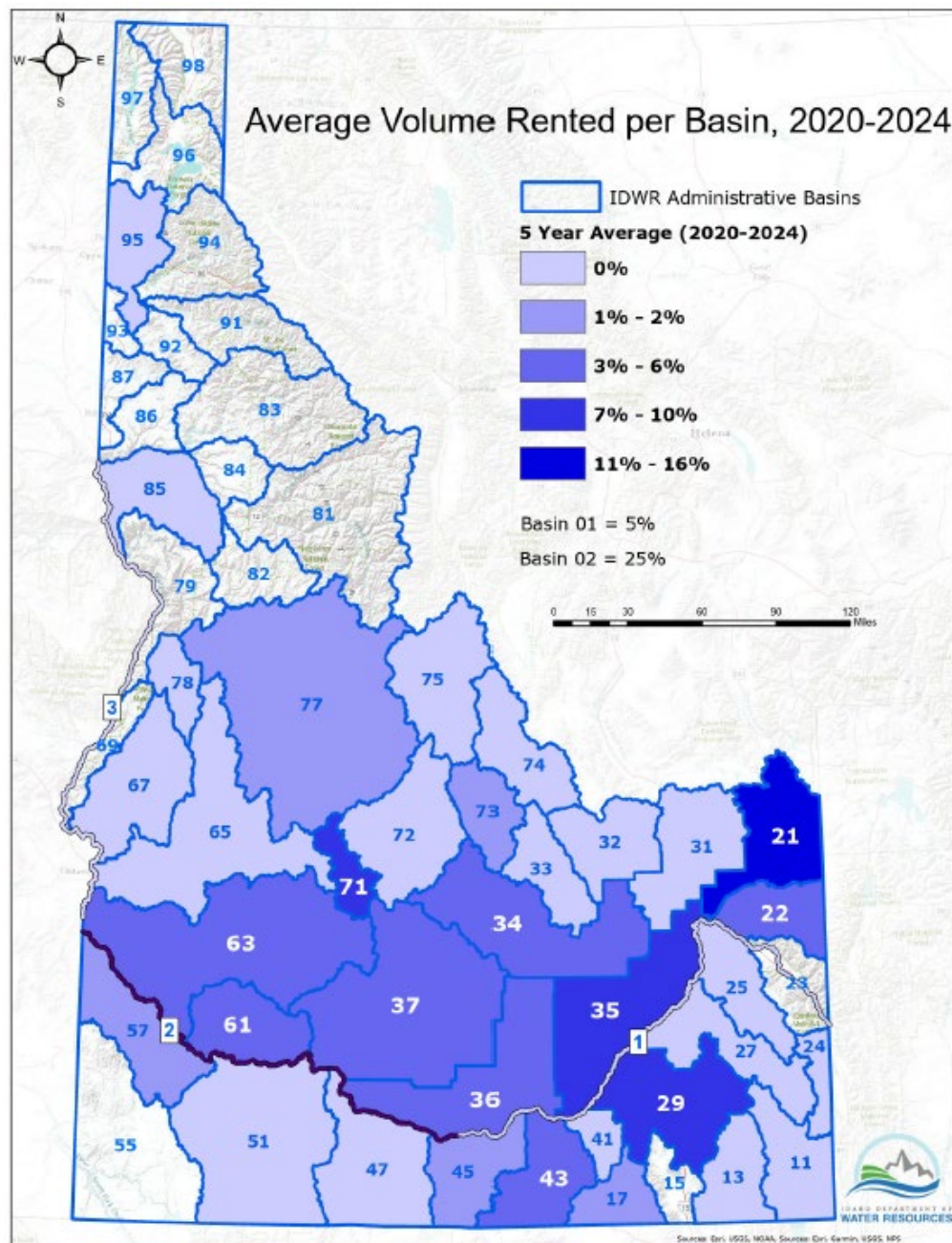
Chart 7. Total Acre-Feet Rented by Year, 2015-2024

Of the 114,000 acre-feet rented in 2024, over 70% of that volume was supplied from just five administrative basins, as shown in Tables 3 and 4, below, with nearly 40% attributable to the Snake River in basins 02 (below Milner Dam) and 01 (above Milner Dam). Additionally, at least 90% of the volume rented in basins 01, 02, 21, and 71 in 2024 were from surface water sources, compared to basin 35 which was 100% from ground water.

2024					Annual Average: Most Recent Five Years (2020-2024)				
#	Basin	Water Source	Volume	% of Total	#	Basin	Water Source	Volume	% of Total
1	2	Middle Snake River	22,587	20%	1	2	Middle Snake River	21,257	25%
2	1	Upper Snake River	21,267	19%	2	21	Henry's Fork Basin	13,749	16%
3	21	Henry's Fork Basin	20,316	18%	3	35	ESPA - American Falls	7,791	9%
4	35	ESPA - American Falls	9,487	8%	4	29	Blackfoot River Basin	6,135	7%
5	71	Stanley Area	8,965	8%	5	71	Stanley Area	5,743	7%
2024 Rental Volume: 114,000 AF			82,622	72%	Average Five Year Rental Vol: 85,000 AF			54,675	64%

Table 3 & 4. Most Active Basins by Annual Acre-Foot Rental Volumes

The next graphic illustrates the total volume rented on average over five years for the entire state, with gradient shading for the percentages of the total volume rented from each administrative basin (based on water rights rented). Basin 02 (Snake River, below Milner Dam) has averaged 25% (21,242 af) of the total volume rented per year over the five-year period and basin 21 (Henry's Fork) has averaged 16% (13,739 af) of the total volume, while basins with shading representing 0% have had less than 450 acre-feet rented per year in that basin for the same five-year period. Basins without shading indicate zero volume has been rented from that basin during the five-year period.



Graphic 2. Volume Rented by Basin Across Idaho, 2020-2024

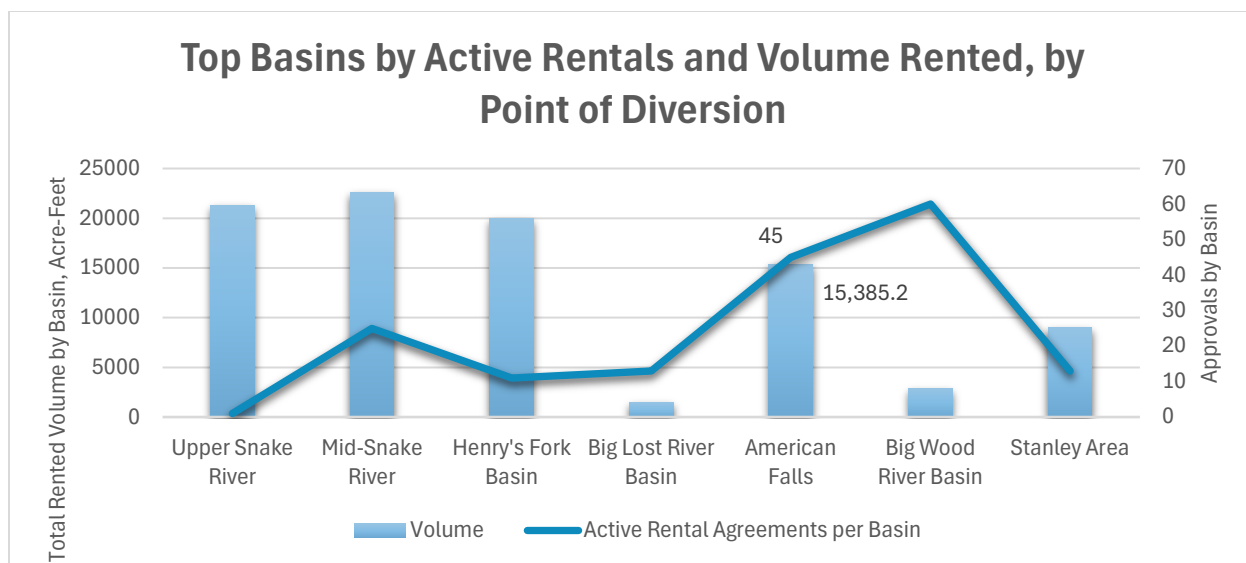


Chart 8. Rental activity by point of diversion, 2024

An analysis into the movement of water via rentals across basins within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer to depict and chart the actual location of rentals, rather than reporting the basins from which water was rented from, was conducted for rental agreements in place during 2024. This type of analysis is more time consuming than reporting on the rentals based on water rights rented, as it requires manual accounting of the actual rental point of diversion by basin. The previous reporting in Chart 7 and Table 1 & 2 on page 9, as well as the map on page 10, are all derived from the leased water rights rented by basin, a standard reporting technique by water supply bank staff since annual reporting began more than ten years ago. Conversely, the data depicted above in Chart 8 is for the top five highest volume rented by basin and top five highest number of active rentals by basin during 2024, based on the rental point of diversion.

By analyzing the actual volume rented for diversion within a specific basin based on the point of diversion, as well as counting the number of rental agreements in place per basin, you can see that American Falls had forty-five active rental agreements in place during 2024 for over 15,000 acre-feet of rental water, compared to the just under 10,000 acre-feet rented from basin 35 water rights. Additionally, while the Big Wood River in basin 37 only accounts for just under 30,000 acre-feet rented in 2024, basin 37 holds the most active rental agreements per basin with sixty active rental agreements in 2024. Significantly, the seven basins in the above chart account for 80% of the active rental agreements in 2024, with the Big Wood River basin accounting for over 20%.

By examining the rental agreements by their point of diversion, rather than reporting volume rented based on the water rights rented, a clearer picture of the demand in certain areas can be made as to where there is a shortage of supply. For example, the demand within the American Falls area for ground water exceeds the amount of water available to rent, with other basins providing nearly 40% of the supply rented during 2024. Understanding where the supply is low but the demand is high can help staff develop effective marketing techniques aimed at ensuring renters' needs are fulfilled adequately each season. Additionally, understanding that the demand comes from a multitude of different renters and for different needs is also important.

Financial Management

The cost to lease a water right to the Water Supply Bank is \$250, however when two or more water rights can be collectively leased together into the Bank on a single application, the maximum fee for a multi-water right lease application is \$500. There is no fee to submit a rental application; the Bank collects rental revenue by levying an administrative fee of 10% of the standard or negotiated annual rental fees for rental agreements, based on the acre-feet rented. In 2023 and 2024, the Bank revenue increased significantly due to the rental administrative fees received even as lease filing fees have declined, as represented in Chart 9 below.

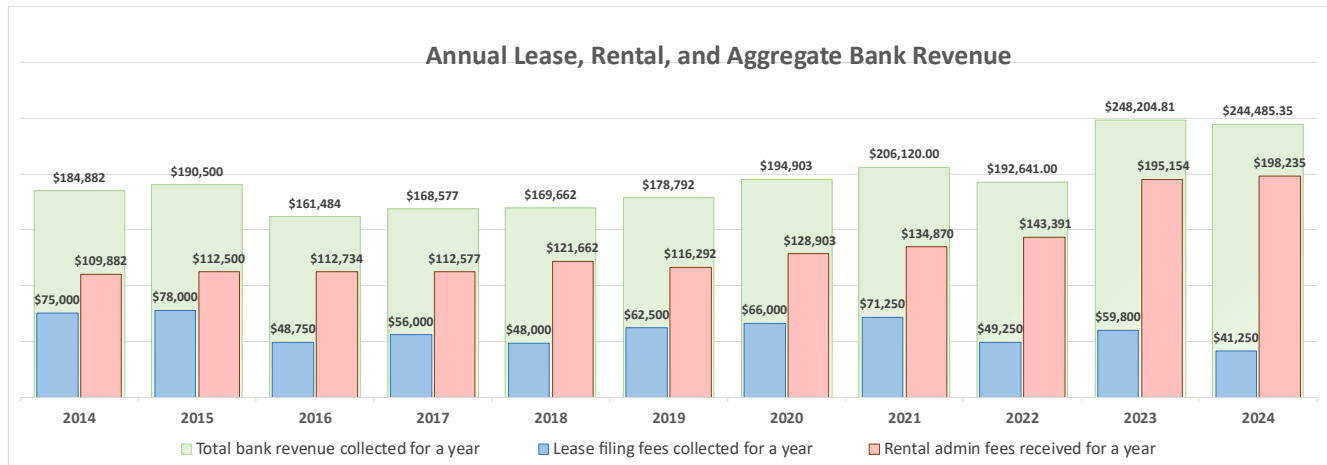
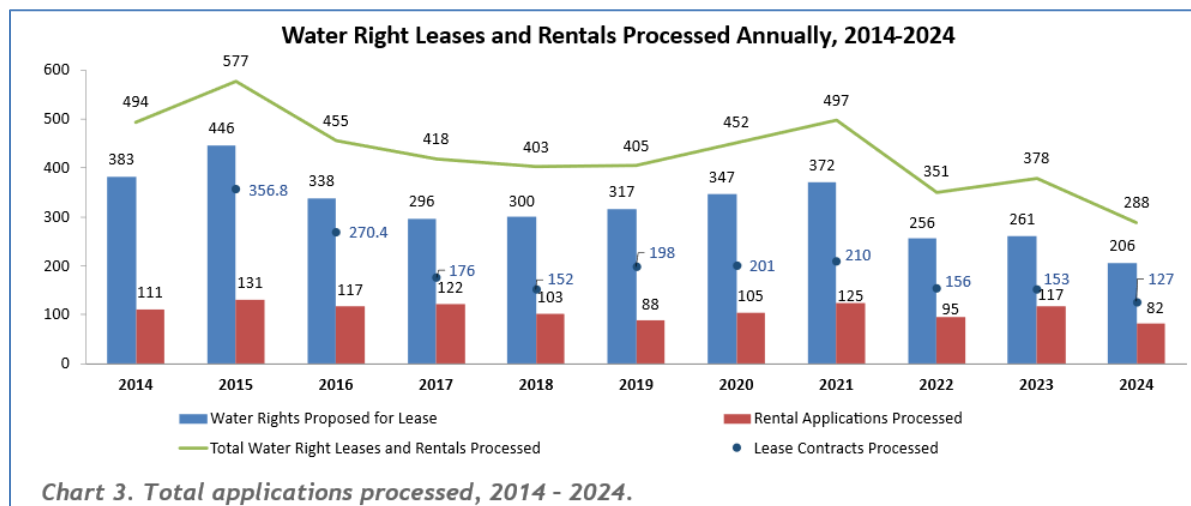


Chart 9. 2014-2024, Annual Revenue Received

In 2023, the standard rental rate rose from \$20.00 per acre-foot to \$23.00 per acre-foot, of which the minimum administrative fee levied also rose from \$2.00 per acre-foot to \$2.30 per acre-foot. However, the filing fee for lease applications has not changed since 2010. The total bank revenue collected each year tends to follow the same trend as the total number of applications processed, as does the revenue from lease application filing fees when compared to applications processed for the same years, as seen between Chart 9 above and Chart 3 from page 6, depicted again below.



Programmatic Solvency

The primary expenditures necessary to operate the Board's bank include:

- 1) staff compensation and overhead (salaries, office equipment and office service costs);
- 2) coordination and communication charges (advertising and stakeholder engagement costs); and
- 3) resource research and development charges (technology development and maintenance costs, staff education and consulting fees);

The total operational expenses are unknown for 2023 and 2024 due to the State of Idaho's transition to a new accounting platform, Luma, for individual employee timesheet reporting. The operational cost of \$287,884 from 2022 is used as a proxy for the operational costs for 2023 and 2024, as depicted below in Chart 10, since the number of hours to process applications has been inconsistent each year, and therefore a cost per hour cannot be reasonably estimated. Total revenue slightly declined to \$244,485 in 2024, largely due to the drastic decline in lease filing fees received. Additionally, while more volume was rented in 2024 than in any previous year, nearly 30 KAF was for IWRB rentals in which an administrative fee was not levied. By using the proxy operating cost from 2022 for 2023 and 2024, the overall deficit for the Board's bank may have been around -\$43,400 in 2024.

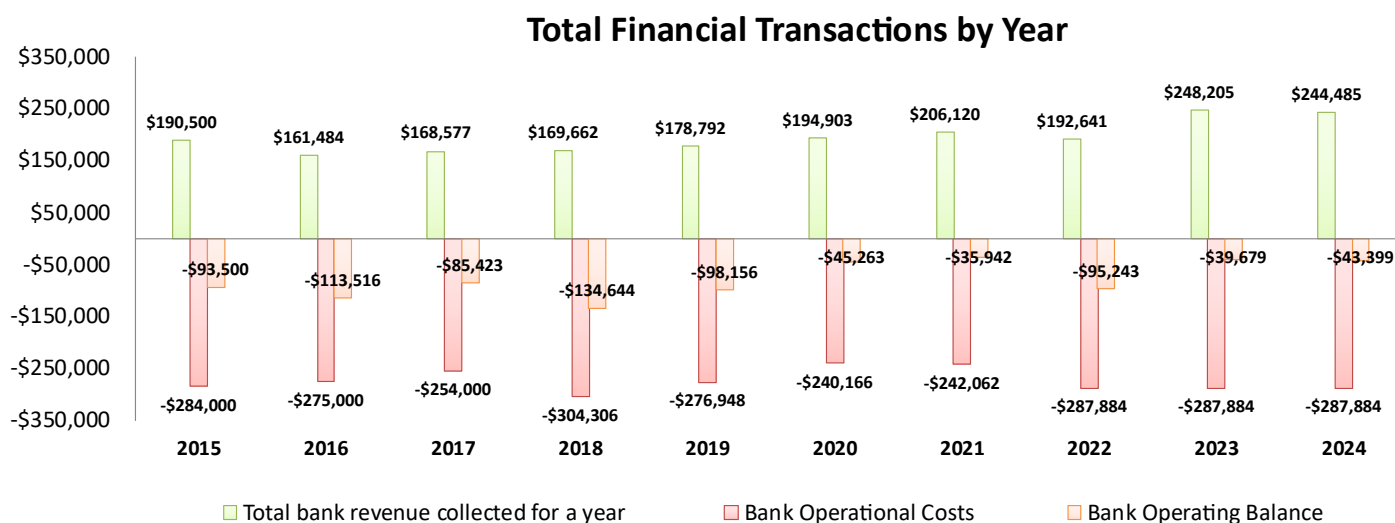


Chart 10. Board's Bank Operational Finances, 2015-2024

Operational expenses in the form of staff compensation can fluctuate each year due to Department priorities, staff turnover, training, bringing in more experienced staff with higher pay grades, and assigning certain tasks without considering the skill required and job classification. For example, operating costs rose in 2022 due to a significant increase in the number of hours logged to the bank training four new hires, addressing a backlog in lease and rental applications from 2021 through the summer of 2022, and an increase in hours billed to the Bank due to the 2023 Negotiated Rule-Making effort. Unfortunately, the lack of seasoned staff resulted in less applications processed for the year, with a much higher cost per application processed. The Operating Costs and Revenue sheet on the next page breaks down the cost per service function, and the revenue generated by each for years 2019 through 2024, again using the same operating costs from 2022 for years 2023 and 2024.

Operating Costs and Revenue

Operating Costs and Revenue						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1 Lease Applications Processed	198	201	210	150	153	127
2 Hrs billed processing leases	1400	1465	1775	1340	unk	unk
3 % of time for program	25%	22%	28%	18%	unk	unk
4 Hrs per lease application	7.1	7.3	8.5	8.9	unk	unk
5 Total cost to process	\$ 69,678	\$ 52,784	\$ 67,042	\$ 52,448	\$ 52,448	\$ 52,448
6 Cost per Application	\$ 352	\$ 263	\$ 319	\$ 350	\$ 343	\$ 413
7 + Lease revenue from applications	\$ 62,500	\$ 66,000	\$ 71,250	\$ 49,250	\$ 59,800	\$ 41,250
8 Dollar return per application	\$ 315.66	\$ 328.36	\$ 339.29	\$ 328.33	\$ 390.85	\$ 324.80
9 Approved Contracts / Multi-year	678	675	622	593	618	572
10 Hrs billed managing leases	490	378	581	368	unk	unk
11 % of time for program	9%	6%	9%	5%	unk	unk
12 Hrs per lease to manage	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.6	unk	unk
13 Total cost to manage	\$ 24,387	\$ 13,619	\$ 21,944	\$ 14,404	\$ 14,404	\$ 14,404
14 Cost per contract to manage	\$ 36	\$ 20	\$ 35	\$ 24	\$ 23	\$ 25
15 - Leases - Total Cost	\$ 94,065	\$ 66,403	\$ 88,986	\$ 66,851	\$ 66,851	\$ 66,851
16 Leases - Gain/Loss	\$ (31,565)	\$ (403)	\$ (17,736)	\$ (17,601)	\$ (7,051)	\$ (25,601)
17						
18 Rental Applications Processed	88	105	125	95	117	82
19 Hrs billed processing rentals	1650	2396	1912	2633	unk	unk
20 % of time for program	30%	36%	30%	36%	unk	unk
21 Hrs per rental application	18.8	22.8	15.3	27.7	unk	unk
22 Total cost to process	\$ 82,121	\$ 86,328	\$ 72,216	\$ 103,056	\$ 103,056	\$ 103,056
23 Cost per Application	\$ 933	\$ 822	\$ 578	\$ 1,085	\$ 881	\$ 1,257
24 + Rental revenue from admin fees	\$ 116,292	\$ 128,903	\$ 134,870	\$ 143,391	\$ 195,155	\$ 198,235
25 Approved Rentals / Multi-year	184	192	207	224	260	263
26 Hrs billed managing rentals	437	789	711	437	unk	unk
27 % of time for program	8%	12%	11%	6%	unk	unk
28 Hrs per rental to manage	2.4	4.1	3.4	2.0	unk	unk
29 Total cost to manage	\$ 21,749	\$ 28,428	\$ 26,854	\$ 17,104	\$ 17,104	\$ 17,104
30 Cost per agreement to manage	\$ 118	\$ 148	\$ 130	\$ 76	\$ 66	\$ 65
31 - Rentals - Total Cost	\$ 103,870	\$ 114,756	\$ 99,071	\$ 120,160	\$ 120,160	\$ 120,160
32 Rentals - Gain/Loss	\$ 12,422	\$ 14,147	\$ 35,799	\$ 23,231	\$ 74,995	\$ 78,075
33 Rental volume annually (acre-feet charged)	59,712	65,283	68,997	73,439	86,593	111,408
34 Dollar per acre-foot average	\$ 1.95	\$ 1.97	\$ 1.95	\$ 1.95	\$ 2.25	\$ 1.78
35						
36 Total revenue from leases + rentals	\$ 178,792	\$ 194,903	\$ 206,120	\$ 192,641	\$ 254,955	\$ 239,485
37 Total costs of leases + rentals	\$ 197,936	\$ 181,159	\$ 188,057	\$ 187,011	\$ 187,011	\$ 187,011
38 Lease/Rental Gain or Loss	(\$19,144)	\$13,744	\$18,063	\$5,630	\$67,944	\$52,474
39						
40 Communication & Coordination (C&C)	\$ 28,618	\$ 16,898	\$ 23,946	\$ 54,248	\$ 54,248	\$ 54,248
41 Research & Development (R&D)	\$ 52,259	\$ 42,299	\$ 30,027	\$ 46,733	\$ 46,733	\$ 46,733
42 Hrs billed	1625	1643	1429	2580	unk	unk
43 % of time for program	29%	25%	22%	35%	unk	unk
44 - Total C&C and R&D Cost	\$ 80,876	\$ 59,197	\$ 53,973	\$ 100,981	\$ 100,981	\$ 100,981
45						
46 Ave annual hrly cost total hrs billed	\$ 49.77	\$ 36.03	\$ 37.77	\$ 39.14	\$ 39.14	\$ 39.14
47						
48 - Actual Operating cost of Bank (hrs billed)	\$276,948	\$240,166	\$242,062	\$287,884	\$287,884	\$287,884
49 Actual Total Gain or Loss	(\$98,156)	(\$45,263)	(\$35,942)	(\$95,243)	(\$32,929)	(\$48,399)
50 Total Hours Billed	5602	6671	6408	7358	unk	unk

Table 5. Analysis of Costs and Revenue associated with functions of the Board's bank, 2019-2024

Disclaimer: It is important to note that some amounts are rounded to the nearest tenth or whole number while some other values are unrounded. There is a small and reasonable margin of error if calculating from the amounts shown within the sheet due to rounding. Additionally, the volume of water rented each year within Table 5 is less than the volumes represented in earlier charts within this report, since the rental fee is based on the combined limit volume rented, rather than the total additive rental volumes for stacked rights.

Additional operational costs which are not directly or solely incurred from processing or managing leases and rentals but are directly tied to Bank activity are Communications & Coordination and Research & Development, as was shown in Table 2 on page 8. The percentage of time estimated to be spent on these functions based on priorities and special projects multiplied by the average hourly cost per billed hour to the bank each year resulted in a cost exceeding \$100,000 in year 2022 and extended for years 2023 and 2024 (Table 5, line 44).

Programmatic Forecasts and Future Objectives

In order to maintain the solvency of the Board's bank, through revenue neutral or revenue positive operations, one or more of the following must occur:

- solicitation of valid water rights for lease and market for rental is expected to increase revenue;
- hours logged to process applications need to be controlled and kept as low as possible;
- filing fees for lease applications must be increased;
- filing fees for rental applications should be considered;
- variable rental rates should be explored and considered; and
- research and development initiatives must continue, to find ways for increasing productivity, by maintaining or increasing application processing capacity without increasing overall operational expenditures or the number of hours logged to process applications.

Based on the last ten years of operating costs and accounting for inflation, future projections should expect operational costs of no less than \$300,000 per year for 3.6 FTEs. The chart below is an adaptation of the previous 2019-2023 target to realized, for years 2024-2028 with new targets based on averages over the previous five years as well as accounting for the increase in rental rates with a slowing trend in new lease application filings, with the actual revenue received and the proxy operating cost for 2024.

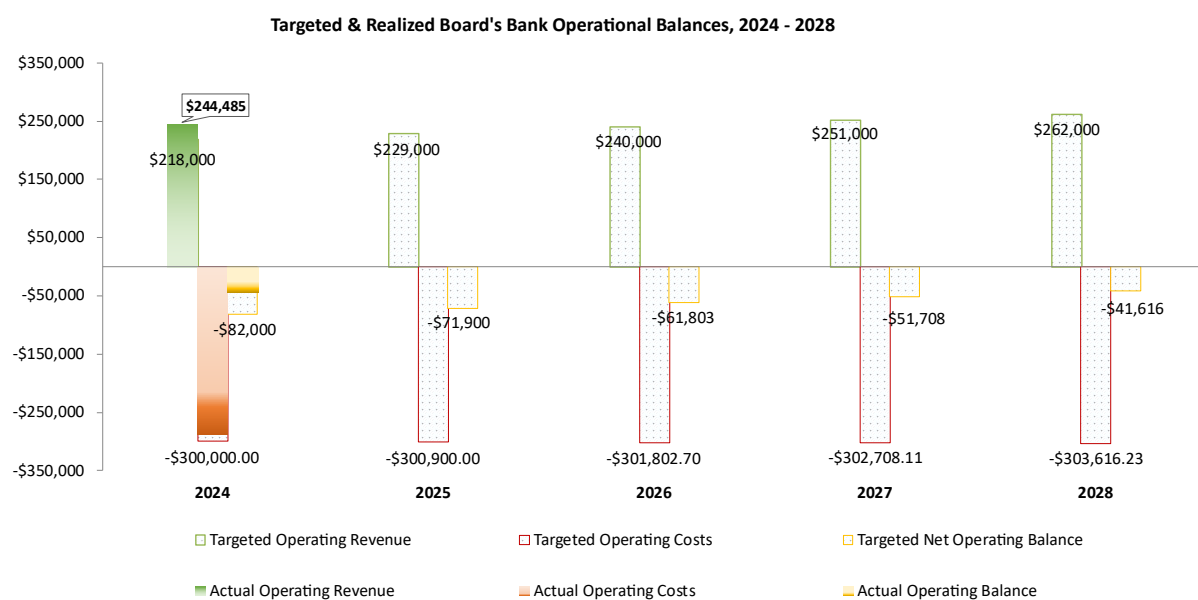


Chart 11. Targeted and Realized Board's Bank Operational Financial Amounts, 2024-2028

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Water Supply Bank

Presented by Mary Condon

Date November 20, 2025



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

The Water Supply Bank

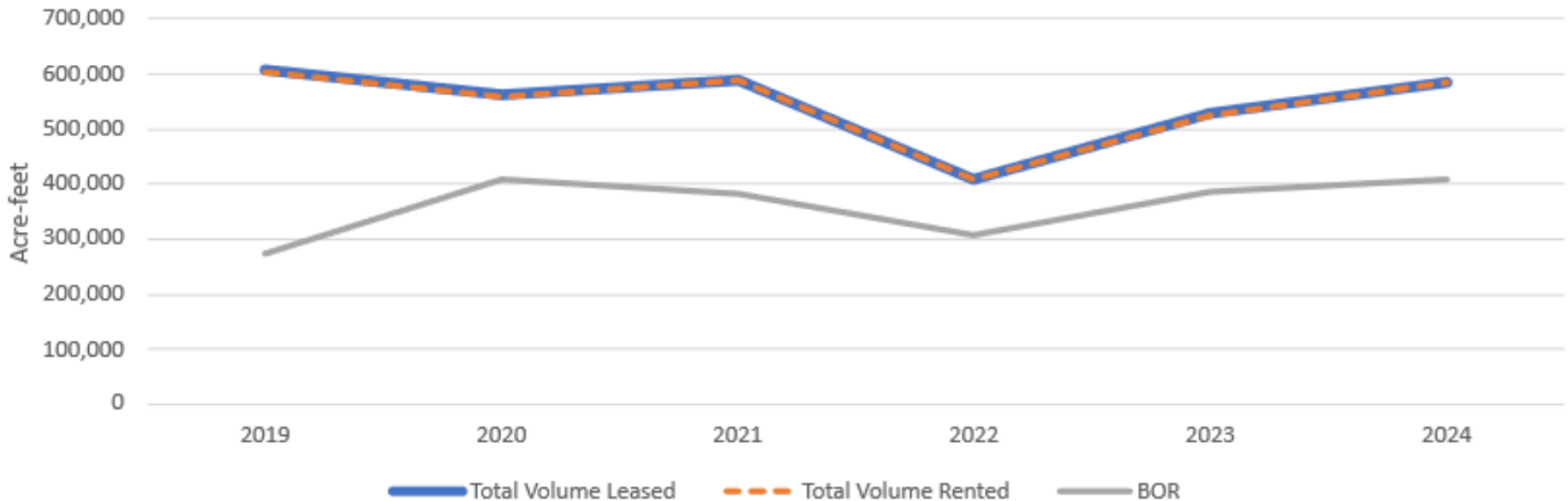
Summary of operations of the Rental Pools during calendar years 2023 & 2024

- Rentals for In-Basin, Out-of-Basin, & BOR flow aug
- Revenue received

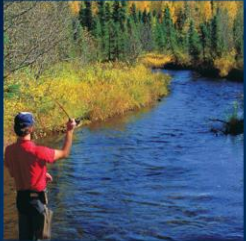
Summary of operations of the Board's bank during calendar years 2023 & 2024 specific to:

- Processing lease and rental applications
- Volume rented
- Finances associated with operations

