AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Board Meeting No. 1-26
Friday, January 23, 2026
Executive Session begins at 8:00 a.m. (MT) / 7:00 a.m. (PT)
Open Meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. (MT) / 7:30 a.m. (PT)
Water Center
Conference Rooms 602 B – D
322 E. Front Street
BOISE

Livestream available at https://www.youtube.com/@iwrb

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 Rights 01-10734 and 01-10736. Closed to the public.
3. Federal Affairs Update
4. Public Comment
5. Financial Report
6. Governor's Proposed Budget
7. Quagga Mussel Treatment Update
8. Idaho Code Cleanup
9. Water Right Process Backlog
10. State Water Plan Update
11. Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Update
12. Upper Snake Basin Study
13. Flood Grant Program Awards*
14. Loan Program
    a. Magic Valley Groundwater District*
    b. Lost Valley Reservoir Enlargement Project*
15. Cloud Seeding Program Update
16. ESPA Recharge Program Update*
17. Potential Legislation of Interest
18. Director's Report
19. Non-Action Items for Discussion
20. 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**: If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please make advance arrangements by contacting Department staff by email jennifer.strange@idwr.idaho.gov or by phone at (208) 287-4800.

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff

Date: January 16, 2026

Re: Federal Affairs Update

ACTION: No Action Required

Mark Limbaugh will provide an update related to Federal Affairs that could impact Idaho.

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau

Date: January 21, 2026

Re: Financial Status Report

As of December 31, 2026, the IWRB's available and committed balances are as follows:

Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management & Implementation Fund:

Cash Balance	$40,429,679
Committed	$23,991,776
Uncommitted/Available Funds	$16,437,904

Revolving Development Account:

Cash Balance	$34,683,660
Committed Balance	$26,153,534
Uncommitted Balance/Available Funds	$8,530,126
Loan principal outstanding	$25,004,258

Water Management Account

Cash Balance	$341,561,547
Total Committed Funds	$335,488,692
Uncommitted Funds/Available Funds	$6,072,855

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
Pending per HB 248 (2025)	$50,000,000
Total	$250,000,000
Total Obligated	$259,990,834*
Expended	$161,426,253
Remaining Committed Balance	$98,564,581

**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

From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff

Date: January 16, 2026

Re: Governor's Proposed Budget

ACTION: No Action Required

Brian Patton will provide a summary of the Governor's IDWR Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

Attachment:

- IDWR Proposed Budget for FY27

Department of Water Resources

Analyst: Jessup

Historical Summary

OPERATING BUDGET	FY 2025 Total App	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approp	FY 2027 Request	*FY 2027 Gov Rec*
BY PROGRAM					
Management & Support Services	2,485,100	2,289,000	2,855,700	2,473,000	*2,447,800*
Planning and Technical Services	124,746,600	51,695,900	94,956,200	95,086,300	*94,962,600*
Water Management	13,163,900	11,070,100	14,037,100	14,170,500	*13,922,600*
Northern Idaho Adjudication	614,100	581,200	623,000	634,900	*625,300*
Bear River Basin Adjudication	852,000	902,000	881,100	901,400	*882,700*
Total:	**141,861,700**	**66,538,200**	**113,353,100**	**113,266,100**	***112,841,000***
BY FUND CATEGORY					
General	24,212,200	24,182,500	55,499,700	55,200,300	*54,882,600*
Dedicated	5,740,600	2,853,600	5,971,600	6,162,800	*6,067,200*
Federal	111,908,900	39,502,100	51,881,800	51,903,000	*51,891,200*
Total:	**141,861,700**	**66,538,200**	**113,353,100**	**113,266,100**	***112,841,000***
Percent Change:	0.0%	(53.1%)	70.4%	(0.1%)	*(0.5%)*
BY OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE					
Personnel Costs	17,219,700	14,967,400	18,681,600	19,025,000	*18,599,900*
Operating Expenditures	10,434,900	6,017,700	37,242,100	37,332,700	*37,332,700*
Capital Outlay	206,500	314,300	492,900	0	*0*
Trustee/Benefit	114,000,600	45,238,800	56,936,500	56,908,400	*56,908,400*
Total:	**141,861,700**	**66,538,200**	**113,353,100**	**113,266,100**	***112,841,000***
Full-Time Positions (FTP)	170.00	170.00	174.00	171.00	*171.00*

Department Description

The Office of the State Engineer was created in 1895 to administer provisions of the Carey Act. Over the years, additional laws expanded the agency's duties, particularly with the increasing value, development, and use of Idaho's limited water resources. As the agency saw its responsibilities grow, it also saw its name change several times. The agency became the Department of Reclamation in 1919; the State Reclamation Engineer in 1943; and the Department of Water Administration in 1970. Meanwhile, through amendment of the state constitution in 1964, the Water Resource Board was created to prepare the state water plan for optimum development of water resources in the public interest. The current name was the result of combining the Department of Water Administration with the Idaho Water Resource Board in 1974. The primary authority for the Department of Water Resources and its programs rests in Title 42, Idaho Code.

The department is divided into five programs for budgeting purposes.

1) The Management and Support Services Program provides administrative, legal, and information system support for the department.
2) The Planning and Technical Services Program provides staff support for the Water Resource Board and provides planning and project management for water sustainability and aquifer stabilization, technical analysis, and ground water monitoring.
3) The Water Management Program provides water resource protection through inspection and regulatory programs and provides water allocation services through permits and water distribution programs. The remaining responsibilities of the Snake River Basin Adjudication Program were also rolled into the Water Management Program in 2008. The Snake River Adjudication Program was responsible for completing a fair and accurate determination of the nature, extent, and priority of Snake River Basin water rights.
4) The Northern Idaho Adjudication Program is responsible for completing a fair and accurate determination of the nature, extent, and priority of the water rights north of the Snake River Basin.
5) The Bear River Basin Adjudication Program was created pursuant to H382 of 2020, which authorized a general water rights adjudication of the Bear River Basin. The Legislature authorized funding in FY 2022 to begin the adjudication of the Bear River Basin.

Department of Water Resources

Analyst: Jessup

Analysis of Funds

	FY 2025 Est. Exp.	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2025 Variance	FY 2026 Approp	FY 2027 Request	FY 2027 Gov Rec
General 10000	24,263,200	24,182,500	(80,700) (0.3%)	55,499,700	55,200,300	54,882,600
Indirect Cost Recovery 12500	512,000	333,000	(179,000) (35.0%)	512,700	534,900	530,100
Aquifer Planning and Management 12900	1,615,700	771,800	(843,900) (52.2%)	1,690,300	1,736,400	1,709,800
Water Administration 22921	1,869,500	762,900	(1,106,600) (59.2%)	1,967,400	2,046,400	2,003,400
Northern Idaho Adjudication 33701	38,700	7,900	(30,800) (79.6%)	38,700	38,700	38,700
Miscellaneous Revenue 34900	1,704,700	978,000	(726,700) (42.6%)	1,762,500	1,806,400	1,785,200
Revolving Development 49001	0	0	0 0.0%	0	0	0
ARPA State Fiscal Recovery 34430	110,061,700	38,498,800	(71,562,900) (65.0%)	50,000,000	50,000,000	50,000,000
Federal Grant 34800	1,847,200	1,003,300	(843,900) (45.7%)	1,881,800	1,903,000	1,891,200
Total:	**141,912,700**	**66,538,200**	**(75,374,500) (53.1%)**	**113,353,100**	**113,266,100**	**112,841,000**

Department of Water Resources

Analyst: Jessup

Comparative Summary

Decision Unit	Agency Request FTP	Agency Request General	Agency Request Total	Governor's Rec FTP	Governor's Rec General	Governor's Rec Total
FY 2026 Original Appropriation	**174.00**	**55,499,700**	**113,353,100**	***174.00***	***55,499,700***	***113,353,100***
Prior Year Reappropriation	0.00	0	71,544,500	*0.00*	*0*	*71,544,500*
FY 2026 Total Appropriation	**174.00**	**55,499,700**	**184,897,600**	***174.00***	***55,499,700***	***184,897,600***
Executive Carry Forward	0.00	82,500	82,500	*0.00*	*82,500*	*82,500*
Governor's Holdback	(3.00)	(568,300)	(568,300)	*(3.00)*	*(568,300)*	*(568,300)*
Unallocated CEC - S1110	0.00	0	(65,300)	*0.00*	*0*	*(65,300)*
FY 2026 Estimated Expenditures	**171.00**	**55,013,900**	**184,346,500**	***171.00***	***55,013,900***	***184,346,500***
Removal of Onetime Expenditures	0.00	(640,400)	(72,184,900)	*0.00*	*(640,400)*	*(72,184,900)*
Restore Rescissions/Gov Holdback	3.00	568,300	633,600	*3.00*	*568,300*	*633,600*
FY 2027 Base	**174.00**	**54,941,800**	**112,795,200**	***174.00***	***54,941,800***	***112,795,200***
Personnel Benefit Costs	0.00	447,500	601,600	*0.00*	*246,300*	*331,200*
Contract Inflation	0.00	43,800	50,000	*0.00*	*43,800*	*50,000*
Statewide Cost Allocation	0.00	219,000	232,900	*0.00*	*219,000*	*232,900*
Change in Employee Compensation	0.00	116,500	154,700	*0.00*	*0*	*0*
FY 2027 Program Maintenance	**174.00**	**55,768,600**	**113,834,400**	***174.00***	***55,450,900***	***113,409,300***
1. Aquifer Monitoring & Measuring	0.00	0	716,000	*0.00*	*0*	*716,000*
Ongoing Rescission	(3.00)	(568,300)	(568,300)	*(3.00)*	*(568,300)*	*(568,300)*
Cash Transfers & Adjustments	0.00	0	(716,000)	*0.00*	*0*	*(716,000)*
Budget Law Exemptions/Other Adjustments	0.00	0	0	*0.00*	*0*	*0*
FY 2027 Total	**171.00**	**55,200,300**	**113,266,100**	***171.00***	***54,882,600***	***112,841,000***
Change from Original Appropriation	(3.00)	(299,400)	(87,000)	*(3.00)*	*(617,100)*	*(512,100)*
% Change from Original Appropriation		(0.5%)	(0.1%)		(1.1%)	(0.5%)

Department of Water Resources

Analyst: Jessup

Budget by Decision Unit	FTP	General	Dedicated	Federal	Total
FY 2026 Original Appropriation					
The Legislature funded enhancements for FY 2026 including $457,900 for replacement items; $716,000 for aquifer monitoring and measuring; 4.00 FTP and $516,100 for new positions within the water administration bureau; $58,700 for ESRI maintenance costs; $65,000 to support Laserfiche conversion; and $30,000,000 ongoing for water infrastructure projects. Moneys appropriated for aquifer monitoring and water infrastructure projects were transferred to the Water Management Fund for expenditure, and the Legislature included language directing the use of the funds to support the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan for the Eastern Snake Plain.					
	174.00	55,499,700	5,971,600	51,881,800	113,353,100
Prior Year Reappropriation					
The Department of Water Resources was authorized to reappropriate or carryover its unencumbered and unspent appropriation related to infrastructure projects suppported by the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund from FY 2025 into FY 2026. Reappropriation required legislative approval and is removed as a onetime expenditure before calculating the FY 2027 Base.					
Agency Request	0.00	0	0	71,544,500	71,544,500
Governor's Recommendation	*0.00*	*0*	*0*	*71,544,500*	*71,544,500*
FY 2026 Total Appropriation					
Agency Request	174.00	55,499,700	5,971,600	123,426,300	184,897,600
Governor's Recommendation	*174.00*	*55,499,700*	*5,971,600*	*123,426,300*	*184,897,600*
Executive Carry Forward					
The Department of Water Resources was approved by the Division of Financial Management for $82,500 in onetime Executive Carry Forward; this amount will be removed before calculating the FY 2027 Base.					
Agency Request	0.00	82,500	0	0	82,500
Governor's Recommendation	*0.00*	*82,500*	*0*	*0*	*82,500*
Governor's Holdback					
This adjustment reflects a 3% temporary reduction in General Fund spending authority (holdback) for FY 2026 issued through Executive Order No. 2025-05. This reduction is restored as a base adjustment in FY 2027, below, including the reduction of $412,900 for personnel costs, $127,300 for operating expenditures, and $28,100 for capital outlay.					
Agency Request	(3.00)	(568,300)	0	0	(568,300)
Governor's Recommendation	*(3.00)*	*(568,300)*	*0*	*0*	*(568,300)*
Unallocated CEC - S1110					
Senate Bill 1110 of 2025 required, among many things, agencies revert spending authority for unallocated additional CEC funding. Agencies were not to use additional CEC funding for bonuses or additional salary increases above $1.55 per hour per permanent employee.					
Agency Request	0.00	0	(50,400)	(14,900)	(65,300)
Governor's Recommendation	*0.00*	*0*	*(50,400)*	*(14,900)*	*(65,300)*
FY 2026 Estimated Expenditures					
Agency Request	171.00	55,013,900	5,921,200	123,411,400	184,346,500
Governor's Recommendation	*171.00*	*55,013,900*	*5,921,200*	*123,411,400*	*184,346,500*
Removal of Onetime Expenditures					
Removes onetime appropriations approved for FY 2026. Onetime appropriations were $557,900 for replacement items, $100,000 for FY 2026 enhancements, $71,544,500 for reappropriation, and $82,500 for Executive Carry Forward authorized by the Division of Financial Management.					
Agency Request	0.00	(640,400)	0	(71,544,500)	(72,184,900)
Governor's Recommendation	*0.00*	*(640,400)*	*0*	*(71,544,500)*	*(72,184,900)*

Budget by Decision Unit	FTP	General	Dedicated	Federal	Total
Restore Rescissions/Gov Holdback					
This adjustment restores a 3% temporary reduction in General Fund spending authority (holdback) for FY 2026 issued through Executive Order No. 2025-05 and spending authority for unallocated additional CEC funding.					
Agency Request	3.00	568,300	50,400	14,900	633,600
Governor's Recommendation	*3.00*	*568,300*	*50,400*	*14,900*	*633,600*
FY 2027 Base					
Agency Request	174.00	54,941,800	5,971,600	51,881,800	112,795,200
Governor's Recommendation	*174.00*	*54,941,800*	*5,971,600*	*51,881,800*	*112,795,200*
Personnel Benefit Costs					
Employer-paid benefits include a 26% increase for health insurance which would bring the total annual budgeted amount to $17,770 for full-time employees and $14,220 for part-time employees. Variable benefits include the continuation of rate holidays for sick leave, an increase for unemployment insurance, and adjustments to workers' compensation that vary by agency.					
Agency Request	0.00	447,500	137,100	17,000	601,600
The Governor recommends $16,170 for health insurance for full-time employees and $12,940 for part-time employees. This is a 14.4% increase from FY 2026. Variable benefit increases are recommended as requested.					
Governor's Recommendation	*0.00*	*246,300*	*75,500*	*9,400*	*331,200*
Contract Inflation					
The department requests $50,000 for contract inflation for increased rent at various offices statewide, a 1.7% increase across all leases from FY 2026. This includes a 2.5% increase at the western regional office, a 3.9% increase at the northern regional office, a 3.1% increase at the southern regional office, a 2.1% increase at the Preston area office, a 1.5% increase at the eastern regional office, a 5.1% increase at the Salmon field office, and a 1.6% increase at the Idaho Water Center in Boise.					
Agency Request	0.00	43,800	6,200	0	50,000
Governor's Recommendation	*0.00*	*43,800*	*6,200*	*0*	*50,000*
Statewide Cost Allocation					
This request includes adjustments to recover the cost of services provided by other agencies in accordance with federal and state guidelines on cost allocation. Attorney General fees will increase by $164,100, risk management costs will increase by $21,900, State Controller fees will decrease by $11,400, State Treasurer fees will decrease by $300, and Office of Information Technology Services billings will increase by $58,600, for a net increase of $232,900.					
Agency Request	0.00	219,000	13,900	0	232,900
Governor's Recommendation	*0.00*	*219,000*	*13,900*	*0*	*232,900*
Change in Employee Compensation					
For calculation purposes, agencies were directed to include the cost of a 1% salary increase for permanent and temporary employees.					
Agency Request	0.00	116,500	34,000	4,200	154,700
While increasing salaries of state workers continues to be a priority for the Governor, the current revenue projections do not provide sufficient funds to recommend a salary increase in FY 2027. Should revenue projections improve, the Governor will prioritize salary increases for all state employees.					
Governor's Recommendation	*0.00*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*
FY 2027 Program Maintenance					
Agency Request	174.00	55,768,600	6,162,800	51,903,000	113,834,400
Governor's Recommendation	*174.00*	*55,450,900*	*6,067,200*	*51,891,200*	*113,409,300*

Department of Water Resources

Budget by Decision Unit	FTP	General	Dedicated	Federal	Total
1. Aquifer Monitoring & Measuring			**Planning and Technical Services**		

The department requests $716,000 be transferred from the Revolving Development Fund to the Aquifer Planning and Management Fund for personnel costs associated with aquifer monitoring, measurement, and modeling. The Department of Water Resources maintains a hydrologic monitoring network to measure ground water levels and spring discharges in the various aquifers, including the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, Wood River Valley, Treasure Valley, Rathdrum Prairie, Palouse, Lewiston, and others. The Aquifer Planning and Management Fund is a continuously appropriated fund that can be used for technical studies, hydrological monitoring, measurement and comprehensive plan development, and costs associated with the same pursuant to Section 42-1780(1), Idaho Code.

Requested funds would be used to maintain and enhance the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer ground water model and the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer ground water model and to continue the development of the Wood River Valley and Treasure Valley ground water models. Within the department's base, there are 13.00 FTP that work on aquifer monitoring and modeling in the state, of which, 11.00 FTP are paid through the transfer. Funds included in this request are the fourteenth year of loan repayments from groundwater users for purchase of the water rights at Pristine Springs, near the city of Twin Falls (original appropriation from the General Fund was $10 million in S1511 of 2008). The original $10 million, ten-year, 4% loan was refinanced in January of 2012 in the amount of $7.5 million for 15 years at 4.876%, with the final loan payment in January 2027.

AGENCY SUBMITTED OUTCOME: This request will fulfill the department's strategic objectives to (1) develop, implement, and revise tools to administer and manage groundwater resources, (2) analyze water level monitoring data for technical reporting to summarize aquifer conditions for priority water resources, and (3) support and grow an ongoing managed recharge program for the ESPA to stabilize and recover the aquifer.

Agency Request	0.00	0	716,000	0	716,000
Governor's Recommendation	*0.00*	*0*	*716,000*	*0*	*716,000*

Ongoing Rescission

This adjustment reflects an ongoing 3% General Fund rescission for FY 2027. This rescission includes a reduction of 3.00 FTP, $412,900 for personnel costs, $127,300 for operating expenditures, and $28,100 for trustee and benefit payments. Reductions affect all budgeted programs within the Department of Water Resources.

Agency Request	(3.00)	(568,300)	0	0	(568,300)
Governor's Recommendation	*(3.00)*	*(568,300)*	*0*	*0*	*(568,300)*

Department of Water Resources

Budget by Decision Unit	FTP	General	Dedicated	Federal	Total
Cash Transfers & Adjustments					

DEDICATED FUND CASH TRANSFER. The department requests $716,000 be transferred from the continuously appropriated Revolving Development Fund to the Aquifer Planning and Management Fund (which is subject to appropriation) to allow for loan payments for the purchase of the Pristine Springs water rights to be used for aquifer monitoring, measurement, and modeling. Projects to stabilize the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, for instance, are monitored for effectiveness through the modeling that is maintained using these funds.

GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER. The department requests that $1,000,000 of the General Fund trustee and benefit payments appropriation in the base budget for the Planning and Technical Services Program be transferred to the continuously appropriated Water Management Fund to be used for hydrologic data collection, monitoring and modeling, flood-damaged stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, or flood prevention projects.

GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER. The department requests that $5,000,000 of the General Fund trustee and benefit payments appropriation in the base budget for the Planning and Technical Services Program be transferred to the continuously appropriated Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management and Implementation Fund to be used for aquifer stabilization and recharge projects across the state.

GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER. The department requests that $30,000,000 of the General Fund trustee and benefit payments appropriation in the base budget for the Planning and Technical Services Program be transferred to the continuously appropriated Water Management Fund to be used for infrastructure projects.

Agency Request	0.00	0	(716,000)	0	(716,000)
Governor's Recommendation	*0.00*	*0*	*(716,000)*	*0*	*(716,000)*

Budget Law Exemptions/Other Adjustments

REAPPROPRIATION: The Department of Water Resources requests authority to carry over its unencumbered and unspent appropriation balances from the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund from FY 2026 into FY 2027 to be used for water infrastructure projects. Reappropriation requires legislative approval.

USE OF FUNDS FOR WATER RIGHT CLAIMS. The department requests language directing the use of funds for water right claims for FY 2027 including: "Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 42-1414(1)(c), Idaho Code, it is the intent of the Legislature that moneys appropriated to the Department of Water Resources for Idaho's general stream adjudications from the General Fund count toward the filing fees required under Section 42-1414(1)(a) and (b), Idaho Code, for water right claims filed in Idaho's general stream adjudications by the Idaho Water Resource Board and the Governor based on instream flow, public lake level maintenance, or recreation. If the General Fund appropriation exceeds the amount required for the Idaho Water Resource Board's and the Governor's filing fees in the current fiscal year, the excess shall be counted toward future filing fees required for those same purposes. If the General Fund appropriation does not meet or exceed the fee required for claims of the Idaho Water Resource Board or the Governor, the Director of the Department of Water Resources shall grant an extension of time to the Idaho Water Resource Board or the Governor to file the claim, and the General Fund appropriation for the following fiscal year shall be counted toward the balance of the filing fee."

Agency Request	0.00	0	0	0	0
Recommended by the Governor.					
Governor's Recommendation	*0.00*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*
FY 2027 Total					
Agency Request	171.00	55,200,300	6,162,800	51,903,000	113,266,100
Governor's Recommendation	*171.00*	*54,882,600*	*6,067,200*	*51,891,200*	*112,841,000*

Department of Water Resources

Analyst: Jessup

Budget by Decision Unit	FTP	General	Dedicated	Federal	Total
Agency Request					
Change from Original App	(3.00)	(299,400)	191,200	21,200	(87,000)
% Change from Original App	(1.7%)	(0.5%)	3.2%	0.0%	(0.1%)
Governor's Recommendation					
Change from Original App	*(3.00)*	*(617,100)*	*95,600*	*9,400*	*(512,100)*
% Change from Original App	*(1.7%)*	*(1.1%)*	*1.6%*	*0.0%*	*(0.5%)*

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff

Date: January 16, 2026

Re: Quagga Mussel Treatment Update

ACTION: No Action Required

Staff from Idaho State Department of Agriculture will provide an update on the Snake River Quagga Mussel Treatment.

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff

Date: January 16, 2026

Re: Idaho Code Cleanup

ACTION: No Action Required

Shelley Keen will provide an update related to the Idaho Code Cleanup Act (2025 House Bill 14).

Attachment:

- Idaho Code Cleanup Project Presentation

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Idaho Code Cleanup Project

A Presentation to the

Idaho Water Resource Board

January 23, 2026

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Shelley Keen
Deputy Director
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources
shelley.keen@idwr.idaho.gov
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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Idaho Code Cleanup Project

2025 House Bill 14 – Idaho Code Cleanup Act

Idaho Code § 67-3702 -- "To this end, the legislature recognizes the need for a comprehensive effort to review the Idaho Code for the purpose of eliminating bureaucracy."

Idaho Code § 67-3704 -- "On or before September 1, 2025, all state agencies shall . . . [r]eport to the legislature for consideration any code chapters, sections, or subsections that are deemed by the agency to be obsolete, outdated, or unnecessary.

