



# AGENDA

## IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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### Board Meeting No. 5-26

Friday, March 27, 2026

Executive Session begins at 8:00 a.m. (MT) / 7:00 a.m. (PT)  
Open Meeting begins upon adjournment of the Executive Session

Water Center  
Conference Rooms 602 B – D  
322 E. Front Street  
BOISE

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

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**Brad Little**  
Governor

**Jeff Raybould**  
Chairman  
St. Anthony  
At Large

**Jo Ann Cole-Hansen**  
Vice Chair  
Lewiston  
At Large

**Dean Stevenson**  
Secretary  
Paul  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**Brian Olmstead**  
Twin Falls  
At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**  
Grace  
District 4

**Patrick McMahon**  
Sun Valley  
At Large

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: North Fork Salmon Water Rights Protest. Closed to the public.
3. Agenda and Approval of Minutes: 12-25, 13-25, 14-25, 1-26, 3-26, and 4-26\*
4. Public Comment
5. Financial Report
6. Water Management Account Spending Plan and ARPA Spending Plan\*
7. Mountain Home Plateau Regional Water Sustainability Program\*
8. IWRB Grant Criteria\*
9. Rental Pool Procedures
  - A. Water District 63\*
  - B. Water District 65\*
10. Raft River Irrigation District Regional Water Sustainability Project Proposal and Loan\*
11. Farmers Land & Irrigation Company Loan Program Request\*
12. Director's Report
13. Non-Action Items for Discussion
14. Next Meeting and 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 [mlin.ream@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:mlin.ream@idwr.idaho.gov) or by phone at (208) 287-4800.

# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)  
**From:** Planning & Projects Bureau Staff  
**Date:** March 20, 2026  
**Subject:** Executive Session

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**REQUESTED ACTION:** Board will move to Executive Session to 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: North Fork Salmon Water Rights Protest. Closed to the public.

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# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)  
**From:** Planning & Projects Bureau Staff  
**Date:** March 20, 2026  
**Subject:** Agenda and Approval of Minutes: 12-25, 13-25, 14-25, 1-26, 3-26, and 4-26

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**REQUESTED ACTION:** Approve the March 27, 2026, Agenda and IWRB Minutes, as Presented

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The draft minutes, as identified below, are attached for the IWRB's review and approval.

**Attachments:**

- *Minutes from Board Meeting No. 12-25 - Twin Falls*
- *Minutes from Special Board Meeting No. 13-25*
- *Minutes from Board Meeting No. 14-25 - Boise*
- *Minutes from Board Meeting No. 1-26 – Boise*
- *Minutes from Special Board Meeting No. 3-26*
- *Minutes from Special Board Meeting No. 4-26*



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

## MINUTES MEETING NO. 12-25

**Brad Little**  
Governor

**Jeff Raybould**  
Chairman  
St. Anthony  
At Large

**Jo Ann Cole-Hansen**  
Vice Chair  
Lewiston  
At Large

**Dean Stevenson**  
Secretary  
Paul  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**Brian Olmstead**  
Twin Falls  
At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**  
Grace  
District 4

**Patrick McMahon**  
Sun Valley  
At Large

Hilton Garden Inn  
Snake River Room  
1741 Harrison St. North  
TWIN FALLS

September 11, 2025

### WORK SESSION

At 8:31 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the work session meeting to order in Twin Falls, Idaho and on Zoom. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel following the Finance Committee meeting.

#### Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

##### *Board Members Present*

Jeff Raybould, Chairman  
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman  
Al Barker  
Marcus Gibbs, Online  
Patrick McMahon  
Brian Olmstead  
Dean Stevenson, Secretary  
Dale Van Stone

##### *Staff Members Present*

Mat Weaver  
Brian Patton  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Wesley Hipke  
Corey Skinner  
Jennifer Strange  
Matt Anders, Online  
Justin Ferguson, Online  
Josh Morell, Online  
Neeley Miller, Online

##### *Public Present*

Ann Yribar  
Brian Murdock, *Murdock Farms*  
Douglas Jones, *Idaho Water Engineering*  
Ryan Alcorn, *Bureau of Reclamation*  
Scott Pugrd, *Idaho Water Company*  
Krista Davis, *Idaho Water Company*

John Williams, BPA  
Adam Young, *Bingham Ground Water District*  
Linda Lemmon, *Blind Canyon Aquaranch*  
Abbey Bitzenburg, *Parsons, Behie & Latimer*  
Kenneth Skinner, *USGS*, Online  
Paul Thomas, *USGS*, Online  
Alan Jackson  
John Simpson  
Steve Stuebner  
Jay Barlogi

### **Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session**

At 8:32 AM, Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve into executive session 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. Mr. McMahon seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 9:39 AM. Mr. McMahon seconded. **Voice vote**: All in favor. The motion carried. The executive session was closed to the public, and no action was taken during the executive session.