Rental Pool Transactions, 2019 - 2024



Upper Snake River – WD 01 Lake Fork Creek – WD 65k
Boise River – WD 63 Lemhi River – WD 74
Payette River – WD 65



Upper Snake River Rental Pool Transactions, 2023

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
- USBOR Pool	150,000	150,000	\$23 / AF	\$2,959,500.00	\$295,500.00	\$1.30 / AF	\$195,000.00
- Small Pool	802	802	\$20 / AF	\$13,634.00	\$1,363.40	\$1.30 / AF	\$1,042.60
Extraordinary Circumstances	Zero	Zero	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.30 / AF	\$0.00
Assignment Pool	Zero	Zero	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.30 / AF	\$0.00
Supplemental Pool	Zero	Zero	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.30 / AF	\$0.00
Private Pools							
Private Pool	133,788.4	133,788.4	Variable	*Undisclosed	\$614,721.00	\$1.30 / AF	\$173,924.92
USBOR Uncontracted	Zero	Zero	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.30 / AF	\$0.00
2022 Excess Use	5,668.3	5,668.3	\$25 / AF	\$141,707.50	\$14,170.75	\$1.30 / AF	\$7,368.79
Totals	290,258.7	290,258.7	Variable	*\$3,114,841.5	\$925,755.15	\$1.30 / AF	\$377,336.31

Upper Snake River Rental Pool Transactions, 2024

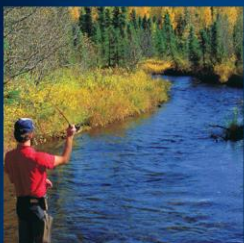
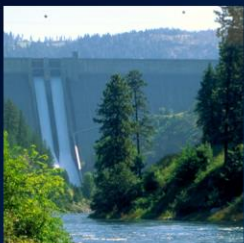
Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
- USBOR Pool	150,000	150,000	\$23/AF	\$2,959,500.00	\$295,500.00	\$1.30/AF	\$195,000.00
- Small Pool (5 KAF)	923.05	923.05	\$9/AF	\$6,461.35	\$646.14	\$1.30/AF	\$1,199.97
Extraordinary Circumstances	4,349.0	4,349.0	\$23/AF	\$85,805.77	\$8,567.53	\$1.30/AF	\$5,653.70
Assignment Pool	Zero	Zero	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.30/AF	N/A
Supplemental Pool	Zero	Zero	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.30/AF	N/A
Private Pools							
Private Pool	146,205.6	146,205.6	Variable	*Undisclosed	\$520,342.27	\$1.30/AF	\$190,067.22
USBOR Uncontracted	35,363.0	35,363.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.30/AF	\$45,971.90
2023 Excess Use	242.6	242.6	\$20/AF	\$4,124.20	\$412.42	\$1.30/AF	\$315.38
Totals	337,083.25	337,083.25	Variable	*\$3,055,891.32	\$825,468.36	\$1.30/AF	\$438,208.16

Boise River Rental Pool Transactions, 2023

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
In Basin Pool	1,700	1,540.1	\$23/AF	\$30,031.95	\$3,003.00	\$1.55/AF	\$2387.15
Out of Basin Pool	2,324	2324	\$23/AF	\$45,318	\$4,531.80	\$1.55/AF	\$3,602.20
Private Pools							
Private Pool	10,000	10,000	\$23/AF	\$195,000.00	\$19,500.00	\$1.55/AF	\$15,500.00
USBOR Uncontracted	40,932	40,932	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.55/AF	\$63,444.60
Totals	54,956	54,796.1	Variable	\$270,349.95	\$27,034.80	\$1.55/AF	\$84,933.95

Boise River Rental Pool Transactions, 2024

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
In Basin Pool	3,400	2088.43	\$23/AF	\$40,724.40	\$4,072.44	\$1.55/AF	\$3,237.07
Out of Basin Pool	2,474	2,474	\$23/AF	\$48,243.00	\$4,824.30	\$1.55/AF	\$3,834.70
Private Pools							
Private Pool - In Basin	12,000	12,000	Variable	*Undisclosed	\$23,400.00	\$1.55/AF	\$18,600.00
USBOR Uncontracted	40,932	40,932	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.55/AF	\$63,444.60
Totals	58,806	58,494.43	Variable	*\$74,225.98	\$32,296.80	\$1.55/AF	\$89,116.37
*2023 paid in 2024 Private Pool - In Basin	1,000	1,000	Variable	*Undisclosed	\$1,950.00	\$1.55/AF	\$1,550.00



Payette River Rental Pool Transactions, 2023

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
In Basin Pool	7,500	5,451	\$7 / AF	\$27,030.45	\$2,673.87	\$1.55 / AF	\$8,449.05
Out of Basin Pool	85,625	85,625	\$23 / AF	\$1,669,687.50	\$166,968.75	\$1.55 / AF	\$132,718.75
Private Pool							
Private Pool	Zero	Zero	Variable	N/A	N/A	\$1.30 / AF	N/A
USBOR Uncontracted	95,608	95,608	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.55 / AF	\$148,192.40
Totals	186,684	186,684	Variable	\$1,696,717.95	\$169,642.62		\$289,360.20

Payette River Rental Pool Transactions, 2024

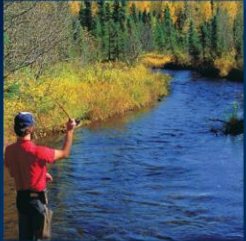
Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
Common Pools							
In Basin Pool	478	478	\$7 / AF	\$2,370.31	\$234.37	\$1.55 / AF	\$740.90
Out of Basin Pool	80,625	80,625	\$23 / AF	\$1,572,187.50	\$157,218.75	\$1.55 / AF	\$124,968.75
Private Pool							
Private Pool - In Basin	13,165	13,165	Variable	*Undisclosed	\$2,369.70	\$1.55 / AF	\$20,405.75
USBOR Uncontracted	95,608	95,608	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.55 / AF	\$148,192.40
Totals	186,148	185,986.6	Variable	*\$1,574,557.81	\$159,822.82	\$1.55 / AF	\$294,307.80

Lake Fork Creek Rental Pool Transactions, 2023

Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
In Basin Pool	352.74	352.74	\$16.58	\$5,087.59	\$584.89	\$0.50/AF	\$176.37

Lake Fork Creek Rental Pool Transactions, 2024

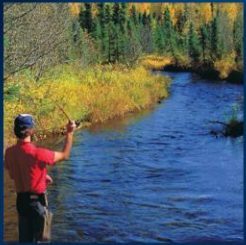
Rental Pool	Storage Water Leased	Storage Water Rented	Rental Price (\$/AF)	Lessor Rental Revenue	IWRB Revenue (10% of Rental Rate)	Water District Admin Fee	Water District Rental Revenue
In Basin Pool	475.0	475.0	\$17.55	\$7,265.13	\$833.63	\$0.50/AF	\$237.50



Lemhi River Rental Pool Transactions, 2023 & 2024

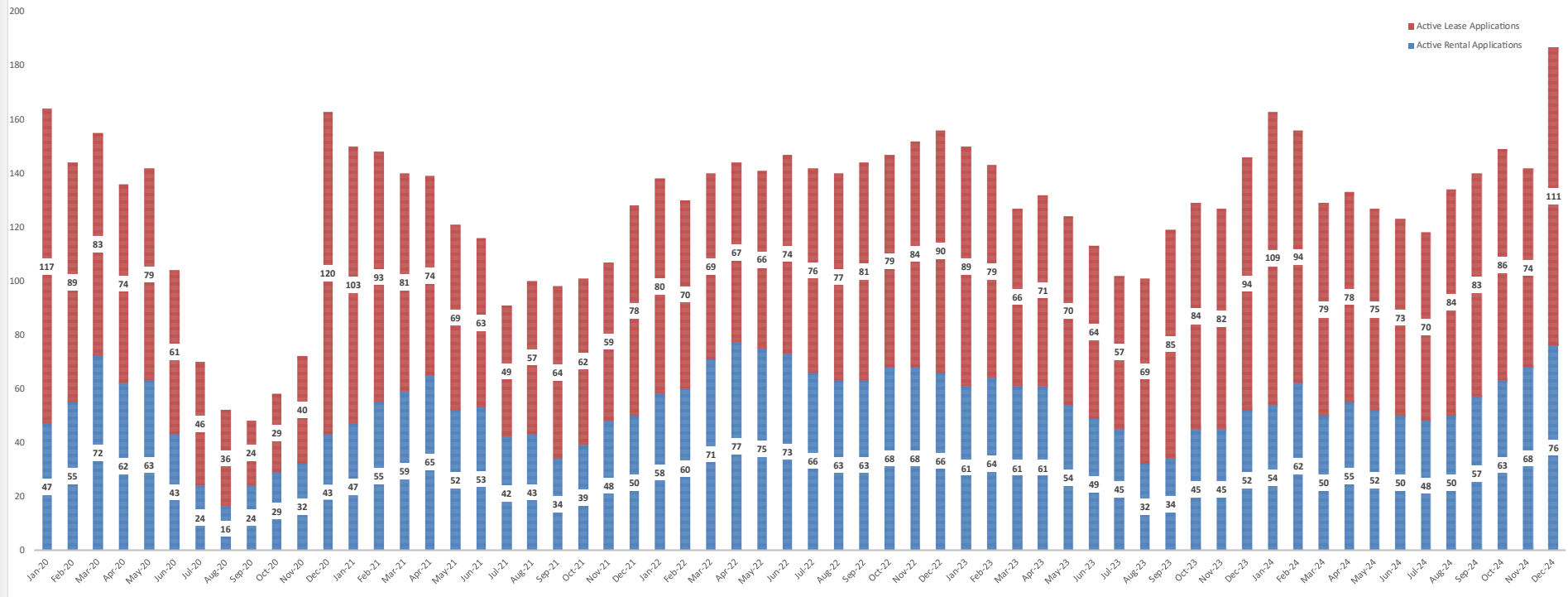
The advisory committee for Water District 74 (Lemhi River) is the IWRB-appointed local committee authorized to facilitate one-year leases and rentals of Lemhi River water rights. Presently, the only active rental through the rental pool is the IWRB's indefinite rental of water rights 74-1588 and 74-1594 to supplement the IWRB's minimum streamflow water right 74-14993.

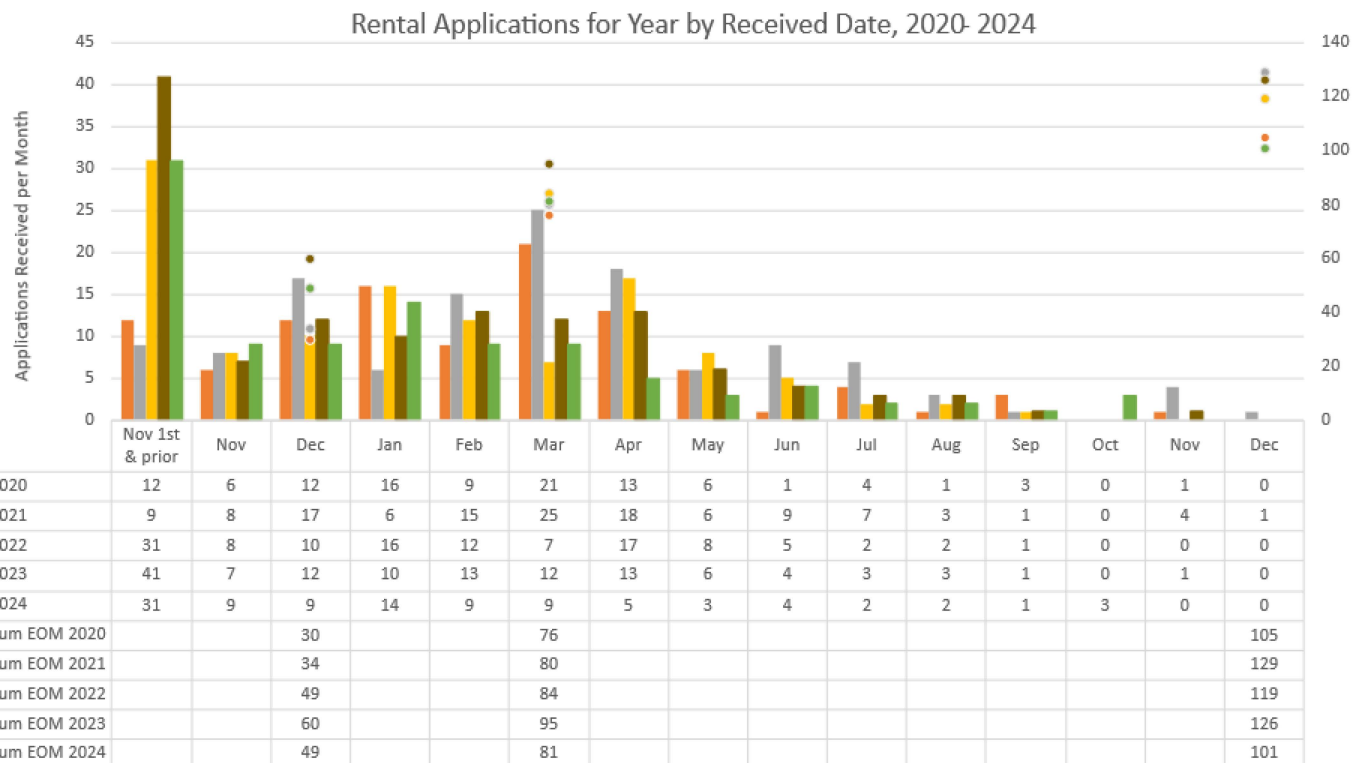
No new rental pool leases or rentals were reported for 2023 or 2024



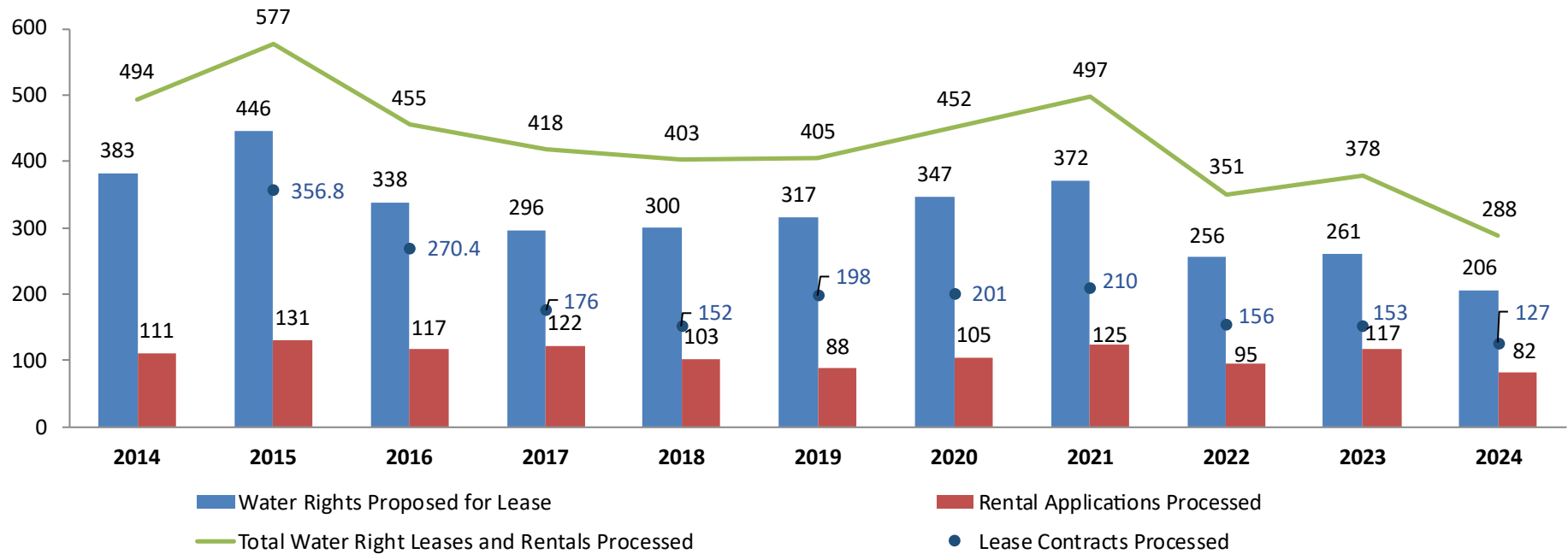
Board's Bank 2023 & 2024

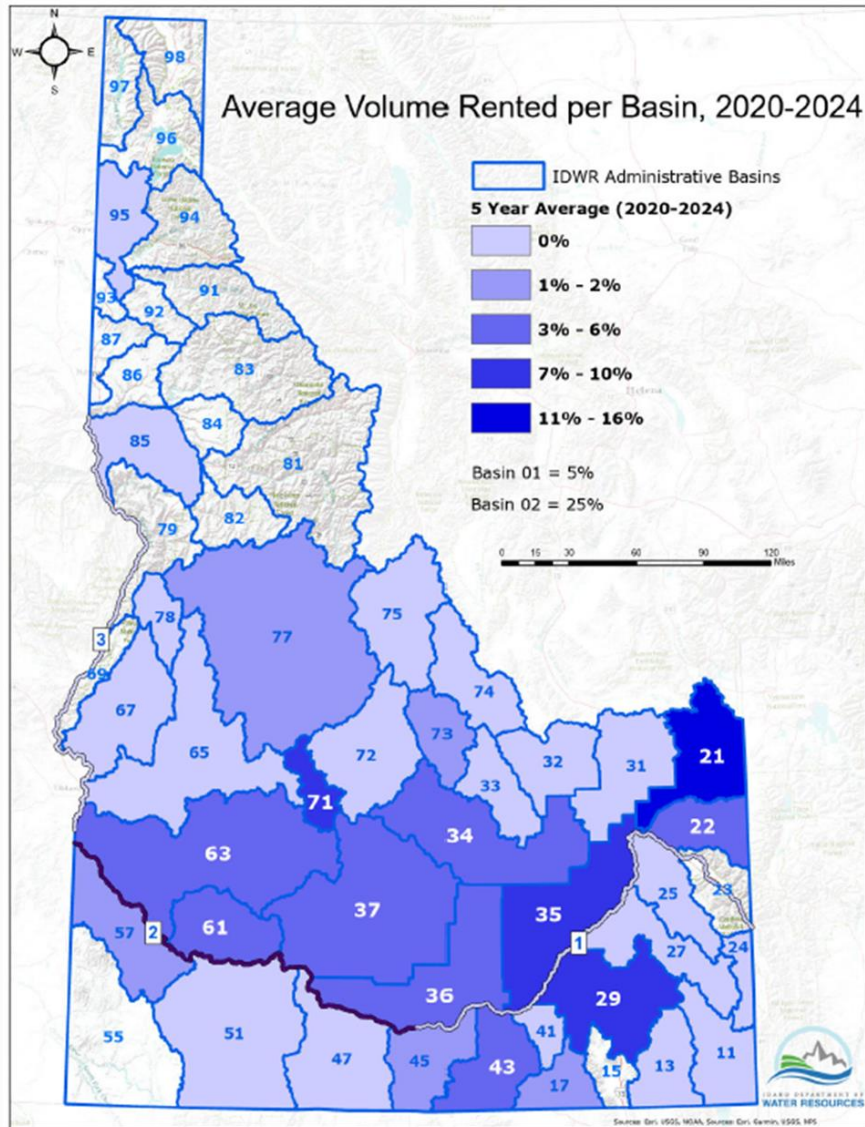
IDWR WATER SUPPLY BANK LEASE & RENTAL APPLICATIONS PENDING





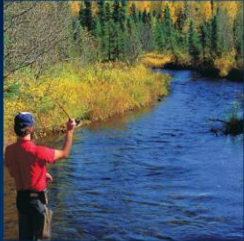
Water Right Leases and Rentals Processed Annually, 2014-2024





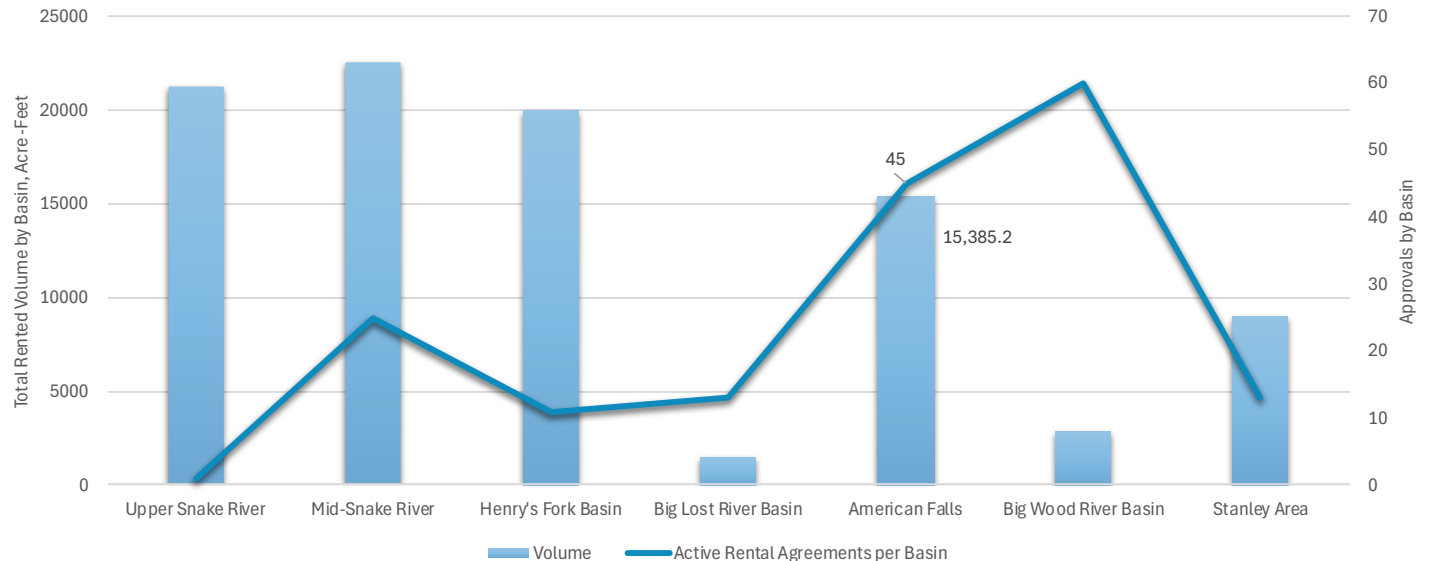
2024				
#	Basin	Water Source	Volume	% of Total
1	2	Middle Snake River	22,587	20%
2	1	Upper Snake River	21,267	19%
3	21	Henry's Fork Basin	20,316	18%
4	35	ESPA - American Falls	9,487	8%
5	71	Stanley Area	8,965	8%
2024 Rental Volume: 114,000 AF			82,622	72%

Annual Average: Most Recent Five Years (2014-2018)				
#	Basin	Water Source	Volume	% of Total
1	2	SNAKE RIVER	17,448	25%
2	21	Henry's Fork Basin	9,327	14%
3	29	Blackfoot River Basin	6,998	10%
4	35	ESPA - American Falls	6,222	9%
5	61	Mountain Home Basin	5,763	8%
Average Five Year Rental Vol: 71,000 AF			45,758	65%



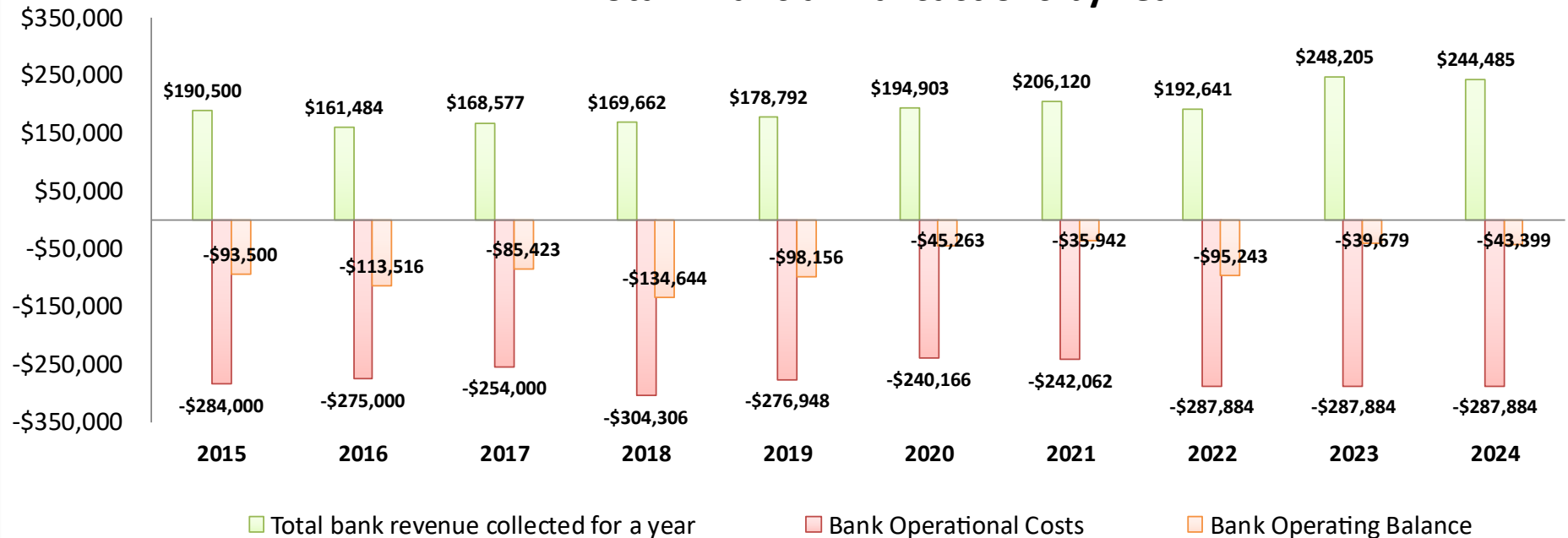
Annual Average: Most Recent Five Years (2020-2024)				
#	Basin	Water Source	Volume	% of Total
1	2	Middle Snake River	21,257	25%
2	21	Henry's Fork Basin	13,749	16%
3	35	ESPA - American Falls	7,791	9%
4	29	Blackfoot River Basin	6,135	7%
5	71	Stanley Area	5,743	7%
Average Five Year Rental Vol: 85,000 AF			54,675	64%

Top Basins by Active Rentals and Volume Rented, by Point of Diversion



*Basin 35 – American Falls ESPA GW rentals from basins 22, 25, 27, & 29

Total Financial Transactions by Year

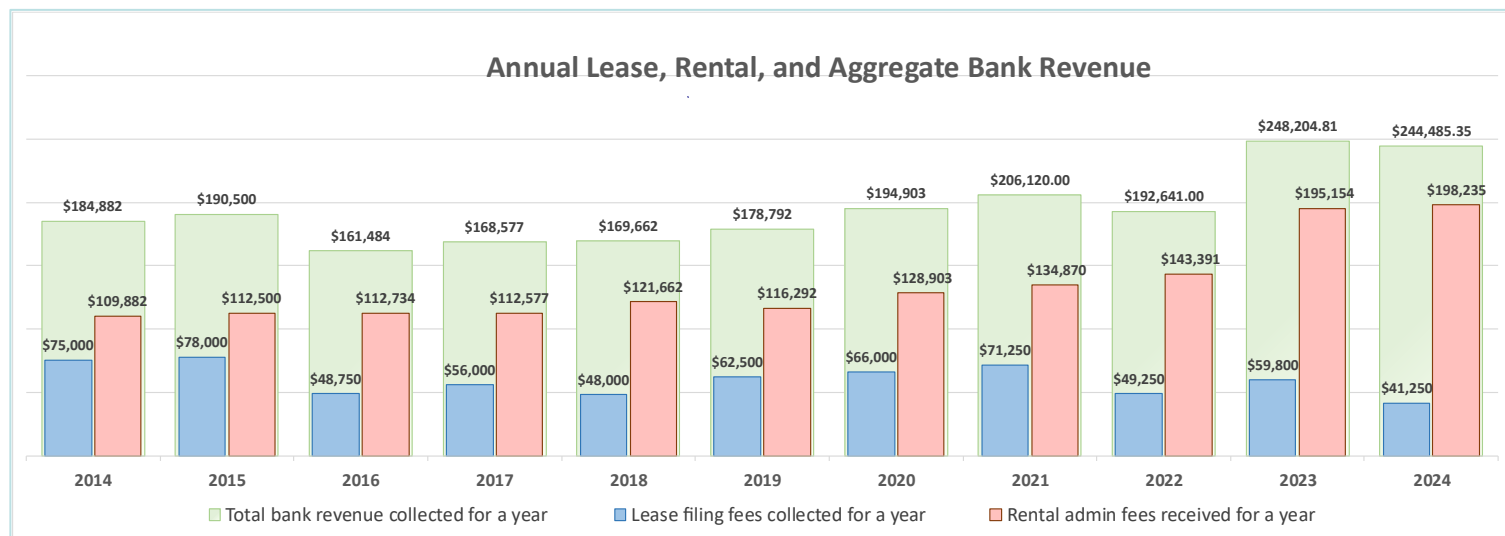
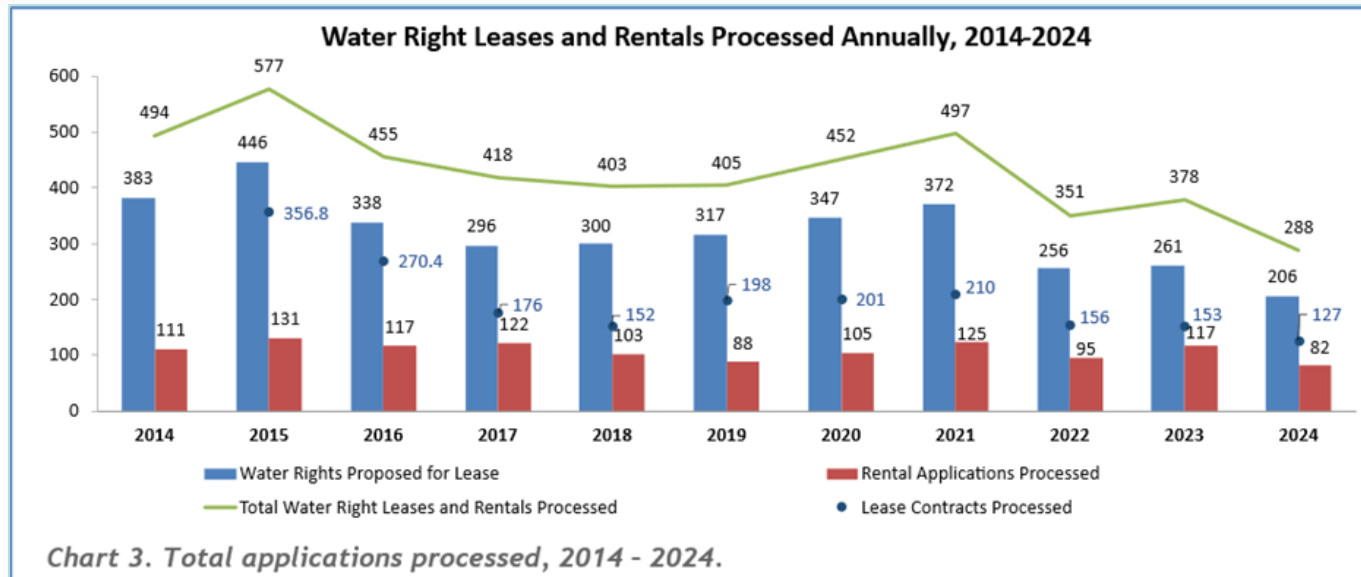