2

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Idaho Code Cleanup Project
Agency Comprehensive Review

By the end of June, 2025, IDWR managers and supervisors reviewed over 600 sections of Idaho Code, mainly in Title 42, to identify statutes that may be obsolete, outdated, or unnecessary.

3

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Idaho Code Cleanup Project
Agency Report

By the end of July 2025, IDWR submitted a report to DFM identifying 22 statutes in Title 42 that seem obsolete, outdated, or unnecessary.

4

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Idaho Code Cleanup Project
Comprehensive Report

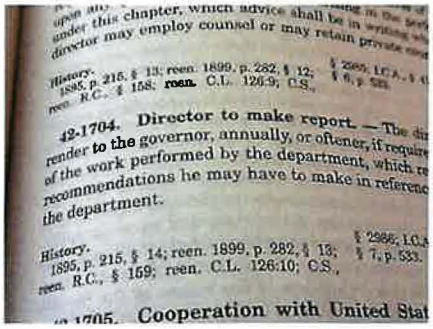
On August 29, 2025, IDWR received confirmation from DFM that it officially submitted to LSO "the statutorily required report on behalf of all executive agencies that identified obsolete, outdated, or unnecessary Idaho Code."

5

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Idaho Code Cleanup Project
Statutes Identified by IDWR

- § 42-1704 requiring the Director to submit an annual report to the Governor.
- § 42-232 dealing with outdated ground water recharge program provisions.
- § 42-1776 establishing an inactive IWRB account that has no funds in it.
- Nineteen statutes in Title 42, Chapters 33 and 35, that enable the state to negotiate interstate compacts for Salmon Falls Creek and for the Columbia River Basin.



director may employ counsel or may retain private

History.
1895, p. 215, § 13; reen. 1899, p. 282, § 12; reen. R.C., § 158; reen. C.L. 126:9; C.S.,

42-1704. Director to make report. — The di
render to the governor, annually, or oftener, if require
of the work performed by the department, which re
recommendations he may have to make in referenc
the department.

History.
1895, p. 215, § 14; reen. 1899, p. 282, § 13; reen. R.C., § 159; reen. C.L. 126:10; C.S.,

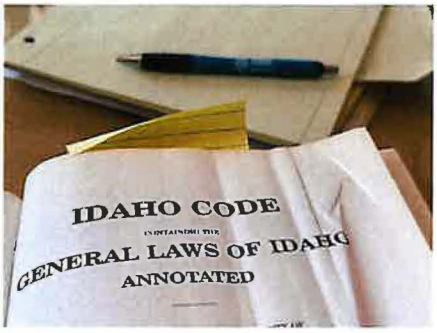
42-1705. Cooperation with United Stat

6

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Idaho Code Cleanup Project
DOGE Task Force

In the fall of 2025 the DOGE Task Force of the Idaho Legislature recommended all 22 code sections to the Research and Legislation Division in the Legislative Services Office to begin the bill drafting process for germane committee consideration.



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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Thank you

Are there questions?

8

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff

Date: January 16, 2026

Re: Water Right Process Backlog

ACTION: No Action Required

Craig Sacton, Water Allocation Bureau Chief, will provide an update for the IDWR Water Allocation Bureau.

Attachment:

- 2026 Allocation Bureau Update Presentation

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

2026 Allocation Bureau Update

Presented by Craig Saxton
Water Allocation Bureau Chief
January 23, 2026

1

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Presentation Outline

- Water Allocation Bureau Overview
- Adjudication Section
- Water Rights Program
- Water Supply Bank Re-org
- Current Workforce
- Moving Forward
- Questions

2

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Water Allocation Bureau

Adjudication Program

- Staff in Northern, Preston, and the State Office in Boise
  - Claims/Recommendations
  - Director's Reports
  - Various process in 5 adjudications

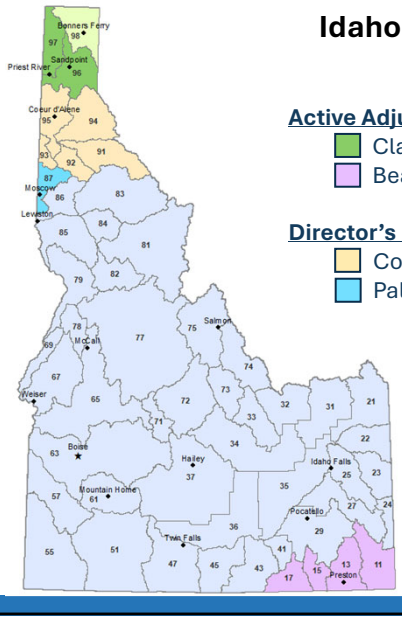
Water Rights Program

- Staff in the State Office and the regional offices
  - Water Applications, Permits, Licensing
  - Transfers, Temporary Apps, Temporary Changes
  - Ownership Change Processing
  - Water Supply Bank: Leases, Rentals, Payment Processing

3

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Idaho Adjudications



Active Adjudications
- Clark Fork- Pend Oreille River Basin
- Bear River Basin

Director's Reports Submitted/ Accepting Late Claims
- Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River Basin
- Palouse River Basin

Deferred De Minimis Domestic & Stockwater Claims Only
- Snake River Basin

Pending Adjudication
- Kootenai River Basin

4

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Adjudication Workload

Pending Workload

- CFPRBA: 6,300 claims to review
- BRBA: 6,000 claims to review
  - Estimated 2500 claims still to be filed in Basins 15 & 17
- KRBA: Estimated 3,000 claims will be filed.

Adjudication Director's Report Timeline

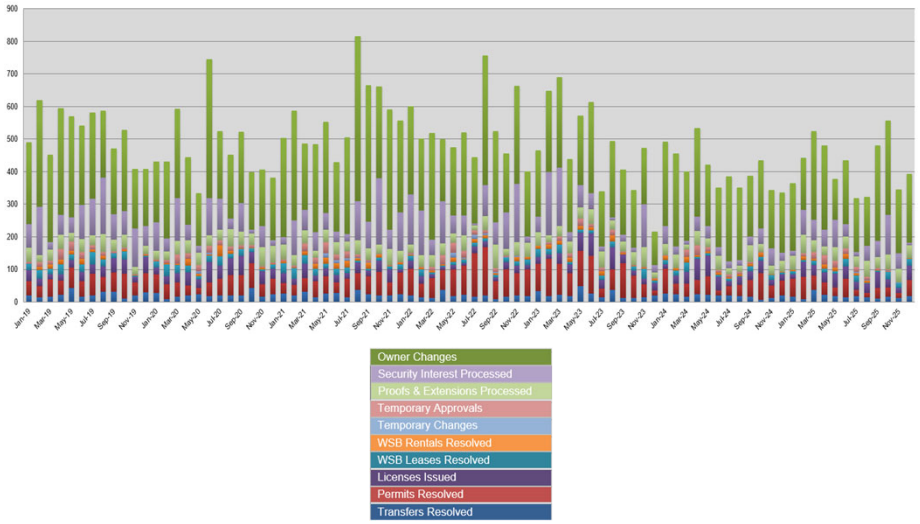
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
CFPRBA	B97-2		B96-1	B96-2		B96-3	B15		
BRBA	B11-1		B11-2		B13-1	B13-2		B17	
KRBA	KRBA*							B98-1	B98-2

** Claims staking in the KRBA*

5

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Water Rights Program Total Output



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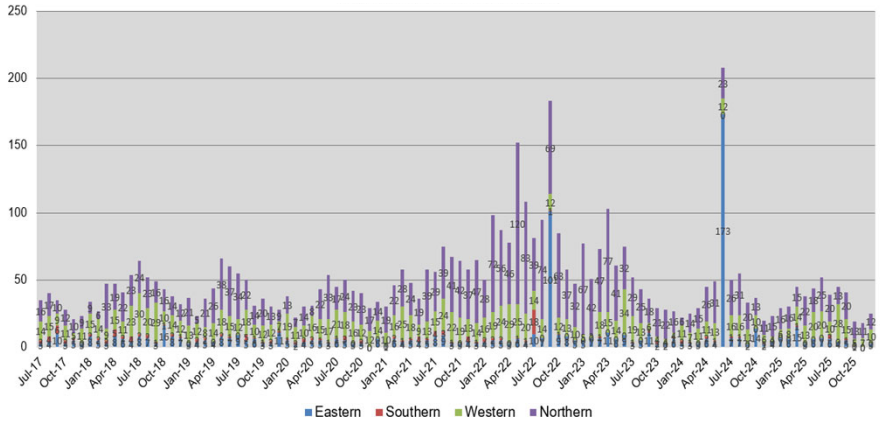
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Permitting

Applications for Permits Received



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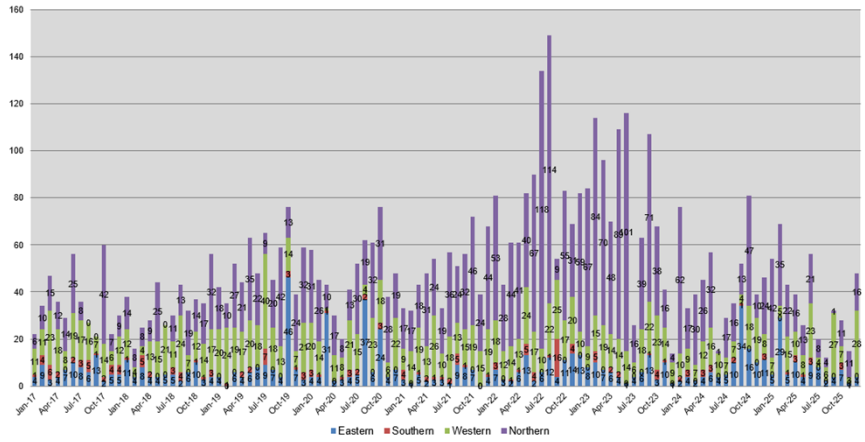
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Applications for Permits Resolved



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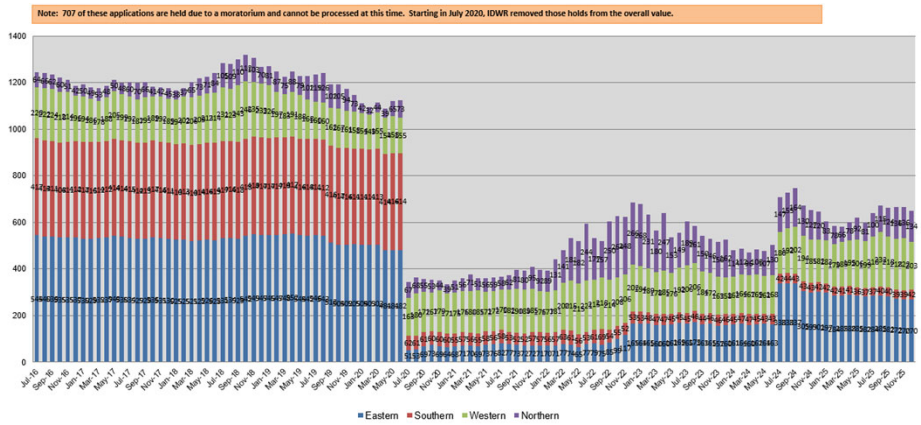
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Applications for Permits Pending Resolution



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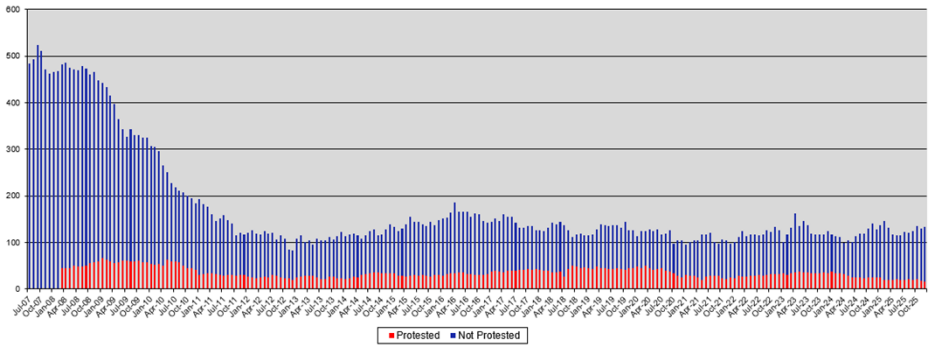
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Active Transfer Applications



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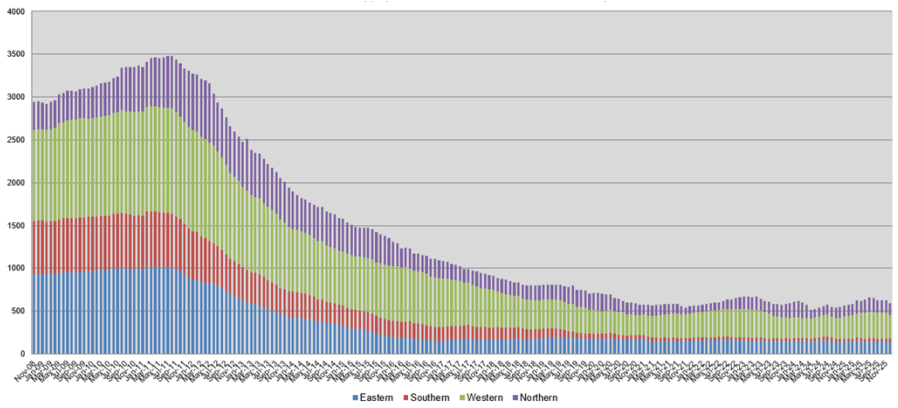
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Active Water Appropriation Permits with proof Submitted



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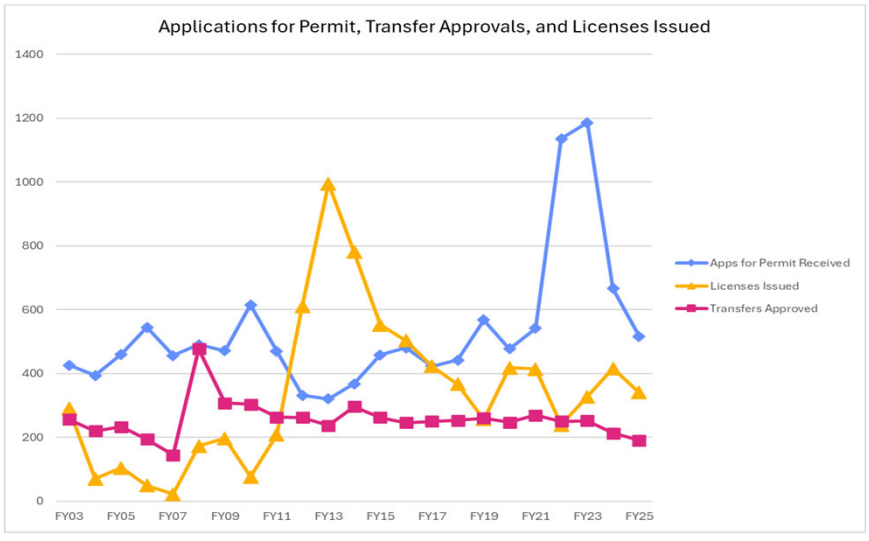
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Water Rights Section



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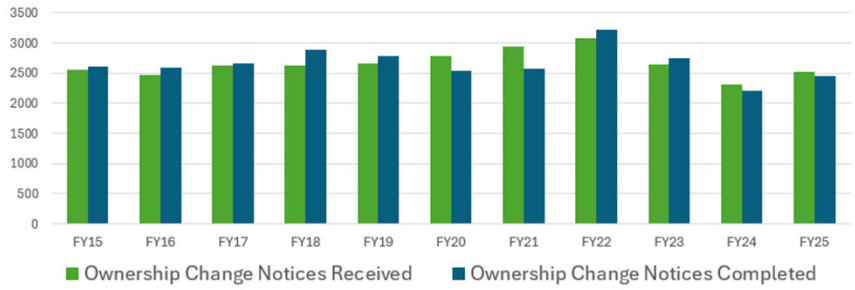
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Ownership Change Workload



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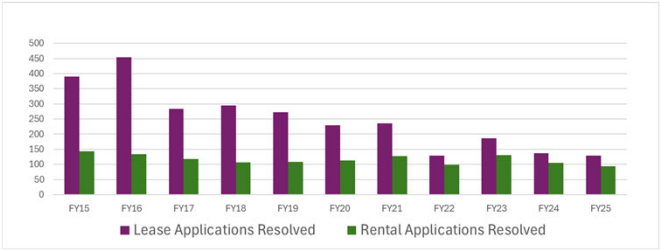
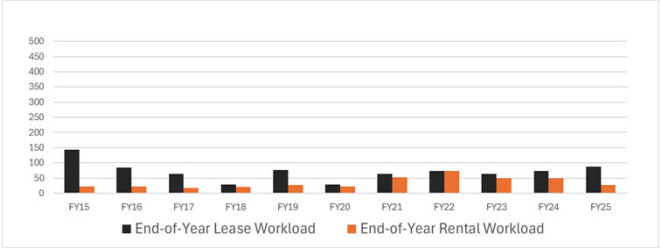
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Water Supply Bank





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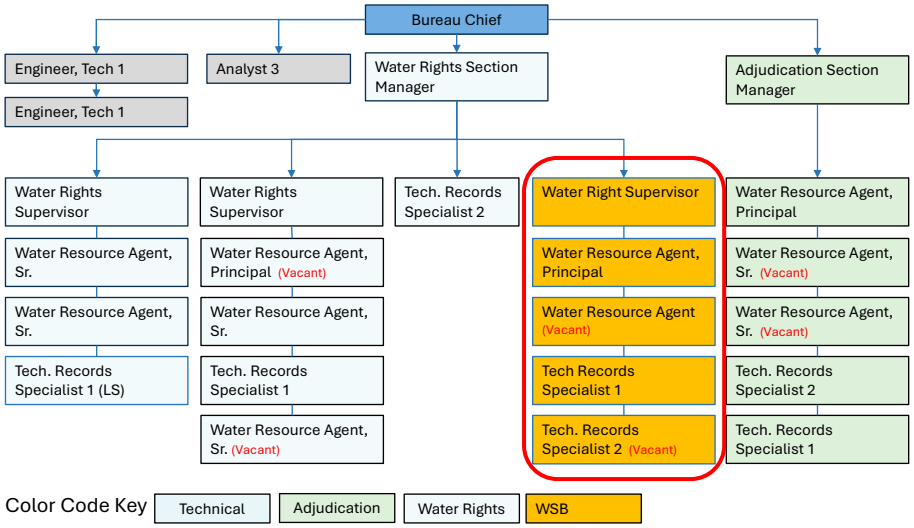
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

IDWR Water Allocation Bureau Organization January 15, 2026

26 Positions



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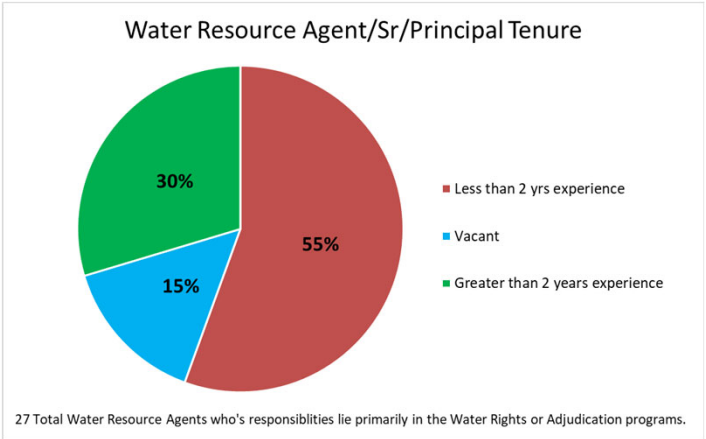
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Water Allocation Resource Agents



27 Total Water Resource Agents who's responsiblities lie primarily in the Water Rights or Adjudication programs.

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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Moving Forward

- Online Ownership Change Public Form
- Online Beneficial Use Public Form
- New AI Policy for Employees
  - Deed Plotter Replacement
- Organization Restructuring - Water Supply Bank

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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Questions?

18

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau

Date: January 15, 2026

Re: State Water Plan and ESPA CAMP changes have been submitted to Legislature

Action: No action at this time

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.*

Based upon this direction the IWRB has made these revisions. As required by Idaho Code § 1734A, the Board sought substantial public participation on these changes by providing a public comment period greater than sixty days, including opportunities for submission of written comments and for oral testimony at two public hearings on the ESPA. After consideration of the public input, the Board adopted final changes to the State Water Plan policies 4B, 4D, and 4E and the ESPA CAMP by resolution (resolution no. 53-2025) on November 21, 2025.

Submission to the Legislature

On January 9, 2026, staff delivered a copy of these changes to the offices of each member of the Legislature as well as to Governor Little and Lt. Governor Bedke in preparation for the first day of the legislative session on January 12, 2026.

As required by Idaho Constitution Article XV § 7 and I.C. § 42-1734B, any changes to the Idaho State Water Plan must be submitted to the Legislature on the first day of the regular legislative session following the Board's adoption of the change. Pursuant to Idaho Constitution Article XV § 7, this change to the Idaho State Water Plan "shall become effective unless amended or rejected by law within sixty days of its submission to the Legislature."

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Justin Ferguson, Cynthia Bridge Clark
Date: January 16, 2026
Re: Anderson Ranch Dam Raise

REQUIRED ACTION: No action required

Project Activities

- Board staff will continue working with the IWRB Storage Committee members to evaluate options for the allocation of storage water to interested water users
    - Committee feedback will help guide future water use contracting and allocation
- Board Staff continue to work with Reclamation to understand what options are available to mitigate potential impacts to spaceholders during construction
    - Staff would recommend a potential Storage Committee in early February
- Staff are continuing to work on the water right permit with IDWR and protesting parties
    - Settlement discussions ongoing
    - Upcoming Status Conference in Mid-March 2026
    - Target completion by Spring 2025/Summer 2026

Project Background

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB; Board) partnered with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to complete a feasibility study of new surface water storage options on the Boise River. Reclamation issued the Final Feasibility Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in 2020, which recommended a six-foot raise of the Anderson Ranch Dam (project), creating approximately 29,000 acre-feet of new storage space. The recommended plan was deemed feasible by the Secretary of Interior in December 2020 which met a required deadline for authorization under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act). Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations legislation secured $12.88 million in WIIN Act funding as the federal cost share for completing the Feasibility Study, environmental compliance, and construction.

The WIIN Act required an agreement between Reclamation and a partner capable of funding the non-federal share of the project costs through the initiation of construction or final design activities prior to December 16, 2021. On November 19, 2021, the IWRB passed a resolution authorizing the execution of a cost-share agreement (contract) between Reclamation and the IWRB to continue the development of the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise through construction. The Feasibility Study estimated the project's total design and construction cost was $83.3 million, not including applicable interest during construction. In accordance with the contract, the non-federal share of the total project construction cost is 88.95% and will be the responsibility of the IWRB. The federal share of the total construction cost is 11.05% and will be paid by Reclamation appropriations. The contract was executed on November 19, 2021 and Reclamation initiated dam raise design activities.

Work on the project has continued as Board Staff have engaged with Reclamation on potential sources of water for mitigation during construction and the review of both Rim projects and Dam Raise designs as milestones are accomplished. Work is also underway to resolve protests to the Anderson Ranch new storage water right as legal counsel and Board Staff have engaged with the parties to better understand their concerns.

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Staff

Date: January 16, 2026

Re: Upper Snake River Basin Study Proposal

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 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) WaterSMART program. On September 12, 2025, BOR and Minidoka Irrigation District representatives presented the program to the IWRB. Following the presentation, the Board directed the Chair and staff to prepare and submit a Letter of Interest (LOI). The LOI and stakeholder support letters were submitted on October 14, 2025.