### **Agenda Item No. 3: Grant Program Update**

Senior Planner Neeley Miller, participating via Zoom, provided the Board with a brief PowerPoint update on the IWRB Grant Program's summer activities. His presentation highlighted the following:

- Flood Management Grants
- Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant
- Aging Infrastructure Grants
- Measurement and Monitoring Grants

Following review, Chairman Raybould thanked Mr. Neely for the update.

### **Agenda Item No. 4: Amendment to Resolution 28-2025**

IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton reported that the resolution in question, under the Surface Water Efficiencies Program, provides funding to the Twin Falls Canal Company which staff has a proposed amendment. He noted that the amendment does not change the funding amount or the project schedule. Rather, it simply reallocates the funds to a different line item within the water management account.

At this time, Project Manager Justin Ferguson provided additional details, by line item, related to staff's proposed amendments to said resolution.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 5.

**Agenda Item No. 5: USGS Eastern Snake Plan Aquifer Water Quality Study**

Via Zoom, Josh Morell with the IDWR Recharge Team was pleased to showcase the new Recharge Water Quality website to assist in making related data available and transparent for the public.

Following a short question and answer session, Mr. Morell moved to a short background on the IDWR Recharge Program with the goal to stop groundwater level declines. Moreover, he reported that there hasn't been a large-scale regional analysis done on the effects of recharge on water quality on the Eastern Snake Plan Aquifer (ESPA). As such, Recharge Program staff asked USGS to develop a proposal for a water quality analysis, to be published by September 2028, at a total cost to the IWRB for \$311,900.

Next, Mr. Morell invited Kenneth Skinner and Paul Thomas with USGS who provided deeper detail on the USGS Proposed study – ESPA Recharge Water-Quality Assessment.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould thanked staff for the presentation.

**Agenda Item No. 6: 2026 Regular Meeting Options**

IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton reported that the Board has been provided with a proposed calendar of 2026 regular meetings for review and discussion, in preparation for a decision at the November 2025 regular meeting

**Agenda Item No. 7: Regional Manager's Report**

Corey Skinner, IDWR Southern Regional Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the Southern Region operations for the Board's information and review.

Following Board questions, Chairman Raybould thanked Mr. Skinner for the presentation update.

**Agenda Item No. 8: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

There was no other business to come before the Board during the work session.

**Agenda Item No. 9: Adjourn**

Chairman Raybould adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.

Following lunch, the group departed for a field trip to tour Twin Falls Canal Company Facilities.

September 12, 2025  
**Board Meeting No. 12-25**

At 8:30 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Twin Falls, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel online.

**Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call**

*Board Members Present*

Jeff Raybould, Chairman  
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman  
Albert Barker  
Marcus Gibbs  
Patrick McMahon  
Brian Olmstead,  
Dean Stevenson, Secretary  
Dale Van Stone

*Staff Members Present*

Mat Weaver  
Brian Patton  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Wesley Hipke  
Jennifer Strange  
Amy Cassel, Online  
Justin Ferguson, Online  
Josh Morell, Online  
Neeley Miller, Online

*Guests Present*

Clay Nannini  
John Jeser  
Gerald Tews  
Brian Murdock, *Murdock Farms*  
John Williams, *Bonneville Power Administration*  
Vince Alberdi  
Dan Davidson, *Minidoka Irrigation District*  
Shawna Adams, *Minidoka Irrigation District*  
Will Patterson, *Nampa Meridian Irrigation District*  
Greg Curtis, *Nampa Meridian Irrigation District*  
Mark Murphy, *Pleasant Valley*  
Jenny Murphy, *Pleasant Valley*  
Carol Pacheco, *Pleasant Valley*  
Mona Nell, *Pleasant Valley*

## **Agenda Item No. 2: Agenda and Approval of Minutes 9-25, 10-25, 3-25, and 11-25**

The agenda and minutes for meetings 9-25, 10-25, 3-25, and 11-25 were available for approval. There were no changes to the agenda or minutes, as presented. Mr. McMahon moved to approve the minutes for meetings 9-25, 10-25, 3-25, and 11-25. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

## **Agenda Item No. 3: Public Comment**

At this time, Chairman Raybould called for anyone wishing to speak during public comment.

Clay Nannini shared comments related to concerns he and his community have with respect to the Twin Falls Canal Company's (TFCC) canal lining project and the impacts of water seepage loss on domestic wells.

Next, John Jeser addressed the Board to also comment on the TFCC lining project and potential loss of seep water downstream impacting cattle ranchers, streamflow's, and the 100-acre wildlife refuge below the canal.