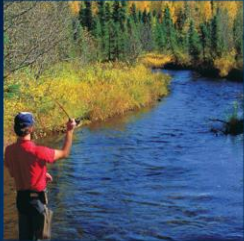
*Operational costs for 2023 & 2024 unknown, based on 2022 actual operational costs

Rental rate increase schedule:

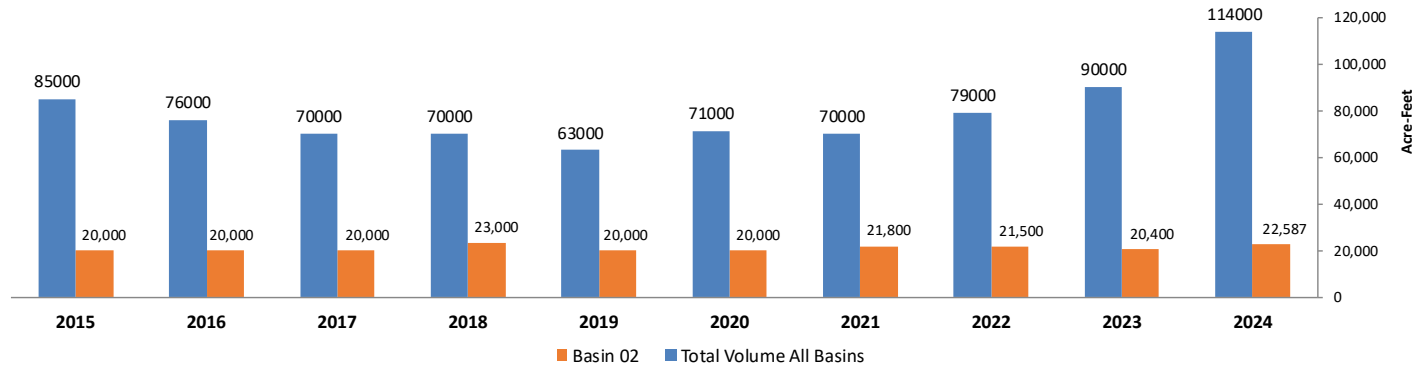
- i. \$14 per acre-foot through 2012,
- ii. \$17 per acre-foot from 2013-2017,
- iii. \$20 per acre-foot from 2018-2022,
- iv. \$23 per acre-foot from 2023-2030

*Rate increase to \$33 per acre-foot beginning in 2025 on new rental agreements

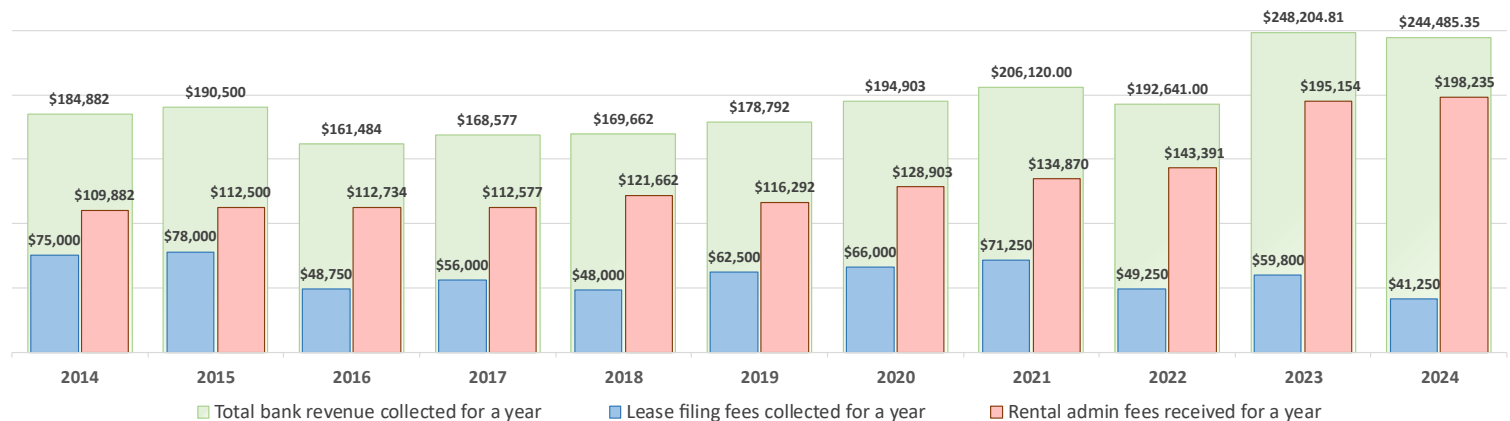


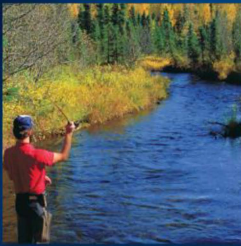


Total Volume Rented by Year (AF)



Annual Lease, Rental, and Aggregate Bank Revenue



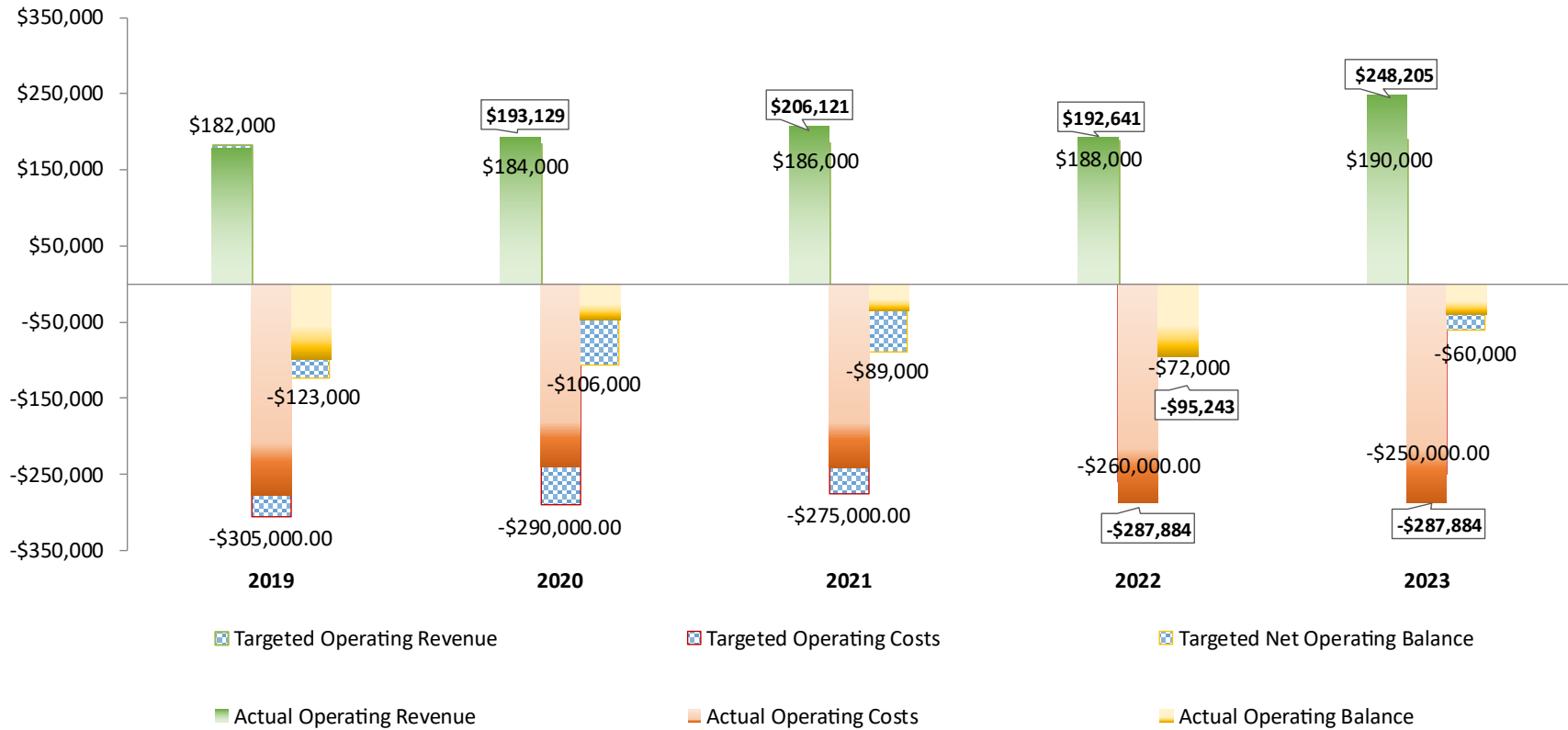


Operating Costs and Revenue

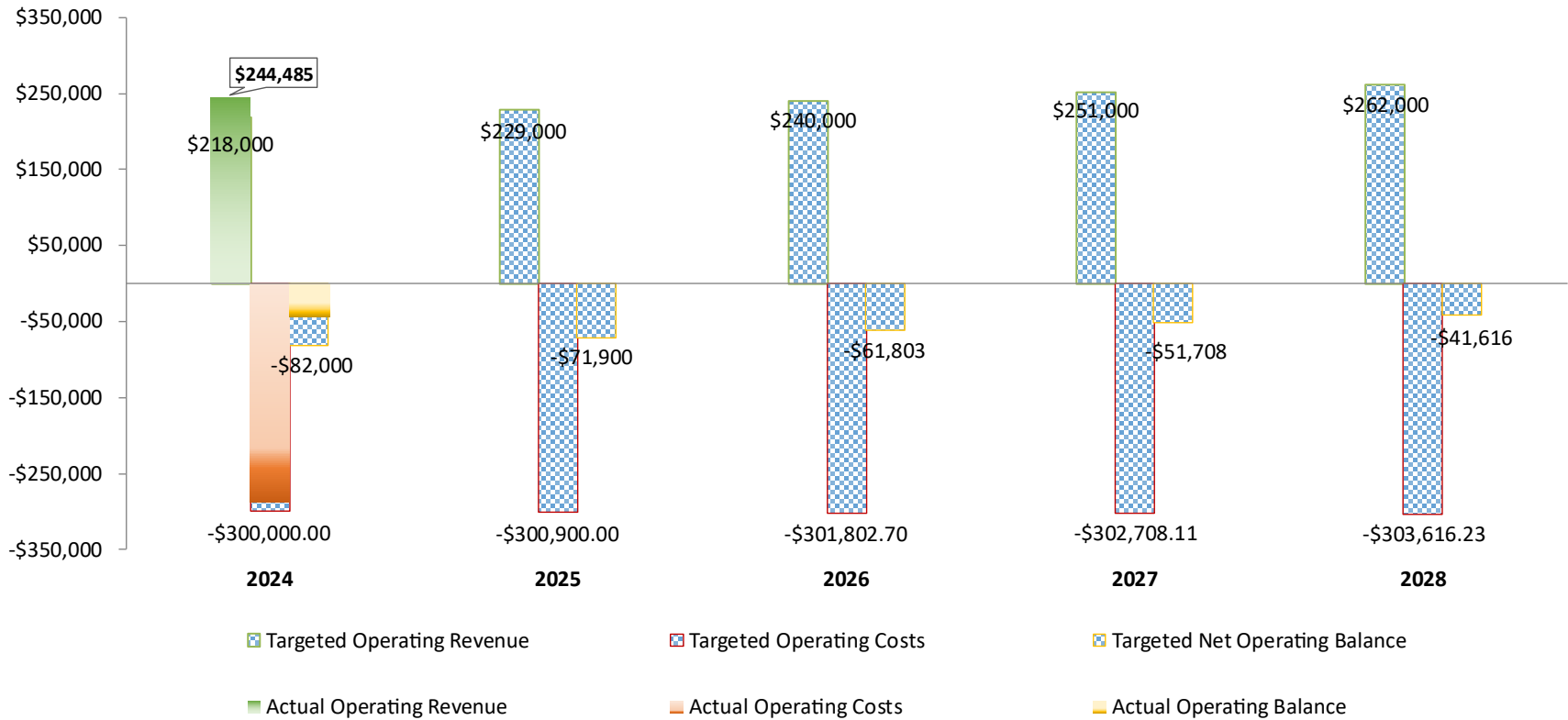
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1 Lease Applications Processed	198	201	210	150	153	127
2 Hrs billed processing leases	1400	1465	1775	1340	unk	unk
3 % of time for program	25%	22%	28%	18%	unk	unk
4 Hrs per lease application	7.1	7.3	8.5	8.9	unk	unk
5 Total cost to process	\$ 69,678	\$ 52,784	\$ 67,042	\$ 52,448	\$ 52,448	\$ 52,448
6 Cost per Application	\$ 352	\$ 263	\$ 319	\$ 350	\$ 343	\$ 413
7 + Lease revenue from applications	\$ 62,500	\$ 66,000	\$ 71,250	\$ 49,250	\$ 59,800	\$ 41,250
8 Dollar return per application	\$ 315.66	\$ 328.36	\$ 339.29	\$ 328.33	\$ 390.85	\$ 324.80
9 Approved Contracts / Multi-year	678	675	622	593	618	572
10 Hrs billed managing leases	490	378	581	368	unk	unk
11 % of time for program	9%	6%	9%	5%	unk	unk
12 Hrs per lease to manage	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.6	unk	unk
13 Total cost to manage	\$ 24,387	\$ 13,619	\$ 21,944	\$ 14,404	\$ 14,404	\$ 14,404
14 Cost per contract to manage	\$ 36	\$ 20	\$ 35	\$ 24	\$ 23	\$ 25
15 - Leases - Total Cost	\$ 94,065	\$ 66,403	\$ 88,986	\$ 66,851	\$ 66,851	\$ 66,851
16 Leases - Gain/Loss	\$ (31,565)	\$ (403)	\$ (17,736)	\$ (17,601)	\$ (7,051)	\$ (25,601)
17						
18 Rental Applications Processed	88	105	125	95	117	82
19 Hrs billed processing rentals	1650	2396	1912	2633	unk	unk
20 % of time for program	30%	36%	30%	36%	unk	unk
21 Hrs per rental application	18.8	22.8	15.3	27.7	unk	unk
22 Total cost to process	\$ 82,121	\$ 86,328	\$ 72,216	\$ 103,056	\$ 103,056	\$ 103,056
23 Cost per Application	\$ 933	\$ 822	\$ 578	\$ 1,085	\$ 881	\$ 1,257
24 + Rental revenue from admin fees	\$ 116,292	\$ 128,903	\$ 134,870	\$ 143,391	\$ 195,155	\$ 198,235
25 Approved Rentals / Multi-year	184	192	207	224	260	263
26 Hrs billed managing rentals	437	789	711	437	unk	unk
27 % of time for program	8%	12%	11%	6%	unk	unk
28 Hrs per rental to manage	2.4	4.1	3.4	2.0	unk	unk
29 Total cost to manage	\$ 21,749	\$ 28,428	\$ 26,854	\$ 17,104	\$ 17,104	\$ 17,104
30 Cost per agreement to manage	\$ 118	\$ 148	\$ 130	\$ 76	\$ 66	\$ 65
31 - Rentals - Total Cost	\$ 103,870	\$ 114,756	\$ 99,071	\$ 120,160	\$ 120,160	\$ 120,160
32 Rentals - Gain/Loss	\$ 12,422	\$ 14,147	\$ 35,799	\$ 23,231	\$ 74,995	\$ 78,075
33 Rental volume annually (acre-feet charged)	59,712	65,283	68,997	73,439	86,593	111,408
34 Dollar per acre-foot average	\$ 1.95	\$ 1.97	\$ 1.95	\$ 1.95	\$ 2.25	\$ 1.78
35						
36 Total revenue from leases + rentals	\$ 178,792	\$ 194,903	\$ 206,120	\$ 192,641	\$ 254,955	\$ 239,485
37 Total costs of leases + rentals	\$ 197,936	\$ 181,159	\$ 188,057	\$ 187,011	\$ 187,011	\$ 187,011
38 Lease/Rental Gain or Loss	\$ (19,144)	\$ 13,744	\$ 18,063	\$ 5,630	\$ 67,944	\$ 52,474
39						
40 Communication & Coordination (C&C)	\$ 28,618	\$ 16,898	\$ 23,946	\$ 54,248	\$ 54,248	\$ 54,248
41 Research & Development (R&D)	\$ 52,259	\$ 42,299	\$ 30,027	\$ 46,733	\$ 46,733	\$ 46,733
42 Hrs billed	1625	1643	1429	2580	unk	unk
43 % of time for program	29%	25%	22%	35%	unk	unk
44 - Total C&C and R&D Cost	\$ 80,876	\$ 59,197	\$ 53,973	\$ 100,981	\$ 100,981	\$ 100,981
45						
46 Ave annual hrly cost total hrs billed	\$ 49.77	\$ 36.03	\$ 37.77	\$ 39.14	\$ 39.14	\$ 39.14
47						
48 - Actual Operating cost of Bank (hrs billed)	\$276,948	\$240,166	\$242,062	\$287,884	\$287,884	\$287,884
49 Actual Total Gain or Loss	\$ (98,156)	\$ (45,263)	\$ (35,942)	\$ (95,243)	\$ (32,929)	\$ (48,399)
50 Total Hours Billed	5602	6671	6408	7358	unk	unk

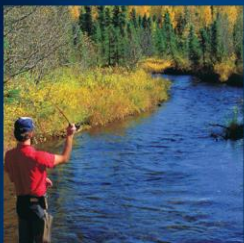


Targeted & Realized Board's Bank Operational Balances, 2019-2023



Targeted & Realized Board's Bank Operational Balances, 2024 - 2028





Questions?

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Amy Cassel
Date: November 20, 2025
Re: Letter of Interest – BOR WaterSMART Basin Study – Upper Snake River Basin



REQUESTED ACTION: No action at this time

Background:

Water users in the Upper Snake River Basin expressed interest in pursuing a Basin Study through the US Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) WaterSMART program. On September 12, 2025, Michael Hilliard from BOR and Shawna Adams from the Minidoka Irrigation District gave a presentation to the IWRB. The presentation included the following:

- Components and requirements of a BOR WaterSMART basin study
- Necessary steps and considerations
- Examples of completed Basin Studies
- Importance of a Basin Study in the Upper Snake River Basin
- Collaboration amongst stakeholders
- Basin Study Focus Areas

Following the presentation, the IWRB directed the IWRB Chair to work with staff to prepare and submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) for the BOR WaterSmart Basin Study program. The LOI and stakeholder letters of support were submitted to BOR on October 14, 2025.

Update:

On November 5, 2025, staff received an email from BOR that the IWRB's LOI was recommended for further consideration and is moving forward in the process. While BOR has not issued an official award notice with next steps and associated deadlines, the following next steps were included in the original WaterSMART Basin Study *Notice to Interested Parties* (attached):

Non-Federal participant(s) selected for further consideration will collaborate with Reclamation to develop a joint proposal (not to exceed 15 pages) for a Plan of Study or Basin Study. Joint proposals will be submitted and subsequently evaluated and ranked by an independent Reclamation review committee in the November 2025 – January 2026 timeframe.

The Plan of Study includes four elements: (1) introduction and Basin Study design; (2) study management plan; (3) Basin Study tasks; and (4) milestones, schedule, and costs.

Cost-share partners must contribute at least 50% of the total costs as cash or in-kind services. Reclamation's share of the study cost may only be used to support work done by Reclamation or its contractors.

Attachments

- 1) WaterSMART Basin Study Letter of Interest – dated Oct. 14, 2025
- 2) Notice to Interested Parties – WaterSMART Basin Studies
- 3) Letters of Support



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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Governor

Jeff Raybould
Chairman
St. Anthony
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Jo Ann Cole-Hansen
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Lewiston
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Hope
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Albert Barker
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District 2

Brian Olmstead
Twin Falls
At Large

Marcus Gibbs
Grace
District 4

Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

October 14, 2025

Roland Springer, Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Re: Letter of Interest for a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer,

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) proposes to partner with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to complete a Basin Study on the Upper Snake River Basin through the WaterSMART Basin Study program. IWRB is collaborating with a broad coalition of Idaho stakeholders to support this effort and related initiatives to address the water supply challenges in the Basin and Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA).

Description of the Proposed Study Area

The proposed study area encompasses the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam (Basin), including the mainstem Snake River and all tributary basins upstream of Milner Dam, and the entirety of the ESPA to its western terminus at King Hill. The Basin includes complex interactions between surface water diversions, the ESPA, and an extensive network of canals, laterals, wells, and storage reservoirs. Within the proposed study area, surface and groundwater are inextricably linked. The ESPA supports approximately two million acres of irrigated agriculture, generating about 21% of Idaho's total economic output with an estimated annual value of \$10 billion. It is a sole source aquifer that provides the only safe drinking water to more than 400,000 Idaho residents and more than 27 municipalities.

Eligible Applicants, Non-Federal Cost-Share Partners, and Study Cost-Share

The IWRB serves as Idaho's primary water planning agency, with statutory authority for comprehensive water resource planning and extensive experience in coordinating complex, multi-party initiatives. Our stakeholder coalition includes irrigation districts, canal companies, conservation districts, conservation organizations, fish and wildlife entities, water management organizations, agricultural producers, municipalities, and individual water users. This coalition represents the full spectrum of basin water interests, ensuring broad-based support, technical input, and practical implementation capacity.

Active participation from all sectors demonstrates strong regional commitment, with substantial interest and preliminary partnership commitments already secured. Non-

federal partners are committed to providing both cash and in-kind contributions toward the study's 50% cost share.

As currently envisioned, the Basin Study is anticipated to cost \$5-6 million and be completed within a three to five-year timeframe. IWRB will provide experienced staff for project coordination and technical oversight and may supplement its capacity with contracted professional services to ensure timely completion. Partner organizations will contribute technical staff participation, specialized knowledge, access to operational data, historical records, infrastructure assessments, local coordination, and stakeholder engagement throughout the process. In partnership with Reclamation, this state-led coalition has the expertise, capacity, and commitment necessary to complete the Basin Study and implement its recommended outcomes.

Summary of Water Supply Challenges and Current Activities

The Snake River system upstream of Milner Dam, with its extensive reservoirs and canals, supplies water for roughly two million acres of irrigated land. Through the early 20th century, canal seepage and flood irrigation practices enhanced the aquifer, enabling development of an additional one million acres of irrigated farmland using groundwater. The aquifer also supplies water for cities, industries, businesses, and households across the region. Spring discharge from the aquifer to the Snake River provides partial water supply to approximately 545,000 acres in the Magic Valley region that divert water from the Snake River. The Snake River and aquifer discharge downstream of Milner Dam also provide water supply for hydropower generation under the 1984 Swan Falls Agreement between the State of Idaho and Idaho Power Company.

Since the 1950s, aquifer levels have steadily declined due to reduced input or incidental recharge—caused by improved canal efficiency and large-scale groundwater pumping. ESPA storage has decreased by approximately 14 million acre-feet, and spring flows from the Thousand Springs complex have dropped from 6,750 cfs in the 1950s to about 4,650 cfs today. Similar declines have been observed in other reaches of the Snake River. Climate and hydrologic variability, periodic drought and diminished snowpack, and earlier runoff have further intensified these challenges.

The declining aquifer levels have diminished spring flows from the ESPA to the Snake River and reduced water supplies for many canal companies and irrigation districts that divert from the Snake River in the Magic Valley region, all of whom hold storage space in Reclamation reservoirs. This has prompted a number of requests by senior-priority water right holders for administrative action and possible curtailment of junior water rights, or “conjunctive administration delivery calls”. These include the Surface Water Coalition Delivery Call, which has had the most widespread effects on ground water users in the Basin. As a result, a series of state and water user-led actions have been undertaken to address aquifer stabilization and the delivery calls.

Water user-led actions:

To resolve the Surface Water Coalition Delivery Call, water users first entered into the 2016 Settlement Agreement, which was later replaced by the 2024 Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Mitigation Plan. These agreements were designed both to ensure that senior surface water users receive the water they need and allow junior-priority groundwater users to continue pumping water when they might otherwise be curtailed. Under the 2024 Settlement Agreement, groundwater users committed to the following actions:

- Reduce total groundwater use by 250,000 acre-feet compared to a baseline measurement once the ESPA area of common groundwater boundary is expanded.
- Supply a set amount of rented surface water from the Upper Snake Rental Pool, based on spring flows and demand.
- Submit monthly reports of groundwater diversions.
- Allow additional groundwater users to join the agreement as the state expands the area subject to the delivery call to include tributary basins.

State-led actions:

- **Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Ground Water Model:** Developed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) with stakeholder input, this model simulates groundwater-surface water interactions and the effects of ground water pumping on numerous river and spring reaches. It is used to inform management decisions and undergoes continual improvement (Version 2.2 is currently in use).
- **Managed Aquifer Recharge Program:** The recharge program was established by IWRB to recharge the aquifer by an average of 250,000 acre-feet annually. Due to the success of the program, the 2025 Idaho Legislature directed the IWRB to increase average targets to 350,000 acre-feet per year and has continued to appropriate funds for program operation and expansion.
- **Collaborative Cloud Seeding Program:** A partnership among IWRB, Idaho Power Company, and water users in the Basin employing ground and aerial seeding guided by experienced meteorologists and sophisticated weather modeling. Estimated benefits average 600,000 acre-feet of additional water supply annually.
- **Financial Incentive Programs:** IWRB administers grant programs that specifically support aquifer stabilization and the 2024 Settlement Agreement and Mitigation Plan, including groundwater-to-surface water conversions, groundwater pumping measurement and telemetry, and surface water delivery efficiency projects. The IWRB also implements grant programs that fund aging infrastructure improvements and flood management projects.
- **Policy and Idaho Legislative Initiatives:** The Comprehensive State Water Plan and ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan, developed by the IWRB and stakeholders and passed into law by the Idaho State Legislature, provide long-term policy and programs for managing water supply and demand in the Basin and ESPA. The IWRB continues to implement the strategies set forth in these plans and subsequent legislation.

These efforts collectively demonstrate Idaho's proactive approach to water management and provide extensive technical data and institutional capacity to support the Basin Study.

Proposed Scope of Study

The state and the water users have established robust programs for aquifer recharge, cloud seeding, groundwater demand reduction, enhanced water use monitoring and measurement, and other efforts to support aquifer management, the 2024 Settlement Agreement, and water sustainability. In 2025, the Idaho Legislature passed Senate Joint Memorial 101, which encouraged the Bureau of Reclamation, United States Army Corp of Engineers, Idaho Governor, other governmental agencies, and Idaho residents, to cooperate in investigating additional water storage in Idaho to enhance water supply. The IWRB proposes that a Basin Study incorporate the above referenced initiatives and leverage existing and future Basin Study resources to evaluate additional surface water storage opportunities. The Basin Study can build on the results of the Bureau of Reclamation's *Minidoka Dam Raise Special Study* (2004), the *Henrys Fork Basin Study* (2009), and other ongoing storage studies while assessing new surface water storage alternatives to meet the needs of agriculture, municipalities, and environmental stakeholders throughout the Basin.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with Reclamation on this important study. Please contact me or Brian Patton, IWRB Executive Manager, for any additional information. We view this effort as both urgent and essential to ensuring Idaho's long-term water security.

Sincerely,



Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
1150 North Curtis Road
Boise, ID 83706-1234



IN REPLY REFER TO:

CPN-6412
2.1.4.13

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

Subject: Requesting Letters of Interest for WaterSMART Basin Studies

Dear Stakeholders:

The Bureau of Reclamation is initiating the Fiscal Year 2025 selection process for new Plans of Study or Basin Studies. Approximately \$2 to \$3 million in Basin Study Program funding may be made available for these two activities. Reclamation is requesting letters of interest from eligible non-Federal entities interested in jointly collaborating with Reclamation in the development of a new Plan of Study or a Basin Study.

Through the Basin Study Program, Reclamation partners with state and local entities to conduct Plans of Study and comprehensive Basin Studies to identify and address water supply challenges occurring within river basins across the Western United States.

A Plan of Study is the first step in initiating a full-scale Basin Study. While every Basin Study requires a Plan of Study, entities may submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) for only a Plan of Study prior to initiating a more comprehensive Basin Study, if desired. The Plan of Study includes four elements: (1) introduction and Basin Study design; (2) study management plan; (3) Basin Study tasks; and (4) milestones, schedule, and costs. More information regarding a Plan of Study can be found at <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/bsp/require.html>.

A Plan of Study can be used to assess the merits of conducting a full Basin Study and/or serve as a work plan for completing a Basin Study, should the entity wish to proceed. If an entity first chooses to only complete a Plan of Study, they may later submit a proposal for a full Basin Study immediately upon approval of a Plan of Study, rather than waiting for the next funding cycle.

Basin Studies include four main elements: (1) projections of water supply and demand, including the risks associated with climate and hydrologic variabilities; (2) an analysis of how existing water and power infrastructure and operations will perform in response to changing water realities; (3) the development of strategies to improve water supplies, operations, and infrastructure; and (4) a trade-off analysis of the strategies identified.

Eligible applicants for Plans of Study and Basin Studies include non-Federal entities such as States, Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or any organization located within the 17 Western States with water delivery or management authority. Other types of entities may also be

cost-share partners if they partner with an eligible applicant. The Basin Study process will also include opportunities for input from other interested basin stakeholders.

We are asking interested non-Federal partners to coordinate with appropriate Reclamation staff in their area on the creation and submittal of a short LOI (not to exceed three pages).

Reclamation will accept LOI's until **October 15, 2025**. They must be submitted to Reclamation's Columbia-Pacific Northwest Regional Office via email at ablue@usbr.gov. Non-Federal participant(s) selected for further consideration will collaborate with Reclamation to develop a joint proposal (not to exceed 15 pages) for a Plan of Study or Basin Study. Joint proposals will be submitted and subsequently evaluated and ranked by an independent Reclamation review committee in the November 2025 – January 2026 timeframe. If an applicant cannot reasonably submit a joint proposal within this timeframe, late submittals will be considered in the order received until available funding has been allocated.

The LOI must describe the proposed Plan of Study or Basin Study and explain how the proposal meets program requirements. The LOI should describe, at a minimum, the following:

- Non-Federal applicant or study lead and partners, including support for their eligibility
- General scope of the study, including the geographic area
- Water supply challenges that create or will lead to imbalances in supply and demand (e.g., inadequate water supplies, inadequate water infrastructure, competing demands for water, changing demographics, or other socio-economic factors)
- Risks to water supplies from climate and hydrologic variabilities, including changes to snowpack, timing and quantity of runoff, groundwater recharge and discharge, and increases in extreme events (e.g., droughts and floods)
- Anticipated benefits from completing the study
- Level of stakeholder interest, including watershed groups
- Resources that the non-Federal study partners would make available for the study, including staff, technical expertise, and applicable data and models

Cost-share partners must contribute at least 50% of the total costs as cash or in-kind services. Reclamation's share of the study cost may only be used to support work done by Reclamation or its contractors.