On November 21, 2025, the IWRB received official notice that the LOI was recommended for further consideration. BOR provided a Notice to Interested Parties outlining the next steps, including development of a joint proposal (maximum 15 pages) for a Plan of Study or Basin Study. The proposal must include:

1. Geographic boundaries of study area
2. Study abstract, including scope, approach, and objectives
3. Plan for stakeholder engagement
4. Study outline and schedule

Cost-share partners must contribute at least 50% of total costs as cash or in-kind services. BOR's share may only be used for work performed by BOR or its contractors.

Update:
Staff have initiated development of the Basin Study proposal and hosted an Upper Snake River Basin Study Stakeholder meeting on January 16, 2026 (presentation attached). The meeting provided an overview of the proposal concept, schedule, and solicited feedback from stakeholders.

Upper Snake River Basin Study Proposal Schedule:

- January 22nd – Idaho Water Users Association Annual Meeting
- January 23rd – Idaho Water Resource Board meeting
- February 5th – IWRB Storage Committee meeting
- February 10th – Special IWRB Board Meeting
- **February 16th – Proposal due (will submit by February 13th)**
- April - June 2026 – Response from BOR expected

Attachments

1) Upper Snake River Basin Study Stakeholder Meeting & Proposal presentation

IDAHO
Water Resource Board

Upper Snake River Basin Study
Stakeholder Meeting & Proposal Discussion
January 16, 2026

IDAHO
Water Resource Board

Upper Snake River Basin Study
Proposal Discussion and Stakeholder Meeting

- Introductions and attendance
- Basin Study process
- Purpose of the meeting

Upper Snake River Basin
Current Challenges

- Snake River upstream from Milner Dam **supplies water to approximately 2 million acres** of irrigated land through an extensive network of reservoirs and canals
- **Early irrigation practices increased incidental recharge** to the ESPA, enabling the development of an additional one million acres of groundwater-irrigated land
- Since the 1950's, improved canal efficiency, expanded groundwater pumping, and reduced incidental recharge have **resulted in long-term aquifer declines**
- ESPA **storage has decreased by approximately 14 million AF**, and spring flows to the Snake River have declined substantially

Current Initiatives

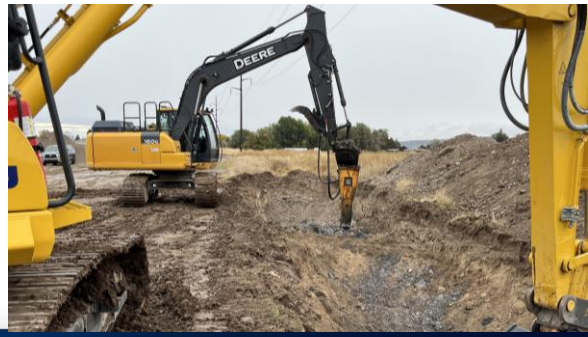
Water User–Led Actions

- To resolve delivery calls and avoid curtailment, water users entered into **settlement agreements** culminating in the 2024 Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Mitigation Plan.

- Under this agreement, groundwater users committed to **groundwater demand reductions**, supply a set amount of **rented surface water** from the Upper Snake Rental Pool, enhanced **diversion measurement** and reporting, and **allow additional groundwater users** to join the agreement as the state expands that area subject to the delivery call.

State-Led Actions

- ✓ **Aquifer Recharge**
  - Developing increased capacity to reach the goal of 350,000 af/yr. Current 10-year average - 250,000 af/yr
- ✓ **Demand Reduction**
  - Groundwater Districts Reduce GW use by 240,000 af/yr.
- ✓ **Groundwater-to-Surface Water Conversions**
  - 100,000 af/yr, utilizing available surface water & storage.
- ✓ **State Funded Grant Programs**
  - Assist in improving & developing infrastructure, supporting conversion projects, & enhancing monitoring
- ✓ **Cloud Seeding**
  - Augment Precipitation / Snowfall
- ✓ **Monitoring & Modeling**
  - Surface water and Groundwater measurements
  - Groundwater Flow Model development & refinements



2025 Idaho Legislative Session - Senate Joint Memorial 101

- Encourages cooperation between following entities to update or conduct studies to **identify and construct additional water storage** in Idaho
  - BOR
  - United States Army Corps of Engineers
  - Governor
  - Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)
  - Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR)
  - Other federal, state, and local agencies

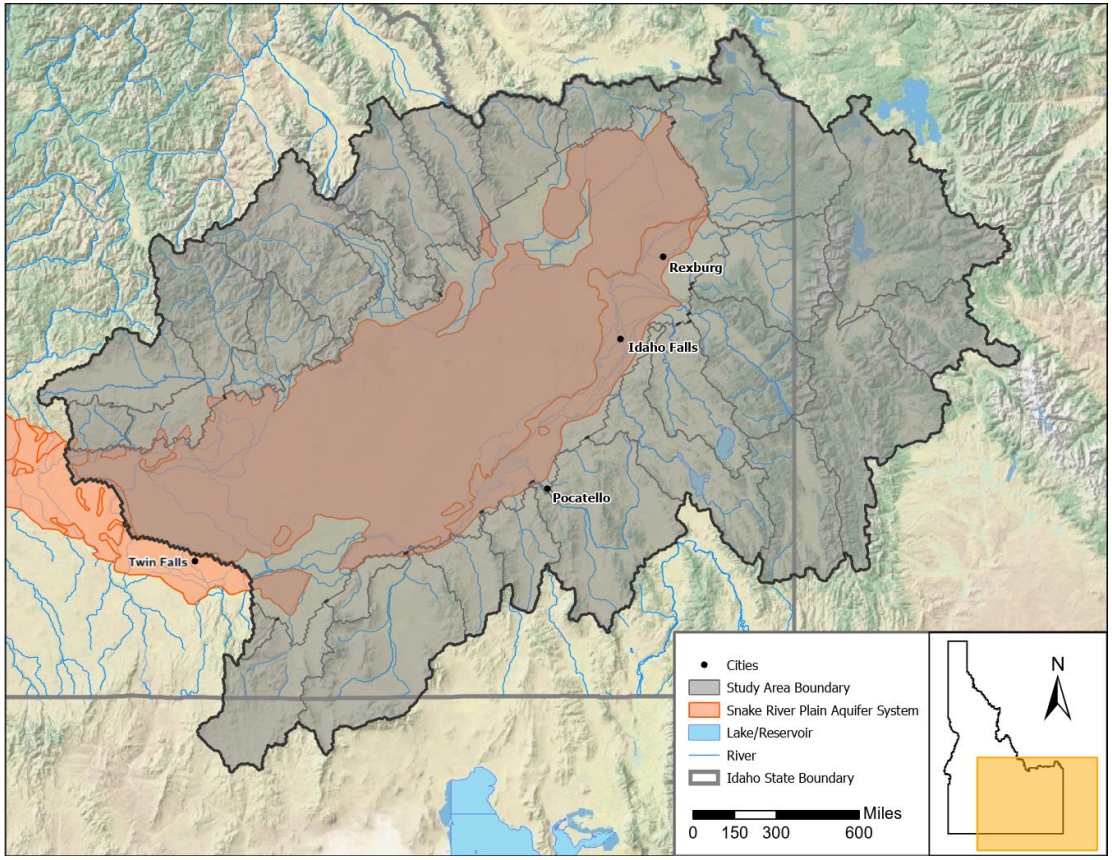
What else can we do to increase water supplies in the Upper Snake River Basin ??

Surface Water Storage

Basin Study Proposal (15 pages)

Included in Proposal:

- Project Information
- Abstract/Scope
- Evaluation Criteria (scored)
- Study Outline & Schedule



Proposal - Evaluation Criteria

1. Existing or anticipated imbalances in water supply vs. demand. *(30 points)*

2. Ability to Address Key Issues *(25 points)*
   - Supply/demand projections
   - Infrastructure performance under changing conditions
   - Adaptation & mitigation strategies
   - Trade-off analysis of strategies

3. Connection to BOR projects and need for federal involvement. *(15 points)*

4. Existing data/models and partners' ability to assess future imbalances. *(15 points)*

5. Level of support and diversity of stakeholders. *(10 points)*

6. Use of integrated watershed planning and management approach. *(5 points)*

Scope for Basin Study Proposal

The Basin Study will emphasize optimization of existing storage and the consideration of new storage opportunities.

For existing storage infrastructure, objectives include:

- compiling an inventory and **assessment of existing storage** and system operations, including usable capacity, physical condition, operating rules, and constraints;
- **identify inefficiencies or unrealized capacity** in existing storage.

For new or expanded surface water storage:

- identify and screen **opportunities such as raising existing dams or developing new reservoirs**, including conceptual storage volumes, operating assumptions, and integration with existing systems.

The study will **identify promising storage strategies** and recommend next steps for further feasibility evaluation.

Stakeholder Groups

Group	Involvement
Executive Committee	IWRB and BOR; focus on how to communicate with the rest of the stakeholders and set the study up for success
Technical Committee	Small group, all technical (modeling team)
Study Work Group	inclusive to anyone who has a vested interest in the study

Comments/Questions

1) Teams Chat – will read comments/questions in the order they appear

2) Questions via phone

Upcoming Schedule

- January 22nd – Idaho Water Users Association Annual Meeting
- January 23rd – Idaho Water Resource Board meeting
- February 5th – IWRB Storage Committee meeting
- February 10th – Special IWRB Board Meeting
- **February 16th – Proposal due (will submit by February 13th)**
- April 2026 – Response from BOR expected

Questions?

IDAHO
Water Resource Board

Step 1 — Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

- BOR and IWRB will enter into an MOA that states the agreed-upon terms for the study.
- Will include a description of the scope, geographic area, goals, study phases, cost-sharing, time-frame, general responsibilities of the parties, and approach to incorporating input from stakeholders.

Step 2 – Plan of Study (POS)

- POS will be developed jointly by BOR and IWRB
- Describe specific tasks, responsibilities, and methodologies

Study Outline and Schedule

- Develop a draft study outline and schedule
- Include a break-out of roles and responsibilities between Reclamation and the cost-share partners listing study tasks, milestones, and deliverables.
- Supporting charts and/or graphs (e.g., time-lines, budgets) are strongly encouraged

Proposal - Evaluation Criteria

1. The extent and consequences of **existing or anticipated imbalances** in water supply and demand. (30 points)

2. The extent to which the proposal describes and provides support for the study proponent's ability to address the following: (25 points)

- **projections of water supply and demand**
- analysis of **how existing water and power infrastructure will perform** in the face of changing water realities
- Development of appropriate **adaptation and mitigation strategies** to meet future water demands
- A **trade-off analysis** of the strategies identified and findings as appropriate

3. The strength of any nexus between the Basin Study and a Reclamation project or activity, and the **extent to which Federal involvement is needed** due to the nature and complexity of the issues involved. (15 points)

Proposal - Evaluation Criteria

4. The **availability and quality of existing data** and models applicable to the proposed study, and the ability of the Basin Study partners to assess future imbalances in water supply and demand. (15 points)

5. The **level of support** for the Basin Study and **diversity of stakeholders** that will be involved. (10 points)

6. The extent to which the proposed study will employ an **integrated watershed planning and management approach**. (5 points)

Current Initiatives

State-Led Actions

- The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB), in coordination with stakeholders, have implemented multiple initiatives to support aquifer stabilization and water management.
  - continued development of the **Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Ground Water Model**;
  - expansion of **managed aquifer recharge** program;
  - collaborative **cloud seeding** program;
  - **financial incentive programs** supporting infrastructure improvements and demand reduction; and
  - **implementation of policies** established in the Comprehensive State Water Plan and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan.

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau

Date: January 15, 2026

Re: Flood Management Grant Applications – supplemental round

Action: Consider funding resolution

Background:

FY 2026 Flood Management Grant – round one

Staff received a total of eight (8) applications in June 2025. The applications were evaluated, scored, and ranked according to criteria adopted by Board. On July 25, 2025, the IWRB adopted resolution no. 33-2025 awarding $460,646 in grant funds toward the projects.

Action Item:

FY 2026 Flood Management Grant – supplemental round

Staff received a total of four (4) applications on January 2, 2026. The applications have been reviewed and meet the criteria adopted by the Board. The total amount requested by the four applications is $559,358. Staff have prepared a funding recommendation as described in Attachment A to the attached resolution.

On November 21, 2025, the IWRB adopted resolution no. 51-2025 amending the Water Management Account FY 2026 Spending Plan. The Amended Spending Plan budgeted $794,899 for the supplemental round of Flood Management Grants for FY2026.

Attachment(s):

Resolution with Attachment A

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT GRANTS	RESOLUTION TO AWARD FUNDS

WHEREAS, House Bill 248 passed and approved by the Idaho Legislature in 2025 transferred $1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Water Management Fund for a Flood Management Grant Program administered by the Idaho Water Resources Board (IWRB) to be used for the purpose of flood-damaged stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, or flood prevention projects; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2025, the IWRB adopted resolution no. 51-2025 amending the Water Management Account FY 2026 Spending Plan. The Amended Spending Plan budgeted $794,899 for the supplemental round of Flood Management Grants for FY2026; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 248 directs the IWRB to prioritize projects on a competitive statewide basis; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2025, the IWRB adopted on-going criteria for the award of Flood Management Grants; and

WHEREAS, four (4) Flood Management Grant applications were received by the deadline, and the applications were evaluated and staff have determined they meet the criteria adopted by IWRB; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2026, the Finance Committee met and discussed the projects and recommended the IWRB provide funding for the projects as specified in Attachment A to this resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB approves the award of Flood Management Grants as specified in Attachment A to this resolution.

DATED this 23rd day of January 2026.

_____
JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Attachment A: January 2026 Flood Management Grant - supplemental round

Entity	Project	IWRB District	Funds Requested	Total Project Costs
Bear Lake SWCD	Hardcastle Riverbank Stabilization Project	4	$34,621	$69,242.25
Bear Lake SWCD	Bear Lake Surface Water Control Project	4	$124,740	$249,480.00
Clearwater SWCD	Cedar Creek Project	1	$199,997	$421,247.00
FCD #10	Update BRMT/LIDAR	2	$200,000	$723,375.00
Total Funds Requested			**$559,358**	**$1,463,344.25**

Funds awarded by IWRB District:

District 1	$199,997	35.75%
District 2	$200,000	35.76%
District 3	$0	0.00%
District 4	$159,361	28.49%
	$559,358	100.00%

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Justin Ferguson

Date: January 16, 2026

Subject: Magic Valley Ground Water District – New Water Project Loan Application

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider a loan request to the MVGWD of $10,000,000.00

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Magic Valley Ground Water District (MVGWD) has requested a new loan in the amount of $10,000,000 from the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB), to match with grant funding received under the IWRB's Conversion Grant program, towards the MVGWD's Magic Valley Pumping Project. Water for the conversions will come from water rights that have been leased through the Minidoka Irrigation District and through agreements with local tribal entities.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The MVGWD was formed in the 1990's as a way to bring individual groundwater right holders together to mitigate and organize conservation. Their patrons include roughly 112 farm operations across 6,000 acres and over 28 non-irrigators, including food processors, other businesses, and domestic water supply providers. Currently, the MVGWD mitigates for approximately 136,000 acres and more than 30 cfs of non-irrigation water rights.

3.0 PRIOR LOANS

The MVGWD has held several loans through the IWRB in the past, with payments made on time annually. At the time of this memo, the most current loan has approximately 2 payments remaining until it is paid in full.

4.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project will construct an approximately 9-mile pressurized pipeline system and a pumping station to move water from Lake Walcott through the Minidoka Irrigation District delivery infrastructure to the MVGWD water users.

Maps, engineering documentation, proposed alternatives, and drawings for the proposal have been provided in the application package and can be provided by Staff.

5.0 BENEFITS

Through the construction of the pump station and pressurized pipeline, the MVGWD will be able to replace groundwater with surface water in nearly 8 out of 10 years. Along with the conversion grant funding, this proposal would help the MVGWD contribute towards the Statewide efforts to stabilize the ESPA.

6.0 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Current estimates for the project were $26,683,560 with a proposed contingency of $377,375.80 for a total of $27,060,935.80. The District was awarded two IWRB Conversion grants for the project totaling $17,060,935.80, leaving a remaining unfunded balance and loan request of $10,000,000.

The current assessment per share is $20.00 per acre, measured at each diversion using electromagnetic flowmeters across the approximately 135,922 acres served. Additionally, the MVGWD collects income through the rental of a fish hatchery. Based on a 4.88% interest rate and the requested 20-year term and 3 equal disbursements, Staff have estimated that annual payment at approximately $800,000. Per the application, the MVGWD plans to raise their assessments $4.00 per share for the next 20 years to be put towards the annual payment for this request.

There is an outstanding loan to the IWRB with an annual payment due; however, the balance of the obligation is projected to be paid off within the next 2-3 years. There is also an outstanding balance due on a 2012 Series A Bond in the amount of $5,235,000; however, based on the financial information submitted and the change in assessments, staff have no concerns about the District's ability to make the annual payment.

Because the applicant is a Ground Water District, judicial confirmation is required for this project. Per the applicant, this will be brought before the Court in the next several weeks. Staff would propose making the approval contingent upon the outcome of this confirmation.

7.0 SECURITY

As the MVGWD is a government entity with taxing and assessment authority, shareholder assessments have been offered as collateral to secure the loan.

8.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The funds requested will be used to construct a pump station and pipeline, moving surface water supply to the Magic Valley Ground Water District. With the additional supply, the District will be able to continue its work towards ESPA stabilization through both mitigation and conservation.

As a Ground Water District, the shareholder assessments will be used as security to meet the estimated annual payment and will provide adequate collateral to secure the loan.

The applicant meets the qualification criteria, and the proposed project is consistent with the goals established by the IWRB in the Idaho State Water Plan. Staff recommend approval of the loan request, for the total amount of $10,000,000.00.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE MAGIC VALLEY GROUND WATER DISTRICT LOAN REQUEST	RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LOAN FUNDING FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE MAGIC VALLEY PUMPING PROJECT

WHEREAS, The Magic Valley Ground Water District (MVGWD) submitted a loan application to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB), requesting a loan for $10,000,000 to construct a pump station and pressurized pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the MVGWD was established in the 1990's to bring individual groundwater users together to work towards mitigation and conservation; and

WHEREAS, the MGVWD provides mitigation for approximately 136,000 acres, including 112 farm operations and more than 28 non-irrigation entities; and

WHEREAS, the proposal is requesting funds to construct a pump station and pipeline from Lake Walcott, through the Minidoka Irrigation District Infrastructure, to the MVGWD water users; and

WHEREAS, alternative options were explored but did not provide the District with a sufficient a long-term solution for their patrons; and

WHEREAS, the District will increase assessments to their shareholders to cover costs associated with the annual loan payments; and

WHEREAS, the District is a qualified applicant, and the proposed Project is eligible for a loan from the Board's Water Management Account; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project is in the public interest and is in compliance with the State Water Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB provides authority to the Chairman of the Idaho Water Resource Board, or his designee, to enter into contracts, to effectuate the loan, with the MVGWD on behalf of the IWRB.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB approves a loan not to exceed $10,000,000 from the Water Management Account at 4.88 % interest with a 20-year repayment term.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds for the loan will come from the Statewide Efficiency and Capacity Improvements to Canal Systems, in the amount of $5,000,000, and the Statewide Monitoring and Measuring Grants, in the amount of $5,000,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB Water Management Account Spending Plan, authorized under resolution 51-2025, shall be amended to reflect the use of these funds for this loan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the approval of the loan are subject to the following conditions:

1) The District shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations that apply to the proposed Project.
2) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the District shall comply with all statutory requirements for incurring debt and will provide the IWRB with Judicial Confirmation as soon as possible

DATED this 23rd day of January, 2026.

_____
JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

MEMO

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Justin Ferguson

Date: January 16, 2026

Subject: Lost Valley Reservoir Loan Application – IWRB Loan Program

REQUESTED ACTION: *Consider Lost Valley Reservoir's Loan Application*

The Lost Valley Reservoir project proposes to raise the existing dam structure to capture more storage water within the basin, increasing the current capacity of 10,000 AF to a total of 30,000 AF.

As new areas are to be inundated, an environmental assessment is required, specifically regarding the Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel. Lost Valley was awarded $560,000 under the Regional Sustainability Priority list for pre-construction work including the EIS necessary to understand if raising the existing dam is a viable storage option. Work on these impacts is underway with an expected completion date in the next 2-3 years.

To date, the IWRB has helped fund the installation of automation equipment, flow control and monitoring equipment at the reservoir, and a 2018 study on the Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel.

Lost Valley has submitted a loan application in the amount of $17,662,000 to the IWRB Loan Program, in conjunction with their application to the Bureau of Reclamation's Small Storage Grant program.

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Nick Banish, Cloud Seeding Program Manager

Date: January 16, 2026

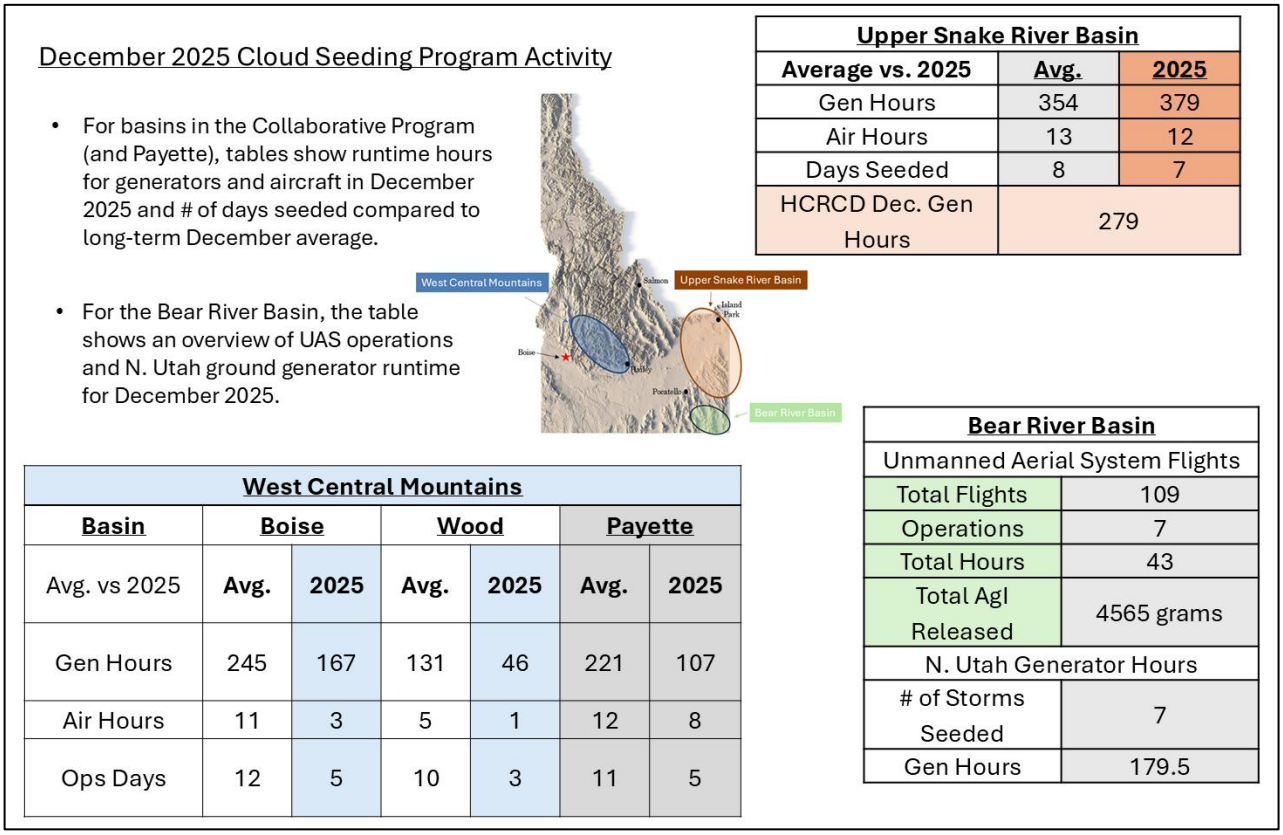
Re: Cloud Seeding Program | *2025-2026 Season: December Program Update*

ACTION: No Action Required

December 2025 Cloud Seeding Update:

- Most of the state is experiencing less than ideal conditions for cloud seeding. This is reflected in the departure from average (Avg. vs 2025) for aircraft and generator hours included in the tables in Figure 1. Poor cloud seeding conditions are linked to warmer than normal temperatures and less than normal precipitation for most basins.
- **For the Boise River Basin:**
    - Ground generator hours for the Boise Basin were about 2/3^{rds} of average for December.
    - Aircraft hours are about 25% of average for December.
    - The number of days with cloud seeding operations were less than half of the average for December.
- **For the Wood River Basin:**
    - Ground generator hours for the Wood River Basin were about 1/3rd of average for December.
    - Aircraft hours are 1/5th of average for December.
    - The number of days with cloud seeding operations were about 30% of the average for December.
- **For the Upper Snake River Basin:**
    - Ground generator hours for the Upper Snake River Basin are slightly above average for December.
    - High Country Resource Conservation and Development (HCRCD) generator hours were typical for December runtimes.
    - Aircraft hours were near average for December.
    - The number of days with cloud seeding operations is on track with the December average.
- **For the Bear River Basin Program:**
    - Cloud seeding operations with unmanned aircraft (drones) occurred on 7 days in December. These operations consisted of a total of 109 flights with a total drone runtime of 43 hours.