Gerald Tews provided comments to the Board, addressing his concerns about seep water loss due to the TFCC lining project and for the Board to hold their project funding.

Next speaker for public comment was Brian Murdock with Murdock Farms. Mr. Murdock commented that he agrees with the need for extra water storage and spoke about a petition he gathered signatures for Senator Cook to support the Upper Snake Basin study proposal.

Next, John Williams provided comment updates related to the Bonneville Power Administration.

Concluding, Mark Murphy and Vince Alberdi also addressed the Board with comments on the TFCC lining project with water loss concerns due to seepage loss.

## **Agenda Item No. 4: Financial Report**

Senior Planner Neeley Miller, by way of Zoom, provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of June 30, 2025, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$38,775,764, committed \$29,249,559, and uncommitted balance \$9,526,204; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$37,669,386, committed balance \$26,341,564, loan principal outstanding and other obligations \$21,049,378, and uncommitted balance \$11,327,822; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$318,581,663, total obligated funds \$302,101,113, and unobligated funds \$16,480,550. Total obligated \$250,000,000; total expended \$128,455,484; and total remaining committed balance \$131,321,602.

## **Agenda Item No. 5: Water Management Account Spending Plan**

Planning and Projects Bureau Chief Cynthia Bridge Clark provided the Board for consideration amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Water Management Account Spending Plan, by way of a resolution.

Ms. Clark reported that the Finance Committee reviewed proposed amendments to the FY 2026 plan to incorporate funding for new proposed projects and Governor Little's Executive Order No. 2025-05 requiring all agencies to reduce their General Fund Spending authority on file in the Office of the State Controller by 3 percent for their FY 2026 General Fund Appropriations.

Following review of the Water Management account's programs and grants, Ms. Clark pointed out that the Amended FY 2026 Spending Plan exhibit outlines the Interest Earned State Treasury (as of August 31, 2025) totaled \$32,041,741. She also noted that the Spending Plan further acknowledges the Board has committed funds from the ongoing \$30 million appropriation (HB 445) with application to the Twin Falls Canal Company Operations and Efficiency Project for approximately \$15 million FY 2027- FY 2033.

Continuing, Ms. Clark reviewed the resolution language for the amended Spending Plan capturing the Board's actions.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to Amend Water Management Account Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2026 in the matter of the Idaho Water Resource Board's Water Management Account. Mr. Barker seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6: Secondary Fund Budget**

Very similar to the Water Management Account, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the Governor's 3 percent holdback has a similar effect to the Secondary Fund Budget. Mr. Patton introduced Water Projects Section Manager Wesley Hipke to provide a briefing.

Mr. Hipke provided a presentation update on the proposed amendment to the Secondary Aquifer Fund for Fiscal year 2026 Budget as reviewed by the Finance Committee. He noted the changes, in Attachment A, highlighting that the \$5 million from the general fund was reduced by 3 percent holdback, along with other line-item changes for Treasure Valley, additions to the ESPA Recharge Program, an added line for \$115,00 under Hydrology for a statewide stream peak flow study, and lastly a reduction in the Cloud Seeding Program budget.

With no further review or discussion, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget in the matter of Amending the Statewide Water Sustainability and Aquifer Stabilization, and the Secondary Aquifer Stabilization, and Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 7: Amendment to Resolution 28-2025**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton explained that the subject resolution was discussed during the work session meeting and proposed an amendment related to funding for the Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC) project. He clarified that the amendment does not change the total amount of funding approved or the schedule under which TFCC receives the funds. Instead, it changes where the funding is taken within the line-item categories in the Board's Water Management Account.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to Authorize Funding for Costs Related to Canal Lining, Monitoring Equipment Installation, and System Improvements, in the Matter of the Twin Falls Canal Company Surface Water Efficiency Program Funding Request. Mr. McMahon seconded. **Roll call vote:**

Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 8: Regional Sustainability Water Project Proposals**

**a. Milner Dam Rehabilitation Project**

**b. Nampa Meridian Irrigation District – Ridenbaugh Canal Diversion Modernization Project**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton introduced the agenda item that two proposals are presented on the docket for the Board’s consideration.

Providing a recap, via Zoom, Project Manager Justin Ferguson conveyed that Milner Dam Inc. (MDI) submitted a Milner Dam Rehabilitation Project (Project) proposal for inclusion in the Board’s Regional Water Sustainability Priority (RSP) List to rehabilitate the existing emergency spillway. He further explained that the project would include restoring damaged concrete at the emergency spillway, installing improved decking, and redesigning and rebuilding the plunge pool downstream.