If you have questions or would like additional information about the Basin Study Program, please contact April Blue at (986) 283-2997 or ablue@usbr.gov. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sincerely,

Roland K. Springer
Acting Regional Director



1725 Riverton RD · PO Box 1268 · Blackfoot, ID 83221 · (208) 684-9634

September 4, 2025

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Re: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer,

I am writing to you as the Manager of the Bingham Ground Water District (BGWD) in strong support of the proposal to conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

BGWD is comprised of over 148,000 acres of irrigated cropland as well as municipal and industrial interests which rely on groundwater from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) as their primary, and often sole, source of water.

The ESPA has been determined to be conjunctive to the Snake River with intermingled seepage from the river to the aquifer as well as spring flows from the aquifer back to the river. This conjunctive nature has been the source of significant disputes between surface and groundwater users over the past decades. Notwithstanding the disputes, the ESPA provides a unique and significant natural resource in regulating water supplies in the Upper Snake River Basin by storing water during pluvial times and releasing water during dry times. This Basin Study will be a significant step towards overcoming conflicts among water users by better understanding how, where, and when surface and groundwater interact and how such interactions can be incorporated into the overall management of the Upper Snake River in ways that provide maximum flexibility for innovative water conservation tools.

BGWD is not only supportive of this effort, but we are also prepared to assist in data collection and other on-the-ground efforts to benefit the study. We are located in the heart of the Upper Snake Basin and our staff and equipment can be available to help as needed.

We urge the Bureau of Reclamation to approve the Letter of Interest and partner in this important endeavor. Thank you for your support in the continuous effort to study and improve water resource management in the Upper Snake River Basin, which is vital to widely diverse interests throughout the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alan Jackson
District Manager
Bingham Ground Water District



September 3, 2025

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer:

On behalf of the Burley Irrigation District (BID) and its Board of Directors, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposal to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

The focus area for this study encompasses the Snake River Basin upstream of Milner Dam, including the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), a hydrologic system of major importance in the western United States. Water from this basin underpins farming, city and industrial growth, ecosystem health, and overall economic strength in Idaho and parts of Wyoming. Because the region faces intertwined challenges—such as maintaining aquifer levels, adapting to climate shifts, and meeting changing water needs—this Basin Study offers a much-needed framework for coordinated, long-term solutions.

The Burley Irrigation District and its Board of Directors fully support this project and believe it will be instrumental in identifying solutions that protect and sustain Idaho's water future. In particular, BID would love to see efforts focused on keeping Idaho's water in Idaho through the development of additional storage and similar projects. These efforts not only strengthen BID's ability to serve its water users but also enhance the overall health of the ESPA and the communities it supports.

We strongly support the leadership behind this effort and are prepared to contribute where possible—whether by providing data, engaging stakeholders, participating in technical review,

or supporting outreach activities. BID recognizes that collaborative input will be key to developing practical and science-based solutions, and we are committed to doing our part.

We urge the Bureau of Reclamation to approve the Letter of Interest and move forward as a partner in this important endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Terry

General Manager

Burley Irrigation District

208.678.2511



September 4, 2025

Roland Springer

Acting Regional Director

United States Bureau of Reclamation

Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region

1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100

Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer:

On behalf of The Eastern Idaho Water Rights Coalition, we are writing to express our strong support for the proposal to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

The proposed study area encompasses the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam, including the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), and represents a critical hydrologic region supporting agriculture, municipal uses, environmental needs, and economic vitality across Idaho and parts of Wyoming.

The Eastern Idaho Water Rights Coalition represents cities, groundwater districts, irrigation districts, canal companies, private industry, and developers across Eastern Idaho. We have a vested interest in ensuring the long-term health of the Basin's water resources and believe this study will be essential in shaping practical, science-based water management solutions for the future.

We support the leadership in this effort and are prepared to conduct educational seminars, use our extensive email network, and website to promote activities to educate the public on the study.

We urge the Bureau of Reclamation to approve the Letter of Interest and partner in this important endeavor. Thank you for your consideration of this critical study.

Sincerely,

Roger Warner, President

Keith Esplin, Executive Director

Eastern Idaho Water Rights Coalition



September 4th, 2025

Roland Springer

Acting Regional Director

United States Bureau of Reclamation Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region 1150 N. Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer:

On behalf of the Henry's Fork Foundation, we are writing to express our strong support for the proposal to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

The proposed study area encompasses the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam, including the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), and represents a critical hydrologic region supporting agriculture, municipal uses, environmental needs, and economic vitality across Idaho and parts of Wyoming. The complex and interrelated water challenges in this region (particularly concerning aquifer sustainability, changing climate conditions, and evolving water demands) require the kind of integrated and collaborative approach that this Basin Study would provide.

The Henry's Fork Foundation (HFF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Ashton, Idaho and represents 2,750 members who cherish the Henry's Fork and South Fork of the Snake River. Founded in 1984, HFF's mission is to conserve, protect, and restore the unique fisheries, wildlife, and aesthetic qualities of the Henry's Fork and connected watersheds. To accomplish our mission, we work collaboratively with state and federal government agencies, universities, hydroelectric power companies, local businesses, guides and outfitters, individual farmers and ranchers, irrigation districts, and other watershed stakeholders, through programs in science and technology, education, outreach, and stewardship. More information regarding our mission and programs can be found at www.henrysfork.org. We have a vested interest in ensuring the long-term health of the Basin's water resources and believe this study will be essential in shaping practical, science-based water management solutions for the future of agriculture, fisheries, and communities.

We support the leadership in this effort and are prepared to contribute scientific research, data and analysis through our suite of data and modeling web applications, hosting of Basin Study meetings through the Henry's Fork Watershed Council, professional review of draft documents, and collaboration with agency, university, and nongovernmental partners. We are especially well equipped to collaborate in development of a Basin wide water budget and assessment of water management alternatives.

We urge the Bureau of Reclamation to approve the Letter of Interest and partner in this important endeavor. Thank you for your consideration of this critical study, which will benefit a broad and diverse group of water users across the Basin.

Sincerely,



Brandon Hoffner
Executive Director
bhoffner@henrysfork.org
208-270-6677



Dr. Rob Van Kirk
Science & Technology Director
rob@henrysfork.org
208-652-3567



September 4, 2025

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer:

On behalf of the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, I write to express our strong support for the proposal to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation on a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

The study area, covering the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam and the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), is a critical hydrologic region supporting agriculture, municipalities, industry, the environment, and the economy in Idaho and parts of Wyoming. Addressing challenges such as aquifer sustainability, climate variability, and changing water demands requires the integrated and science-based approach that this Basin Study will provide.

The Idaho Ground Water Appropriators represents groundwater users on the ESPA, irrigating roughly one million acres. As such, we have a direct interest in sustaining the Basin's water resources and believe this study is essential to developing practical, durable management strategies.

We urge the Bureau of Reclamation to approve the Letter of Interest and advance this important initiative. IGWA is committed to active participation and support of the Basin Study and stands ready to contribute to its success.

Thank you for your consideration of this effort, which will benefit the diverse community of water users across the Upper Snake River Basin.

Sincerely,

Bob Turner
Executive Director
Idaho Ground Water Appropriators
Bob.igwa@gmail.com



August 29, 2025

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

RE: Letter of Support - WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer:

On behalf of Idaho State University (ISU), I write to express our support, in conjunction with the Letter of Interest (LOI) submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation, for a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin. Basin studies are collaborative, cost-shared efforts that evaluate: a) water supply and demand, b) identify adaptation strategies to address imbalances, and c) provide information/ data to effectively manage water supplies within the region. These activities align closely with ISU's mission to serve Idaho and strengthen its economy.

ISU recognizes that the LOI's proposed study area above Milner Dam and inclusive of all tributaries, as well as the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), is a complex hydrologic system. Southeast Idaho's communities, agricultural producers, industries, and ecosystems depend on a resilient Upper Snake-ESPA system. With over three million acres of irrigated agriculture in the proposed study area, it supports billions of dollars in economic activity, contributing a substantial share of irrigation supply and all the municipal drinking water. *This underscores why a modern, science-based assessment is both critical and prudent.*

ISU faculty have completed various studies in the region, with an understanding of the complexity. There are inseparable connections between the surface waters, infrastructure operations, and groundwater. To better understand and manage this complex and consequential system, it is important to properly evaluate and quantify water flows, storage, recharge, spring water discharge, and weather-driven variability. ISU supports this study and looks forward to being part of the study team. Specifically, we will contribute interdisciplinary expertise and applied research capacity across several academic departments:

- Biology - aquatic and riparian ecology; habitat and flow-ecology relationships; ecohydrology and water-quality/biota linkages.
- Civil & Environmental Engineering - hydrologic and hydraulic modeling; infrastructure reliability and modernization; water quality and treatment; operations analysis.
- Economics, Social & Policy Sciences - economic and trade-off analysis (cost-benefit, multi-criteria decision analysis); community and stakeholder engagement (participatory modeling, surveys, and workshops); social interactions with water and water systems (equity, resilience, and behavioral dimensions); governance and institutional analysis; risk communication and outreach.
- Geosciences - groundwater/surface water interactions; aquifer recharge and discharge characterization; geospatial analysis and remote sensing; climate and hydrology scenario assessment.

Office of the Vice President for Research & Economic Development

921 South 8th Ave., Stop 8130 | Pocatello, ID 83209-8130 | (208) 282-5907 | isu.edu/research | or@isu.edu

ISU faculty regularly collaborate with state and local partners and can assist with data synthesis, model development, and evaluation of adaptive management strategies consistent with the WaterSMART Basin Study process (e.g., scenario planning, climate and hydrology analyses, and decision-support tools).

Idaho's public research university mission includes educating and preparing the region's youth and adults to meet critical workforce needs. This Basin Study offers an opportunity to involve students directly in data collection, modeling, monitoring network design, and community engagement. Through these efforts, ISU will help develop a skilled local workforce ready to implement the study's recommendations, thereby supporting long-term water stewardship, adaptive management, and community resilience after the study is complete.

We support the collaborative framework needed to bring state, local, Tribal, academic, and stakeholder partners together to co-develop practical solutions. Thank you for considering the Upper Snake River Basin for a WaterSMART Basin Study. ISU stands ready to involve our faculty expertise, student talent, and research infrastructure to help the region develop reliable, science-based pathways for water security in Southeast Idaho and the broader basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Blair', with a stylized, cursive script.

Martin E. Blair, PhD

Vice President for Research & Economic Development

martinblair@isu.edu



101 S. Capitol Blvd. STE 1205 Boise, ID 83702
P: 208-344-6690 E: iwua@iwua.org W: iwua.org

September 8, 2025

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer:

On behalf of the Idaho Water Users Association, I am writing to express our support for the Idaho Water Resource Board's proposal to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

IWUA is a non-profit organization representing approximately 300 canal companies, irrigation districts, ground water districts, municipal and public water suppliers, hydroelectric companies, aquaculture interests, agri-businesses, professional firms and individuals throughout Idaho. Our purpose is to promote, aid and assist in the development, control, conservation, preservation and utilization of Idaho's water resources.

The proposed study area encompasses the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam, including the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), and represents a critical hydrologic region supporting agriculture, municipal uses, environmental needs, and economic vitality across Idaho and parts of Wyoming. The complex and interrelated water challenges in this region (particularly concerning aquifer sustainability, changing climate conditions, and evolving water demands) require the kind of integrated and collaborative approach that this Basin Study would provide.

IWUA members have a vested interest in ensuring the long-term health of the Snake River Basin. This study will be a critical piece of their efforts to shape practical, science-based water management solutions for the future. We support the leadership in this effort and will engage throughout the process.

We urge the Bureau of Reclamation to approve the Letter of Interest and partner in this important endeavor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Arrington", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Arrington
Executive Director & General Counsel

Roland Springer

Acting Regional Director

United States Bureau of Reclamation

Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region

1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100

Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Re: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer,

On behalf of Lazy Triple Creek Ranch in Madison County, Idaho, I am writing to express our support for the Idaho Water Resource Study.

We have a vested interest in the long-term health of the Basin's water resources and support this study as an important step toward practical water management solutions.

We understand this will be a five-year study. We have no objection to this study proceeding, but our belief is planning should not be an impediment to action.

In addition to this study, we would like to see a way forward for landowners such as ourselves to construct necessary water reservoirs on our property.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Henry A. McKinnell

Owner

Lazy Triple Creek Ranch, Newdale, Idaho

Hank@lazytriplecreek.com

(917) 821-7210

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer,

On behalf of my constituents in Southeast Idaho and as a legislator deeply engaged in the Keep Idaho Water movement, we are writing to express my strong support for the proposal to conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin in partnership with the Idaho Water Resource Board.

The study area, which includes the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam and the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), is the heart of Idaho's water system. It sustains agriculture, municipal growth, energy development, environmental needs, and the economic vitality of our state. These resources are under increasing pressure from aquifer decline, climate variability, and growing demand. An integrated, science-based Basin Study is essential to give Idaho the tools we need to prepare for the future.

As a co-sponsor of Senate Joint Memorial 101 (Keep Idaho Water), we have worked to elevate the urgency of expanding Idaho's surface water storage capacity and strengthening aquifer recharge. This study represents a critical next step in developing a comprehensive water vision for our state. The Idaho Water Resource Board is uniquely positioned to serve as Idaho's lead partner in this effort. Their sponsorship demonstrates the state's deep commitment to collaborative, science-driven solutions, and underscores the range of partners engaged in securing Idaho's water future. By partnering with the Board on this Basin Study, Reclamation can help ensure that Idaho has the information and tools necessary to sustain agriculture, communities, and industry for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Idaho's most critical resource, our water.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cook
Idaho State Senator, District 32

Van Burtenshaw
Idaho State Senator, District 31

Wendy Horman
Idaho State Representative, District 32

Rod Furniss
Idaho State Representative, District 31

Stephanie Mickelsen
Idaho State Representative, District 32

Jerald Raymond
Idaho State Representative, District 31

Continued on next page...

Julie VanOrden Idaho State Senator District 30	Dave Lent Idaho State Senator, District 33
Ben Fuhriman Idaho State Representative, District 30	Barbra Ehart Idaho State Representative, District 33
David Cannon Idaho State Representative, District 30	Marco Erickson Idaho State Representative, District 33
Mark Harris Idaho State Senator, District 35	Doug Ricks Idaho State Senator District 34
Josh Wheeler Idaho State Representative, District 35	Brit Raybould Idaho State Representative, District 34
Kevin Andrus Idaho State Representative, District 35	Jon Weber Idaho State Representative, District 34
Kelly Anthon President Pro Tempore Idaho State Senator, District 27	Jim Guthrie Idaho State Senator, District 28
Dustin Manwaring Idaho State Representative, District 29	Richard Cheatum Idaho State Representative, District 28
Clay Handy Idaho State Representative, District 27	



5294 E 3610 N, Murtaugh, ID 83344
208-432-5560
milner@safelink.net

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Re: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer,

On behalf of Milner Irrigation District, I am writing to express our support for the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) proposal to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

The study area includes the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam and the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), a region that supports agriculture, municipalities, environmental resources, and economic activities across Idaho and parts of Wyoming. This Basin Study will provide a coordinated, science-based approach to address challenges such as aquifer sustainability, understanding changes in water demand for the region, and ensuring adequate water storage for the needs of the region.

Milner Irrigation District represents Idaho farmers and community members producing economically important crops on 13,548 acres of land. Milner Irrigation holds water rights in both the American Falls and Palisades reservoirs. We have a vested interest in the long-term health of the Basin's water resources and support this study as an important step toward practical water management solutions.

We support the IWRB's leadership and are prepared to support any research efforts through data, expertise, and/or manpower. The district is also willing to support and engage in other ways as needs are identified. We urge Reclamation to approve the IWRB's Letter of Interest and partner in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenley Nebeker
Manager
Milner Irrigation District
208-731-8790



MINIDOKA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

98 WEST 50 SOUTH

RUPERT, ID 83350

(208) 436-3188

www.minidokairrigationdistrict.org

"M.I.D. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER"

4 September 2025

Roland Springer

Acting Regional Director

United States Bureau of Reclamation

Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region

1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100

Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Re: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer,

On behalf of the Minidoka Irrigation District, I am writing to express our strong support for a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin in partnership with the Idaho Water Resource Board. As a surface water management district serving producers in Rupert and the surrounding area, MID understands the pressures facing our water resources. Declining aquifers, climate shifts, and growing demand have created challenges that no single entity can solve on its own. A Basin Study is an essential step in bringing science, data, and practical solutions to bear on these issues.

Minidoka Irrigation District has supported this project from its earliest conception. We recognized from the beginning that the Upper Snake River Basin faces challenges that demand proactive, collaborative solutions. Since then, we have consistently engaged in the discussions, planning, and coalition-building needed to bring this proposal forward. Our Board and our producers remain dedicated to seeing this effort through, because the stakes are too high to do otherwise. We view this study not as a one-time effort, but as part of a broader, long-term commitment to securing Idaho's water future. That commitment will not waver. Whether conditions are favorable or difficult, whether in years of plenty or in years of drought, MID is steadfast in working with our partners to ensure that irrigators have access to the water they need to support agriculture and rural communities.

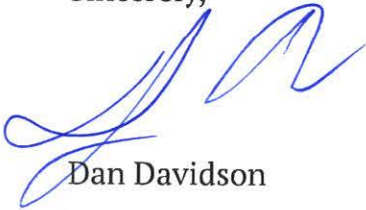
We have the utmost confidence in the Idaho Water Resource Board's ability to manage this project. The Board has long served as the voice of Idaho's water users and managers, and they are uniquely equipped to coordinate among the many stakeholders who have already rallied in support. The breadth of this coalition, from agricultural producers to conservation groups, from local water districts to universities, demonstrates that Idaho is united in addressing this challenge. The IWRB's leadership ensures that this Basin Study will not sit on a shelf. It will become a working tool to guide decisions, inform operations, and create strategies that balance the needs of agriculture, municipalities, industry, and the environment.

Reclamation has been, and continues to be, a valuable partner in Idaho's water management. This study represents another opportunity to combine Reclamation's resources and technical expertise with Idaho's deep local commitment. Together, we can generate science-based solutions that are both practical and durable, solutions that recognize the realities of managing water on the ground while planning for the future.

The time to act is now. Securing Idaho's water is not only about meeting today's needs; it is about leaving a legacy of stability and opportunity for the generations that will follow. The grassroots effort behind this Basin Study proves that people from all walks of life, even those who may not always see eye to eye, understand the urgency of this work. Minidoka Irrigation District is proud to stand with the Idaho Water Resource Board and our partners across the Basin. We are committed to seeing this study through, no matter the challenges ahead. Idaho's water is the foundation of our communities, our economy, and our way of life. Protecting it is a responsibility we embrace fully.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued partnership in this vital undertaking.

Sincerely,



Dan Davidson

Manager

Minidoka Irrigation District



MURDOCK FARMS, INC

IDAHO FAMILY FARM SINCE 1889

1473 W HOFF RD
BLACKFOOT, ID 83221
208-280-4707

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

September 1, 2025

RE: Letter of Support - WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Mr. Springer,

Murdock Farms strongly supports the Idaho Water Board's request that the Bureau of Reclamation conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

A new study needs to be completed in this area to update developments that have occurred in Idaho over the past ten years. As the B.O.R. is well aware, Idaho faces many water challenges due to surface water demands. The last study was done in 2015 and focused only on the Henry's Fork Basin. We need this new Basin Study to focus on all areas above the Milner Dam of the Snake River. This latest study also needs to include the current public opinion, which I believe has changed about surface water storage reservoirs and dams; in my opinion, they are much stronger in support of such projects.

Murdock Farms is at the center of the water issue. We use ESPA water for our crops and have been personally impacted by the water restrictions. Decisions made in this study will directly affect our farm's future. Murdock Farms is one of Idaho's oldest family farms. We have been growing Idaho Potatoes since 1889. My ancestors helped develop many of the earliest canals in the Blackfoot area. My father came home from World War II and purchased our farm farther west from the original farmstead. Surface water irrigation was not readily available, and we switched to groundwater for irrigation. This is why I am so involved in helping to resolve the water crisis.

I have been working with the Idaho State Water Board on many issues and recommend them as a viable working partner in this process. I will continue to work and do whatever I can to inform the public and gather support for more surface water storage reservoirs.

Please approve the Board's Letter of Interest and help Idaho progress this project.

Thank you for your time.

Brian Murdock, Murdock Farms

Skiingdad65@yahoo.com

208-680-4707



NORTH SIDE CANAL COMPANY, LTD.

731 GOLF COURSE ROAD * JEROME IDAHO 83338 * (208)324-2319 * FAX (208)324-8906

September 2, 2025

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer:

On behalf of North Side Canal Company (NSCC), I am writing to express our strong support for the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) proposal to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

The proposed study area encompasses the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam, including the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), and represents a critical hydrologic region supporting agriculture, municipal uses, environmental needs, and economic vitality across Idaho and parts of Wyoming. The complex and interrelated water challenges in this region (particularly concerning aquifer sustainability, changing climate conditions, and evolving water demands) require the kind of integrated and collaborative approach that this Basin Study would provide.

NSCC represents 155,000 acres of irrigated farmland on the north side of the Snake River between Hazelton and King Hill. The company's water supply is composed of contracted storage space in Jackson Lake, Palisades Reservoir, and American Falls Reservoir along with natural flow water rights on the Snake River. NSCC has a vested interest in ensuring the long-term health of the Basin's water resources and believe this study will be essential in shaping practical, science-based water management solutions for the future.

We support the IWRB's leadership in this effort and are prepared to participate in the study effort should it move forward.

We urge the Bureau of Reclamation to approve the IWRB's Letter of Interest and partner in this important endeavor. Thank you for your consideration of this critical study, which will benefit a broad and diverse group of water users across the Basin.

Sincerely,

Alan W. Hansten
General Manager
North Side Canal Company

September 10, 2025

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Re: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer,

On behalf of Snake River Headwaters Watershed Group (SRHWG), the steering committee is writing to express our support for the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) proposal to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

The study area includes the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam and the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), a region that supports agriculture, municipalities, environmental resources, and economic activities across Idaho and parts of Wyoming. A coordinated, science-based approach is urgently needed to address challenges such as rising water demand, changing climate, and ecosystem health. These are precisely the issues the SRHWG is working to address within the headwaters, and we recognize the value of extending this effort across the broader Basin.

The SRHWG unites more than 250 members and over 100 organizations—including water users, landowners, nonprofits, scientists, and public agencies—to ensure a resilient and healthy Snake River Headwaters ecosystem with clean, ample water for current and future generations. Located in Wyoming, the Snake River Headwaters form the source waters for the entire Basin, making our work directly relevant to downstream communities and ecosystems. Supported through Reclamation's WaterSMART program, we provide a trusted, inclusive forum for dialogue, education, and problem-solving around watershed challenges. Our place-based, collaborative approach has demonstrated the importance of working across jurisdictions and interests—experience that will be valuable to this Basin Study.

The SRHWG steering committee is committed to working closely with Reclamation and participating stakeholders to develop alternatives that fulfill the purpose of the study. Specifically, we are prepared to:

- Contribute review and technical input from our network of experts and practitioners;
- Share lessons learned from headwaters projects relevant to the Basin Study; and
- Elevate public awareness of the Basin Study through our convenings and communication channels, ensuring opportunities for broad and meaningful engagement.

We urge Reclamation to approve the Idaho Water Resource Board's Letter of Interest and advance this important partnership. This Basin Study represents a critical step toward developing practical, collaborative, and science-based water management solutions across the Upper Snake River Basin.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Snake River Headwaters Watershed Group, Steering Committee:

Aaron Pruzan, Owner, Rendezvous River Sports

Brent E. Ewers, Director of Wyoming Biodiversity Institute and WyACT, University of Wyoming

Clay Moorhead, American Rivers National Board, Resource Council of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, and Advisory Board of Trout Unlimited's Snake River Headwaters Initiative

David Lee, Water Resources Specialist, Teton Conservation District

Jeff VanOrden, Committee of Nine

Leslie Steen, Wyoming State Director, Trout Unlimited

Orion Hatch, Executive Director, Snake River Fund

Simeon Caskey, Physical Scientist, Grand Teton National Park



TWIN FALLS CANAL COMPANY

357 6TH AVE WEST
POST OFFICE BOX 326
TWIN FALLS, IDAHO 83303-0326



September 8, 2025

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Re: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer,

On behalf of The Twin Falls Canal Company, I am writing to express our support for the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) proposal to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

The study area includes the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam and the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), a region that supports agriculture, municipalities, environmental resources, and economic activities across Idaho and parts of Wyoming. This Basin Study will provide a coordinated, science-based approach to address challenges that all Water Users in the State of Idaho are currently facing. With the declining health of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, the recent Efforts by The Water Resource board to expand and enhance recharge opportunities, and the overall supply vs. demand struggle that we have endured and expect to continue to endure, it is essential that we leave no stone unturned as we explore all possible opportunities.

The Twin Falls Canal Company represents senior water right holders in the Twin Falls Area where we divert approximately 1.1 billion acre feet of water out of the Snake River at Milner Dam and deliver it to approximately 200,000 acres of prime agricultural land. We have a vested interest in the long-term health of the Basin's water resources and support this study as an important step toward practical water management solutions.

We support the IWRB's leadership and are prepared to contribute or engage in any way we can to advance the efforts to conduct this much needed Basin Study. We urge Reclamation to approve the IWRB's Letter of Interest and partner in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay Barlogi
General Manager
Twin Falls Canal Company
jbarlogi@tfcanal.com



September 4, 2025

Roland Springer
Acting Regional Director
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin

Dear Mr. Springer:

On behalf of Trout Unlimited, I am writing to express our strong support for the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a WaterSMART Basin Study for the Upper Snake River Basin.

Our understanding is that the proposed study area encompasses the Snake River Basin above Milner Dam, including the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA), and represents a critical hydrologic region supporting agriculture, municipal uses, environmental needs, and economic vitality across Idaho and parts of Wyoming. The complex and interrelated water challenges in this region (particularly concerning aquifer sustainability, changing climate conditions, and evolving water demands) require the kind of integrated and collaborative approach that this Basin Study would provide.

Trout Unlimited (TU) is the leading coldwater conservation organization with over 350,000 members and supporters, and in Idaho and Wyoming alone, TU has over 4,500 members. The upper reaches of the Snake River in Wyoming and Idaho are home to one of the last native cutthroat strongholds in North America and contain destination, world class fisheries that are vital to the local economies. With continued collaboration, innovation and science-based water management, TU believes that the needs of fish and wildlife resources can be met alongside those of other water users. Two ongoing examples of TU's collaborative work within the Upper Snake River Basin are its assistance with the formation of and participation in the Salt River Watershed Group and the Snake River Headwaters Watershed Group – both funded by Reclamation WaterSMART grants.

TU would work closely with Reclamation and other participating stakeholders in the Basin Study to develop alternatives to fulfill the purposes of the Basin Study. TU would provide review and input, as well as elevate public awareness of the Basin Study process and opportunities for public review and involvement. TU has a vested interest in ensuring the long-term health of the Basin's water resources and believes this study will be essential in shaping practical, science-based water management solutions for the future.

Every River Needs A Champion



We urge the Bureau of Reclamation to approve the Letter of Interest and partner in this important endeavor. Thank you for your consideration of this critical study, which will benefit a broad and diverse group of water users across the Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Plue".

Erin Plue, Idaho State Director
910 W. Main St. Suite 342
Boise, Idaho 83702
erin.plue@tu.org

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie Steen".

Leslie Steen, Wyoming State Director
960 Alpine Lane #5, PO Box 5002
Jackson, Wyoming 83001
leslie.steen@tu.org

Every River Needs A Champion

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: November 14, 2025
Re: Administrative Rules Update



ACTION: No action required

Erik Boe will provide a briefing on administrative rule making efforts.

No Attachments

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Amy Cassel
Date: November 20, 2025
Re: Priest Lake Outlet Dam Operations



REQUESTED ACTION: No action at this time

Michelle Richman, Northern Regional Manager, IDWR, will present on the 2025 Priest Lake Outlet Dam operations and Fall Drawdown.