- Drones released about 10 lbs. of seeding material during the month of December.
- To date, drones have flown a total of 17 operations consisting of 283 flights for a total of 115 hours and dispersing 25 lbs. of seeding material.



Upper Snake River Basin		
Average vs. 2025	**Avg.**	**2025**
Gen Hours	354	379
Air Hours	13	12
Days Seeded	8	7
HCRCD Dec. Gen Hours	279	

West Central Mountains						
Basin	**Boise**		**Wood**		**Payette**	
Avg. vs 2025	**Avg.**	**2025**	**Avg.**	**2025**	**Avg.**	**2025**
Gen Hours	245	167	131	46	221	107
Air Hours	11	3	5	1	12	8
Ops Days	12	5	10	3	11	5

Bear River Basin	
Unmanned Aerial System Flights	
Total Flights	109
Operations	7
Total Hours	43
Total AgI Released	4565 grams
N. Utah Generator Hours	
# of Storms Seeded	7
Gen Hours	179.5

Figure 1: Map showing the general location of active cloud seeding projects in Idaho and associated activity for the month of December 2025.

Cloud Seeding Program Update
December 2025

Nick Banish, Cloud Seeding Program Manager
Idaho Water Resource Board Meeting
January 23, 2026

Photo Courtesy of Idaho Power Company

December 2025 Big Picture:

- Most of the state is experiencing less than ideal conditions for cloud seeding.

- This is reflected in the departure from average (Avg. vs 2025) for aircraft and generator hours included in the tables in Figure 1 on the handout.

West Central Mountains (Boise, Wood, Payette)

West Central Mountains						
Basin	**Boise**		**Wood**		**Payette**	
Avg. vs 2025	**Avg.**	**2025**	**Avg.**	**2025**	**Avg.**	**2025**
Gen Hours	245	167	131	46	221	107
Air Hours	11	3	5	1	12	8
Ops Days	12	5	10	3	11	5

Boise Basin

- **Generator hours:** 2/3^{rds} of long-term average
- **Aircraft hours:** about 25% of normal for December
- **Cloud seeding operations:** less than half of the average for December

Wood Basin

- **Generator hours:** 1/3rd of average for December
- **Aircraft hours:** 1/5th of average for December
- **Cloud seeding operations:** 30% of the average for December

The Upper Snake River Basin

Operations	**Upper Snake**	
	Avg.	**2025**
Gen Hours	354	379
Air Hours	13	12
Days Seeded	8	7
HCRCD Dec. Gen Hours	279	

Upper Snake River Basin

- **Generator hours: S**lightly above average for December
- **HCRCD generator hours:** typical for December runtimes
- **Aircraft hours:** Near average for December
- **Cloud seeding operations:** On track with the December average

The Bear River Basin

Bear River Basin	
Unmanned Aerial System Flights	
Total Flights	109
Operations	7
Total Hours	43
Total AgI Released	4565 grams
N. Utah Generator Hours	
# of Storms Seeded	7
Gen Hours	179.5

- Cloud seeding operations with unmanned aircraft (drones) occurred on 7 days in December
- Operations consisted of a total of 109 flights with a total drone runtime of 43 hours
- Drones released about 10 lbs. of seeding material during the month of December.

To date, drones have flown a total of 17 operations consisting of 283 flights for a total of 115 hours and dispersing 25 lbs. of seeding material

Memorandum

Date: January 22, 2026
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 approximately 425 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 diverted 100% of the water available for managed recharge from October 18th to November 30th. The IWRB chose to divert approximately 50% of the water available for managed recharge starting on December 1st. The remaining available water is being allowed to flow past Milner Dam for other beneficial uses. The IWRB will begin diverting 100% of the water available for managed recharge starting on February 16th.

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

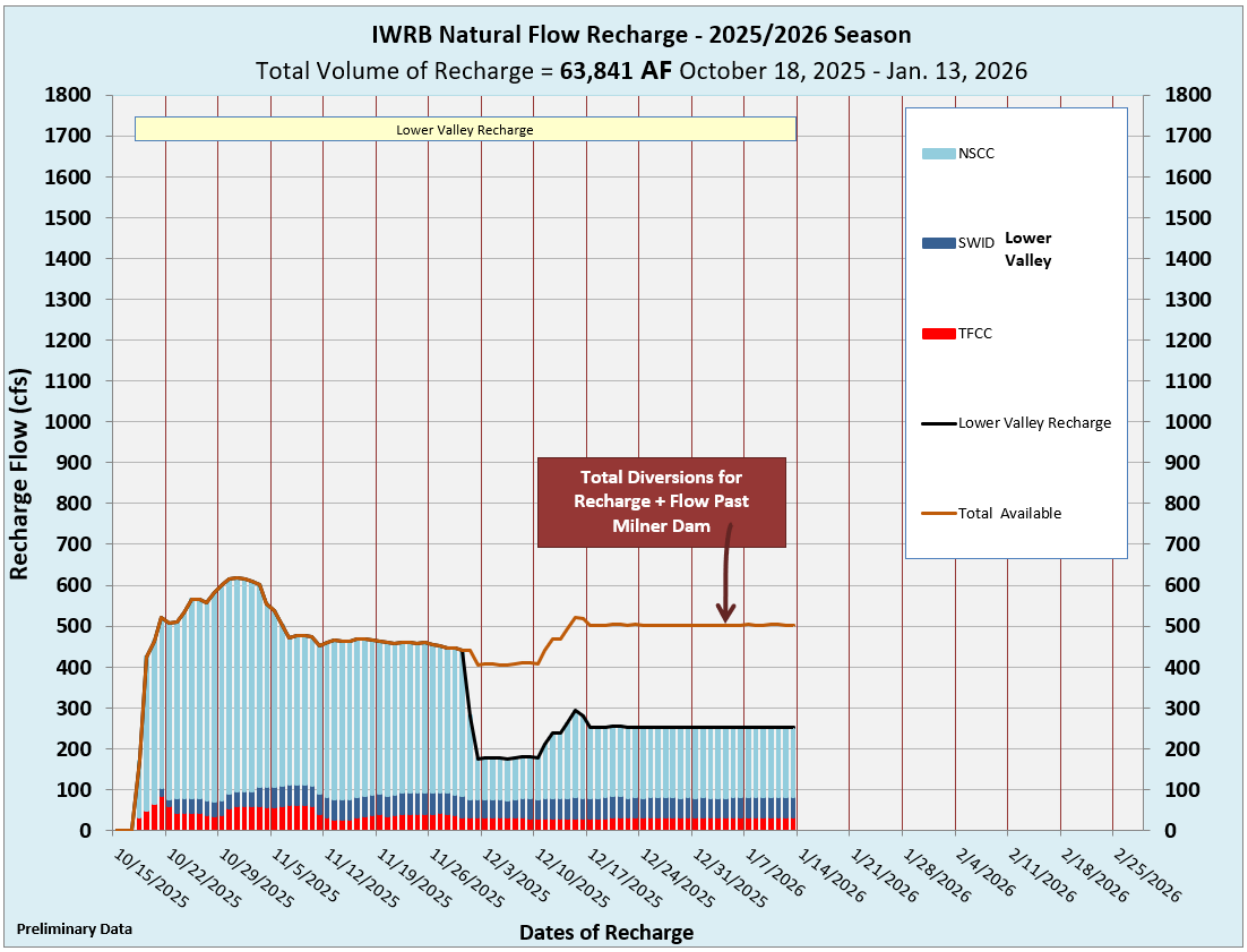
The IWRB will not recharge storage water for the Coalition of Cities during the 2025-2026 recharge season.

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	252	366	63,841

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

Figure 1. IWRB 2025-2026 Managed Recharge Daily Recharge



IDAHO
Water Resource Board

Managed Aquifer Recharge Program Update

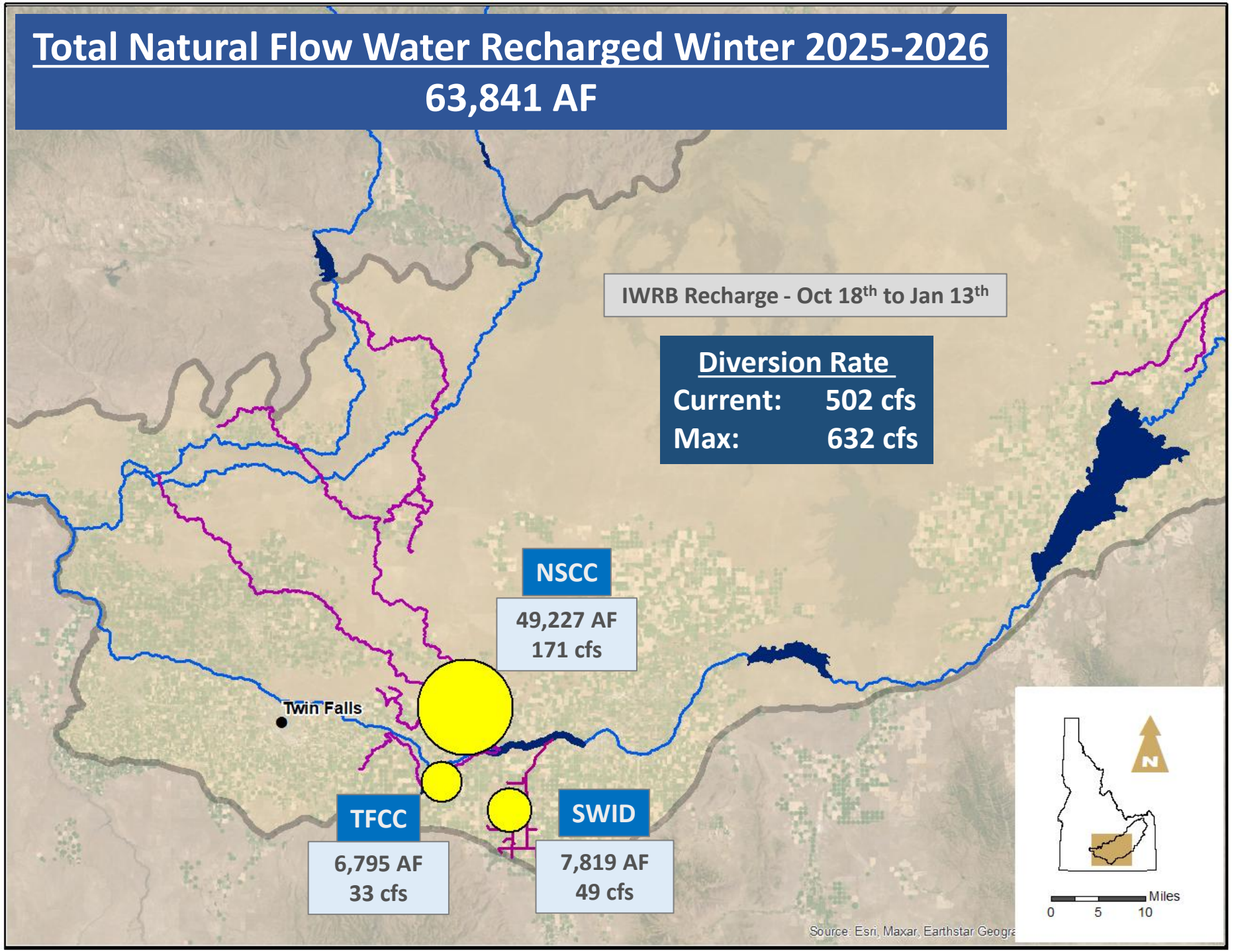
Matt Anders
Water Planning and Projects Section

January 23, 2026

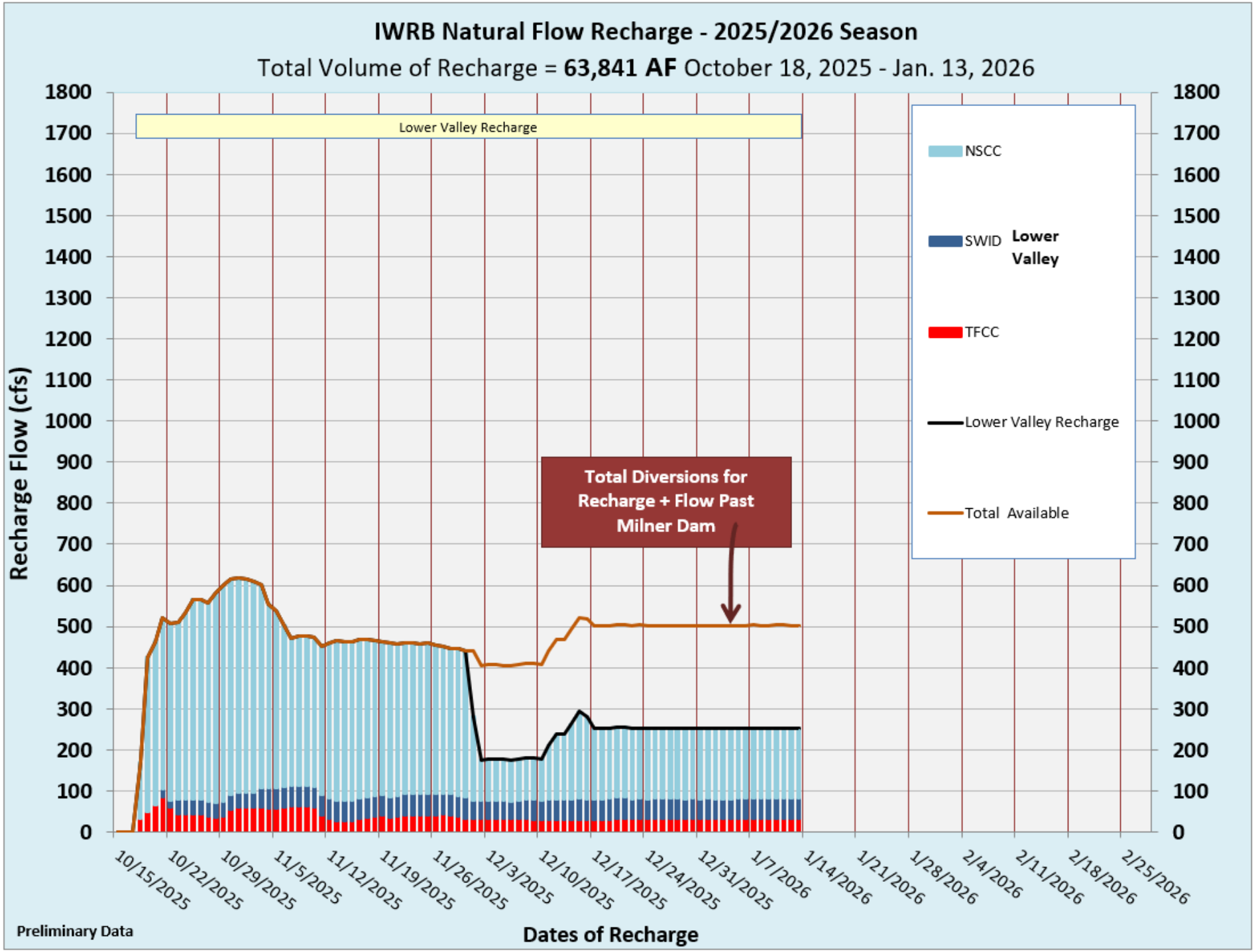
2025-2026 Recharge Update

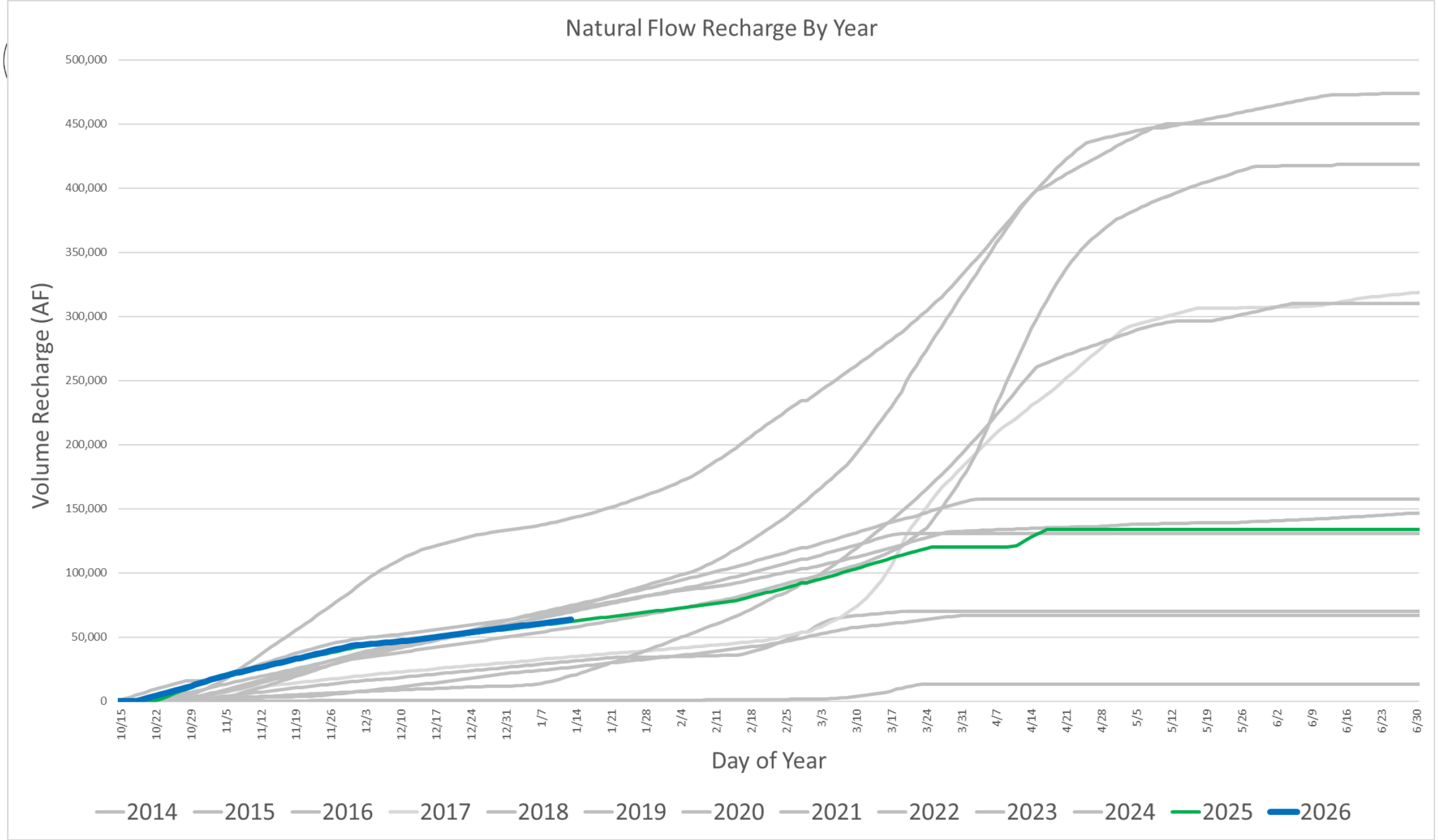
Total Natural Flow Water Recharged Winter 2025-2026

63,841 AF



Updated on
1/13/2026


IWRB Natural Flow Recharge - 2025/2026 Season
Total Volume of Recharge = 63,841 AF October 18, 2025 - Jan. 13, 2026
Lower Valley Recharge
NSCC
SWID
TFCC
Lower Valley
Lower Valley Recharge
Total Available
Total Diversions for Recharge + Flow Past Milner Dam
Recharge Flow (cfs)
0
100
200
300
400
500
600
700
800
900
1000
1100
1200
1300
1400
1500
1600
1700
1800
10/15/2025
10/22/2025
10/29/2025
11/5/2025
11/12/2025
11/19/2025
11/26/2025
12/3/2025
12/10/2025
12/17/2025
12/24/2025
12/31/2025
1/7/2026
1/14/2026
1/21/2026
1/28/2026
2/4/2026
2/11/2026
2/18/2026
2/25/2026
Preliminary Data
Dates of Recharge


Natural Flow Recharge By Year
Volume Recharge (AF)
500,000
450,000
400,000
350,000
300,000
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
10/15
10/22
10/29
11/5
11/12
11/19
11/26
12/3
12/10
12/17
12/24
12/31
1/7
1/14
1/21
1/28
2/4
2/11
2/18
2/25
3/3
3/10
3/17
3/24
3/31
4/7
4/14
4/21
4/28
5/5
5/12
5/19
5/26
6/2
6/9
6/16
6/23
6/30
Day of Year
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026

Proposed Recharge Projects

Summary of New Proposed Recharge Projects

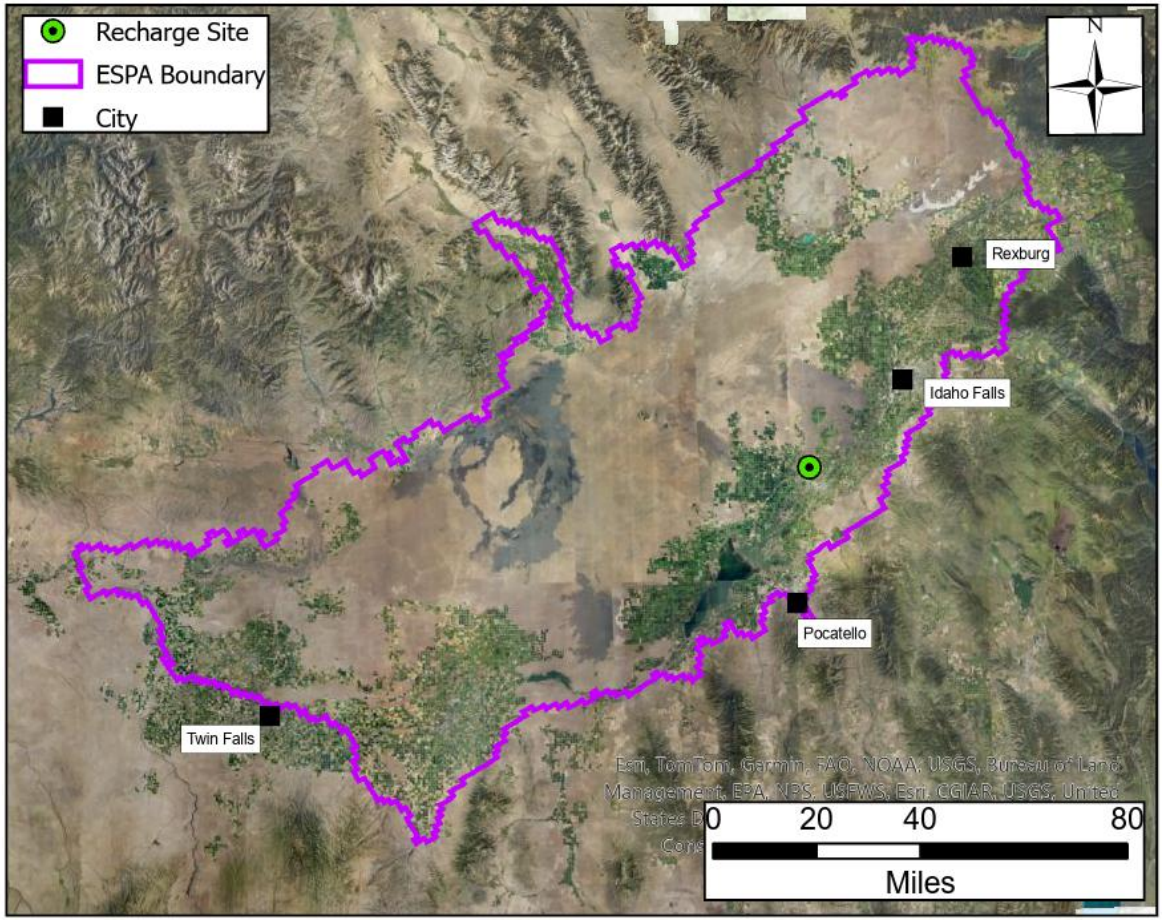
Proposed Recharge Project	Type	Capital Cost	Estimated Cost Per Acre-Foot Recharged[1]	Estimated Recharge Capacity (cfs)	5-Year Retention in Aquifer	50% Response Time (Months)[2]	Percent Return to Snake River
Bingham GWD – Dubois & Riverside Site	45-Acre Basin	$3,100,000	$30 (50 years)	30	17%	12-16	Shelley to Near Blackfoot 30% Near Blackfoot to Neeley 61%
Butte Market Lake – Canal Improvements	Canal	$1,600,000	$14 (20 years)	65	30%	9-10	Heise to Shelley 20% Shelley to Near Blackfoot 27% Near Blackfoot to Neeley 45%
Fremont Madison ID – Wilford Canal Pilot Project	93 acres Land App	$42,000	$22 (5 years)	47	20%	24	Ashton to Rexburg 68% Heise to Shelley 27% Shelley to Near Blackfoot 1% Near Blackfoot to Neeley 3%
Southwest ID – Searle Well	Well	$765,000	$34 (20 years)	22	88%	168 (14 years)	Shelley to Near Blackfoot 9% Near Blackfoot to Neeley 38% Devils Washbowl to Buhl 17% Buhl to Thousand Springs 13%

[1] Assumed 90 days of recharge available in 50% of the years. Used a conveyance fee of $7.50 / acre-foot.

[2] The time required for 50% of the recharged water to discharge to the Snake River

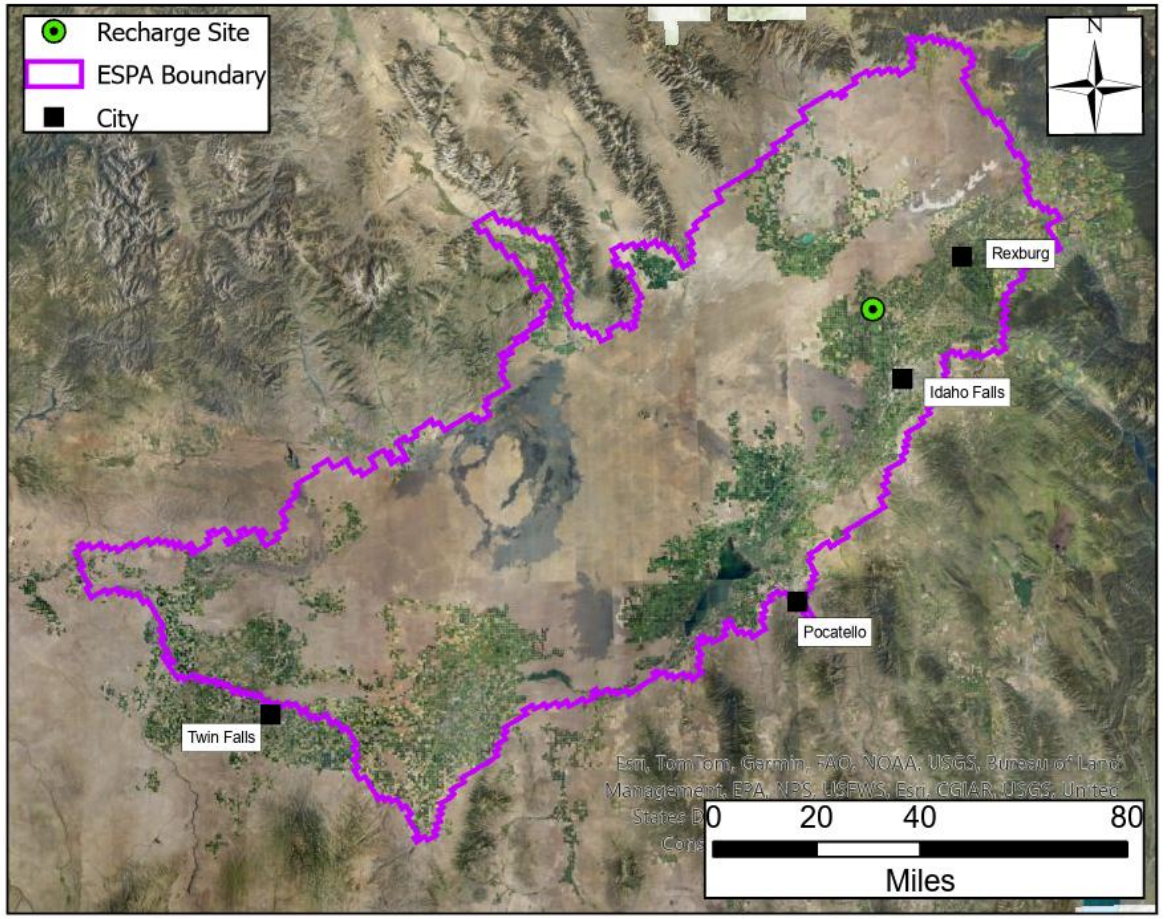
Bingham GWD – Dubois & Riverside Site

• Type	45-acre Basin
• Cost	$3,100,000
• Estimated Capacity	30 cfs
• 50-Year Estimated Cost	$30 / AF
• 5-Year Retention	17%
• 50% Response	12-16 months
• Return to Snake River	
• Shelley to Near Blackfoot	30%
• Near Blackfoot to Neeley	61%



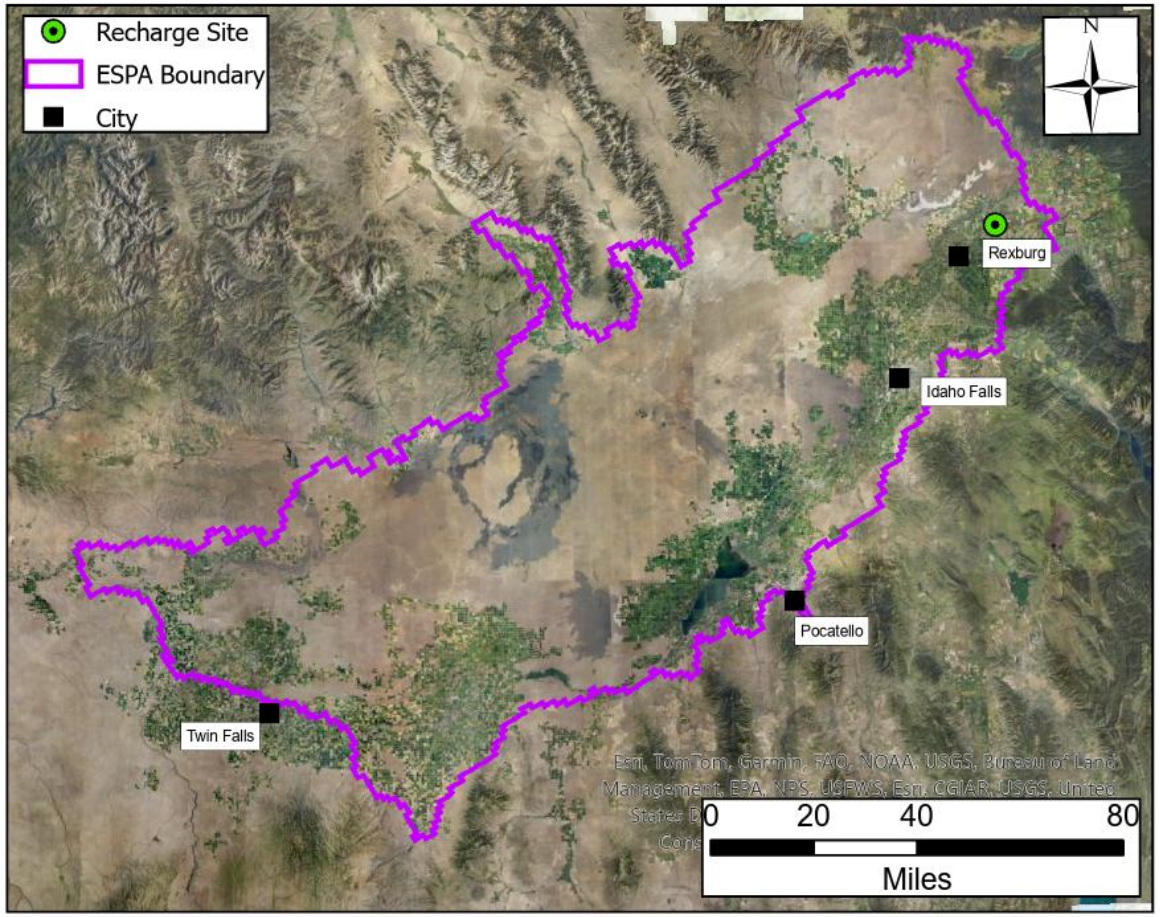
Butte Market Lake – Canal Improvements

- Type — Canal
- Cost — $1,600,000
- Estimated Capacity — 65 cfs
- 20-Year Estimated Cost — $14 / AF
- 5-Year Retention — 30%
- 50% Response — 9-10 months
- Return to Snake River
  - Heise to Shelley — 20%
  - Shelley to Near Blackfoot — 27%
  - Near Blackfoot to Neeley — 45%



Fremont-Madison ID – Wilford Canal Pilot Project

- Type — 93-acre Land Application Site
- Cost — $42,000
- Estimated Capacity — 47 cfs
- 5-Year Estimated Cost — $22 / AF
- 5-Year Retention — 20%
- 50% Response — 24 months
- Return to Snake River
  - Ashton to Rexburg — 68%
  - Heise to Shelley — 27%
  - Shelley to Near Blackfoot — 1%
  - Near Blackfoot to Neeley — 3%

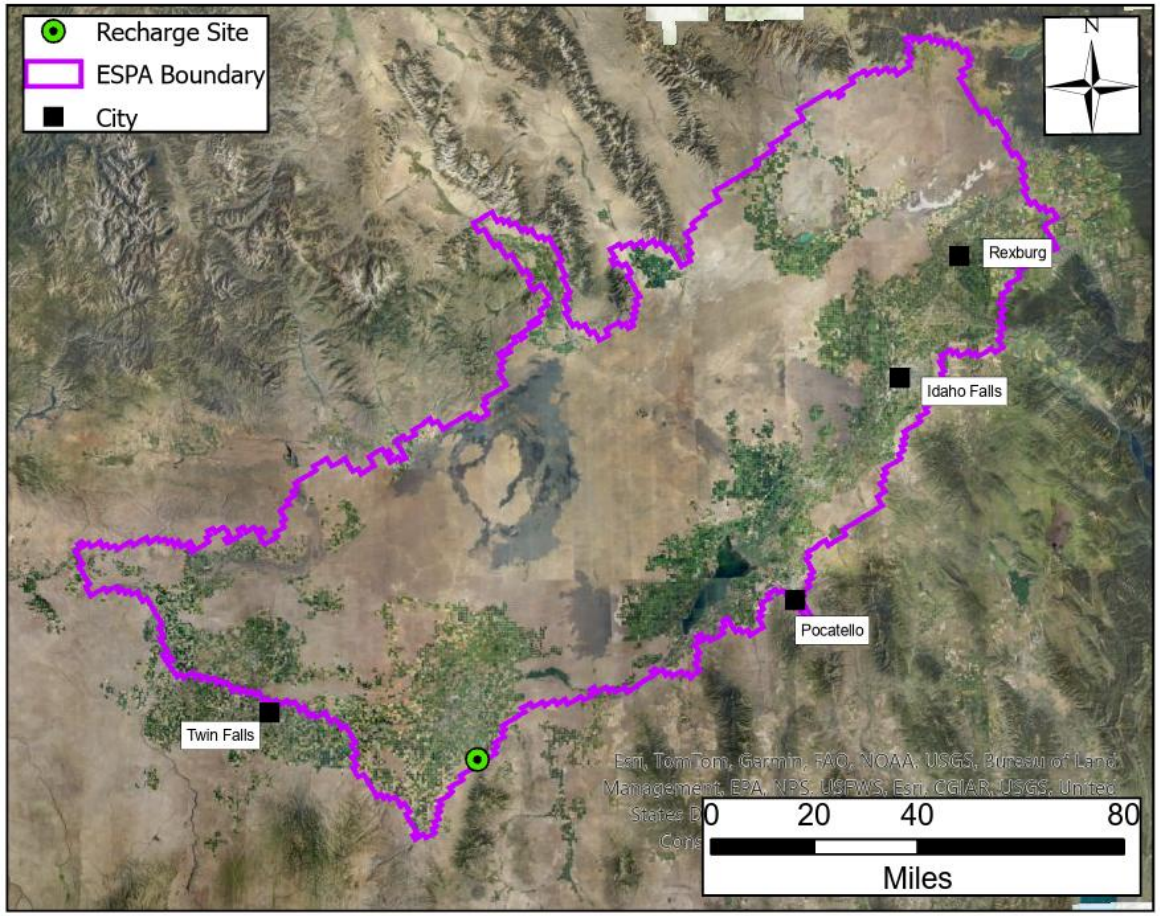


Fremont-Madison ID – Wilford Canal Pilot Project

- Proposed payment structure
    - $7.50 per acre-foot for canal conveyance
    - $10 per acre-foot of water recharged

Southwest Irrigation District – Searle Well

- Type — Well
- Cost — $763,312
- Estimated Capacity — 22 cfs
- 20-Year Estimated Cost — $34 / AF
- 5-Year Retention — 88%
- 50% Response — 14 years
- Return to Snake River
  - Shelley to Near Blackfoot — 9%
  - Near Blackfoot to Neeley — 38%
  - Devils Washbowl to Buhl — 17%
  - Buhl to Thousand Springs — 13%



Questions?

Memorandum

Date: January 23, 2026
To: Idaho Water Resource Board
Re: ESPA Managed Recharge – Proposed Recharge Project Update

REQUIRED ACTION: The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) will consider funding for proposed recharge projects.

I. New Projects Summary

The IWRB has been actively developing managed recharge capacity throughout the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) since the start of the full-scale program in 2014. The intent of the IWRB is to develop a program that can achieve the goals set by the Legislature and ensure the ESPA remains a sustainable water supply for Idaho. The current focus is on developing capacity in multiple geographic areas to provide both short- and long-term benefits to the aquifer and surface water flows. The IWRB has added approximately 2,300 cfs of recharge capacity across the ESPA over the past twelve years. 2,000 cfs of this capacity is in the Lower Valley and 300 cfs is in the Upper Valley above American Falls.

Several irrigation entities have submitted proposals to the IWRB for aquifer recharge projects. These projects will support the IWRB goal of recharging 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. This memo provides a summary of these proposed projects.

Figure 1. Locations of New Proposed Recharge Projects.

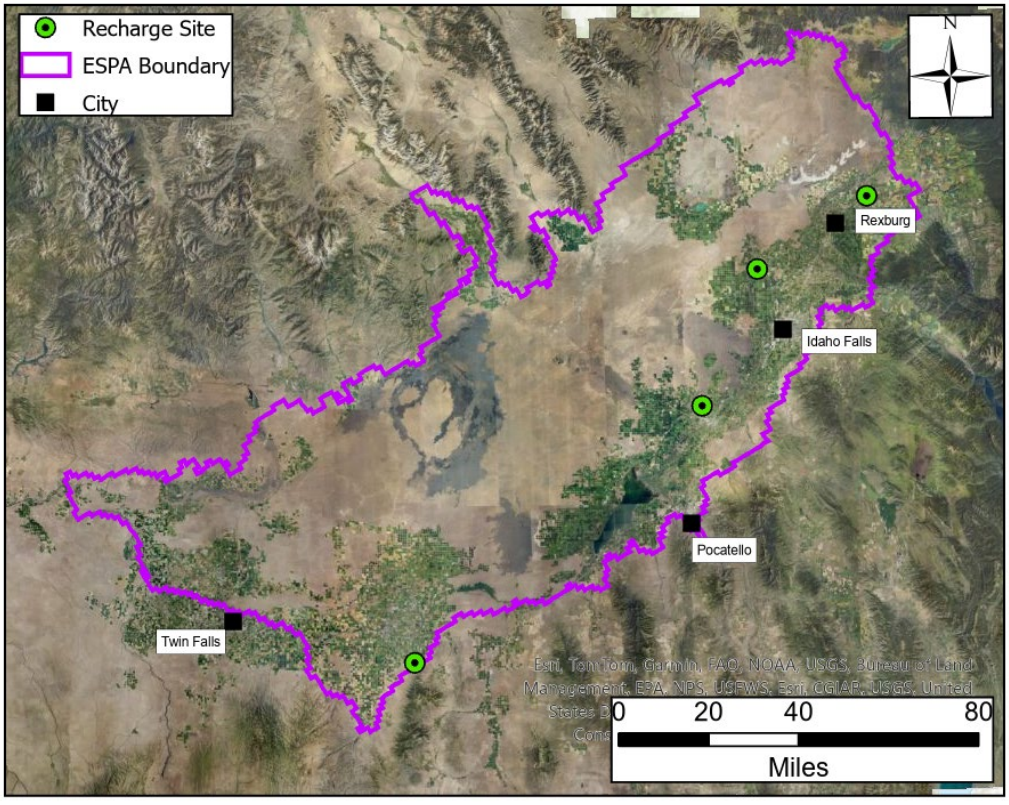


Table 1. Summary of New Proposed Recharge Projects

Proposed Recharge Project	Capital Cost	Estimated Cost Per Acre-Foot Recharged[1]	Estimated Recharge Capacity (cfs)	Type	5-Year Retention in Aquifer	50% Response Time (Months)[2]	Percent Return to Snake River
Bingham GWD – Dubois & Riverside Site	45-Acre Basin	$3,100,000	$30 (50 years)	30	17%	12-16	Shelley to Near Blackfoot 30% Near Blackfoot to Neeley 61%
Butte Market Lake – Canal Improvements	Canal	$1,600,000	$14 (20 years)	65	30%	9-10	Heise to Shelley 20% Shelley to Near Blackfoot 27% Near Blackfoot to Neeley 45%
Fremont Madison ID – Wilford Canal Pilot Project	93 acres Land App	$42,000	$22 (5 years)	47	20%	24	Ashton to Rexburg 68% Heise to Shelley 27% Shelley to Near Blackfoot 1% Near Blackfoot to Neeley 3%
Southwest ID – Searle Well	Well	$765,000	$34 (20 years)	22	88%	168 (14 years)	Shelley to Near Blackfoot 9% Near Blackfoot to Neeley 38% Devils Washbowl to Buhl 17% Buhl to Thousand Springs 13%

[1] Assumed 90 days of recharge available in 50% of the years. Used a conveyance fee of $7.50 / acre-foot.

[2] The time required for 50% of the recharged water to discharge to the Snake River

II. Site Characterization Summaries for the Proposed Projects

This section includes a memorandum written by the Idaho Department of Water Resources technical staff for each proposed recharge project, summarizing the project cost, its impact on the aquifer, its impact on the Snake River, site hydrogeology, and nearby potential sources of contamination.

Memorandum

Date: December 23, 2025
To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Kienholz, Mackenzie
Re: ESPA Managed Recharge – Bingham Groundwater District Dubois-Riverside Recharge Basin Proposal

REQUIRED ACTION: The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) will consider funding the Bingham Groundwater District Dubois-Riverside Recharge Basin Proposal.

The Bingham Groundwater District submitted a proposal for the construction of a recharge basin. The development of this basin would support the IWRB goal of recharging 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. The following memo provides a summary of the proposal and a staff review of the proposed recharge basin.

I. Project Proposal

The Bingham Groundwater District (BGWD) proposes the construction of a 45-acre managed recharge infiltration basin located northeast of Moreland at a cost of $3,065,000. The proposal includes the purchase of a 64-acre parcel for excavation of the basin, installation of a fence around the basin, construction of two telemetered headgates, construction of two monitor wells, and purchase of grass seed. The proposal also includes the purchase of 2.5 acres of an adjacent parcel to provide access to the recharge site. Both the 64-acre parcel and 2.5 acres for access are currently owned by SLT Properties, LLC, which has agreed to sell the land to the BGWD at its appraised value of $1,464,463 ($22,022/acre).

The subsurface geology of the site consists of approximately 1.8 feet of topsoil overlying gravel and sand, based on a December 2025 test pit at the proposed basin location. Excavation would be completed to a depth of 2.0 ft over 45 acres of the 64-acre parcel. The approximately 145,000 cubic yards of excavated material would be used to construct berms on the 19 acres surrounding the basin. The berms are proposed to be 4.5 feet high and 100 feet wide, except on the south and southeastern sides of the basin, where the berms would be 200 feet wide to increase the setback from domestic residences.

Two delivery systems would serve this site: the Dubois and Augustine Laterals. Water delivered through the Dubois Lateral is diverted from the Snake River via the main branch of People's Canal. The Dubois Lateral can currently convey approximately 40 cubic feet per second (cfs), most of which is used for irrigation during peak demand, which begins in mid-May. Cleaning and regrading approximately two miles of the lateral will result in an additional 20 cfs of conveyance capacity that could be dedicated to the recharge site.

Water delivered through the Augustine Lateral is diverted from the Snake River via the main branch of the Riverside Canal. The Augustine Lateral can currently convey approximately 20 cfs, most of which is used for irrigation during peak demand, which begins in mid-May. Cleaning and regrading of

approximately 2.5 miles of the lateral from the Riverside Canal main branch will result in an additional 10 cfs of conveyance capacity that could be dedicated to the recharge site.