No Attachments



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Priest Lake Dam 2025 Operations Overview

Michelle Richman
Bill Cresse
October 30, 2025





Purpose – To Discuss:

Recreation Season 2025 Dam Operations

Fall Drawdown 2025

Stakeholder Feedback

Monitoring Efforts

Next Steps



Lake Operations – Recreation Season - 2025

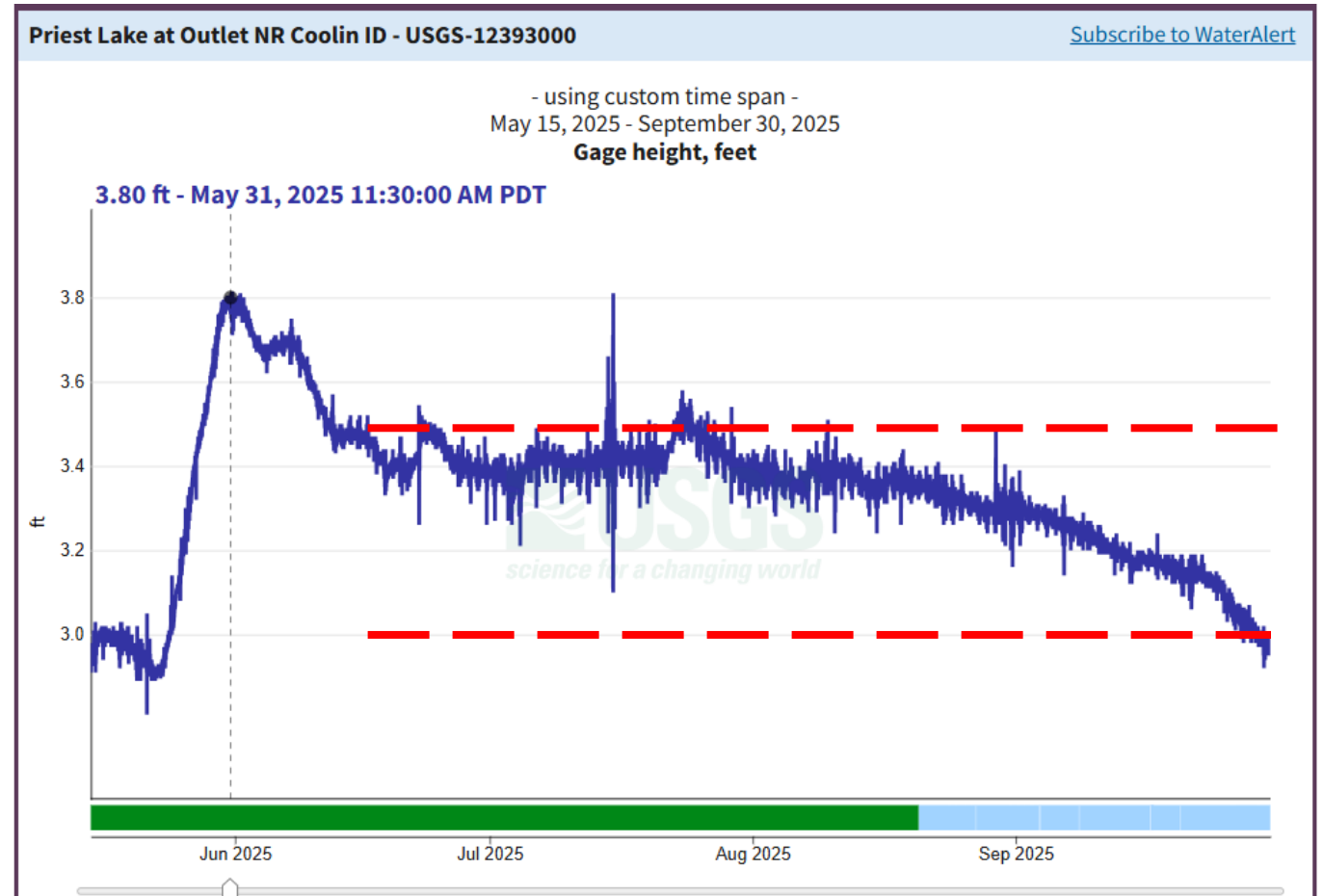
- Idaho Code §70-507
- Dry year
- Maintain pool 3.0'-3.5'
- Bring lake up to 3.0' by Memorial Day





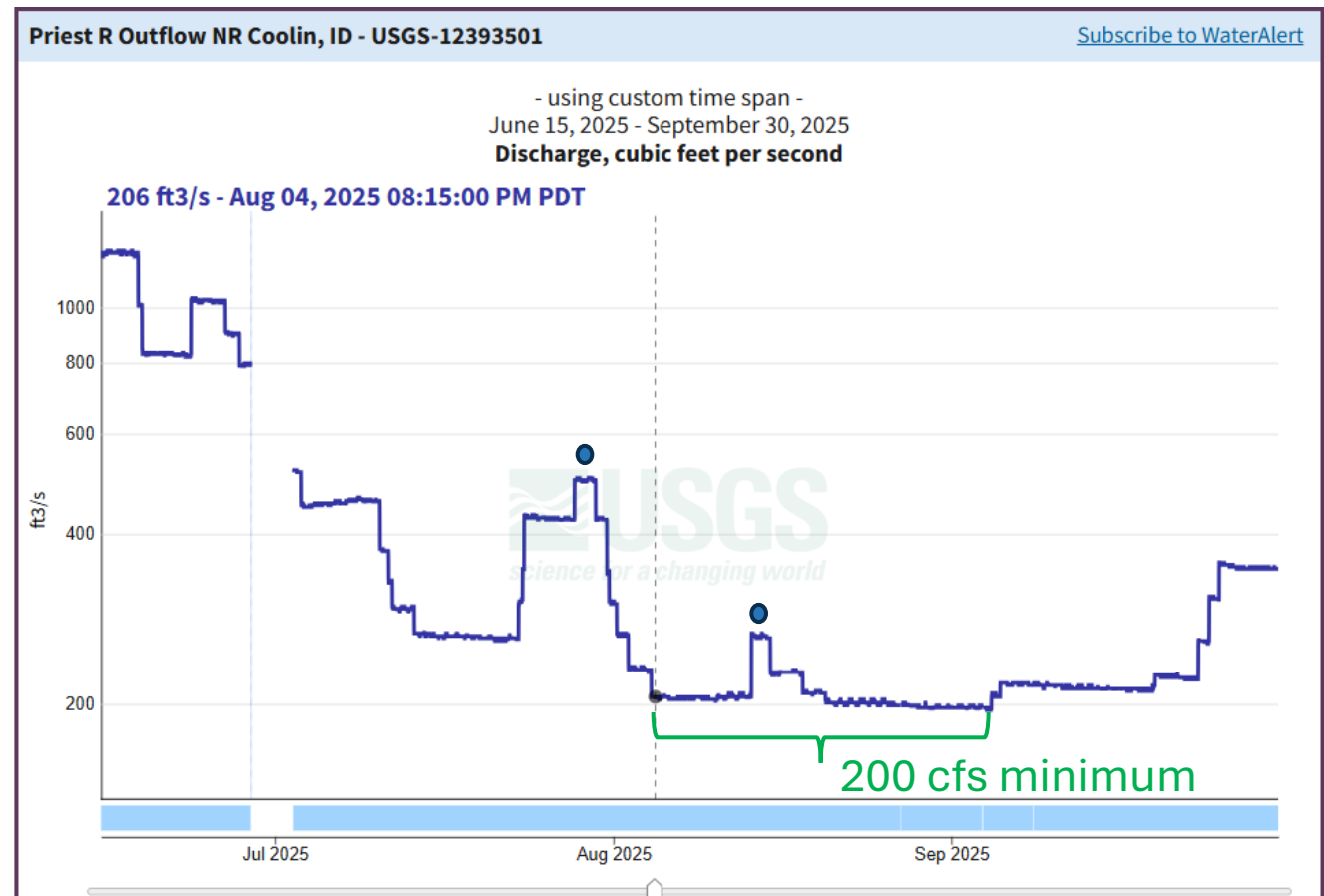
Lake Level – Recreation Season - 2025

- Peak: 3.8' May 31st
- Stabilized, 3.5' by June 15th
- 3.35' on August 4th
- 3.0' October 1st



Priest River – Recreation Season 2025

- Peak: 3,820 CFS May 30th
- 300 CFS July 31st
- 200 CFS Minimum flow
- Rain events





Evaluation – Recreation Season 2025

- Functioned as planned
- Sustained 200 cfs or more in Priest River through Sept. 30th
- Higher lake level early in the recreation season – 3.4’
- Rain helped





Lake Operations – Fall Drawdown

- Starting at 3.0' by 10/1
- Fall Drawdown 10/1 to 10/31
- 0.1' minimum per §70-507
- Complete by Nov. 1 for kokanee redds





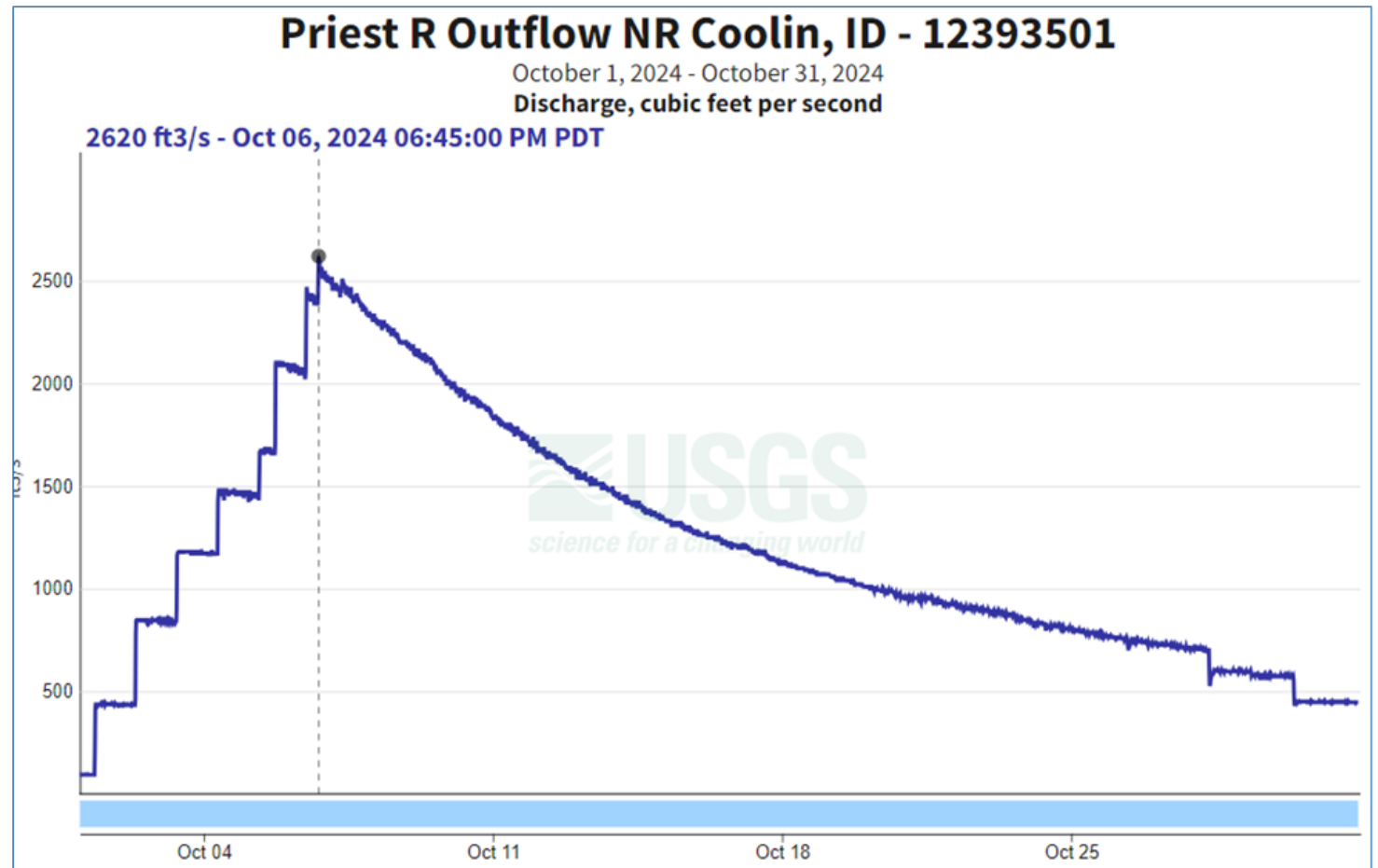
Fall Drawdown – Historic Practices

- Open the gates and drain the lake



Historic Practice - Fall Drawdown - 2024

- Increase the flow incrementally
- Peak flow 2600 cfs+





Fall Release Best Practices

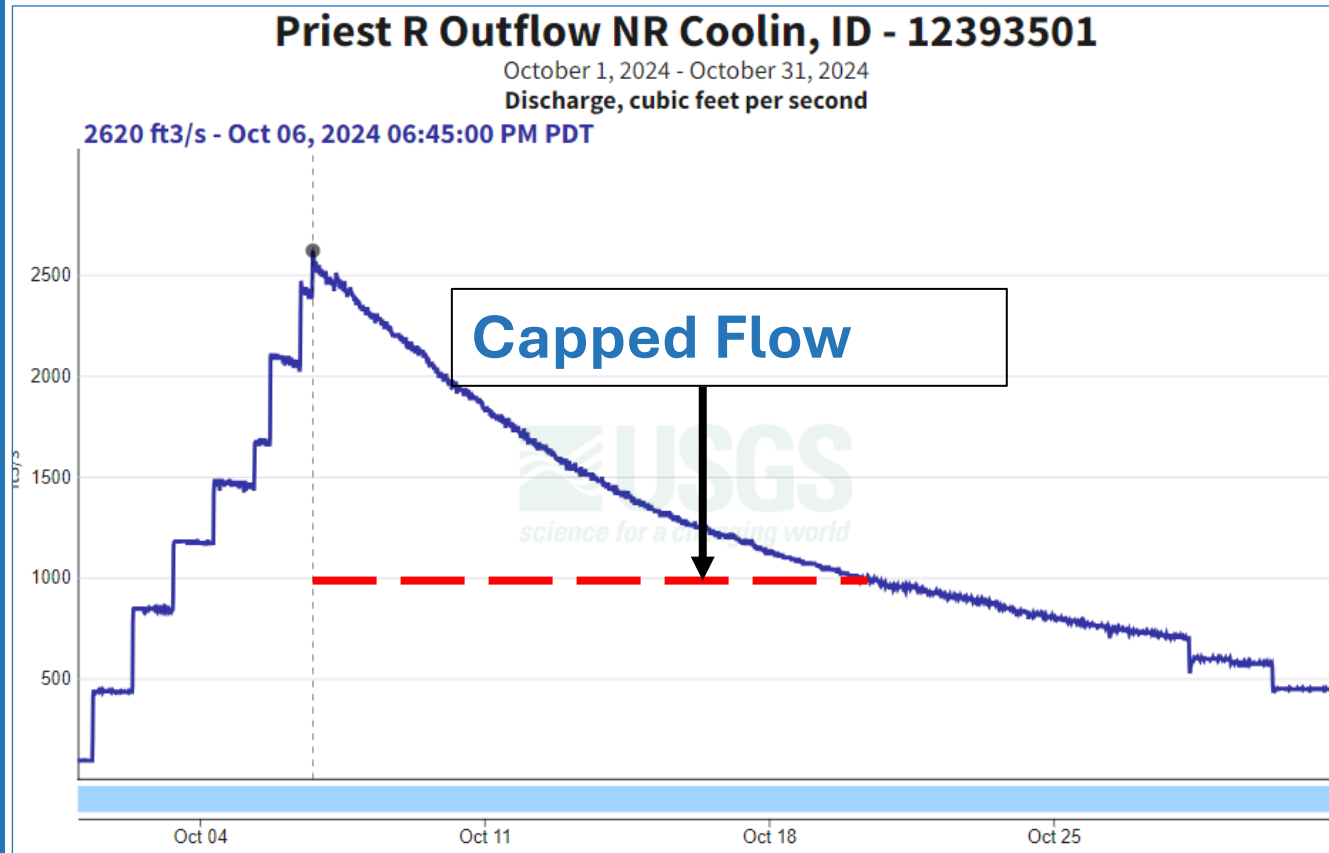
Priest R Outflow NR Coolin, ID - 12393501

October 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024

Discharge, cubic feet per second

2620 ft³/s - Oct 06, 2024 06:45:00 PM PDT

Capped Flow



- Capped flow
- Original announcement: cap the flow at 1000 cfs, 1.0' minimum lake level
- Priest River Basin Plan



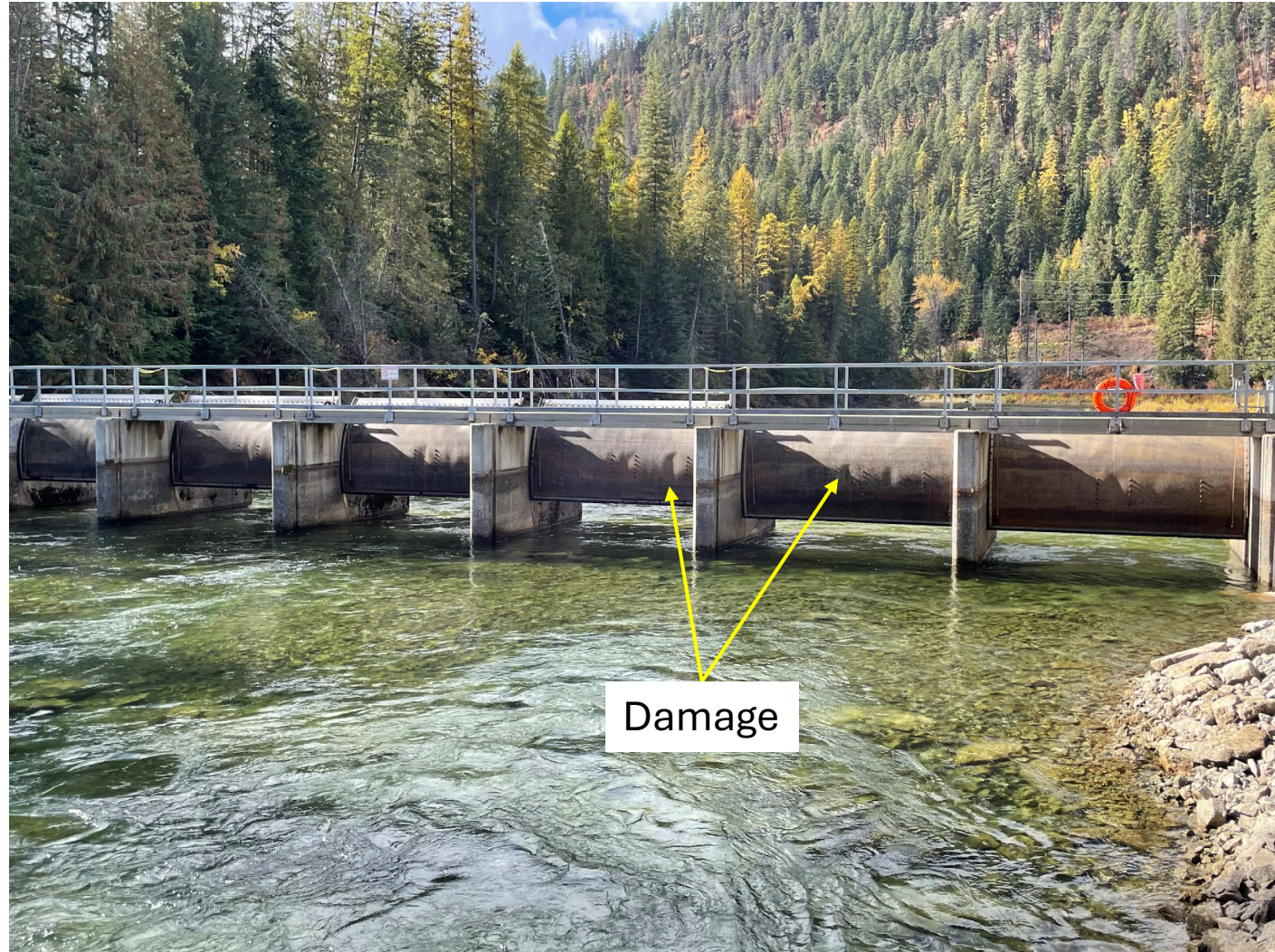
Fall Drawdown – Stakeholder Feedback

- Docks and infrastructure
- Floating debris
- Safety issues



Gate Damage

- Visible damage
- Revised 2025 target to bring minimum lake **below 1.0'**



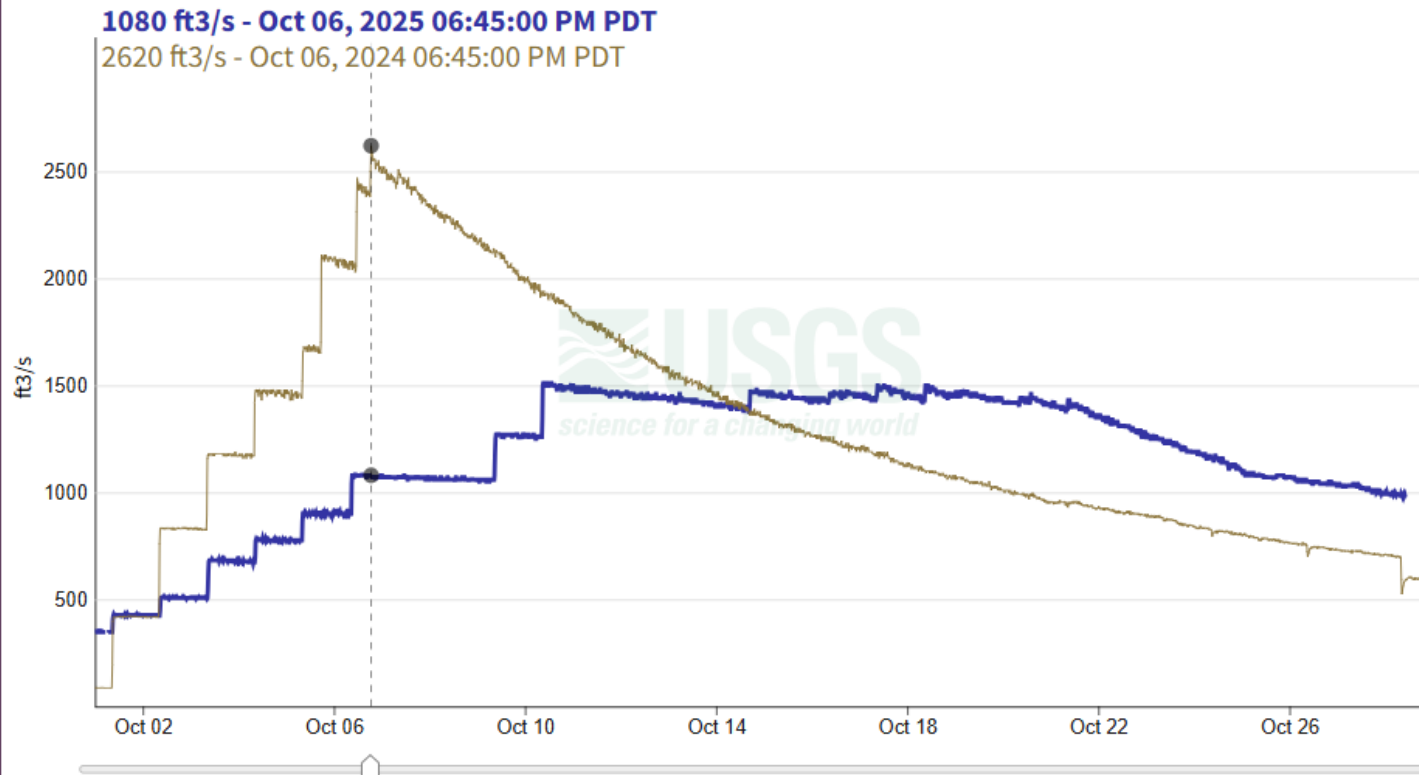


Fall Drawdown – Revised Cap on Flow

Priest R Outflow NR Coolin, ID - USGS-12393501

[Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

- using custom time span -
October 1, 2025 - October 28, 2025
Discharge, cubic feet per second



- 2024 and 2025 comparison
- 1000 cfs maximum
1.0' lake level
- 1500 cfs maximum
0.4' lake level
- Revised announcement
in September



Fall Drawdown – Lake Level Comparison

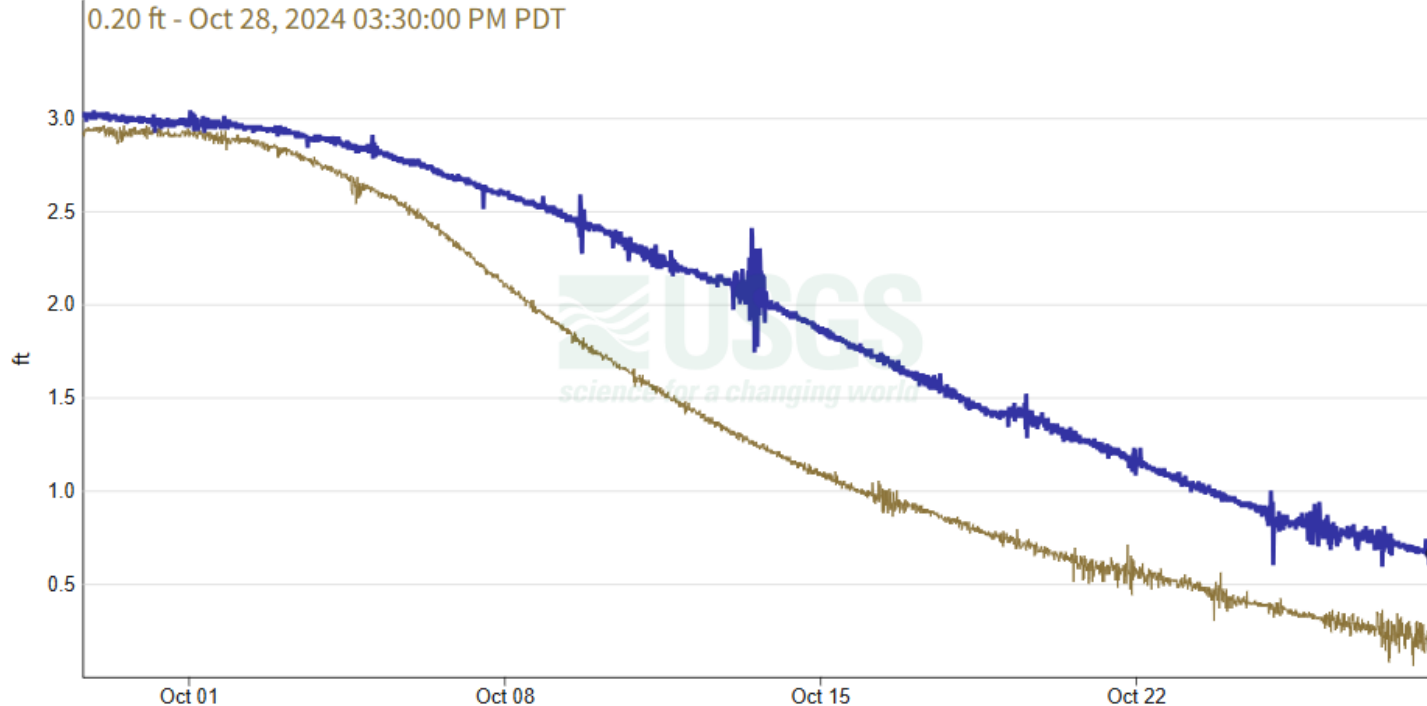
Priest Lake at Outlet NR Coolin ID - USGS-12393000

[Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

September 28, 2025 - October 28, 2025
Gage height, feet

0.66 ft - Oct 28, 2025 02:30:00 PM PDT

0.20 ft - Oct 28, 2024 03:30:00 PM PDT

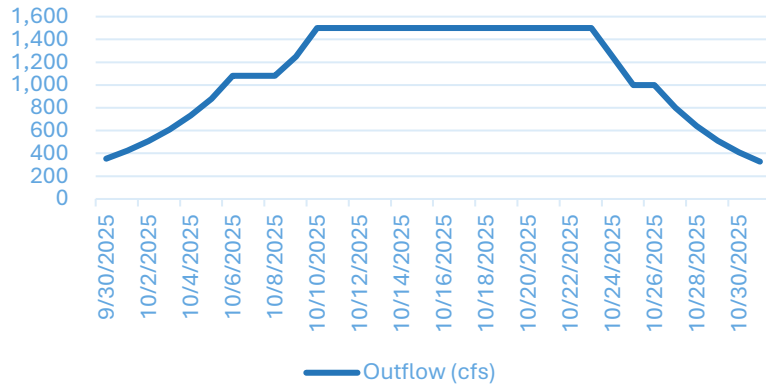


- 2024 and 2025 comparison
- Lake level 2.59' on Oct 8
- Extends recreation on the lake
- More gradual change in lake level
- Target 0.4' by November 1st

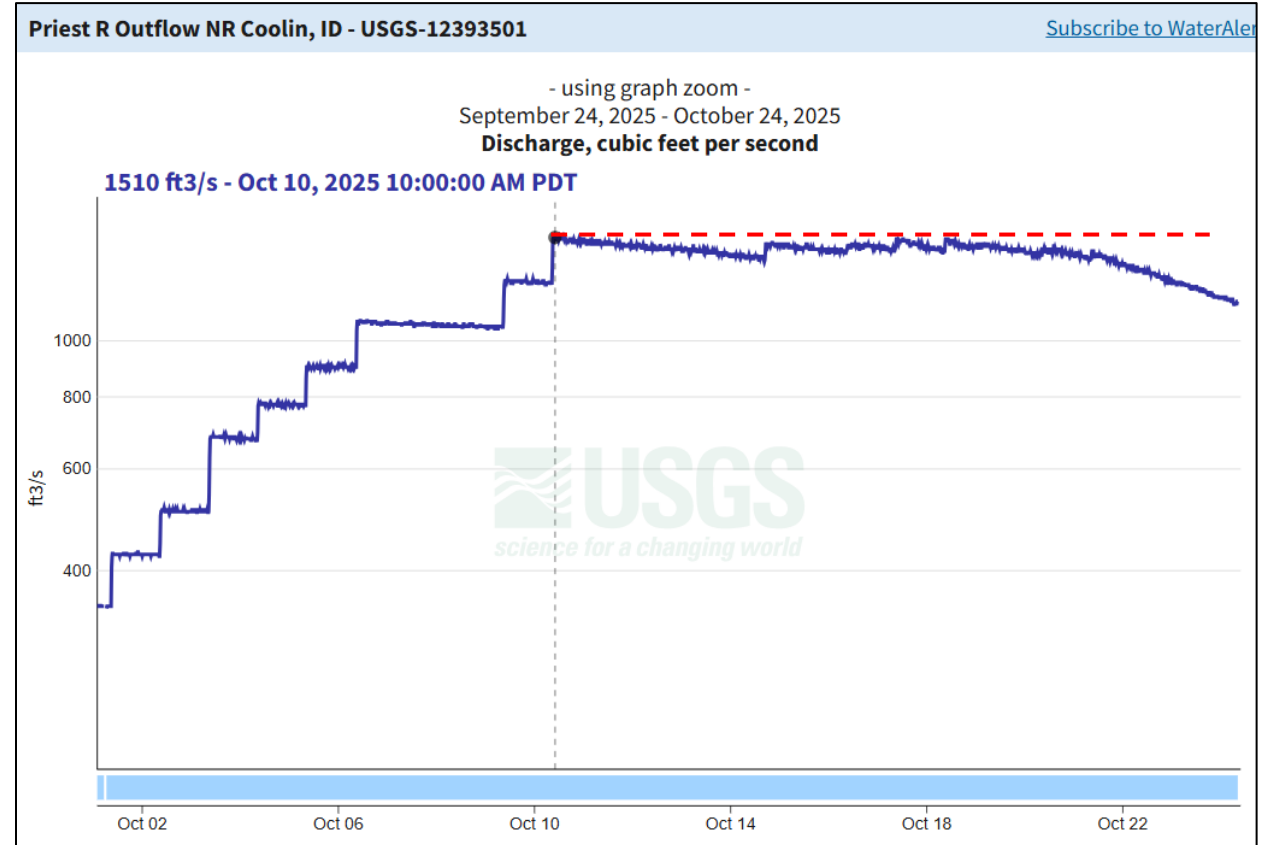


Benefits Current Drawdown Method Relative to Historic Practices

Priest Lake Drawdown



- Gradual more predictable lake level reduction
- Boats extra week on lake
- Almost 2 full weeks high flow river recreation
- Dam safety
- More natural drawdown. Better mimic nature.
- Less extreme flow rate in Priest River
 - Fish habitat
- Complete by Nov. 1st
 - Spawning fish





Best Practices

- 3.0'-3.5' dry summer
- Higher summer river flows
- Limit changes to 20% of flow
- Cap flow during drawdown
- Drawdown done by Nov. 1st
- Winter lake level $> 0.1'$





Stakeholder Feedback

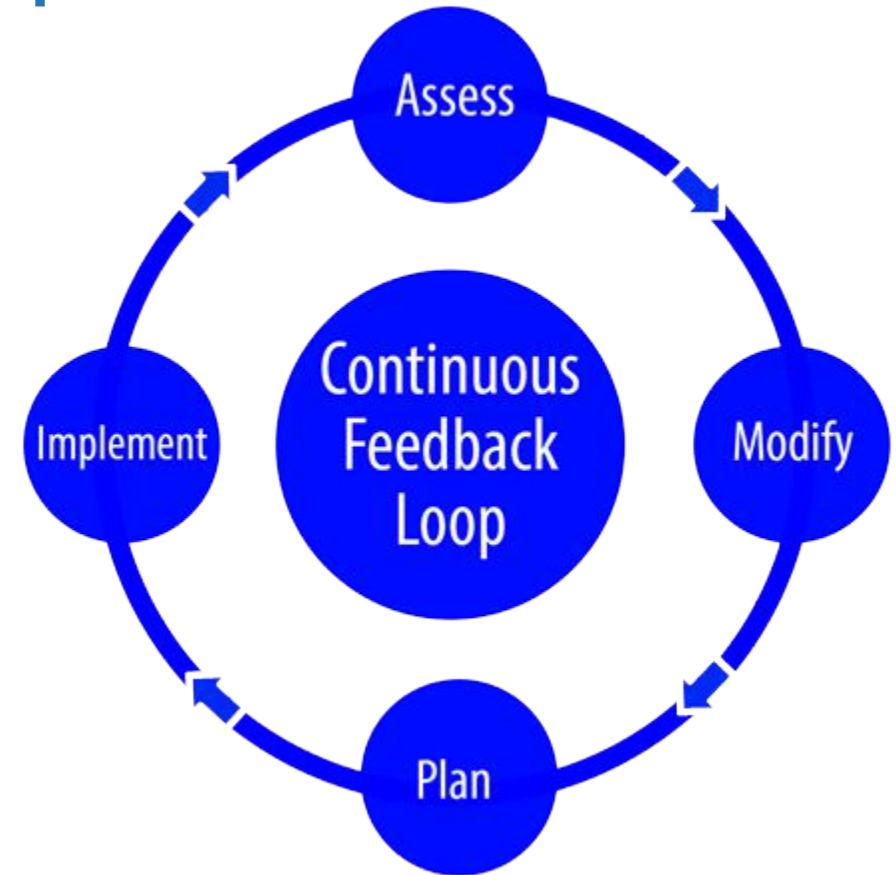
- IDFG
- Copper Bay Construction
- Elkins Resort
- Kayakers
- Inland Northwest Fishing Guys
- Lakes Commission
- Priest River Watershed Group
- Selkirk Conservation Alliance
- IDEQ
- IDOL