The BGWD proposes to plant canary grass ("range grass") over the basin acreage after excavation, based on a request by a neighboring landowner. The grass would be irrigated with natural flow canal water when no recharge is occurring The grass would reduce dust and preserve incidental recharge. The $50,000 cost of seed is included in the project cost. Program staff note that depending on the period of recharge, a recharge event could kill the grass resulting in the need to re-seed. In years when recharge occurs, the BGWD proposes to offset the evapotranspiration by the range grasses by reducing the volume of recharge accomplished by 1.0 acre-feet per acre. The Blackfoot station on ET-IDWR indicates that range grasses in this area require approximately 0.3 acre-feet per acre of irrigation water per year.

There is an existing groundwater irrigation right (35-7360) partially appurtenant to this property. The BGWD intends to use this right to offset groundwater pumping or to convert the beneficial use to groundwater recharge.

The breakdown of requested funds is as follows:

Expense Category	Estimated Cost
Land Purchase (64 acres + 2.5 acres * $22,022 per acre)	$1,464,463
Excavation	$800,000
Two Diversion Structures (including meter & telemetry)	$50,000
Two Monitoring Wells	$70,000
Canal/Lateral Cleaning and Regrading (five miles)	$250,000
Fencing	$100,000
Grass Seed	$50,000
Contingency (10%)	$278,446
Total Basin Cost	**$3,065,000**

The 45-acre, 2-foot-deep basin is expected to recharge approximately 55 cfs, based on a stage–infiltration rate relationship developed from a single recharge event in a basin with similar alluvium. Prior to peak irrigation demand in mid-May, the two laterals are capable of delivering a combined 55 cfs will be able to be delivered to the site. After mid-May, the two laterals are capable of delivering a combined 30 cfs to the site.

To conservatively estimate recharge costs, a delivery rate of 30 cfs (59.5 acre-feet per day) was assumed for the entire recharge period. Under this assumption, the estimated cost of recharge is $30 per acre-foot. This value is based on the estimated total acre-feet of recharge over a 50-year period. Full calculation details are provided in the Appendix.

Upon completion of the site, the IWRB would have the first right of use for IWRB water rights, when in priority, for a period of 50 years.

II. MAR Site Summary

Est. Recharge Capacity:	55 cfs before irr. 30 cfs during irr.	Operator:	Bingham GWD
Basin Size:	45 acres	Delivery System:	Riverside Canal Co. (south) Dubois Lateral Assn. (north)
5-yr Retention:	17.3%	50% Response Time:	12-16 months
Depth to Water:	70 ft	Ownership:	Private

ESPAM 2.2 and ETRAN V3.4 were used to determine the 5-year retention, 50% response time, and percent return to the various reaches of the Snake River. The water recharged at this site would primarily return to two reaches of the Snake River: Near Blackfoot to Neeley reach (60.9%) and Shelley to Near Blackfoot reach (30.1%). The time required for 50% of the recharged water to be discharged to the Snake River is approximately 12-16 months.

III. Hydrogeology Summary

Table 1. Generalized Geology Below Site

Depth	Subsurface Geology
0-40 Feet Below Ground Surface	Alluvium (Sand & Gravel)
40-50 Feet Below Ground Surface	Clay
Beyond 50 Feet Below Ground Surface	Basalt

Subsurface geology, based on nearby well logs, generally consists of sand and gravel extending to approximately 25 to 50 feet below ground surface. Of the 15 well logs analyzed, 12 indicate the presence of a clay layer beneath the sand and gravel. The three wells without a clay layer in their lithologic logs are closest to the proposed site, located to the southeast and southwest of the site. Basalt with indications of fracturing is present beneath the sand, gravel, and clay.

The clay layer could result in localized perching of water recharged through the proposed basin. However, no instances of perching have been observed during incidental recharge from nearby canals. In addition, the water table is generally within the basalt, below the clay layer, indicating that incidental recharge in the area is reaching the regional aquifer without impediment from the clay layer.

IV. Site Vicinity

The closest domestic residence downgradient of the site is approximately 250 feet to the south of the berm boundary. There are also upgradient domestic residences approximately 55 feet to the east and

400 feet to the south. The primary land uses immediately surrounding the site are irrigated crops, land application of waste water, and an animal feedlot.

To obtain an approved groundwater monitoring plan from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) or to permit an injection well from the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Underground Injection Well program (UIC) program, a review of facilities and potential areas of concern is typically required. A review of IDEQ's Source Water Assessment and Protection map showed the following potential sources of contamination within a 2-mile radius of the proposed site:

- Basic American Foods Water Reuse site and Underground Storage Tank (UST) directly north of the site
- Feedlot directly to the northwest
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) site 0.9 miles to the west
- General Waste and UST site 1.1 miles to the west
- UST & RCRA site 1.3 miles to the west
- General Waste/RCRA site 1.8 miles to the west
- UST site 1.4 miles to the southwest
- UST site 1.5 miles to the southwest
- RCRA site 0.25 to the south
- UST site 0.3 miles to the south

The outer limits of Blackfoot are between one and two miles to the south and southeast of the site. In this area there are approximately:

- Three RCRA Sites
- Two Toxics Release Inventory sites
- Two underground storage tank locations
- Six Tier II (formerly CAMEO) sites – chemical facilities that store or use hazardous material

An additional water quality consideration for both IDEQ and the UIC Program is the locations of Public Water Systems (PWS) near the site. This site is within the 3-year time-of-travel zone of three PWS:

- Riverside Estates (PWS #6060059)
- Riverview Acres (PWS #6060062)
- Moreland Water and Sewer District (PWS #6060117)
- City of Blackfoot (PWS #6060007)

The following PWS have one or more source locations within two miles downgradient (southwest) of the site:

- Johnson Mobile Village (PWS #6060039)
- East Moreland Water Company (PWS #6060014)
- Moreland Water and Sewer District (PWS #6060117)
- JSD Water Company (PWS #6060037)
- Moreland Mercantile (PWS #6060116)
- JBS Country Market (PWS #6060022)
- LDS Moreland Church (PWS #6060047)
- Moreland School (PWS #6060048)
- Youngs Country Court (PWS #6060049)
- LDS Blackfoot Northwest Stake Center (PWS #6060010)

The following PWS have one or more source locations within two miles not downgradient of the site:

- Groveland Water and Sewer Dist. (PWS #6060095)
- LDS Groveland Church (PWS #6060027)
- Groveland Elementary School Dist. 55 (PWS #6060028)
- Blackfoot, City Of (PWS #6060007)
- Edwards Trailer Park (PWS #6060015)
- Pindale Lanes (PWS #6060052)
- Town and Country Mobile Home Park (PWS #6060085)
- Bingham Co Op (PWS #6060114)
- The Arthur Companies (PWS #6060113)
- Idle Wheels MHP Cat LLC (PWS #6060035)
- Sunset Subd. (PWS #6060082)

References

Idaho Department of Water Resources. “Evapotranspiration and Consumptive Irrigation Water Requirements for Idaho - Blackfoot (AM/INL -- ACKI).” ET-IDWR,

https://et-idwr.idaho.gov/stcvrstats.py?station=2154&cover=47&stats=Deficit

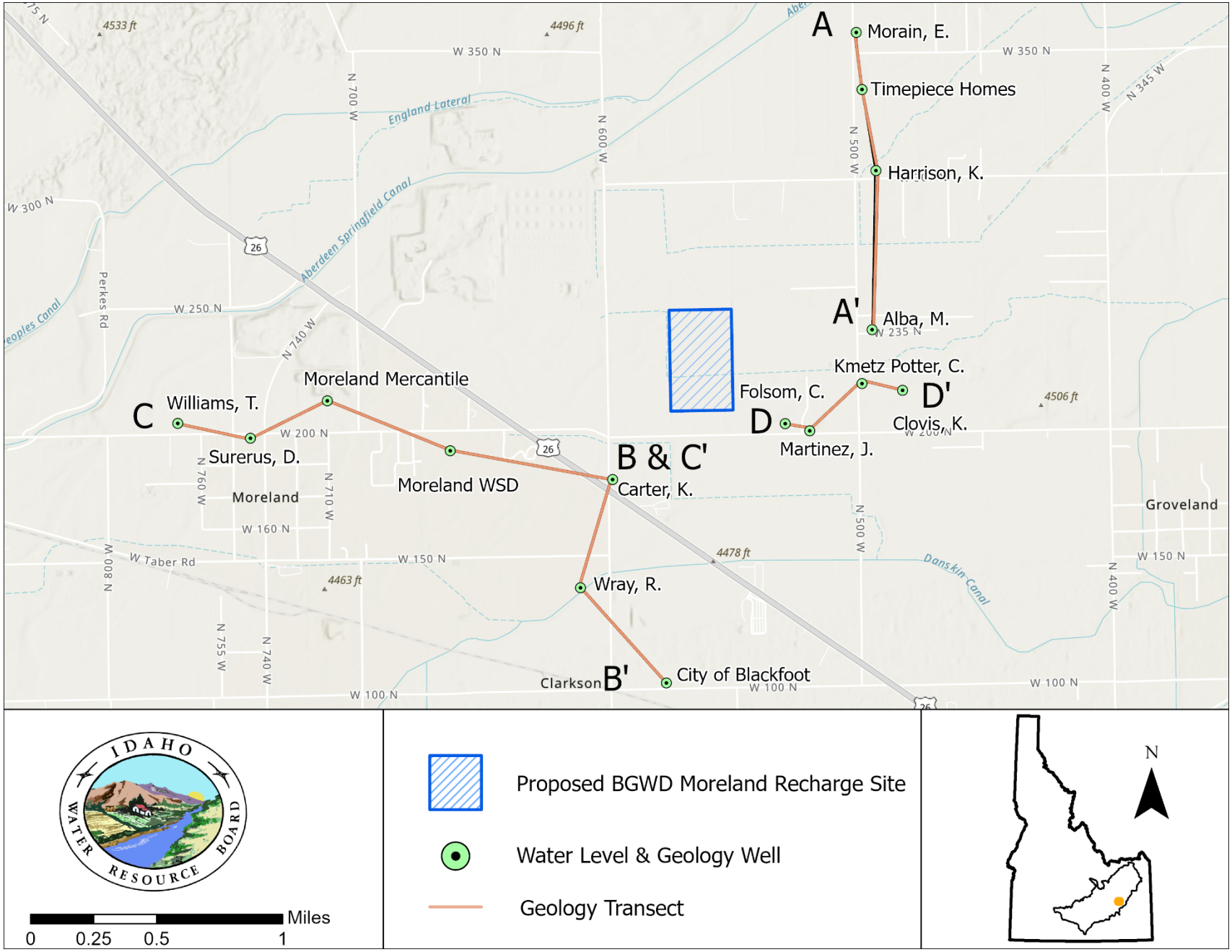


Figure 1. Locations of the proposed site and wells used for geologic cross-sections.

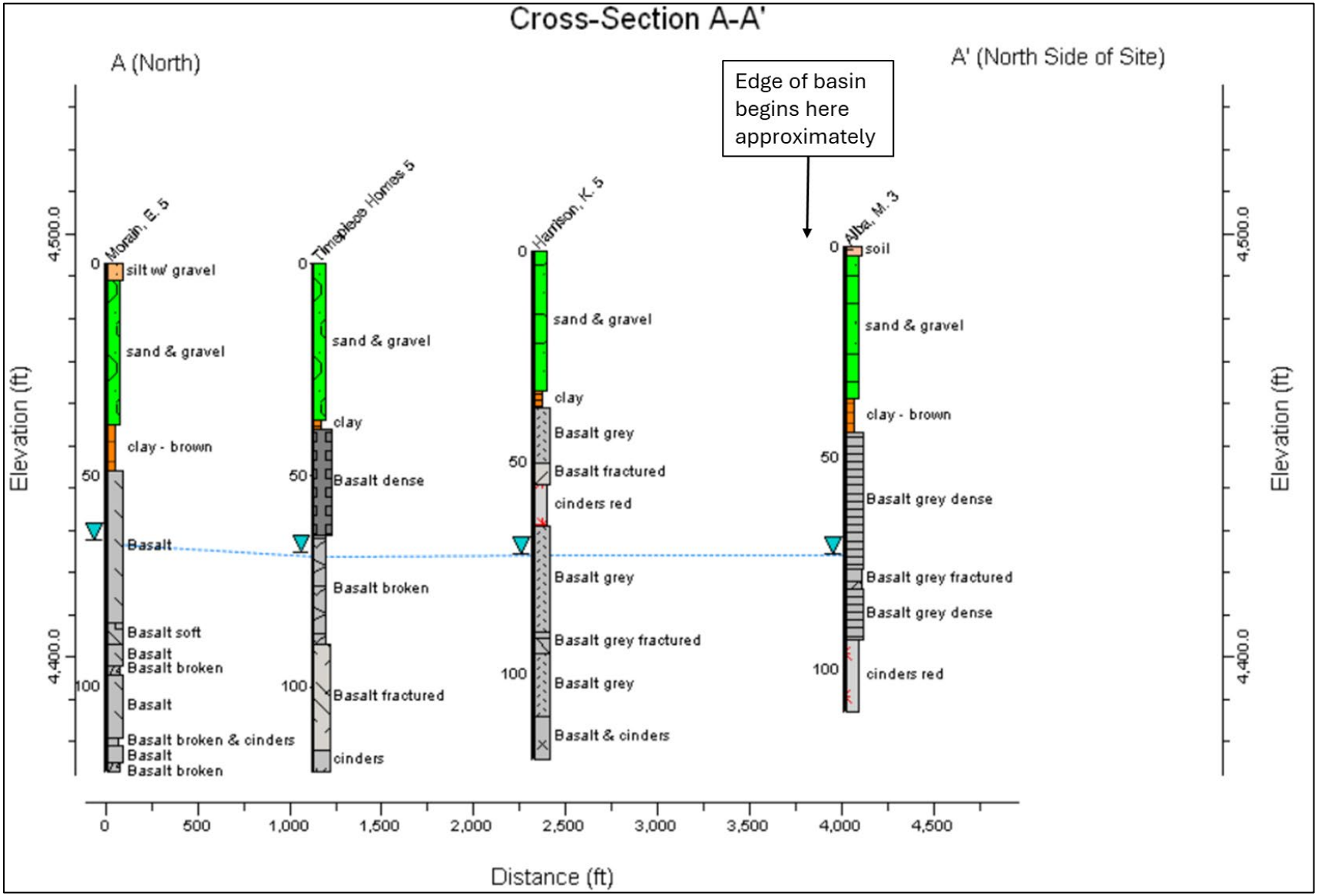


Figure 2. Geologic cross-section from the north to the site.

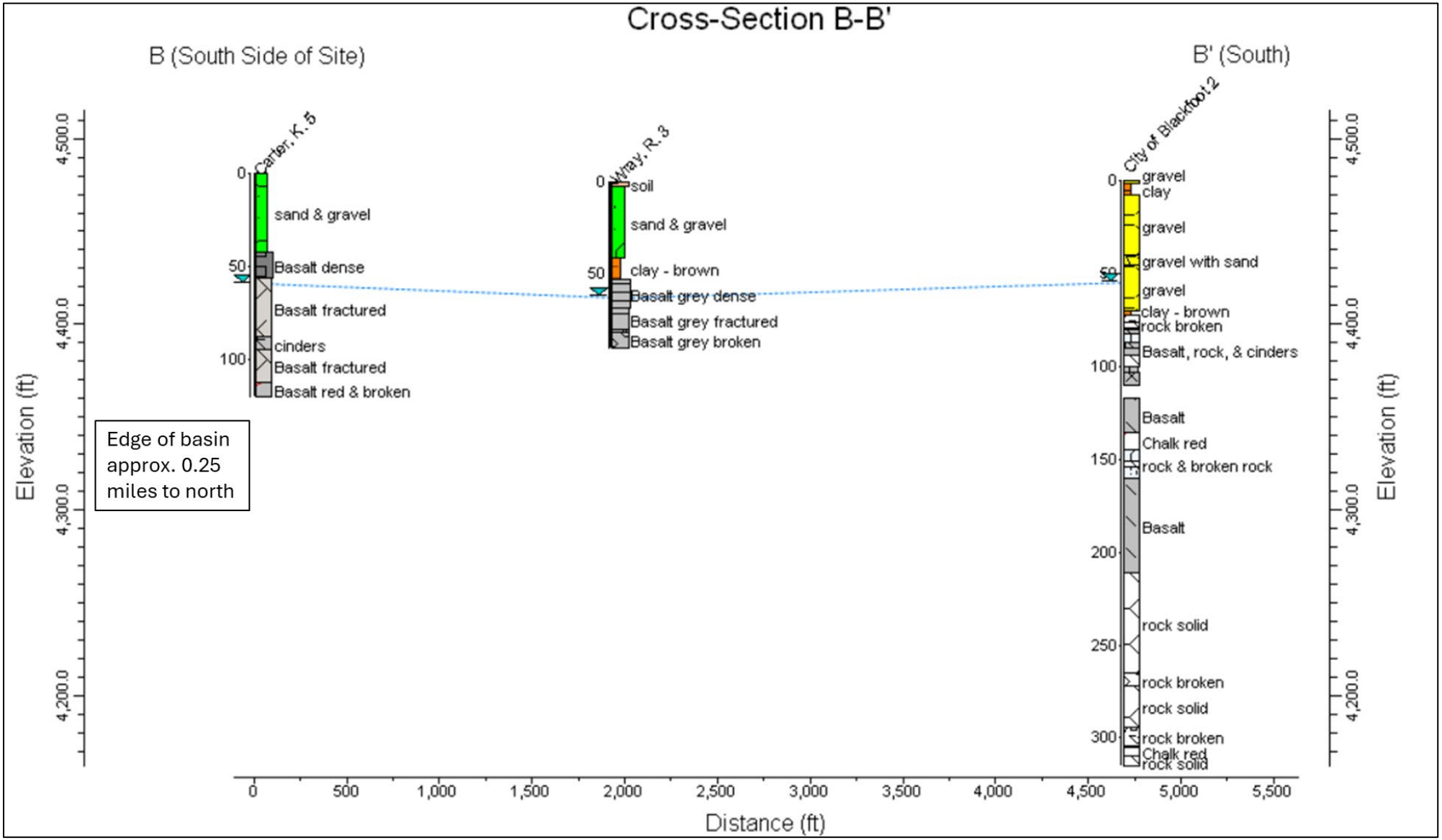


Figure 3. Geologic cross-section from the site to the south.

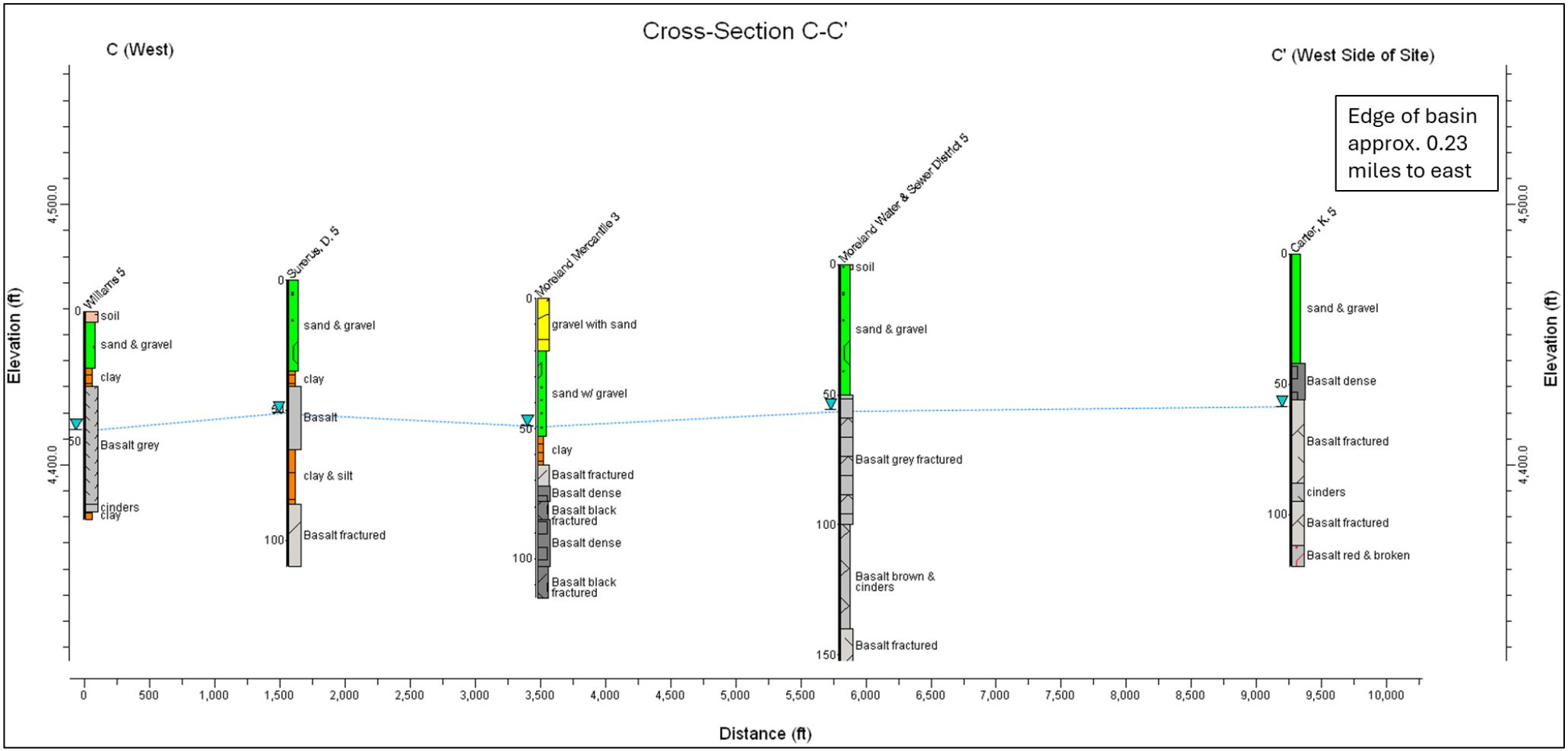


Figure 4. Geologic cross-section from the west to the site.

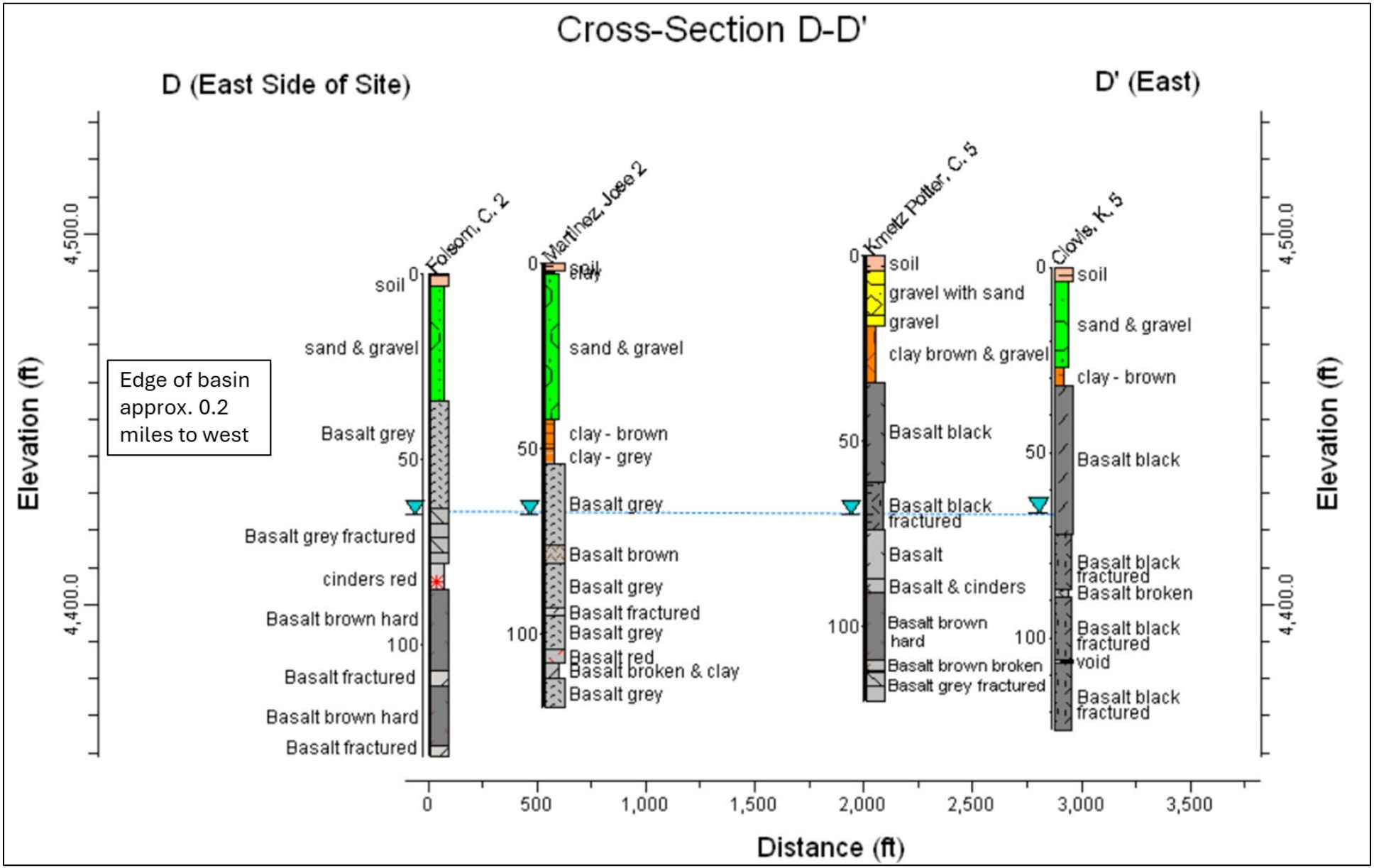


Figure 5. Geologic cross-section from the site to the east.

V. Appendix

Cost per acre-foot (AF) of recharge calculation:

Volume Recharged = (Days/year * Acre-feet recharged / day) * 50 years

= (45 days /year * 59.5 acre-feet / day) * 50 years

= 133,886 acre-feet

Cost = Capital Development Costs + Conveyance Cost for 50 Years

= $3,065,000 + (133,886 acre-feet * $7.50 / acre-foot)

= $4,069,147

Cost Per AF = $\frac{\text{Cost}}{\text{Volume Recharged}}$

= $\frac{\$4,069,147}{133,886 \text{ acre-feet}}$

= $30 / acre-foot

Assumptions:

- 45 days of recharge each year
  - Recharge lasts approximately 90 days during flood control.
  - Flood control occurs in about 50% of the years.
- The time period is 50 years
  - This is the length of time IWRB will have the First Right of Refusal for this proposed site.
- The cost is the capital cost plus the conveyance costs.

Memorandum

Date: December 23, 2025
To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Kienholz, Mackenzie
Re: ESPA Managed Recharge – Butte & Market Lake Canal Co. Poitevin Ditch Improvements Proposal

REQUIRED ACTION: The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) will consider funding the Butte & Market Lake Canal Co. Poitevin Ditch Proposal.

The Butte & Market Lake Canal Company submitted a proposal for infrastructure improvements to the main canal and Poitevin Ditch, which delivers water to three recharge wells. The improvements are to support the IWRB goal of recharging 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. The following memo provides a summary of the proposal and a staff review of the proposed canal improvements.

I. Project Proposal

The Butte & Market Lake Canal Company (BMLCC) is requesting $1,586,000 for infrastructure improvements to their main canal and Poitevin Ditch, which deliver water to three existing IWRB-funded recharge wells. This request follows an engineering report identifying clearing and infrastructure improvements to address current delivery capacity restrictions within the canal system. The proposal also includes the construction of two additional monitoring wells for the recharge wells. The locations of the described improvements are shown in Figure 1.

The BMLCC proposes to remove vegetation debris from the banks and channels of the Poitevin Ditch and BMLCC main canal. This will reduce channel roughness and increase flow capacity.

The BMLCC proposes to install a traveling screen upstream of the recharge wells near the end of the lateral. The screen will remove debris from the ditch and place it on a concrete pad where it can be periodically removed by machinery. Currently, BMLCC removes debris from the canal by hand as often as each day. BMLCC also proposes to install a check structure in the main canal to increase the upstream head, which will increase the delivery capacity to the Poitevin Ditch and recharge wells. Low points on both the Poitevin Ditch and main canal are proposed to be raised to increase the carrying capacity and prevent overtopping. One low point on the main canal will require rock blasting. The proposal includes an enlargement of the culvert where the canal crosses the 400 North road, which is a choke point on the main canal at risk of flooding when deliveries to the recharge wells cease. This enlargement would reduce the likelihood of flooding and overtopping in the main canal when not delivering to the recharge wells and would increase the conveyance capacity to McCarty Ditch, a lateral that could be developed for recharge.

The existing recharge wells are located at the end of the Poitevin Ditch. BMLCC proposes to install telemetry at the diversion into the Poitevin Ditch and at the end of the ditch downstream of the injection wells to monitor water levels within the channel and prevent overtopping. BMLCC also proposes to drill two new monitor wells, one 400 ft downgradient (southwest) of the existing

monitor well and another between the recharge wells and the closest downgradient domestic well, which is approximately 7,000 feet from the recharge wells. These monitoring wells would help support fate and transport analysis related to recharge water quality, as well as provide additional monitoring between the recharge activities and the closest downgradient domestic well.

The total project cost also includes funding for project management for a consulting firm, an on-site engineer, and a project contingency. The breakdown of requested funds is as follows:

Expense Category	Estimated Cost
Poitevin Ditch & Main Canal Clearing	$90,000
Traveling Screen	$200,000
Check Structure	$25,000
Bank and Channel Raising	$410,000
Culvert Enlargement	$500,000
Poitevin Ditch Telemetry	$6,000
Two Monitoring Wells	$150,000
Project Management – Consultant & Engineer	$35,000
Contingency	$170,000
Total Project Cost	**$1,586,000**

Upon completion of the first well in 2020, the IWRB was granted the first right of refusal when IWRB water rights are in priority for a period of 20 years. With this proposal, the BMLCC would increase the period of the IWRB's first right of refusal for the wells to 50 years, and grant the IWRB the BMLCC's pre-season in-canal recharge, estimated to be 100 cfs, for 20 years.

The BMLCC is requesting a total of $1,586,000 for this proposal. Contracted costs for the previously constructed wells totaled $660,000, bringing the total development cost to $2,546,000. Based on this total investment, the estimated cost of recharging water at this site (including in-canal recharge) is $14 per acre-foot, inclusive of both previous funding and the amount requested in this proposal. This cost per acre-foot was calculated using the estimated recharge volume over a 50-year period (20 years for in-canal recharge). Detailed calculations are provided in the Appendix.

II. MAR Site Summary

Est. Recharge Capacity:	65-165 cfs	Operator:	Butte & Market Lake Canal Co.
Size:	N/A	Delivery System:	BMLCC Main Canal
5-yr Retention:	30.1%	50% Response Time:	9-10 months
Depth to Water:	255-265 ft	Ownership:	Private
Delivery System:	BMLCC Main Canal to Poitevin Ditch		

ESPAM 2.2 and ETRAN V3.4 were used to determine the 5-year retention, 50% response time, and percent return to the various reaches of the Snake River. The water recharged at this site would primarily return to three reaches of the Snake River: Near Blackfoot to Neeley reach (45%), Shelley to Near Blackfoot reach (26.8%), and Heise to Shelley (19.2%). The modeled time for 50% of the recharged water to be discharged to the Snake River is approximately 9-10 months.

III. Hydrology Summary

The three recharge wells are cased to approximately 158 feet below ground surface, then are open borehole for an additional 170 feet. Recharge occurs in the open borehole portion of each well. This recharge zone consists of basalts of varying competency with intermixed cinders. The recharge well drilled in 2020 has an 18" diameter and can recharge approximately 15 cubic feet per second (cfs). The two wells drilled in 2024 have 20" diameters and can accomplish 25 cfs each. The total recharge capacity for all three wells is 65 cfs. BMLCC has reported that 100 cfs of in-canal recharge can be achieved.

IV. Site Vicinity

The closest downgradient domestic residence is approximately 1.25 miles to the southwest of the recharge wells. The two proposed monitoring wells would be located between the recharge wells at the end of the Poitevin Ditch and this domestic residence. The primary land use immediately surrounding the recharge site is irrigated crops.

To obtain an approved groundwater monitoring plan from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) or to permit an injection well from the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Underground Injection Well (UIC) program, a review of facilities and potential areas of concern is typically required. The Poitevin recharge wells have already been drilled and permitted, and this evaluation process was completed at that time. No additional permitting will be required for work described in this proposal.

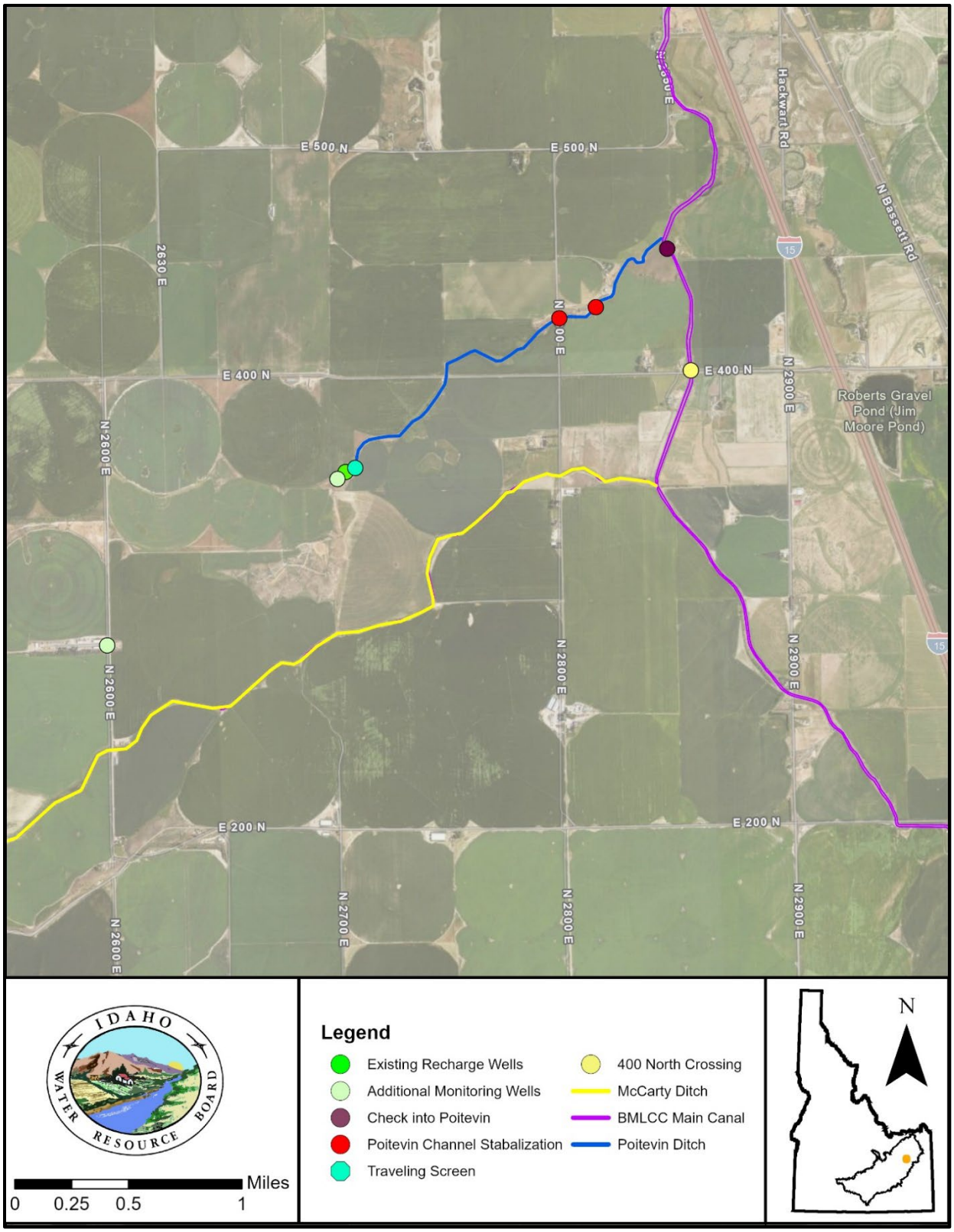


Figure 1. Map showing the main Butte & Market Lake canal, Poitevin Ditch, and locations of proposed improvements.

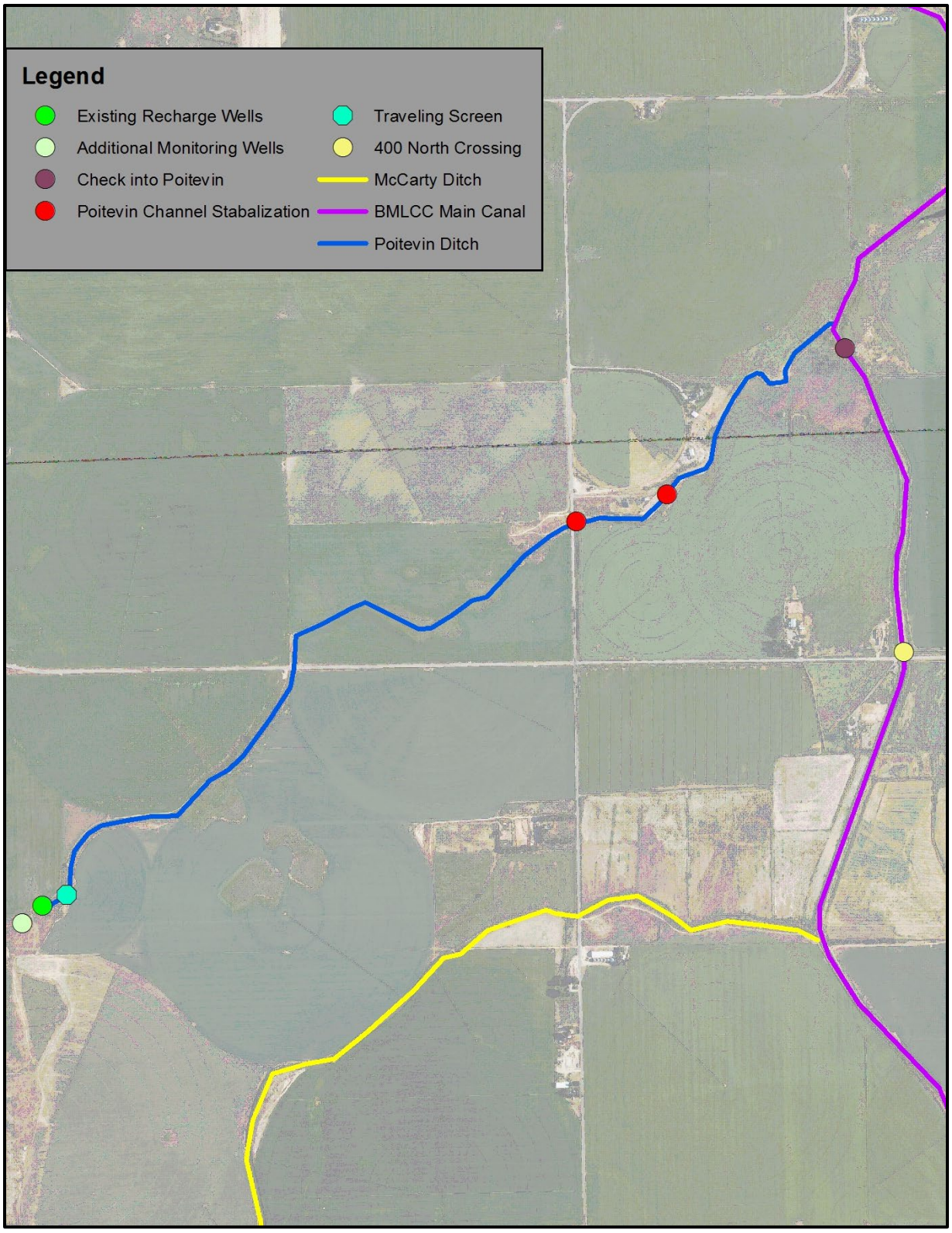


Figure 2. Closer view of the locations of proposed improvements on the Main Canal and Poitevin Ditch.

V. Appendix

Cost per acre-foot (AF) of recharge calculation:

Recharge Wells (65 cfs for 50 years):

Volume Recharged = (Days/year * Acre-feet recharged / day) * 50 years

= (45 days /year * 128.9 acre-feet / day) * 50 years

= 290,087 acre-feet

In-canal Recharge (100 cfs for 20 years):

Volume Recharged = (Days/year * Acre-feet recharged / day) * 20 years

= (13 days /year * 198.4 acre-feet / day) * 20 years

= 51,571 acre-feet

Total Volume Recharged = 341,658 acre-feet

Cost = Capital Development Costs + Conveyance Cost for 50 Years

= $660,000 + $1,586,000 + (341,658 acre-feet * $7.50 / acre-foot)

= $4,808,435

$$\text{Cost Per AF} = \frac{\text{Cost}}{\text{Volume Recharged}}$$

$$= \frac{\$4{,}808{,}435}{341{,}658 \text{ acre-feet}}$$

= $14 / acre-foot

Assumptions:

- 45 days of recharge each year for recharge wells
    - Recharge lasts approximately 90 days during flood control.

    - Flood control occurs in about 50% of the years.
- 13 days of recharge each year for in-canal
    - BMLCC can run in-canal recharge from April 1-26 during flood control.
    - Flood control occurs in about 50% of the years.

- The time period is 50 years for recharge wells and 20 years for in-canal recharge
    - This is the length of time IWRB will have a First Right of Refusal for this site.

- The cost is the capital cost plus the conveyance costs.
    - $660,000 has previously been contracted by the IWRB for these recharge wells and is included in the calculations.

ESPA Recharge Project Review

Date: December 30, 2025
To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Matt Anders and Mackenzie Kienholz
Re: ESPA Managed Recharge – Wilford Canal Agricultural Field Recharge Pilot Project

REQUIRED ACTION: The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) will consider funding the Wilford Canal Agricultural Field Recharge Pilot Project.

The Wilford Canal Company submitted a proposal for a pilot project to conduct recharge using continuous flood irrigation on an agricultural field for the duration of the availability of the IWRB natural flow recharge right. The goal of this pilot project is to determine the feasibility of this method to support the IWRB goal of recharging 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. The following memo provides a summary of the proposal and a staff review of the proposed recharge using existing agricultural infrastructure.

I. Project Proposal

The Wilford Canal is part of the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District canal system. Wilford Canal Company proposes to utilize existing flood irrigation infrastructure serving a 93-acre field near the head of its canal to conduct aquifer recharge. The recharge site's proximity to the canal's diversion point from the Snake River will allow recharge deliveries to begin as early in the season as snow conditions permit. The 93-acre field is estimated to have a recharge capacity of 46.5 cfs, or 1 acre-foot per acre per day, assuming results similar to those of a conceptual project conducted by the Harrison Canal Company near Ucon, Idaho, in 2025.

The field has a large headgate capable of delivering 46.5 cfs. The topsoil depth across the field is estimated to be approximately one foot, based on disk harrowing that exposes cobbles at the surface, intermixed with topsoil. Water is delivered to the east side of the field, and the land slopes downward to the west. The field is surrounded by natural berms to the north and south, and the road grades to the east and west.

Wilford Canal Company is proposing three locations to measure deliveries to the field:

- A rated section at the river diversion to allow the IWRB to measure the diversion from the river in the event the IWRB would like to verify WD01's measurements. Water is diverted from the Teton River via the Wilford Canal. Water District 01 (WD01) measures this diversion using a weir. This weir can sometimes become flooded, but WD01 has a method for calculating the diversion when the weir is flooded.

- A rated section on the South Branch of the Wilford Canal just after the split from the main branch. Upstream of the field application recharge site, the South Branch of the Wilford Canal splits from the main branch. The proposed recharge is the first diversion off the main branch of the Wilford Canal.

- A rated section on the main branch downstream of the diversions to the field application recharge site.

The recharge diversion rate will be calculated by subtracting the discharge of the South Branch of the Wilford Canal and the discharge of the Main Branch below the recharge site from the Wilford Canal diversion from the Teton River. Each rating location requires a stilling well and a transducer. Weekly discharge measurements will be made during recharge at each location, which will take approximately six hours per week. Fremont-Madison Irrigation District will install stilling wells and transducers and conduct weekly discharge measurements. These costs are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Proposal Expenses

Expense Category	Estimated Cost
Measuring Device Installation & Weekly Discharge Measurements During Recharge Operations	$42,000
Total Cost	**$42,000**

In addition to the standard $7.50 per acre-foot conveyance fee, the Wilford Canal Company is proposing a $10 per acre-foot recharge performance fee for reimbursing the property owner for the use of the land and existing flood irrigation infrastructure. Combined with the measuring device costs listed in Table 1, the average cost is estimated to be $20 per acre-foot recharged (see Appendix).

II. MAR Site Summary

The Wilcox Canal Recharge Site is located in Bonneville County in Township 07 North, Range 41 East, Section 20, SE of the SW Quarter-Quarter Section.

Est. Recharge Capacity:	46.5 cfs	50% Response Time:	24 Months (ESPAM 2.2)
Size (ac):	93 acres	Delivery System:	Fremont-Madison ID
5-yr Retention:	20% (ESPAM 2.2)	Canal:	Wilford Canal
Depth to Water:	125 feet	Ownership:	Private

ESPAM 2.2 and ETRAN V3.4 were used to determine the 5-year retention, 50% response time, and percent return to the various reaches of the Snake River. The water recharged at this site would

primarily return to the following reaches of the Snake River: Ashton to Rexburg (68%), Heise to Shelley (27%), Shelley to Near Blackfoot reach (1%), and Near Blackfoot to Neeley reach (3%). The time required for 50% of the recharged water to be discharged to the Snake River is 24 months.

III. Hydrogeology Summary

Figure 1 shows the locations of well drilling logs, a North-South cross-section line (Figure 2), and a West-East cross-section line (Figure 3). There is approximately 50 feet of alluvium overlying basalt in each well, with wells to the north showing slightly thicker alluvial layers (100 feet). The water table is generally located in the basalt, approximately 125 feet below the land surface. Several of the well logs near the site indicate fractures within the basalt layers. At the location of this field, it is inferred from Figures 2 and 3 that no clay unit exists between the land surface and the basalt.

Table 2. Generalized Geology Below Site

Depth	Subsurface Geology
0-10 ft	Soil – Well Drained (USDA, 1981)
10-50 ft.	Sand & Gravel Alluvium
50-250 ft.	Basalt w/ Clay & Alluvial Interbeds

IV. Site Vicinity

To obtain an approved groundwater monitoring plan from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) or to permit an injection well from the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Underground Injection Well (UIC) program, a review of facilities and potential areas of concern is typically required. A review of IDEQ's Source Water Assessment and Protection map shows the following potential contaminants within a 2-mile radius of the proposed recharge basin:

- Several sewage drain fields, including two within 1 mile north of the site
- A remediation site approximately 0.3 miles to the southeast
- A gravel pit approximately 0.75 miles to the southeast and 3 additional gravel pits within 2 miles of the site
- A Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) site approximately 1 mile to the east
- Multiple agricultural runoff deep injection wells within 1-2 miles to the west
- City of Ucon is between 1 and 2 miles south of the site and includes:
  - Four RCRA sites
  - Six closed feedlots and one open
  - One toxic release inventory site
  - Three storm runoff shallow injection wells

An additional water quality consideration for both IDEQ and the UIC Program is the locations of Public Water Systems (PWS) near the site. This site is within the 3-year time of travel zone of the Andco Management PWS (PWS #7100194).