Lion Head Creek



Operations – Feedback Loop

- 2025 operations are the beginning of an iterative process
- Continue to gather feedback
- IWRB stakeholder meeting





Best Practices - Monitoring

- Monitor NOAA for Rain, Heat
- Monitor USGS stage & flow
- Monitor inflow - tributaries

Granite Creek looking downstream
at Reeder Bay Road crossing





Inflow Monitoring

- New monitoring sites
 - New staff gage on Granite Creek
 - New staff gage on Upper Priest River
 - New pressure transducer planned for Hunt Creek





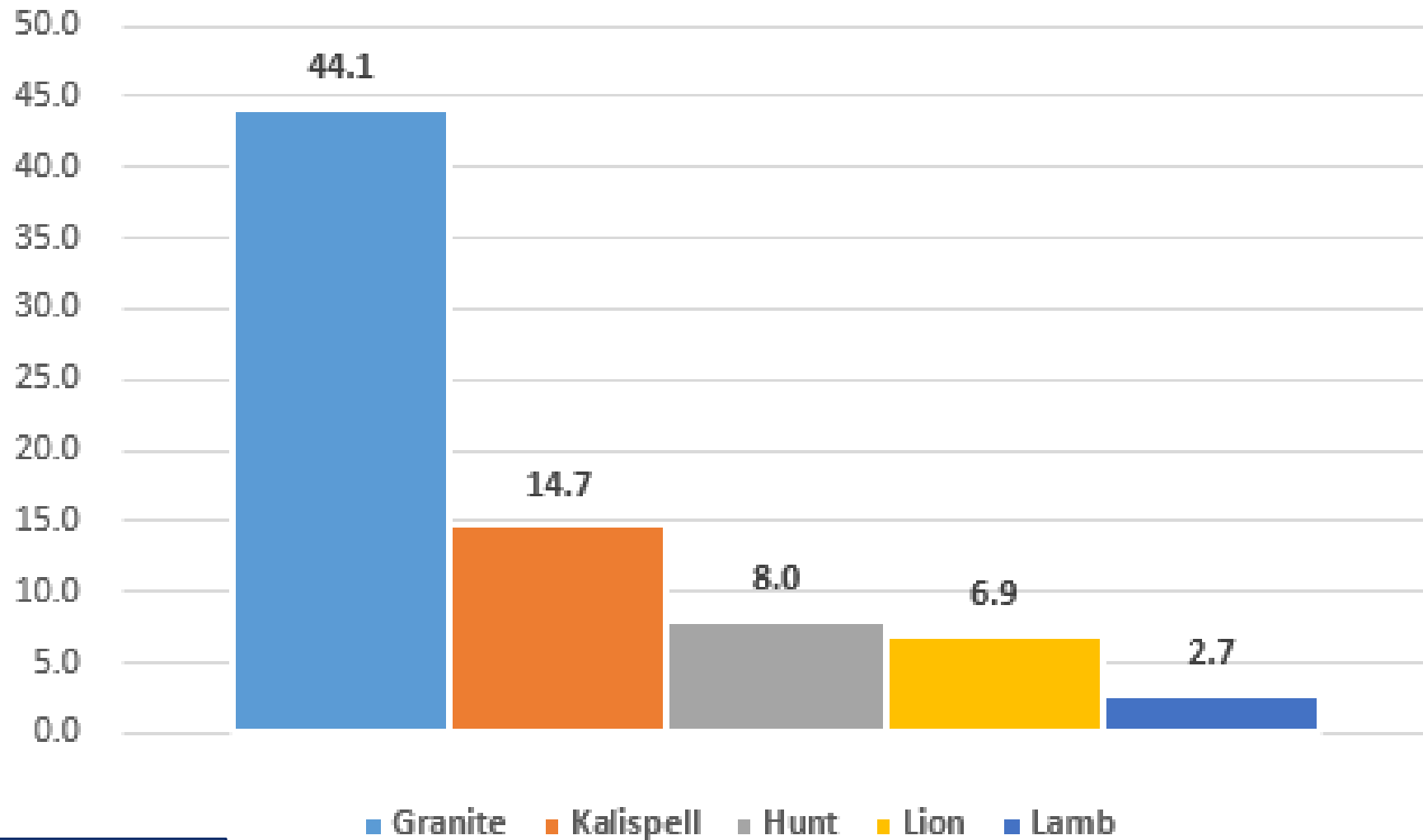
Tributary Inflow Measurements

- Difficult to manage gate operations without knowledge of tributary inflows, inflow quantities, and inflow timing

Hughes Fork just
South of Gold Creek
Road (NF-1013)



Inflow Measurements (CFS)



Upper Priest River into Upper Priest Lake: 30.7 CFS

Next Steps

- Stakeholder feedback
- Lessons learned
 - Iterative process
 - Applied to future operations
- 2026 operations
- IWRB meeting





IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Questions?

Michelle Richman

Bill Cresse

northerninfo@idwr.idaho.gov

208-762-2800



Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff

Date: November 14, 2025

Re: Langdon Group Recommendations Report – Evaluation of SWCC-IDWR merger.

ACTION: No action required

The Langdon Group will provide a briefing on their findings related to an Evaluation of a Soil and Water Conservation Commission / Idaho Department of Water Resources merger.

No Attachments



AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Board Meeting No. 14-25

Friday, November 21, 2025

Executive Session begins at 8:00 a.m. (MT) / 7:00 a.m. (PT)

Open Meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. (MT) / 8:00 a.m. (PT)

Water Center

Conference Rooms 602 B – D

322 E. Front Street

BOISE

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

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

1. Roll Call
2. Executive Session: Board will meet pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1) subsection (f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. Topic: Water Right No. 63-34753, AND pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1) subsection (d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure. Topic: South Fork Basin Plan. Closed to the public.
3. Public Comment
4. Financial Report
5. Water Management Account & Secondary Fund Spending Plans *
6. Aging Infrastructure Grant Awards *
7. Proposed State Water Plan & ESPA CAMP Changes *
8. American River Stream Channel Alteration Permits *
9. ESPA Recharge Program Update
10. Little Wood River Channel—City of Gooding Flood Control Project *
11. IWRB Recharge Water Right Non-Diversion Agreement *
12. Cloud Seeding Program Update
13. Upper Salmon L-6 annual Agreements Renewal *
14. Potential Legislation of Interest
15. Director's Report
16. 2026 Meeting Dates *
17. Non-Action Items for Discussion
18. Next Meeting & Adjourn

* 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 Act:** If you require special accommodation to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact the Department no later than five days before the meeting. To request an accommodation, please send an email to Megan.Jenkins@idwr.idaho.gov or call (208) 287-4800.

Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau
Date: November 17, 2025
Re: Financial Status Report

As of October 31, 2025, the IWRB's available and committed balances are as follows:

Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management & Implementation Fund:

Cash Balance	\$40,409,425
Committed	\$25,050,443
Uncommitted/Available Funds	\$15,358,982

Revolving Development Account:

Cash Balance	\$36,381,094
Committed Balance	\$24,485,588
Uncommitted Balance/Available Funds	\$11,895,506

Loan principal outstanding	\$23,010,596
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Water Management Account

Cash Balance	\$343,721,791
Total Committed Funds	\$346,069,553
Uncommitted Funds/Available Funds	\$2,347,762

ARPA

Appropriations

Received per HB 769 (2022)	\$100,000,000
Received per SB 1181 (2023)	\$24,497,544
Received per SB 1411 (2024)	\$75,502,456
<u>Pending per HB 248 (2025)</u>	<u>\$50,000,000</u>
Total	\$250,000,000

Total Obligated	\$259,990,833*
Expended	\$160,839,871
Remaining Committed Balance	\$99,150,962

**These projects have been authorized so that WMA or ARPA funds can be used for payment. Total ARPA cannot exceed \$250M*

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)

From: Cynthia Bridge Clark

Date: November 14, 2025

Re: Proposed Amendment No. 2 Water Manage Account Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Spending Plan



REQUIRED ACTION: Consider Finance Committee recommendations for additional amendments to the Amended FY 2026 Water Management Account spending plan.

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). Since 2019, the Idaho Legislature has appropriated a total of \$362.4 million to the IWRB's Water Management Account (WMA) to support water project development and water sustainability programs. 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 respectively 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 list of priority projects: Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List (RWSP Priority List). The IWRB also implements grant programs that target aging infrastructure, flood management, groundwater to surface water conversion projects, measurement and monitoring activities, and water delivery system efficiency.

IWRB Meeting:

The IWRB passed a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 spending plan for the WMA on May 23, 2025 (Resolution no. 19-2025) which incorporated the \$30 million ongoing appropriation authorized under House Bill 445, enacted during the 2025 legislative session. The plan was amended on September 12, 2025 (Resolution no. 34-2025) to reflect a three (3) percent reduction in FY 2026 General Fund Appropriations in accordance with Governor Little's Executive Order No. 2025-05 and other project funding commitments.

It has since been determined that the executive order will not apply to the FY 2026 WMA appropriations. On November 20, 2025, the Finance Committee will consider additional amendments to the plan to address new proposed funding obligations and reinstate the three percent reduction.

Staff will present Finance Committee recommendations for additional amendments to the Amended FY 2026 Water Management Account spending plan to the full IWRB on November 21, 2025.

Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)

From: Wesley Hipke

Date: November 12, 2025

Re: Proposed Amendment No. 2 to the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management & Implementation Fund – FY 2026 Budget - Resolution 35-2025

REQUIRED ACTION: Consider resolution to amend the amended FY 2026 Secondary Aquifer Fund Budget

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

The original FY26 Secondary Aquifer Fund budget (Budget) was approved in May of this year (Resolution 18-2025). The Budget was amended in September (Resolution 35-2025) to reflect a three percent decrease in General Fund Appropriations and changes to various line items reflecting reductions and additions to the original Budget. The proposed changes to the budget would add three percent to the general fund appropriations and add the additional funds (\$150,000) to the Reserve for Work in Other Priority Aquifers Total a change from \$598,135 to \$748,135.

The Finance Committee will meet on November 20th, 2025, to consider amending the approved Secondary Aquifer Fund FY26 budget. Committee recommendations will also be presented at the IWRB meeting.

Attachment:

- 1) Draft Resolution w/ Attachment A: Proposed Amendment 2 to the Secondary Aquifer Fund – FY 2026 Budget

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR
2026 BUDGET

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

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

12
13 WHEREAS, on May 23, 2025, the IWRB approved Resolution 18-2025 for the use of available funds
14 in the Secondary Aquifer Fund for statewide water sustainability and aquifer stabilization purposes for
15 Fiscal Year 2026; and

16
17 WHEREAS, on September 23, 2025, the IWRB approved Resolution 35-2025 amending Resolution
18 18-2025 to reflect a potential change in General Fund appropriations of available funds and changes in
19 specific line items of the Fiscal Year 2026 Secondary Aquifer Fund budget for statewide water
20 sustainability and aquifer stabilization purposes; and

21
22 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB amends the adopted Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
23 set forth in Resolution 35-2025 for the continuously-appropriated Secondary Aquifer Planning,
24 Management, and Implementation Fund as shown in Attachment A to this resolution.

25
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the budget may be adjusted, if necessary, based on the actual
27 amount of Cigarette Tax funds received, interest income received, or the actual amount of carry-over from
28 Fiscal Year 2025.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB may modify this budget during Fiscal Year 2026 at a
31 properly noticed meeting of the IWRB.
32

DATED this 21st day of November 2025.

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A:

FY2026 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE SECONDARY AQUIFER FUND

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

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

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

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

Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau
Date: November 14, 2025
Re: Aging Infrastructure Grant Scoring/Ranking – Round Six

Action: Consider funding resolution for AIG grant awards

The application period for the IWRB's sixth round of aging infrastructure funding closed in August 2025. The IWRB received 45 grant applications requesting approximately \$31.5 million in funding.

Key Elements of the Criteria

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. Projects that are already completed or underway by the application deadline are not eligible for this funding opportunity. Additionally, for purposes of this grant program, the term 'aging water infrastructure' does not include municipal drinking or wastewater systems.

- Grant Award Limit is \$2,000,000
- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed (50%) of total project costs.
- Water efficiency projects that reduce incidental recharge will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- 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.

Staff Recommendation

Staff have evaluated, scored and ranked the applications according to the criteria adopted by IWRB. Staff recommends the IWRB approve Aging Infrastructure Grant awards as specified in Attachment A included with the attached resolution.

Attachment(s):

Scoring with Seepage Reduction
Resolution w/Attachment A

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF AGING
INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

RESOLUTION TO AWARD FUNDS

1 WHEREAS, House Bill 769 and House Bill 361 passed and approved by the Idaho
2 Legislature appropriated to the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) Water Management
3 Account \$75,000,000 to be used for grants to improve aging water infrastructure; and
4

5 WHEREAS, in 2025 the IWRB adopted updated criteria for the award of Aging
6 Infrastructure grants (resolution no. 21-2025) and set an application deadline of August 1,
7 2025; and
8

9 WHEREAS, forty-five (45) aging Infrastructure grant applications were received by the
10 deadline and the applications were evaluated, scored and ranked according to the criteria
11 adopted by IWRB; and
12

13 WHEREAS, on November 20, 2025 the Finance Committee met and recommended the
14 IWRB approve Aging Infrastructure Grant awards as specified in the Attachment A included with
15 the resolution; and
16

17 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB approves the award of Aging
18 Infrastructure Grants from the Water Management Account as specified in Attachment A to this
19 resolution.
20

21 DATED this 21st day of November 2025.

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

2025 Aging Infrastructure Grant Applications			
Entity	District	Score	Funding Award
Aberdeen Springfield Canal Co.	4	109.8	\$ 670,647.00
AFRD2	3	109.3	\$ 2,000,000.00
District 45 Board of Control	3	108.8	\$ 999,900.00
Last Chance Canal Co.	4	105.0	\$ 487,000.00
Goose Creek FCD	3	103.8	\$ 1,849,231.16
Enterprize Canal Co.	4	102.5	\$ 181,297.50
Farmers Land and Irrigation Company	4	102.5	\$ 180,000.00
Teton Island Feeder Canal Co.	4	102.3	\$ 124,054.00
Dalton Gardens	1	101.3	\$ 1,404,500.00
Boise City Canal Co.	2	100.5	\$ 108,400.00
Southeast Idaho Canal Co.	4	100.0	\$ 221,415.00
Upper Wood River Water Users	3	99.8	\$ 200,000.00
Canyon Creek Canal Co. and FTR	4	98.0	\$ 2,000,000.00
LOID	1	96.5	\$ 2,000,000.00
King Hill Irrigation District	2	95.5	\$ 2,000,000.00
Consolidated Irrigation Co.	4	95.3	\$ 76,549.00
Squaw Creek Ditch Co.	2	95.3	\$ 535,400.00
Little Lost River Watershed Improvement District	3	95.0	\$ 40,475.00
Valley Soil and Water Conservation District	2	94.3	\$ 1,000,000.00
Trail Creek Irrigation Co.	4	92.3	\$ 62,397.00
Adams SWCD	2	91.5	\$ 89,430.00
TFCC Clover Highline phase 3 and 4	3	89.0	\$ 137,245.08
North Side Canal Co.	3	88.5	\$ 2,000,000.00
Eagleson Park Water User Association	2	87.5	\$ 19,000.00
Mountain Home Irrigation District	2	86.5	\$ 754,976.00
Henrys Fork GWD	4	84.3	\$ 781,797.42
Little Butte Irrigation Co.	4	84.0	\$ 15,303.00
Boise Project Board of Control	2	81.3	\$ 20,000.00
Boise Valley Irrigation Ditch Co.	2	78.8	\$ 95,794.00
City of Boise	2	76.5	\$ 109,444.00
BLRID Arco Diversion	3	73.8	\$ 350,000.00
Water District 65	2	72.3	\$ 100,261.00
BLRID Mackay Dam Sediment Removal	3	67.0	\$ 75,000.00
BLRID Beck Evans Canal Diversion Replacement	3	66.3	\$ 85,000.00
FMID	4	65.8	\$ 23,391.50
BLRID Swauger Diversion Replacement	3	63.5	\$ 12,500.00
Caribou Soil Conservation District	4	60.7	\$ 108,600.55
Total:			\$ 20,919,008.21

Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau
Date: November 14, 2025
Re: State Water Plan and ESPA CAMP proposed changes

Action: Consider resolution to adopt proposed changes to SWP and ESPA CAMP

Background

The Idaho Legislature in 2025 passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 110. The purpose of this resolution is to express legislative support for the November 15, 2024 settlement agreement between the members of the Surface Water Coalition and Ground Water Districts along the Eastern Snake Plain. The Resolution also expresses support for the ongoing efforts of the State of Idaho to address water supply challenges along the Eastern Snake plain and supports the Water Board's efforts to increase aquifer recharge goals from 250,000 acre feet to 350,000 acre feet.

Excerpt from SCR 110:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature supports the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports the Idaho Water Resource Board revising State Water Plan policies 4B, 4D, and 4E and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan to establish a state-funded ESPA managed recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis.

On July 11, 2025, the Water Resource Planning Committee (Committee) announced it was receiving public comments on staff proposed changes to the SWP and ESPA CAMP based on SCR 110 beginning on July 11th and continuing through September 30th. The Committee also announced public hearings to be held in Idaho Falls on July 23rd and Twin Falls on September 10th to receive oral testimony related to proposed changes to the SWP and ESPA CAMP.

Five public comments were received in total. Two written public comment letters were received, and three individuals provided oral testimony at the public hearings.

Summary of Public Comments			
	Name/Affiliation	Type of Comment	Category
1	ESPA Surface Water Coalition	Written 9-29-25	Support for new recharge goal. Include references to recent administrative developments on the ESPA
2	Elmore County	Written 9-9-25	Requests the IWRB update policies 4C (Reallocation of Trust Water), 4F (Agriculture), 4G (DCMI), and 4H (Hydropower) to recognize soft conversions within the Mountain Home Ground Water Management Area and Cinder Cone Butte Critical Ground Water Area using appropriated Snake River trust water as being in the public interest.
3	ESPA Surface Water Coalition – Travis Thompson	Oral testimony 9-10-25	Support for new recharge goal. Include references to recent administrative developments on the ESPA
4	Brian Murdock – farmer, water advocate	Oral testimony 9-10-25	Support for new recharge goal; Support for new storage projects including Anderson Ranch raise and Galloway project
5	Linda Lemmon – Hagerman Valley Water User, former CAMP Advisory Committee member	Oral testimony 9-10-25	Supports increase in recharge goal. Wishes it was larger. Concerned about spring declines since the CAMP was completed.

Staff discussed public comments with the Planning Committee and the Committee considered those public comments when developing proposed changes to the State Water Plan (SWP) and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP).

Attachment(s):

Draft SWP policies 4B, 4D, 4E proposed changes

Draft ESPA CAMP proposed changes

Draft Resolution

State Water Plan Proposed Changes

4B - SNAKE RIVER MILNER ZERO MINIMUM FLOW

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

Discussion:

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

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

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

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

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

average. Achieving the state-sponsored 350,000 acre-feet recharge goal may require development of additional managed recharge infrastructure. It is recognized that, given the variability of the water supply, this goal may be developed over time.

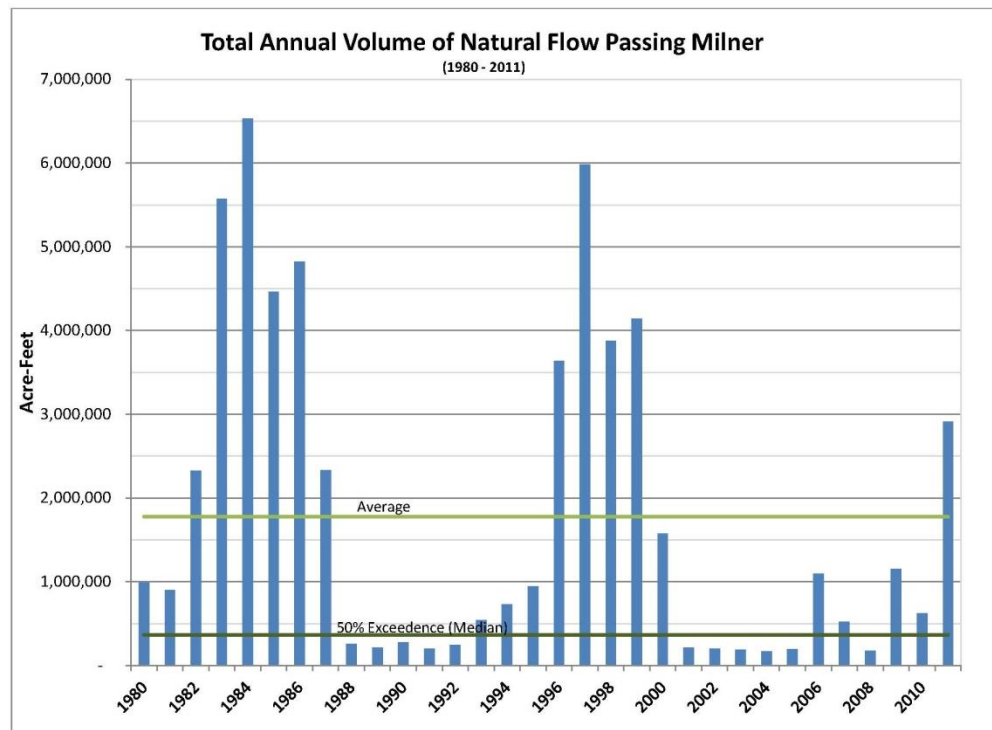


Figure 1 Total Annual Volume of Natural Flow Passing Milner Dam

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

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

Implementation Strategies:

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

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

Milestones:

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

4D - CONJUNCTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE ESPA AND SNAKE RIVER

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

Discussion:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Implementation Strategies:

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

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

Milestones:

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

4E - SNAKE RIVER BASIN NEW STORAGE

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

Discussion:

ESPA Managed Recharge Pilot program

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

Surface Water Projects

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

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

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

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

Henry’s Fork Project/Teton River Basins

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

Minidoka Dam Enlargement

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

Lower Boise River Interim Feasibility Study

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Implementation Strategies:

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

Milestones:

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

ESPA CAMP Proposed Changes

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Long-Term Hydrologic Goal

The Plan establishes a long-term goal of 600 kaf average annual change to the aquifer water budget with implementation occurring over a 20-year period. A 600 kaf water budget change is considered an appropriate long-term goal considering present and future water needs, hydrologic impacts, and cost. It is currently estimated that achieving the long-term 600 kaf goal will cost more than \$600 million. Full implementation of the long-term goal is dependent on many variables including water availability and funding. As such, specific actions will need to be developed by the Board after consideration of the recommendations submitted by the Implementation Committee. The Plan, by adopting a mix of

strategies, represents a balanced approach to modifying the water budget. Specifically, the Plan includes aquifer recharge, groundwater to surface water conversions, and demand reduction efforts. Careful consideration was given to the following factors in the development of the long-term goal:

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

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

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

Table 2 – Plan Hydrologic Targets

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

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

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CHANGES

1 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature in 2025 passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 110. The
2 purpose of this resolution is to express legislative support for the November 15, 2024 settlement
3 agreement between the members of the Surface Water Coalition and Ground Water Districts along
4 the Eastern Snake Plain; and
5

6 WHEREAS, SCR 110 directs the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to revise the Idaho State
7 Water Plan policies 4B, 4D, and 4E and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (ESPA
8 CAMP) to increase the goal of the state-funded ESPA managed recharge from 250,000 acre-feet to
9 350,000 acre-feet; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the IWRB, pursuant to its planning authorities in Article XV, Section 7 of the
12 Idaho Constitution, and Idaho Code 42-1734, 1734A, and 1734B developed proposed changes to
13 State Water Plan (SWP) policies 4B, 4D, and 4E, and the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA)
14 Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP); and
15

16 WHEREAS, as required under Idaho Code 42-1734A, the Board has sought substantial
17 public participation and comment on the proposed changes by providing a public comment
18 period greater than 60 days, including opportunity for submission of written comments and for
19 oral testimony at two public hearings; and
20

21 WHEREAS, on November 3, 2025 the IWRB's Planning Committee reviewed the record of
22 public comments consisting of oral testimony and written comments and considered the
23 comments when proposing the recommended changes to the SWP and ESPA CAMP; and.
24

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, having considered the proposed draft changes
26 to the SWP and ESPA CAMP and the record of public comments, the Board hereby adopts the
27 attached changes to SWP policies 4B, 4D, and 4E and the ESPA Management Plan (CAMP)
28 increasing the goal of the state-funded ESPA managed recharge from 250,000 acre-feet to
29 350,000 acre-feet; The Board directs that the adopted changes be submitted to the Idaho
30 Legislature as required by Idaho Constitution Article XV, Section 7 and Idaho Code 42-1734B(6)–
31 (7).
32

DATED this 21st day of November 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: November 14, 2025
Re: American River Stream Alternation Permit Approval

Action: Consider resolution to provide approval for projects to proceed

Background

The South Fork Basin Comprehensive Basin Plan ("Plan") was adopted by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) in 1994 and approved by the legislature in 1995. The plan designates from the headwaters of the American River to the confluence with the South Fork Clearwater as a Recreational River to protect the public interest, current resource use, and the multiple-use character of the basin.

The plan prohibits the following activities on all streams designated as recreational rivers:

- Construction or expansion of dams or impoundments;
- Construction of hydropower projects;
- Construction of diversion works;
- Dredge or placer mining (except where allowed through permit);
- Mineral or sand and gravel extraction within the stream channel;
- Alterations of the stream channel except for channel reconstruction projects provided with approval from the IWRB.

Proposed Alteration (Maushak Permit #S82-20206, Frantz Permit #S82-20207)

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) was notified of potential alterations to the American River in the summer of 2023. IDWR was unable to find any permit approvals for work along the American River. IDWR conducted a site inspection from public land in the summer of 2023 and confirmed Mr. and Mrs. Maushak and Mr. and Mrs. Frantz had altered the American River below the Mean High-Water Mark (MHWM). IDWR sent Notice of Violations to both property owners in early 2025 instructing the landowners to cease and desist any further work below the MHWM and to contact the Department to schedule a site inspection. IDWR conducted a site inspection in May 2025 and concluded work was done without permits. IDWR held separate compliance conferences with both parties, and each signed a Consent Order and Agreement (COA). A term of the COA was to submit a Joint Application for Permits that proposed a plan to remove all unauthorized material below the MHWM and restore the bed and banks of the American River. The restoration plan was required to incorporate bioengineering techniques, prioritizing the use of large wood, and minimize the use of rock. The disturbed areas were also to be heavily planted with native woody vegetation. Both

property owners have submitted plans to meet the terms of the COA, and we are continuing to refine the design to meet IDWR objectives as well as other Federal requirements.

IDWR Stream Channel Alternation staff have reviewed the proposed project and have indicated they will likely issue permits for these projects pending IWRB approval. IWRB staff recommend approval for these projects to proceed.

Attachment(s):

Stream Channel Permits S82-20206 and S82-20207
Resolution

JOINT APPLICATION FOR PERMITS

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES - IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

Authorities: The Department of Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) established a joint process for activities impacting jurisdictional waterways that require review and/or approval of both the Corps and State of Idaho. Department of Army permits are required by Section 10 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1899 for any structure(s) or work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States and by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States, including adjacent wetlands. State permits are required under the State of Idaho, Stream Protection Act (Title 42, Chapter 38, Idaho Code and Lake Protection Act (Section 58, Chapter 13 et seq., Idaho Code). In addition the information will be used to determine compliance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act by the appropriate State, Tribal or Federal entity.

Joint Application: Information provided on this application will be used in evaluating the proposed activities. Disclosure of requested information is voluntary. Failure to supply the requested information may delay processing and issuance of the appropriate permit or authorization. Applicant will need to send a completed application, along with one (1) set of legible, black and white (8½"x11"), reproducible drawings that illustrate the location and character of the proposed project / activities to both the Corps and the State of Idaho.

See *Instruction Guide* for assistance with Application. Accurate submission of requested information can prevent delays in reviewing and permitting your application. Drawings including vicinity maps, plan-view and section-view drawings must be submitted on 8-1/2 x 11 papers.

Do not start work until you have received all required permits from both the Corps and the State of Idaho

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY									
USACE NWW-		Date Received:		☐ Incomplete Application Returned		Date Returned:			
Idaho Department of Water Resources No.		Date Received:		☐ Fee Received DATE:		Receipt No.:			
Idaho Department of Lands No.		Date Received:		☐ Fee Received DATE:		Receipt No.:			
INCOMPLETE APPLICANTS MAY NOT BE PROCESSED									
1. CONTACT INFORMATION - APPLICANT Required:					2. CONTACT INFORMATION - AGENT:				
Name: Jesse & Michelle Maushak					Name:				
Company:					Company:				
Mailing Address: PO Box 268					Mailing Address:				
City: Grangeville		State: ID	Zip Code: 83530		City:		State:	Zip Code:	
Phone Number (include area code): 208-507-0991		E-mail: maushaks@gmail.com			Phone Number (include area code):		E-mail:		
3. PROJECT NAME or TITLE:					4. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS:				
5. PROJECT COUNTY: Idaho		6. PROJECT CITY: Elk City			7. PROJECT ZIP CODE: 83525		8. NEAREST WATERWAY/WATERBODY: American River		
9. TAX PARCEL ID#: RP02842000001AA		10. LATITUDE: 45.817390		11a. 1/4:		11b. 1/4:		11c. SECTION: 27	
		LONGITUDE: -115.458176				11d. TOWNSHIP: 29		11e. RANGE: 8E	
12a. ESTIMATED START DATE: 07/15/2025		12b. ESTIMATED END DATE: 08/15/2025			13a. IS PROJECT LOCATED WITHIN ESTABLISHED TRIBAL RESERVATION BOUNDARIES? ☒ NO ☐ YES Tribe:				
13b. IS PROJECT LOCATED IN LISTED ESA AREA? ☒ NO ☒ YES					13c. IS PROJECT LOCATED ON/NEAR HISTORICAL SITE? ☒ NO ☐ YES				
14. DIRECTIONS TO PROJECT SITE: Include vicinity map with legible crossroads, street numbers, names, landmarks. From Highway 14 past mile marker 48, turn east on Rivers Edge, 1st driveway on the right									
15. PURPOSE and NEED: ☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Other Describe the reason or purpose of your project; include a brief description of the overall project. Continue to Block 16 to detail each work activity and overall project. Stabilize the bank									

16. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EACH ACTIVITY WITHIN OVERALL PROJECT. Specifically indicate portions that take place within waters of the United States, including wetlands: Include dimensions; equipment, construction, methods; erosion, sediment and turbidity controls; hydrological changes: general stream/surface water flows, estimated winter/summer flows; borrow sources, disposal locations etc.:

1. Remove existing rock that has settled below the water line. If some of the existing rocks are settled deep enough those could be used to create and build a "Toe" to off of.
2. Install a large log for the rest of it to start building off of.
3. Slope bank back to a gradual angle. The material from the slope will be piled for landscpaing away from the stream on other parts of the property.
4. Dig in an angled rock toe at the head of the wall.
5. Stack rocks back on top of the newly created bank using recomended sizing specs as per examples provided.
6. Plant native tree and shrub species between newly placed rocks.