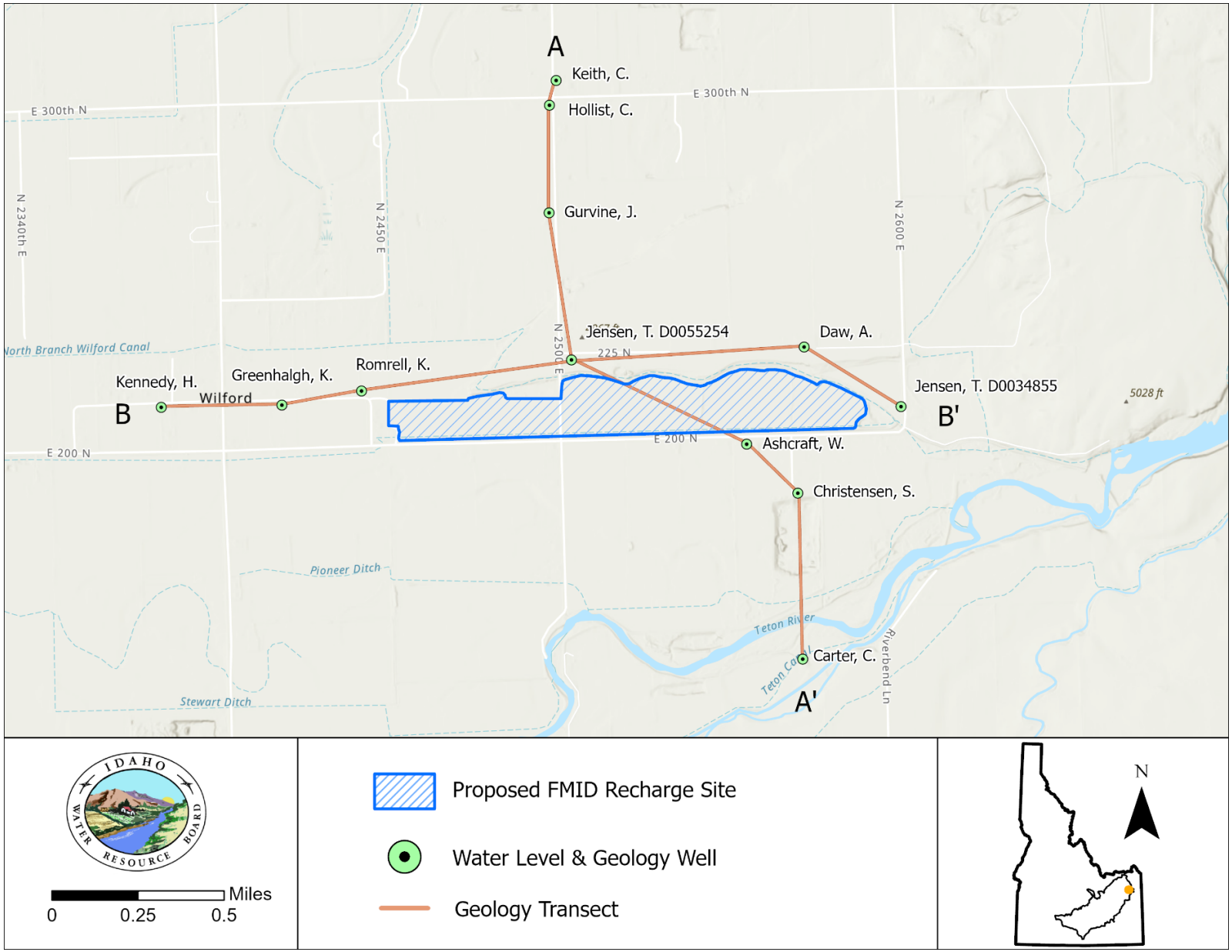


Figure 1. Locations of the proposed site and wells used for geology cross-sections.

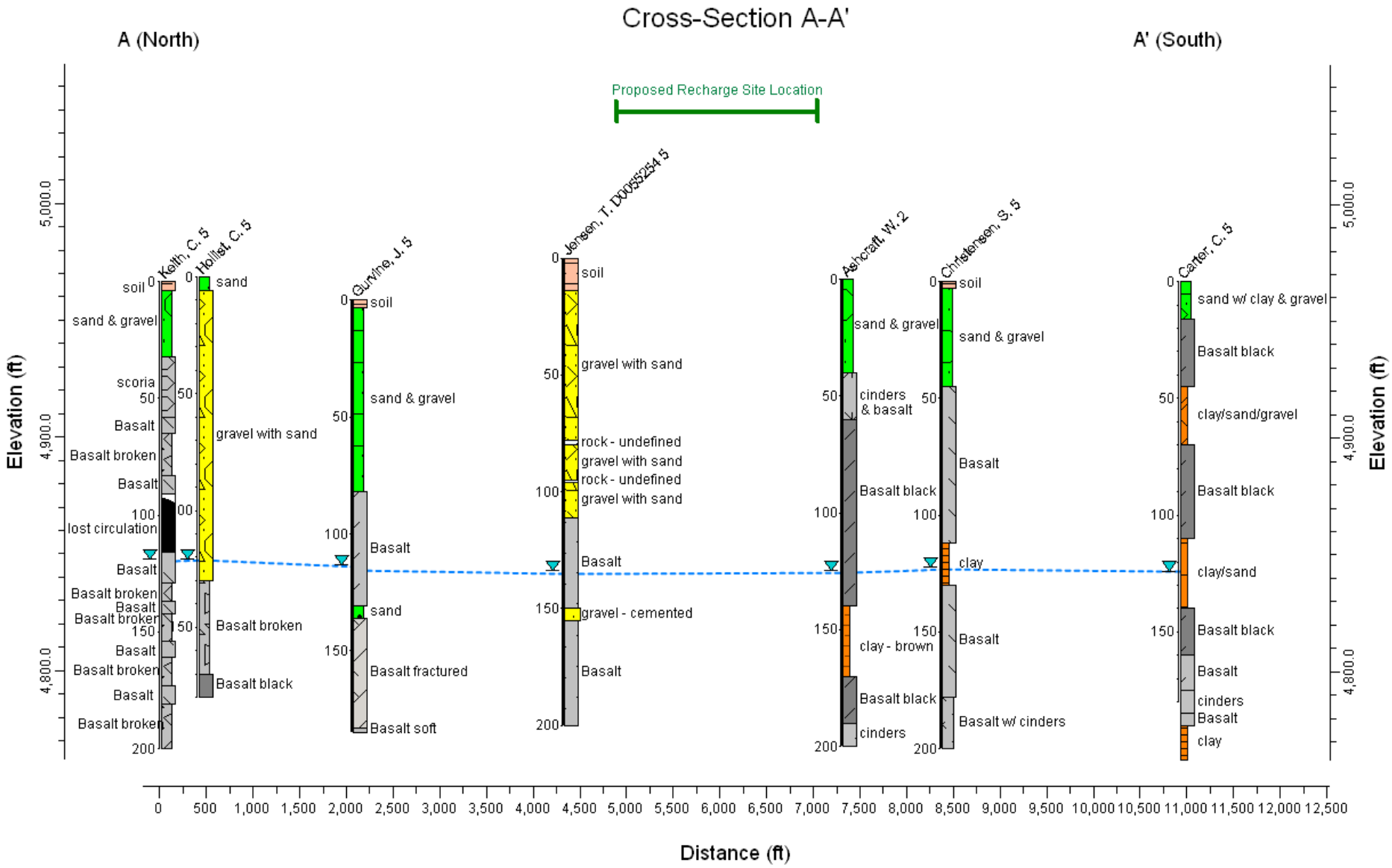


Figure 2. Geology cross-section from north to south.

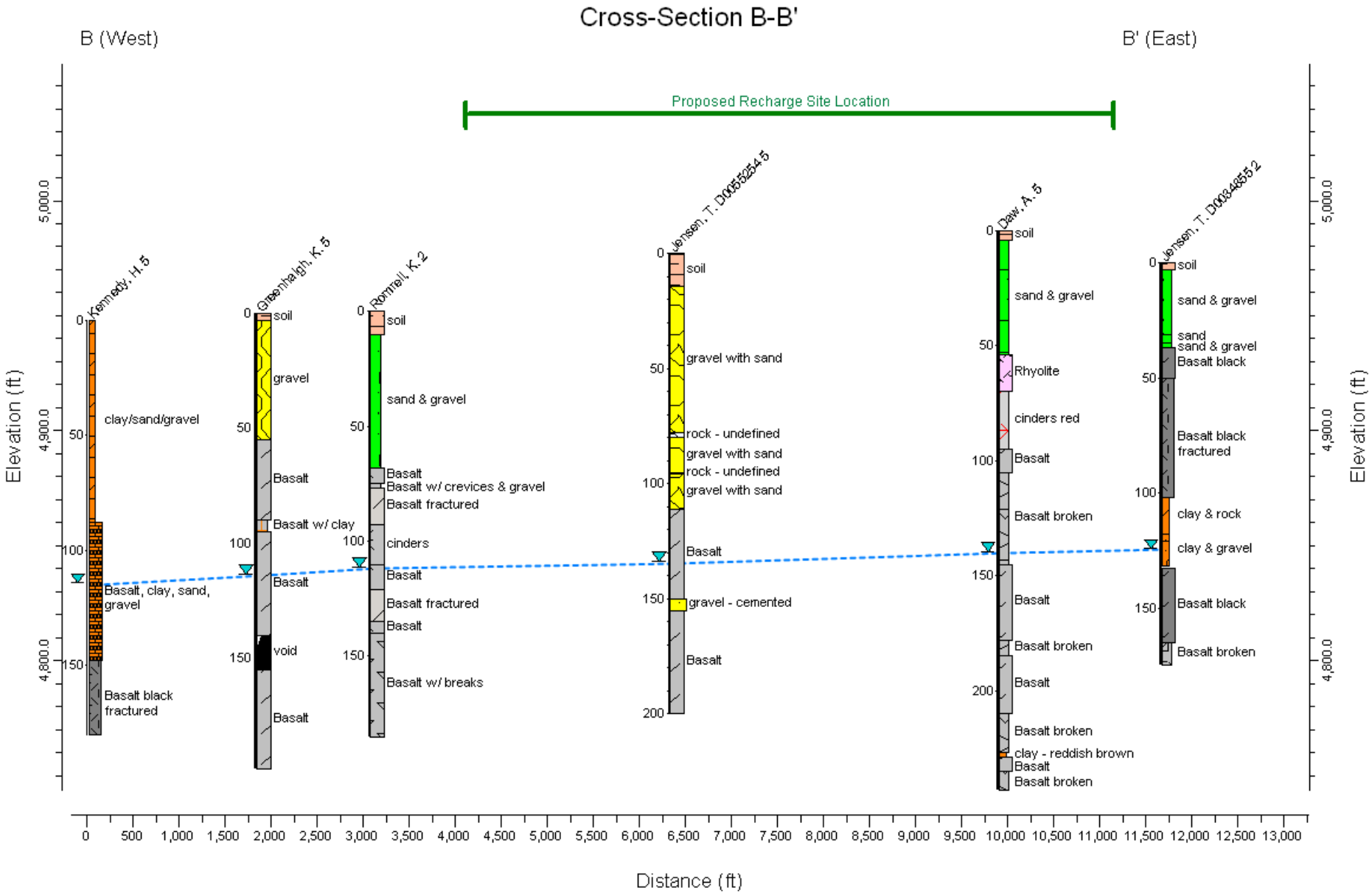


Figure 3. Geology cross-section from west to east.

I. Appendix

Volume Recharged = (Days / year * Acre-feet recharged / day) * 5 years

= (45 days / year * 93 acre-feet / day) * 5 years

= 20,925 acre-feet

Cost = Capital Development Costs + Recharge Performance Cost for 5 Years + Conveyance Cost for 5 Years

= $42,000 + (20,925 acre-feet * $10 / acre-foot) + (20,925 acre-feet * $7.50 / acre-foot)

= $42,000 + $408,188 + $156,938

= $408,188

Cost Per AF = $\frac{\text{Cost}}{\text{Volume Recharged}}$.

= $\frac{\$408,188}{20,925 \text{ acre-feet}}$.

= $20 / acre-foot

Assumptions:

- 45 days of recharge each year
  - Recharge lasts approximately 90 days during flood control.
  - Flood control occurs in about 50% of the years.
- The time period is 5 years
  - This is the length of the pilot project.
- The cost is the capital cost plus the conveyance costs plus the recharge performance costs.

Memorandum

Date: December 30, 2025
To: Idaho Water Resource Board
From: Neal Farmer
Re: ESPA Managed Recharge – Searle Recharge Well

REQUIRED ACTION: The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) will consider funding Southwest Irrigation District's Proposal.

The Southwest Irrigation District (SWID) submitted a proposal for a pump station and pipeline for a recharge well. The development of this recharge basin is to support the IWRB goal of recharging 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis. The following memo provides a summary of the proposal and a staff review of the proposed recharge complex.

I. Project Proposal

Southwest Irrigation District (SWID) is proposing to install a new dedicated pump station on the 'J-Canal' (Minidoka Irrigation District) with two pipelines to two injection wells. This will connect two preexisting permitted injection wells to a new canal pump station and pipeline dedicated to these wells. The injection wells have been in use for 3 to 10 years. This will disconnect the injection wells from the existing irrigation pipeline and pump station, allowing recharge water to be delivered to the wells at the maximum rate for longer periods of time. The existing delivery capacity to these injection wells is 6 cubic feet per second (cfs). The increase in delivery capacity will be 16 cfs.

The injection well's Underground Injection Control permit numbers are 45W074001 and 45W086003. These wells have been operated at approximately 10 cfs each. There are years of water quality sampling results for these wells and nearby domestic wells are required in the permit. It is important to note that SWID does not want to connect a 3rd injection well (45W086001) to this system, even though it is located between the two proposed wells. SWID expressed concerns about using this 3rd well due to its proximity to a new irrigation pumping well and a domestic well. The average cost is estimated to be $18 per acre-foot recharged. (see Appendix).

Expense Category	Estimated Cost
Pump Station	$311,608
Pipe & Installation	$350,315
Power Line	61,389
Project Management	$5,000
Contingency (5%)	$35,000
Total Project Cost	**$763,312**

II. MAR Site Summary

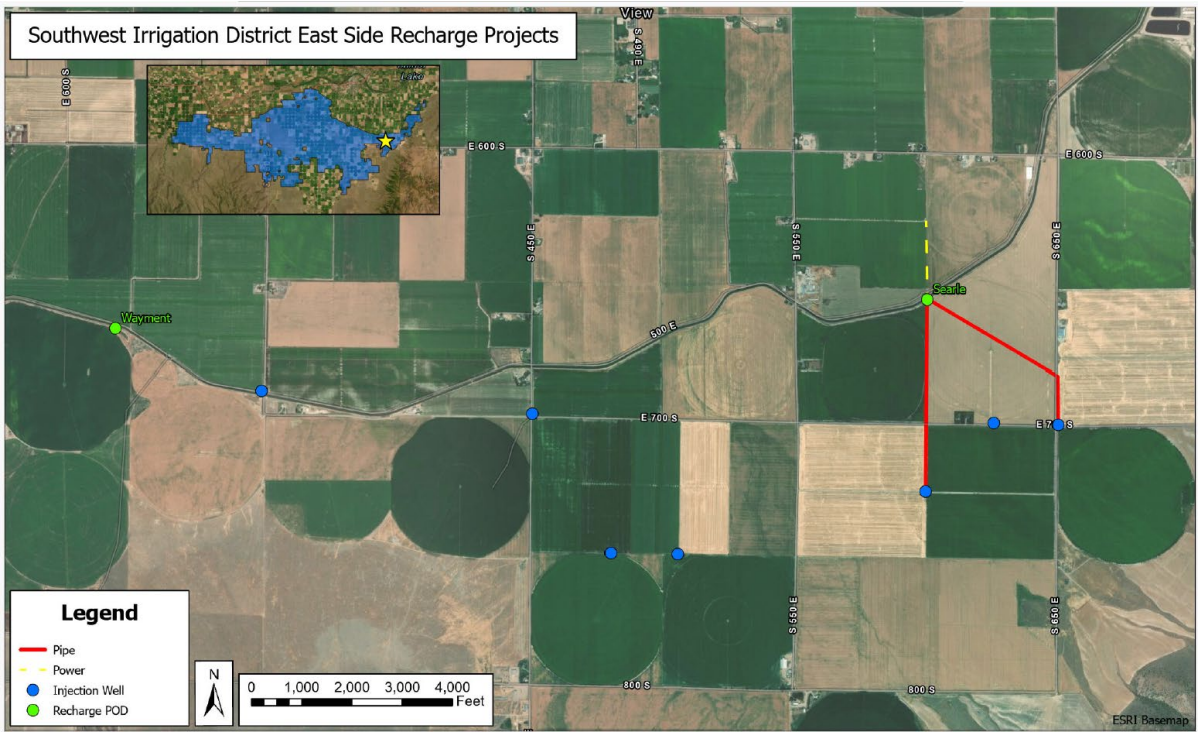
Location: Cassia County, Township 11 South, Range 24 East, Section 29, SE corner. IDTM coordinates 2526657 meters and 1248520 meters.

Est. Recharge Capacity:	16 cfs	Operator:	Southwest Irr. Dist.
Size (ac):	N/A	Delivery System:	J-Canal (Burley Irr. Dist.)
5-yr Retention:	88%	50% Response Time:	14 years
Depth to Water:	350 feet	Ownership:	Private

ESPAM 2.2 and ETRAN V3.4 were used to determine the 5-year retention, 50% response time, and percent return to the various reaches of the Snake River. The water recharged at this site would primarily return to the following reaches of the Snake River: Shelley to Near Blackfoot reach (9%), Near Blackfoot to Neeley reach (38%), Devils Washbowl to Buhl 17%, and Buhl to Thousand Springs 13%. The time required for 50% of the recharged water to be discharged to the Snake River is 168 months (14 years).

The hydrogeology for this project has already been evaluated and approved through the injection well permits and the historical operation of the wells.

Figure 1. Location Map of the SWID Project



III. Appendix

Volume Recharged = (Days / year * Acre-feet recharged / day) * 20 years

= (45 days / year * 32 acre-feet / day) * 50 years

= 72,656 acre-feet

Cost = Capital Development Costs + Conveyance Cost for 20 Years

= $763,312 + (72,656 acre-feet * $7.50 / acre-foot)

= $1,308,229

Cost Per AF = $\frac{\text{Cost}}{\text{Volume Recharged}}$.

= $\frac{\$1,308,229}{72,656 \text{ acre-feet}}$.

= $18 / acre-foot

Assumptions:

- This is for flood control capacity.
    - The delivery system is the Burley Irrigation District, which diverts water above the Minidoka dam. This is a diversion of the IWRB water right during flood control.
    - The existing capacity is 6 cfs and the new capacity is 16.28 cfs

- 45 days of recharge each year
    - Recharge lasts approximately 90 days during flood control.
    - Flood control occurs in about 50% of the years.

- The time period is 50 years
    - This is the length of time IWRB has the First Right of Refusal for sites it develops.

- The cost is the capital cost plus the conveyance costs.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE BINGHAM GROUNDWATER DISTRICT DUBOIS & RIVERSIDE SITE RECHARGE PROJECT	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FROM THE WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT AND PROVIDE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 supporting the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan and supporting the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) revising the State Water Plan and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan to establish a state-funded ESPA managed aquifer recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis; and

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

WHEREAS, House Bill 445 (2025) was passed by the State of Idaho legislature, appropriating an ongoing $30 million to the IWRB to fund water infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB passed Resolution 51-2025 for a Water Management Account Spending Plan, which allocates $20,000,000 for Statewide Recharge Infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, Bingham Groundwater District presented a proposal to the IWRB Aquifer Stabilization Committee on January 22, 2026, for the Dubois & Riverside Site Recharge Project ("Project") and associated infrastructure for a proposed cost of $3,100,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditure of up to $3,100,000 from the Water Management Account for the construction costs associated with the Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB Water Management Account Spending Plan, authorized under resolution 51-2025, shall be amended to reflect the use of Statewide Recharge Infrastructure funds for this project.

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

DATED this 23rd day of January 2026.

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JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE BUTTE AND MARKET LAKE CANAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FROM THE WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT AND PROVIDE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 supporting the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan and supporting the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) revising the State Water Plan and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan to establish a state-funded ESPA managed aquifer recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis; and

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

WHEREAS, House Bill 445 (2025) was passed by the State of Idaho legislature, appropriating an ongoing $30 million to the IWRB to fund water infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB passed Resolution 51-2025 for a Water Management Account Spending Plan, which allocates $20,000,000 for Statewide Recharge Infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, Butte and Market Lake Canal Company presented a proposal to the IWRB Aquifer Stabilization Committee on January 22, 2026, for the Canal Improvement Project ("Project") and associated infrastructure for a proposed cost of $1,600,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditure of up to $1,600,000 from the Water Management Account for the construction costs associated with the Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB Water Management Account Spending Plan, authorized under resolution 51-2025, shall be amended to reflect the use of Statewide Recharge Infrastructure funds for this project.

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

DATED this 23rd day of January 2026.

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JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE FREMONT-MADISON IRRIGATION DISTRICT WILFORD CANAL PILOT PROJECT	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FROM THE WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT AND PROVIDE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 supporting the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan and supporting the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) revising the State Water Plan and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan to establish a state-funded ESPA managed aquifer recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis; and

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

WHEREAS, House Bill 445 (2025) was passed by the State of Idaho legislature, appropriating an ongoing $30 million to the IWRB to fund water infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB passed Resolution 51-2025 for a Water Management Account Spending Plan, which allocates $20,000,000 for Statewide Recharge Infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, Fremont-Madison Irrigation District presented a proposal to the IWRB Aquifer Stabilization Committee on January 22, 2026, for the Wilford Canal Pilot Project ("Project") and associated infrastructure for a proposed cost of $42,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditure of up to $42,000 from the Water Management Account for the construction costs associated with the Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB Water Management Account Spending Plan, authorized under resolution 51-2025, shall be amended to reflect the use of Statewide Recharge Infrastructure funds for this project.

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

DATED this 23rd day of January 2026.

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JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOUTHWEST IRRIGATION DISTRICT SEARLE WELL PROJECT	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FROM THE WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT AND PROVIDE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 supporting the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan and supporting the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) revising the State Water Plan and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan to establish a state-funded ESPA managed aquifer recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis; and

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

WHEREAS, House Bill 445 (2025) was passed by the State of Idaho legislature, appropriating an ongoing $30 million to the IWRB to fund water infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the IWRB passed Resolution 51-2025 for a Water Management Account Spending Plan, which allocates $20,000,000 for Statewide Recharge Infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, Southwest Irrigation District presented a proposal to the IWRB Aquifer Stabilization Committee on January 22, 2026, for the Searle Well Project ("Project") and associated infrastructure for a proposed cost of $765,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditure of up to $765,000 from the Water Management Account for the construction costs associated with the Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB Water Management Account Spending Plan, authorized under resolution 51-2025, shall be amended to reflect the use of Statewide Recharge Infrastructure funds for this project.

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

DATED this 23rd day of January 2026.

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JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)

From: Staff

Date: January 16, 2026

Re: Potential Legislation of Interest

ACTION: No action required

Garrick Baxter will provide an update on potential legislation of interest.