17. DESCRIBE ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED to AVOID or MEASURES TAKEN to MINIMIZE and/ or COMPENSATE for IMPACTS to WATERS of the UNITED STATES, INCLUDING WETLANDS: See Instruction Guide for specific details.

After "toes" are placed the rest of the work will be above the high water mark. The material removed will be placed far away enough from the stream to ensure additional erosion doesn't occur. The machines used will be inspected for leaks prior to work and during the process. Only the bucket of the machine will be in the water throughout the repairs, we will make sure no debris is on the bucket before entering the water.

18. PROPOSED MITIGATION STATEMENT or PLAN: If you believe a mitigation plan is not needed, provide a statement and your reasoning why a mitigation plan is NOT required. Or, attach a copy of your proposed mitigation plan.

We intend to follow the guidelines discussed with IDWR and Cass Jones. We will start and complete the work in the recommended time slot to ensure water is at its lowest level and the fish species of concern are not present.

19. TYPE and QUANTITY of MATERIAL(S) to be discharged below the ordinary high water mark and/or wetlands:

Dirt or Topsoil: _____ 0 cubic yards
Dredged Material: _____ 0 cubic yards
Clean Sand: _____ 0 cubic yards
Clay: _____ 0 cubic yards
Gravel, Rock, or Stone: _____ 50 cubic yards
Concrete: _____ 0 cubic yards
Other (describe): _____ : _____ cubic yards
Other (describe): _____ : _____ cubic yards

TOTAL: _____ 50 cubic yards

20. TYPE and QUANTITY of impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands:

Filling: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Backfill & Bedding: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Land Clearing: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Dredging: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Flooding: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Excavation: _____ acres _____ 1000 sq ft. _____ 100 cubic yards
Draining: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Other: WW Logs _____ : _____ acres _____ 150 sq ft. _____ cubic yards

TOTALS: _____ acres _____ 1150 sq ft. _____ 100 cubic yards

21. HAVE ANY WORK ACTIVITIES STARTED ON THIS PROJECT? ☐ NO ☒ YES If yes, describe ALL work that has occurred including dates. Rock bank was placed above high water mark and have since eroded below the high water mark and slid below the water line.				
22. LIST ALL PREVIOUSLY ISSUED PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS:				
23. ☐ YES, Alteration(s) are located on Public Trust Lands, Administered by Idaho Department of Lands				
24. SIZE AND FLOW CAPACITY OF BRIDGE/CULVERT and DRAINAGE AREA SERVED: _____ Square Miles				
25. IS PROJECT LOCATED IN A MAPPED FLOODWAY? ☒ NO ☐ YES If yes, contact the floodplain administrator in the local government jurisdiction in which the project is located. A Floodplain Development permit and a No-rise Certification may be required.				
26a. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Pursuant to the Clean Water Act, anyone who wishes to discharge dredge or fill material into the waters of the United States, either on private or public property, must obtain a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the appropriate water quality certifying government entity. <u>See Instruction Guide for further clarification and all contact information.</u> The following information is requested by IDEQ and/or EPA concerning the proposed impacts to water quality and anti-degradation: ☒ NO ☐ YES Is applicant willing to assume that the affected waterbody is high quality? ☒ NO ☐ YES Does applicant have water quality data relevant to determining whether the affected waterbody is high quality or not? ☒ NO ☐ YES Is the applicant willing to collect the data needed to determine whether the affected waterbody is high quality or not?				
26b. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP's): List the Best Management Practices and describe these practices that you will use to minimize impacts on water quality and anti-degradation of water quality. All feasible alternatives should be considered - treatment or otherwise. Select an alternative which will minimize degrading water quality Work below high water mark will only be done if deemed necessary to ensure a stable toe foundation to start new work from.				
Through the 401 Certification process, water quality certification will stipulate minimum management practices needed to prevent degradation.				
27. LIST EACH IMPACT to stream, river, lake, reservoir, including shoreline: Attach site map with each impact location.				
Activity	Name of Water Body	Intermittent Perennial	Description of Impact and Dimensions	Impact Length Linear Feet
Bank disturbance	AmericanRiver		6x75 feet	75
TOTAL STREAM IMPACTS (Linear Feet):				75
28. LIST EACH WETLAND IMPACT include mechanized clearing, fill excavation, flood, drainage, etc. Attach site map with each impact location.				
Activity	Wetland Type: Emergent, Forested, Scrub/Shrub	Distance to Water Body (linear ft)	Description of Impact Purpose: road crossing, compound, culvert, etc.	Impact Length (acres, square ft linear ft)
TOTAL WETLAND IMPACTS (Square Feet):				

29. ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS NOTIFICATION REQUIREM: Provide contact information of ALL adjacent property owners below.

Name: Brett Frantz Mailing Address: PO Box 276 City:State:Zip Code: Elk CityID83525 Phone Number (include area code):E-mail:	Name: Lyle Rowan Mailing Address: 241 Poor Farm Rd City:State:Zip Code: GrangevilleID83530 Phone Number (include area code):E-mail:
Name: Mailing Address: City:State:Zip Code: Phone Number (include area code):E-mail:	Name: Mailing Address: City:State:Zip Code: Phone Number (include area code):E-mail:
Name: Mailing Address: City:State:Zip Code: Phone Number (include area code):E-mail:	Name: Mailing Address: City:State:Zip Code: Phone Number (include area code):E-mail:
Name: Mailing Address: City:State:Zip Code: Phone Number (include area code):E-mail:	Name: Mailing Address: City:State:Zip Code: Phone Number (include area code):E-mail:

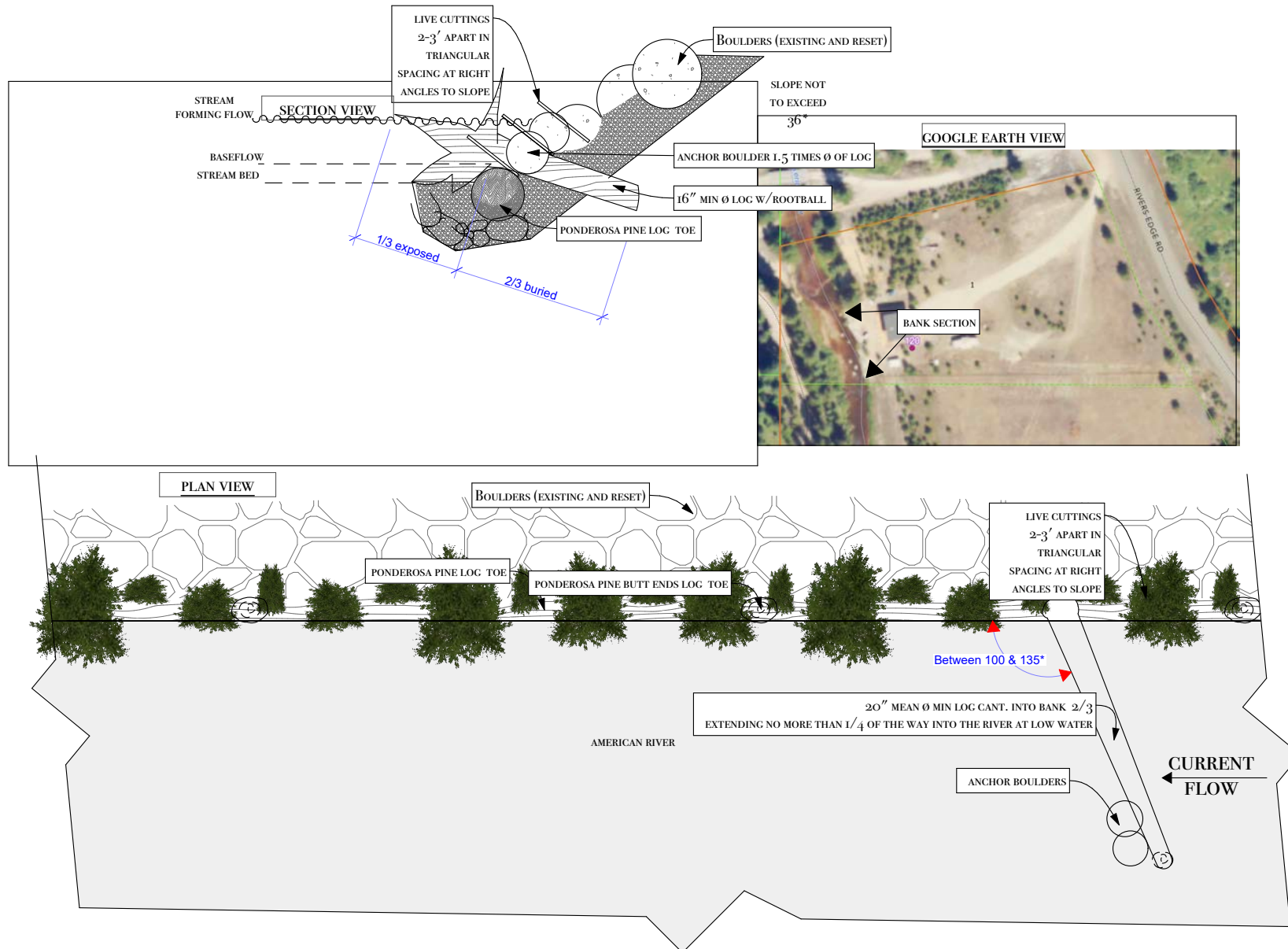
30. SIGNATURES: STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZAZION / CERTIFICATION OF AGENT / ACCESS

Application is hereby made for permit, or permits, to authorize the work described in this application and all supporting documentation. I certify that the information in this application is complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein; or am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant (Block 2). I hereby grant the agencies to which this application is made, the right to access/come upon the above-described location(s) to inspect the proposed and completed work/activities.

Signature of Applicant: Jesse Maushak Date: 4/29/2025

Signature of Agent: _____ Date: _____

This application must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity AND signed by a duly authorized agent (see Block 1, 2, 30). Further, 18 USC Section 1001 provides that: *"Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both".*



JOINT APPLICATION FOR PERMITS

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES - IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

Authorities: The Department of Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) established a joint process for activities impacting jurisdictional waterways that require review and/or approval of both the Corps and State of Idaho. Department of Army permits are required by Section 10 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1899 for any structure(s) or work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States and by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States, including adjacent wetlands. State permits are required under the State of Idaho, Stream Protection Act (Title 42, Chapter 38, Idaho Code and Lake Protection Act (Section 58, Chapter 13 et seq., Idaho Code). In addition the information will be used to determine compliance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act by the appropriate State, Tribal or Federal entity.

Joint Application: Information provided on this application will be used in evaluating the proposed activities. Disclosure of requested information is voluntary. Failure to supply the requested information may delay processing and issuance of the appropriate permit or authorization. **Applicant will need to send a completed application, along with one (1) set of legible, black and white (8 1/2"x11"), reproducible drawings that illustrate the location and character of the proposed project / activities to both the Corps and the State of Idaho.**

See Instruction Guide for assistance with Application. Accurate submission of requested information can prevent delays in reviewing and permitting your application. Drawings including vicinity maps, plan-view and section-view drawings must be submitted on 8-1/2 x 11 papers.

Do not start work until you have received all required permits from both the Corps and the State of Idaho

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

USACE NWW-	Date Received:	☐ Incomplete Application Returned	Date Returned:
Idaho Department of Water Resources No. 582-20207	Date Received: 4.8.25	☐ Fee Received DATE: 4.8.25	Receipt No.: C120739
Idaho Department of Lands No.	Date Received:	☐ Fee Received DATE:	Receipt No.:

INCOMPLETE APPLICANTS MAY NOT BE PROCESSED

1. CONTACT INFORMATION - APPLICANT Required:		2. CONTACT INFORMATION - AGENT:	
Name: Brett Frantz		Name: RECEIVED	
Company:		Company: APR 08 2025	
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 276		Mailing Address: DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES	
City: EIK City	State: ID	Zip Code: 83525	
Phone Number (include area code): 208-842-2616	E-mail: bpgfrantz@hotmail	Phone Number (include area code):	E-mail:
3. PROJECT NAME or TITLE: 134 American River		4. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS: 134 Rivers Edge Rd	
5. PROJECT COUNTY: Idaho	6. PROJECT CITY: EIK City	7. PROJECT ZIP CODE: 83525	8. NEAREST WATERWAY/WATERBODY: American River
9. TAX PARCEL ID#: RP02842000003AA	10. LATITUDE: 45.8 LONGITUDE: -115.1337	11a. 1/4: 27	11b. 1/4: 34
12a. ESTIMATED START DATE: JUNE 2025	12b. ESTIMATED END DATE: Nov. 2025	11c. SECTION: 27	11d. TOWNSHIP: 29
13b. IS PROJECT LOCATED IN LISTED ESA AREA? ☒ NO ☐ YES		13c. IS PROJECT LOCATED ON/NEAR HISTORICAL SITE? ☒ NO ☐ YES	

14. DIRECTIONS TO PROJECT SITE: Include vicinity map with legible crossroads, street numbers, names, landmarks.
First Right after mile marker 48 on Hwy 14 which is Rivers Edge Road. Second house on Right side of Road, Green house Red Metal Roof.

15. PURPOSE and NEED: ☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Other

Describe the reason or purpose of your project; include a brief description of the overall project. Continue to Block 16 to detail each work activity and overall project.
Reason For Work was to stop bank erosion. And have access to River.

16. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EACH ACTIVITY WITHIN OVERALL PROJECT. Specifically indicate portions that take place within waters of the United States, including wetlands: Include dimensions; equipment, construction, methods; erosion, sediment and turbidity controls; hydrological changes: general stream/surface water flows, estimated winter/summer flows; borrow sources, disposal locations etc.:

Removed old dredge tailing of sand, rock and gravel. Also old Road embankment. Used Track hoe to remove. Angled slope back 45' and Installed boulders. Terraced for Steps.

17. DESCRIBE ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED to AVOID or MEASURES TAKEN to MINIMIZE and/ or COMPENSATE for IMPACTS to WATERS of the UNITED STATES, INCLUDING WETLANDS: See Instruction Guide for specific details.

Stayed away from OHWM with equipment and Rip Rap Rocks 5' feet. Equipment never touch River or vegetation.

18. PROPOSED MITIGATION STATEMENT or PLAN: If you believe a mitigation plan is not needed, provide a statement and your reasoning why a mitigation plan is NOT required. Or, attach a copy of your proposed mitigation plan.

19. TYPE and QUANTITY of MATERIAL(S) to be discharged below the ordinary high water mark and/or wetlands:

Dirt or Topsoil: _____ cubic yards
Dredged Material: _____ cubic yards
Clean Sand: _____ cubic yards
Clay: _____ cubic yards
Gravel, Rock, or Stone: 3 cubic yards
Concrete: _____ cubic yards
Other (describe): _____ : _____ cubic yards
Other (describe): _____ : _____ cubic yards

TOTAL: _____ cubic yards

20. TYPE and QUANTITY of impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands:

Filling: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Backfill & Bedding: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Land Clearing: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Dredging: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Flooding: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Excavation: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Draining: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards
Other: _____ : _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards

TOTALS: _____ acres _____ sq ft. _____ cubic yards

21. HAVE ANY WORK ACTIVITIES STARTED ON THIS PROJECT? ☐ NO ☒ YES If yes, describe ALL work that has occurred including dates.
Improvement to bank on East side. Place Rocks to Stop erosion of bank. 8/22 Placed Rocks

22. LIST ALL PREVIOUSLY ISSUED PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS:

23. ☐ YES, Alteration(s) are located on Public Trust Lands, Administered by Idaho Department of Lands

24. SIZE AND FLOW CAPACITY OF BRIDGE/CULVERT and DRAINAGE AREA SERVED: _____ Square Miles

25. IS PROJECT LOCATED IN A MAPPED FLOODWAY? ☐ NO ☐ YES If yes, contact the floodplain administrator in the local government jurisdiction in which the project is located. A Floodplain Development permit and a No-rise Certification may be required.

26a. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Pursuant to the Clean Water Act, anyone who wishes to discharge dredge or fill material into the waters of the United States, either on private or public property, must obtain a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the appropriate water quality certifying government entity.
See Instruction Guide for further clarification and all contact information.

The following information is requested by IDEQ and/or EPA concerning the proposed impacts to water quality and anti-degradation:

☐ NO ☒ YES Is applicant willing to assume that the affected waterbody is high quality?
☒ NO ☐ YES Does applicant have water quality data relevant to determining whether the affected waterbody is high quality or not?
☒ NO ☐ YES Is the applicant willing to collect the data needed to determine whether the affected waterbody is high quality or not?

26b. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP's): List the Best Management Practices and describe these practices that you will use to minimize impacts on water quality and anti-degradation of water quality. All feasible alternatives should be considered - treatment or otherwise. Select an alternative which will minimize degrading water quality
Will be done during summer flows 7/15 - 8/15

Through the 401 Certification process, water quality certification will stipulate minimum management practices needed to prevent degradation.

27. LIST EACH IMPACT to stream, river, lake, reservoir, including shoreline: Attach site map with each impact location.

Activity	Name of Water Body	Intermittent Perennial	Description of Impact and Dimensions	Impact Length Linear Feet
<i>rip rap</i>	<i>American River</i>	<i>P.</i>	<i>17-feet of rip rap</i>	<i>17-feet</i>
TOTAL STREAM IMPACTS (Linear Feet):				

28. LIST EACH WETLAND IMPACT include mechanized clearing, fill, excavation, flood, drainage, etc. Attach site map with each impact location.

Activity	Wetland Type: Emergent, Forested, Scrub/Shrub	Distance to Water Body (linear ft)	Description of Impact Purpose: road crossing, compound, culvert, etc.	Impact Length (acres, square ft linear ft)
TOTAL WETLAND IMPACTS (Square Feet):				

29. ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT: Provide contact information of ALL adjacent property owners below.

Name: <u>Jessie Maushak</u> Mailing Address: <u>120 Rivers Edge Rd.</u> City: <u>Eik City</u> State: <u>ID</u> Zip Code: <u>83525</u> Phone Number (include area code): <u>360-319-1067</u> E-mail: _____	Name: <u>BRAD Blackburn</u> Mailing Address: <u>164 Rivers Edge Rd.</u> City: <u>Eik City</u> State: <u>ID</u> Zip Code: <u>83525</u> Phone Number (include area code): <u>509-301-5355</u> E-mail: _____
Name: <u>BLM</u> Mailing Address: _____ City: <u>Boise</u> State: <u>ID</u> Zip Code: _____ Phone Number (include area code): _____ E-mail: _____	Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone Number (include area code): _____ E-mail: _____
Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone Number (include area code): _____ E-mail: _____	Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone Number (include area code): _____ E-mail: _____
Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone Number (include area code): _____ E-mail: _____	Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone Number (include area code): _____ E-mail: _____

30. SIGNATURES: STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION / CERTIFICATION OF AGENT / ACCESS

Application is hereby made for permit, or permits, to authorize the work described in this application and all supporting documentation. I certify that the information in this application is complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein; or am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant (Block 2). I hereby grant the agencies to which this application is made, the right to access/come upon the above-described location(s) to inspect the proposed and completed work/activities.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: 4/2/25

Signature of Agent: _____

Date: _____

This application must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity AND signed by a duly authorized agent (see Block 1, 2, 30). Further, 18 USC Section 1001 provides that: "Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both".

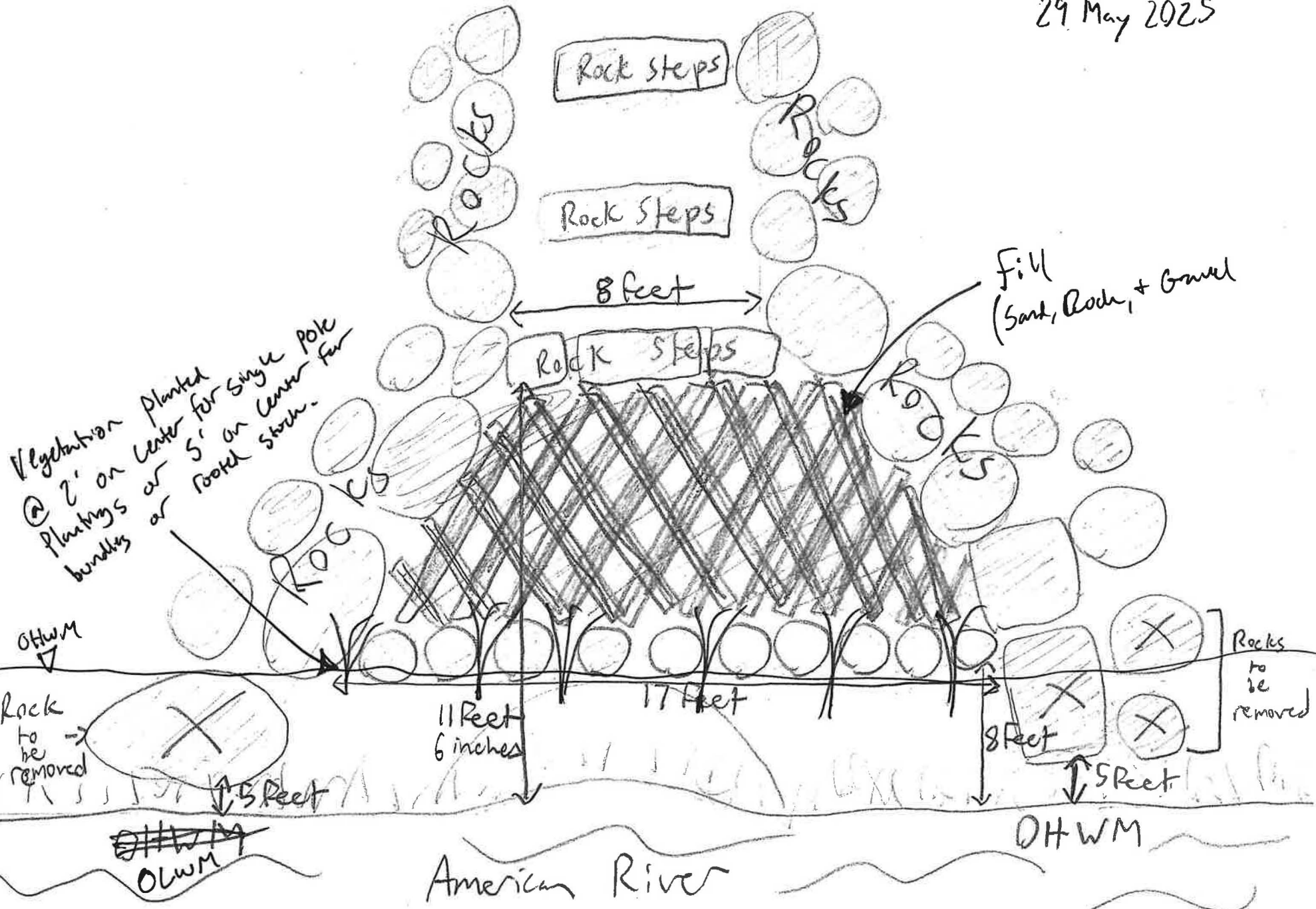
11% grading from steps back to river

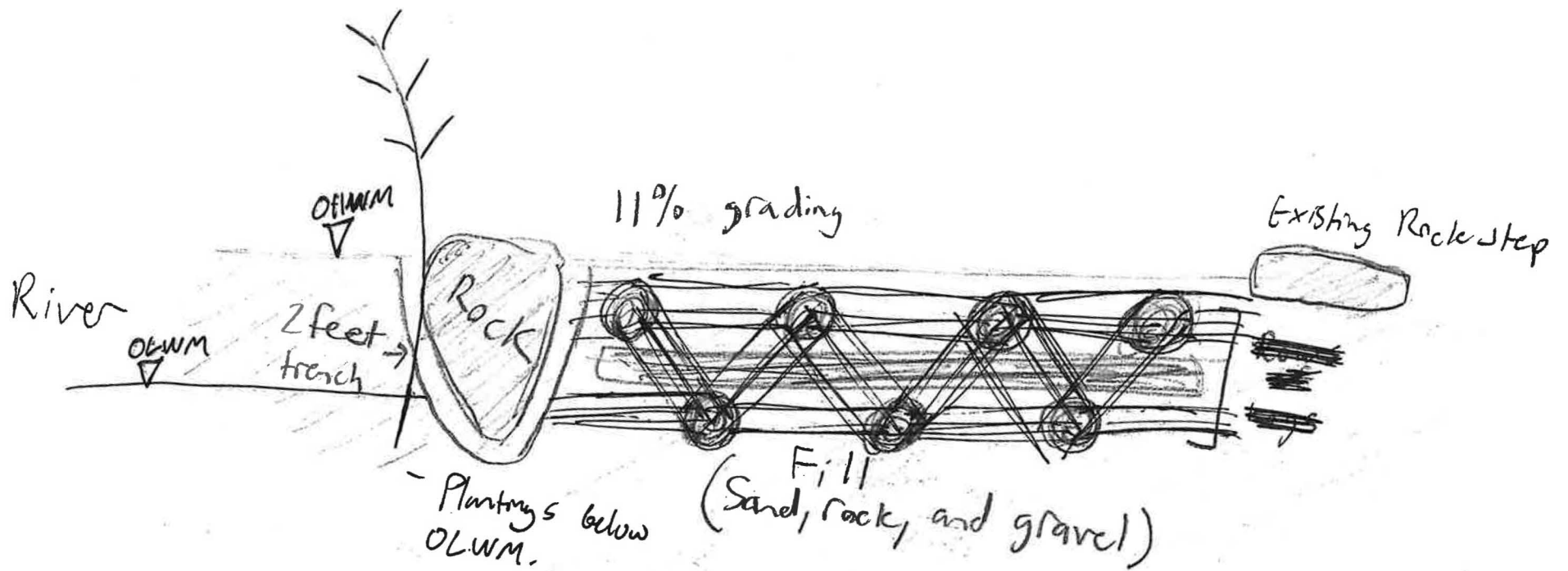
Frantz

Case No. E2025-2955

Alteration to American River

29 May 2025





Frantz
Case No. E2025-2955
Alteration to American River
29 May 2025

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE STREAM
CHANNEL ALTERATIONS

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

5
6 WHEREAS, The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) was notified of potential
7 alterations to the American River in the summer of 2023. IDWR was unable to find any permit
8 approvals for work along the American River; and

9
10 WHEREAS, IDWR sent Notice of Violations to both property owners (Mr. and Mrs.
11 Maushak and Mr. and Mrs. Frantz) in early 2025 instructing the landowners to cease and desist
12 any further work below the MHWL. IDWR held separate compliance conferences with both
13 parties, and each signed a Consent Order and Agreement (COA). A term of the COA was to
14 submit a Joint Application for Permits that proposed a plan to remove all unauthorized material
15 below the MHWL and restore the bed and banks of the American River. Both property owners
16 have submitted a Joint Application for Permit to Alter a Stream Channel (S82-20206 and No.
17 S82-20207) to the IDWR and plans to meet the terms of the COA, and are continuing to refine
18 the design to meet IDWR objectives as well as other Federal requirements; and

19
20 WHEREAS, IDWR Stream Channel Alteration staff have reviewed the project and have
21 indicated they will issue the permit for the project pending IWRB approval; and

22
23 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Mr. and
24 Mrs. Maushak and Mr. and Mrs. Frantz projects as filed with the Department through Permit
25 No. S82-20206 and No. S82-20207.

26
DATED this 21st day of November 2025.

Jeff Raybould, Chairman

Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

Resolution No. _____

Memorandum

Date: November 12, 2025
To: Idaho Water Resource Board
Re: ESPA Managed Recharge Update



NO ACTION REQUIRED

I. Managed Recharge Summary

Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) Managed Recharge of Natural Flow

The 2025-2026 IWRB recharge season started on October 18th. A summary of recharge activities to date is provided below and can also be accessed at the webpage: <https://iwrbrecharge-idwr.hub.arcgis.com/>.

The physical carryover in the Upper Snake Reservoir System was 1,154,000 acre-feet on October 31st. The US Bureau of Reclamation is currently in its normal wintertime operations, releasing around 400 cfs from Minidoka Dam. A summary of recharge operations is included in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1. The higher diversion rates shown in Figure 1 when managed recharge started were a result of normal adjustments as the operators transitioned from the irrigation season to the recharge season.

The IWRB may choose to divert approximately 50% of the water available for managed recharge starting on December 1st. The remaining available water would be allowed to flow past Milner Dam for other beneficial uses.

IWRB Storage Managed Recharge of Storage Water for the Coalition of Cities

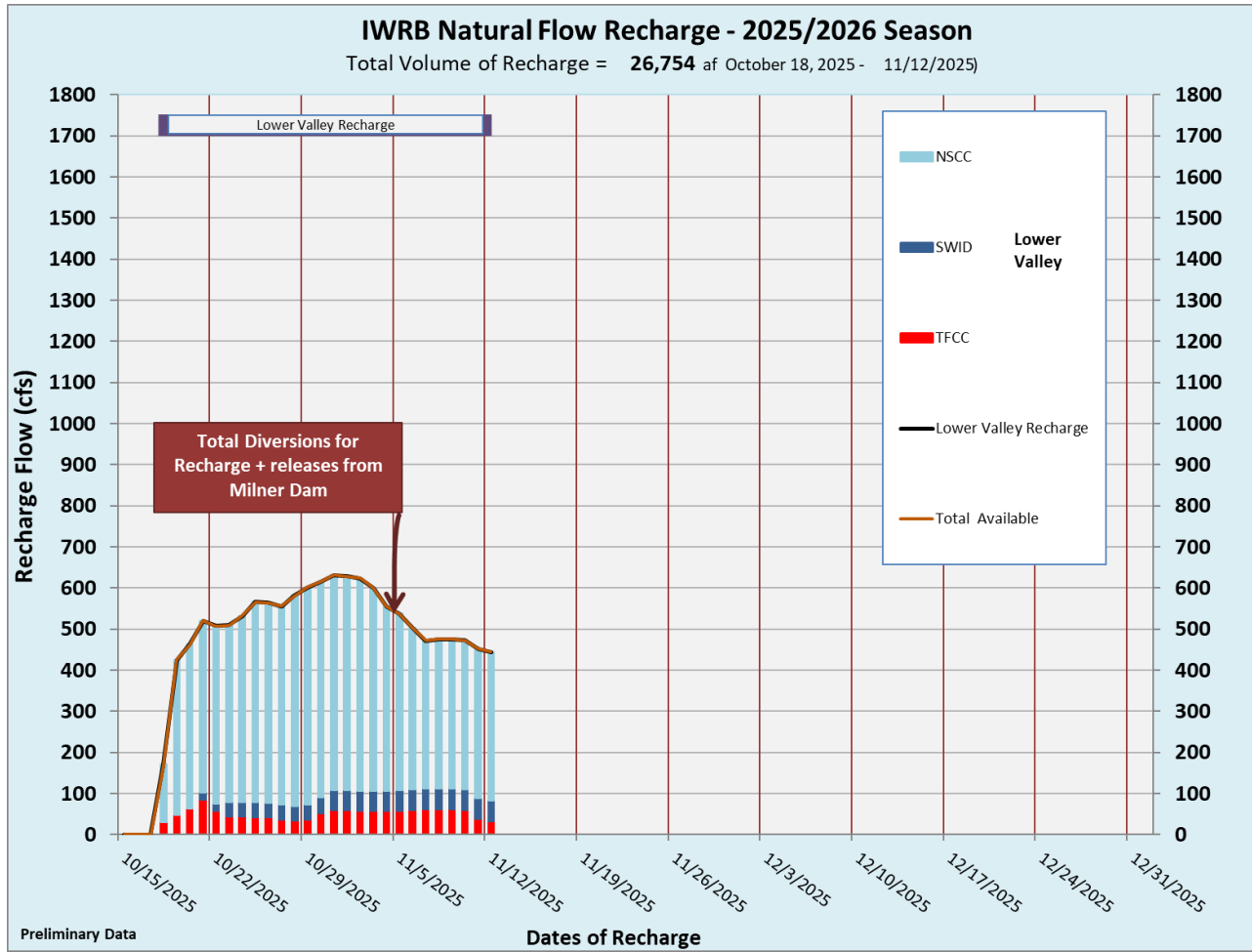
The IWRB will not recharge storage water for the Coalition of Cities during the 2025-2026 recharge season.

Table 1. IWRB 2025-2026 Managed Recharge Summary

Water Source	Area	Start Date	# Days	Current Rate (cfs)*	Average Rate (cfs)*	Total Recharged (Acre-Feet)*
Snake River	Lower Valley	October 18	26	444	519	26,754

* As of November 12, 2025. Reported rates and volumes are preliminary and subject to change.

Figure 1. IWRB 2025-2026 Managed Recharge Daily Recharge



MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Amy Cassel
Date: November 21, 2025
Subject: Regional Water Sustainability Project List – City of Gooding

Requested action: Consideration of a funding resolution to provide an additional \$1,197,000 for the City of Gooding Flood Control Project

Background:

The Little Wood River meanders through the City of Gooding (City) in a constructed masonry channel known as the Gooding Canal. In the 1930s, the river was realigned, and the channel was constructed of grouted and un-grouted hand-placed lava rock over the native lava rock riverbed. Since 1941, the channel walls have deteriorated significantly, and the rate of deterioration increases as the project ages. While the City has preserved the canal's functionality through ongoing maintenance, targeted repairs, and replacement of channel wall sections, the seventy-five-year-old channel has approached the end of its useful life. Additionally, many sections of the wall have failed, which presents increased risk in localized flooding and threat to adjacent public infrastructure and private property. The City and the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) began working together over twenty years ago to plan the replacement of the failing canal and several bridges.

The City was added to the IWRB's Regional Sustainability Projects Priority List in July 2023. In March 2024, Gooding entered into a Project Partnership Agreement with the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). At that time, the project was estimated to cost \$40 million. The USACE's commitment to provide \$40 million for the project requires a 10% cost share (\$4 million). The IWRB entered into a contract for \$4 million in May 2024.

Status:

The overall budget estimate has increased from \$40 million to \$52.6 million. Staff from the City and the USACE provided a presentation to the IWRB Finance Committee (Committee) on October 28, 2025, explaining the change in budget and options going forward. Because the USACE can use their existing authorization and adjust the budget for inflation, they can increase the project budget to \$52.6 million. A budget increase of \$12.6 million will require an additional \$1.26 million cost share. The Committee recommended that the City provide 5% of the total increase, which is \$63,000 (\$1.26 million x 5%). The total requested cost share from the IWRB's Regional Sustainability Project List is \$1,197,000.

Attachment:

Resolution to approve additional funding for the City of Gooding Flood Control project

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGIONAL WATER
SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITY LIST

RESOLUTION TO AWARD ADDITIONAL FUNDS
FOR THE CITY OF GOODING FLOOD CONTROL
PROJECT

1 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature, through House Bill 769 passed in 2022, appropriated \$75
2 million to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to be used for certain ARPA-eligible water projects
3 and projects that have been identified by the IWRB as high priority sustainability projects; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature, through Senate Bill 1181 passed in 2023 appropriated \$150
6 million to the IWRB to be used for certain ARPA-eligible water projects and projects that have been
7 identified by the IWRB as high priority sustainability projects; and
8

9 WHEREAS, in July 2021 the IWRB adopted an initial Regional Water Sustainability Priority List to
10 help guide the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB's) spending for large, regional water sustainability
11 projects from ARPA funds, state general funds, or other applicable sources.
12

13 WHEREAS, in January 2022 the IWRB adopted threshold criteria indicating for a project to be
14 included on the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List the project must help achieve water supply
15 sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide basis; and
16

17 WHEREAS, on July 12th, 2023, the Finance Committee recommended the IWRB provide
18 \$4,000,000 for the City of Gooding Flood Control Project; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the IWRB passed Resolution 05-2024 on January 19, 2024, approving contract Terms
21 and Conditions, including \$4,000,000 from the Water Management Account for the Gooding Flood Control
22 Project; and
23

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

29 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB approves an additional \$1,197,000 for the City
30 of Gooding Flood Control Project.

DATED the 21st day of November 2025.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Resolution No. _____

Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: November 14, 2025
Re: IWRB Recharge Water Right Non-Diversion Agreement

ACTION: Action may be requested

Staff will discuss a draft Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert agreement between the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) and Idaho Power Company.

Attachments:

1. DRAFT Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert
2. DRAFT Resolution to execute the Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert

Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert

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

Background Recitals

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

goals; and

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

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

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

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

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

Agreement

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

1. **Effective Date and Term of the Agreement.** The terms of this Agreement shall be implemented beginning in the managed recharge season commencing on November 1, 2025, and shall be effective on the date signed by the last signatory hereto ("Effective Date"). The Agreement shall continue for a term of five (5) years from the effective date. This Agreement shall automatically renew for successive five-year terms unless either party provides written notice of termination to the other party at least 30 days prior to the end of the current term.
2. **Board's Recharge Average.** Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 directed the IWRB to establish a state-funded ESPA managed recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis ("Board's Recharge Average"). The Board's Recharge Average shall be measured based upon the volume (acre-feet) diverted under the recharge water rights owned by the Board. The Board's Recharge Average will be based on a 15-year rolling average on an annual basis beginning with water year 2016. "Annual basis" will be based on the water year October 1–September 30.
3. **Support for Increase in Board's Recharge Average:** The Board and Company agree to support increasing the Board's Recharge Average goal from 250,000 acre-feet to 350,000 acre-feet per year.
4. **Milner Flow Distribution.** The Board agrees not to divert a portion of the "Water Available" for IWRB managed recharge below Minidoka Dam under water rights 1-7142 and 1-10609. "Water Available" under water rights 01-7142 and 01-10609 will be determined by Water District 01. The portion of the "Water Available" that shall not be diverted is as follows:
 - a. The Board may divert 100 percent (%) of the Water Available when:
 - i. The Board's Recharge Average is 250,000 acre-feet or less, or

- ii. If the Idaho Department of Water Resources adopts a groundwater management plan or issues any other order requiring groundwater users to conserve more groundwater than is required under the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan approved in IDWR Docket No. CM-MP-2024-003);
 - b. When the Board's Recharge Average exceeds 250,000 acre-feet but is less than 350,000 acre-feet, then for the period December 1–February 15, the Board shall only divert 50 percent (%) of the Water Available, or 200 cfs (whichever is greater);
 - c. When the Board's Recharge Average is 350,000 acre-or more, then for the period December 1–March 1, the Board shall only divert 40 percent (%) of the Water Available or 200 cfs (whichever is greater);
 - d. When the Board's Recharge Average exceeds 355,000 acre-feet for three (3) consecutive years then for the period November 1–April 1, the Board shall only divert 40 percent (%) of the Water Available or 200 cfs (whichever is greater).
5. **Support of Agreement Not to Divert.** It is the mutual desire of the parties to ensure that each party realizes the benefits of this Agreement. The Board's directive from the legislature is to expand and achieve an ESPA managed recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. While supporting the legislature's directive, the Company expects benefit through the implementation of this Agreement is to realize increased hydropower generation during its winter peak operations. If either party believes they are not getting the benefits of this Agreement, or the intent of this Agreement is being frustrated, the parties agree to meet and confer to discuss whether modifications to the Agreement should be made.
6. **Cloud Seeding.** Idaho Power agrees to continue the Upper Snake collaborative cloud seeding program during the term of this Agreement, so long as the cloud seeding program is authorized and funded.
7. **State Water Plan.** The Parties agree that nothing in this agreement is intended to affect the State Water Plan, the Zero Flow at Milner Policy, the Board's ability to pursue its recharge goal of 350KAF on an annual average basis, or the 1984 Swan Falls Agreement and 2009 Framework Reaffirming the Swan Fall Settlement.
8. **Modification or Termination.** This Agreement may be modified or terminated upon written consent by both parties during the term of this Agreement. Any negotiation, amendments, or extension of this Agreement shall comply with the Idaho Open Meeting Law, Idaho Code §§ 74-201 through 74-208.
9. **Dispute Resolution.** Any material dispute between the parties concerning this Agreement will be resolved in accordance with the following provisions:
- a. **Good Faith Negotiation.** Upon written notice from one party to the other, authorized representatives of the parties will attempt in good faith to resolve the dispute by negotiation prior to either party taking legal action. The written notice shall include a general statement of the claims and positions of the aggrieved party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, either Party may seek provisional legal remedies if in such Party's judgement such action is necessary to avoid irreparable damage or preserve the status quo.
 - b. **Litigation.** Litigation regarding this Agreement is allowed between the parties only for the

purpose of enforcing this Agreement.

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

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

12. Miscellaneous.

- a. **Binding Effect.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties and the successors and assigns of the parties.
- b. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement sets forth all understandings between the parties with respect to subject matter hereof. There are no other understandings, covenants, promises, plans, conditions, either oral or written, between the parties other than those contained herein. The parties expressly reserve all rights not settled by this Agreement.
- c. **Amendment.** This Agreement may be amended only by a written instrument signed by both parties.
- d. **Effect of Headings.** Headings appearing in this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and shall not be construed as interpretations of the text.
- e. **Notices.** Notices required or permitted to be given to any party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be effective (a) when personally delivered, (b) certified mail, return receipt requested, with postage prepaid, or (d) upon delivery by a nationally recognized express courier for delivery within two business days, with delivery charges prepaid. Notices shall be sent to the following addresses:

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

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

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

- f. **No Third-Party Obligations or Beneficiaries.** The obligations and benefits of this Agreement apply only to the parties. No persons or entities shall be deemed to be third-party beneficiaries of this Agreement.
- g. **Construction.** Each party participated in the negotiation and drafting of this Agreement;

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

- h. **Waiver.** No term or provision hereof shall be deemed waived, and no performance shall be excused hereunder unless prior waiver or consent shall be given in writing signed by the party against whom it is sought to be enforced. Any waiver of any default by either party shall not constitute a waiver of the same or different default on a separate occasion.
- i. **Severability.** Whenever possible, each provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted so as to be effective and valid under applicable law. If any provision is adjudged to be invalid, the remaining provisions in this Agreement shall remain in force.
- j. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original, and which together, shall constitute one and the same instrument.
- k. **Digital Signatures.** Digital and scanned signatures to this Agreement shall be valid and effective to bind the party so signing.

Idaho Water Resource Board

By: _____

Date: _____

Idaho Power Company

By: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE MANAGED RECHARGE
AGREEMENT NOT TO DIVERT

RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Policy 1I of the 2-12 Idaho State Water Plan provides that “aquifer recharge should be
2 promoted and encouraged, consistent with state law”; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) is hydraulically connected to the Snake River
5 and discharges to the Snake River via tributary springs, which supply surface water for multiple beneficial
6 uses, including aquaculture, hydropower, and the irrigation of nearly one million acres; and
7

8 WHEREAS, Policy 4D of the 2012 Idaho State Water Plan provides that “[t]he Eastern Snake Plain
9 Aquifer and the Snake River below Milner Dam should be conjunctively managed to provide a sustainable
10 water supply for all existing and future beneficial uses within and downstream of the ESPA”; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Policy 4E provides that “[d]evelopment of new . . . aquifer storage is in the public
13 interest”; and
14

15 WHEREAS, The Board holds water rights 01-7142, and 01-10609 (“Water Rights”), among others,
16 for the purpose of recharging the ESPA, and
17

18 WHEREAS, a 2009 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (“ESPA
19 CAMP”) goal is to “[s]ustain the economic viability and social and environmental health of the Eastern
20 Snake Plain by adaptively managing a balance between water use and supplies”; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the ESPA CAMP established a long-term goal of 600,000 acre-feet average annual
23 change to the ESPA aquifer budget by 2030; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the ESPA CAMP established a long-term hydrologic target for managed aquifer
26 recharge of 150,000 to 250,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Phase I of the ESPA CAMP established a 100,000 acre-feet average annual managed
29 hydrologic target; and
30

31 WHEREAS, a 2009 Memorandum of Agreement between the Board and the Company provides
32 that “[i]f the Board proposes to increase the 100,000 acre-feet average annual ESPA CAMP Phase I target
33 for managed aquifer recharge by more than 75,000 acre-feet prior to January 1, 2019, the Board must
34 obtain legislative approval for such increase”; and
35

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

Resolution No.

Page 1

39 CAMP goals; and
40

41 WHEREAS, after SCR 138, the parties agreed to discuss how the managed recharge goal could be
42 achieved while addressing in-river flow needs, including hydropower; and
43

44 WHEREAS, stabilizing and enhancing the ESPA water level is still in the public interest because it
45 will lead to a sustainable water supply for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses, satisfy existing water
46 rights, and minimize harm to Idaho's economy arising from water supply shortages; and
47

48 WHEREAS, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 adopted by the legislature in 2025, the
49 Board recognizes the opportunity to increase the established managed recharge goal to 350,000 acre-feet
50 while maintaining a balance between ESPA aquifer storage and sustainability, and the increasing value of
51 hydropower to Idaho's economy, consistent with ESPA CAMP objectives; and
52

53 WHEREAS, cooperative agreements between the Board and the Company would provide both
54 parties the ability to address resource management and planning objectives related to managed aquifer
55 recharge and hydropower; and
56

57 WHEREAS, to recognize the interests of water users relying upon the ESPA, the Company entered
58 into a separate Milner Bypass Agreement with the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc. dated March
59 13, 2025.
60

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

DATED this 21st day of November 2025.

Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
Dean Stevenson, Secretary



Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Nick Banish, Cloud Seeding Program Manager
Date: November 17, 2025
Re: IWRB Cloud Seeding Program Update

NO ACTION REQUIRED

I. Cloud Seeding Program Current Activity

The 2025-2026 IWRB Cloud Seeding Season started on November 1st. Presently, the following projects have active operations:

- Upper Snake Basin
- Boise Basin
- Wood River Basin
- Payette Basin
- Bear River Basin

The Upper Snake, Boise, and Wood River basin projects are part of the Collaborative Program which consists of a partnership between the IWRB, Idaho Power Company (IPC), and the water districts of the various basins. The IWRB also assists the High Country Resource Conservation and Development with their project to cloud seed in the Upper Snake Basin. The Payette Basin cloud seeding is an IPC project. The Bear River Basin is seeded as part of the State of Utah's projects, a portion of the funding for which the IWRB provides support. Staff will be coordinating to receive event-specific information for all active projects throughout winter.

A summary of cloud seeding activities and more detailed information related to cloud seeding in Idaho can also be accessed at the following webpage:

<https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrp/programs/cloud-seeding-program>.

Recent Events

- State of Utah Rainmaker Bear River Basin Launch Event – Staff attended a 1-day event in SLC at the Rainmaker operational center to receive information on the project mission, technology and their collaboration with the State of Utah to cloud seed in the Bear River Basin.
- Bear River Commission Presentation – IDWR staff will be coordinating with State of Utah project lead to provide an update to the Commission on 11/18/2025.

- Staff will be participating in a review of the North American Weather Modification Council's Silver Iodide (AgI) study which should be finalized by the first of the year.

Looking forward:

- Water User Contribution Meetings – IDWR staff will be coordinating meetings with Water Users (IGWA, WD01, WD37 & WD63) to gain an understanding of their budget, present information on cloud seeding benefits and the increased costs of cloud seeding to reassess the contributions from Water Users to the Collaborative program.

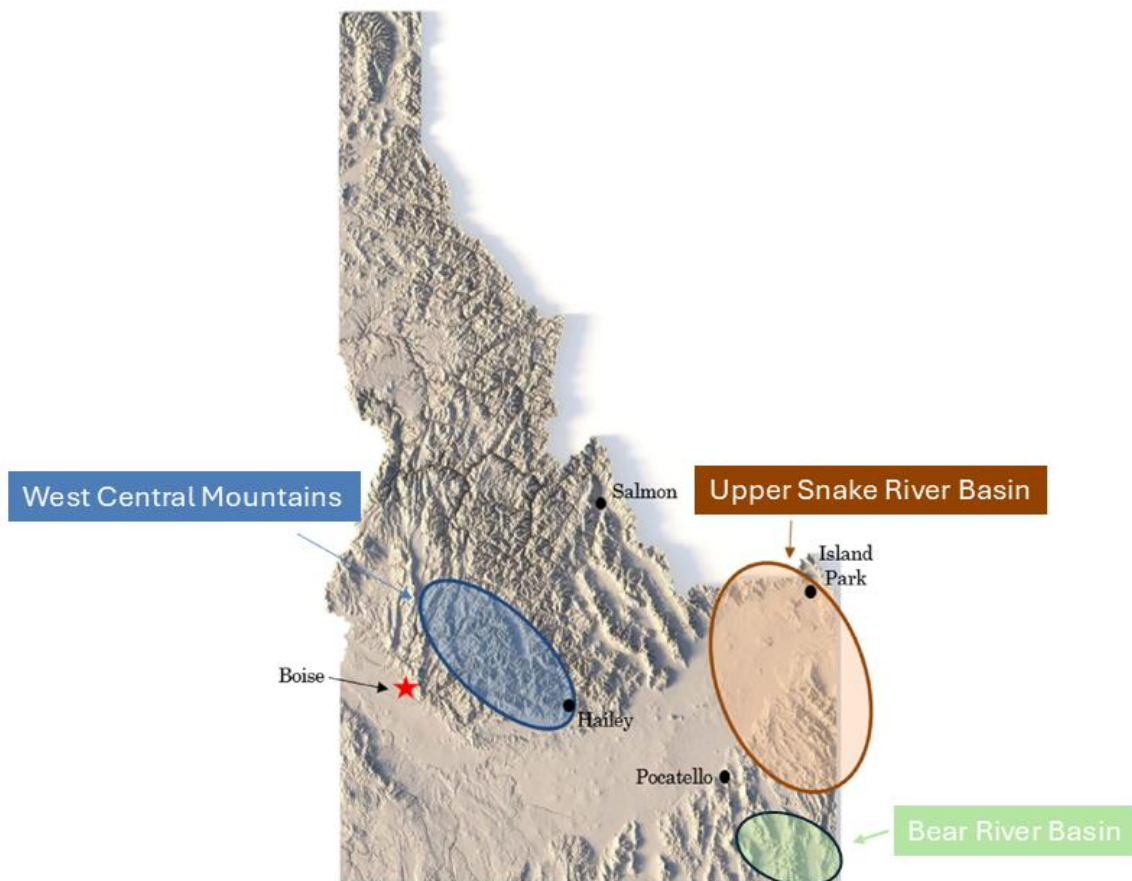


Figure 1. A map showing the general location of active cloud seeding operations in Idaho including the West Central Mountains (Boise, Wood River, Payette Basins), Upper Snake River Basin, and Bear River Basin.

Memorandum



To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: John Loffredo

Date: November 21, 2025

Re: Water Transaction Program – Lemhi L-6 Annual Agreements 2026–2028 Renewal

REQUIRED ACTION: Consideration of the attached resolution to approve and fund renewal of the proposed short-term agreements not to divert in the lower Lemhi River.

In September 2025, the State of Idaho negotiated a 3-year funding commitment through 2028 with Bonneville Power Administration under the 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords MOA (Accord). Therefore, staff recommends entering into short-term agreements with the lower Lemhi River irrigators, 2026 – 2028. Funding for these agreements will come from the 2026–2028 “Accord” contract with the Idaho Governor’s Office of Species Conservation or the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program.

Lower Lemhi River – L-6 Subordination Agreements

The Lemhi River Basin is an important basin for ESA-listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. During the irrigation season, low flows at the L-6 diversion can cause migration barriers for juvenile and adult Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. The State of Idaho has committed to maintaining minimum flows (25–35 cfs) at the L-6 diversion per the 2004 Snake River Water Rights Agreement. For the past 21 years, the Board has been working to meet the 35 cfs target through agreements between the IWRB and water users “not to divert” from the Lemhi River. As identified below, a total of 19.77 cfs is currently protected permanently through long-term agreements:

Flow Target:	35 cfs
Currently Protected:	
• Permanent Subordination Agreements	17.35 cfs
• City of Salmon Source Switch	2.42 cfs
TOTAL Protected	19.77 cfs
Unmet Target (met with Annual Subordination Agreements)	15.23 cfs

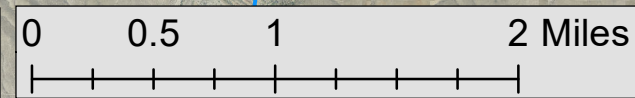
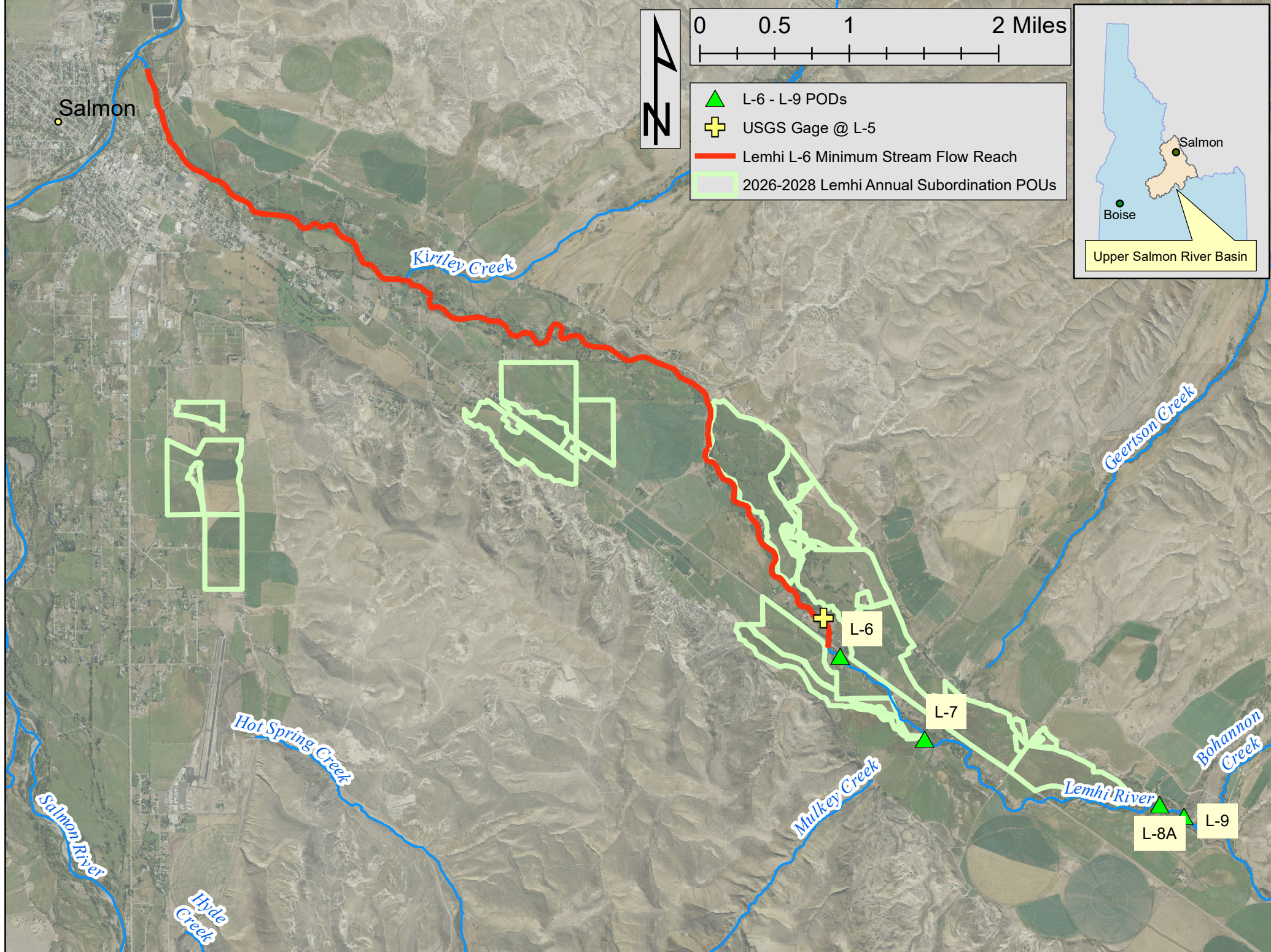
These agreements have been administered in accordance with a contract between the IWRB and Water District 74. As permanent agreements have been acquired the amount of water needed through annual leases has decreased. Staff propose development of additional short-term agreements not to divert to reduce or eliminate the gap of 15.23 cfs between the permanent and long-term transactions and the 35 cfs flow target. As in previous years, payment will be based on the number of days each irrigator’s water deliveries are restricted to meet the minimum flow at a rate of \$110.00/24-hour cfs. This represents a \$10/24-hour cfs increase from 2023–2025 compensation rate to keep pace with inflation and ensure irrigators have enough financial incentive to continue participation in the program. Irrigators will only be curtailed when the flow targets are not met and up

to a maximum of 100 days/yr. Over the previous four years, annual costs to maintain the minimum flow with short-term agreements not to divert range from \$26k–\$91k, with the number of curtailment days ranging from 22 to 113 days per 243-day irrigation season.

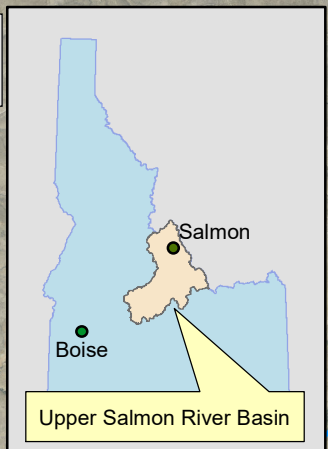
Due to chronic water supply shortages during the 2021 and 2022 irrigation seasons, 100-day contract maximums were exceeded and there was risk of late-season dewatering events at the L-6 diversion. Therefore, additional contracted water was needed to maintain the critical salmonid migration corridor. To alleviate staff time throughout the Department to secure emergency drought response contracts, and to increase the ability of the watermaster to rotate subordination and minimize impacts to agricultural production, staff propose securing up to 21.52 cfs of water from 2026–2028 annual agreements. This would bring the total protected flow at L-6 to 41.3 cfs and stretch administration of subordinated water for the 25-35 cfs flow target beyond 100-days, if needed.

Attachments:

1. 2026–2028 Lower Lemhi Annual Subordination Agreement Map
2. Draft Resolution



- L-6 - L-9 PODs
- USGS Gage @ L-5
- Lemhi L-6 Minimum Stream Flow Reach
- 2026-2028 Lemhi Annual Subordination POUs



BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE
LOWER LEMHI 2026–2028 WATER RIGHT
SUBORDINATION AGREEMENTS

RESOLUTION TO MAKE A FUNDING
COMMITMENT

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, through enacting Idaho Code 42-1506 and 42-1765A, the Idaho Legislature
16 directed the Idaho Water Resource Board (Board) to establish a minimum streamflow water right
17 of 35 cfs in the Lower Lemhi River to be met through water right rentals or other appropriate
18 methods under state law; and WHEREAS, the Board has the authority to enter into agreements
19 to improve flow for anadromous and resident fish; and
20

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

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

28 WHEREAS, Board staff has developed short-term subordination agreements from 2026–
29 2028, also known as the Lemhi Subordination Agreements (agreements) with local water users
30 to improve stream flow for anadromous and resident fish; and
31

32 WHEREAS, for all agreements with water users owning the following water rights: 74-
33 318B, 74-318C, 74-820, 74-826, 74-843, 74-15956, and 74-16014, totaling 12.41 cubic feet per

34 second, the water users have agreed to limit their diversions during times of low flow for a
35 maximum of 100 days per year; and
36

37 WHEREAS, for agreement with water user owning the following water rights: 74-605C,
38 74-837, and 74-840, totaling 4.11 cubic feet per second, the water user has agreed to limit their
39 diversions during times of low flow for a maximum of 5 days per year; and
40

41 WHEREAS, for agreement with water user owning the following water rights: 74-324B,
42 74-324F, 74-325B, 74-325H, 74-325J, and 74-325L, totaling 5.0 cubic feet per second, the water
43 user has agreed to limit their diversions during times of low flow for a maximum of 30 days per
44 year; and
45

46 WHEREAS, the total diversion rate secured under short-term subordination agreements
47 from 2026–2028 to help maintain flows of 25 to 35 cfs at the L-6 Diversion on the Lower Lemhi
48 River is 21.52 cubic feet per second; and
49

50 WHEREAS, funding is available through the Idaho MOA/Fish Accord Water Transaction
51 Program to fund the cost of said agreements; and
52

53 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Chairman or designee to
54 enter into 3-year agreements with lower Lemhi River irrigators to not divert out of the Lemhi
55 River, using a total amount not to exceed \$465,811.50; and
56

57 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is subject to the condition
58 that the Board receives the requested funding from the Bonneville Power Administration through
59 the Idaho MOA/Fish Accord Water Transaction Program or the Columbia Basin Water Transaction
60 Fund in an amount up to \$465,811.50.
61
62

DATED this 21st day of November, 2025.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Resolution No. _____

Page 2

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: November 14, 2025
Re: Potential Legislation of Interest



ACTION: No action required

Garrick Baxter will provide a briefing on potential legislation of interest.

No Attachments

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Planning Staff
Date: October 30, 2025
Re: Meeting Dates for 2026



ACTION: Approve dates for 2026 Regular Board Meetings

The following options for 2026 Regular Meetings are proposed for consideration by the Board.

- January 23, 2026
- March 26-27, 2026
- May 21-22, 2026
- July 23-24, 2026
- September 17-18, 2026
- November 19-20, 2026