Reporting on the current cost at \$9,065,000; however, Mr. Ferguson conveyed that further design work is necessary before construction can begin. As such, MDI is requesting \$1,500,000 in Regional Water Sustainability funding to support the ongoing design work for the Project. The resolution presented for the Board’s consideration will add MDI to the RSP List and secondly approve the additional 1.5 million to assist them through the initial design phase of the Project.

Following review of the subject resolution, and the changes identified per staff, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution, as amended, for Agenda Item 8.a., Updating the List & Award Funding to Milder Dam Inc., in the matter of Regional Water Sustainability List. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**b. Nampa Meridian Irrigation District – Ridenbaugh Canal Diversion Modernization Project**

Moving on to Agenda Item 8.b., Senior Planner Neeley Miller, via Zoom, provided a brief recap on the Nampa Meridian Irrigation District (NMID)– Ridenbaugh Canal Diversion Modernization Project (Project) and corresponding resolution. Mr. Miller reported that the MID is requesting funding to replace, modernize, and automate the NMID’s Boise River diversion and headworks. Total costs for this Project are \$20,903,292 and NMID is requesting Regional Water Sustainability funding in the amount of \$9,169,047.

Following review and discussion, a representative with the NMID addressed the Board to extend their gratitude and thanks for the Board’s consideration of its Project.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution, as amended, for Agenda Item 8.b., Update the List & Award Regional Water Sustainability funding to Nampa & Meridan Irrigation District for Ridenbaugh Diversion Modernization Project. In the matter of Regional Water sustainability List. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

At this time, Jason Brown provided a very brief informational update on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's annual inspection at Milner Dam.

**Agenda Item No. 9: Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant Awards**

With a recommendation from the Finance Committee, Senior Planner Neeley Miller, via Zoom, presented for the Board's consideration to approve round two grant awards and as identified in the subject proposed resolution and corresponding attachment listing the 15 projects.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to Award Funds in the matter of Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grants. Mr. McMahon seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, abstain; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 7 ayes. The motion passed.

At this time, Chairman Raybould called for a seven-minute comfort break.

Reconvening, Chairman Raybould moved to the next order of business, Agenda Item No. 10.

**Agenda Item No. 10: Upper Snake River Basin Study Proposal**

Planning and Projects Bureau Chief Cynthia Bridge Clark introduced the agenda item with some background and invited Michael Hilliard, Assistant Area Manager with the Bureau of Reclamation and Shawna Adams, Project Manager with the Minidoka Irrigation District to continue the presentation.

Addressing the Board, Mr. Hilliard provided a PowerPoint (PP) presentation on what a basin study is, which provided a highlight review on:

- What Basin Studies Do Not Do
- Basic Components of a Basin Study
- High-Level Requirements (Defined Study Area, Period of Performance, and Cost-Share)
- High-Level Considerations
- Basin Study Focus Areas

Continuing, Ms. Adams provided a review of the Anticipated Outcomes and Impacts of the Basin Study for the Board's review and consideration.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Barker moved to Approve and Authorize the Chairman to draft and submit a Letter of Support of Participation in the Case of the Upper Snake River Basin Study under the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Program. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 11: Marsh Center Irrigating Company Loan Request**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton provided a brief report on the agenda item. Mr. Patton advised that said item was discussed in detail at the Finance Committee meeting earlier in the week. Presented for the Board's consideration is a resolution with a two-year bridge loan as the Marsh Center Irrigating Company await their Natural Resources Conservation Service funding.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to Authorize Loan Funding for Costs Related to Delivery System Infrastructure Repairs and Improvements. In the matter of the Marsh Center Irrigating Company Loan Request. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 12: USGS Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Water Quality Study**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton, reported that said item was provided in detail at the work session, with a proposed Water Quality Study for the Board's consideration by way of a resolution.

Following review, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Approve Funds from the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund and Provide Signatory Authority. In the matter of the United States Geological Survey Recharge Water Quality Study. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 13: Bear River**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that a resolution is being presented for the Board's consideration for approval of funding for the Bear River Basin studies/facilities in partnership with the state of Utah. Moreover, Mr. Patton explained that the state of Utah would be the lead in contracting consultants and the IWRB would enter into agreement with the state of Utah.

Mr. Patton noted that the expenditure amount in the resolution states \$850,000 from the Water Management Account. However, this may be updated depending on Utah's proposal for up to \$1.1 million for further evaluation studies of the Bear River Basin.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to Approve Funding for the Bear River Basin. In the matter of the Bear River Basin, with the amendment for the amount up to \$1.1 Million. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 14: Directors Report**

Director Mat Weaver provided the Board with an update on the Governors Executive Order with respect to a 3 percent holdback to improving government efficiency and reducing government spending. Next, Mr. Weaver reviewed open positions and recruitment status followed by travel reporting and a fiscal update.

To conclude, he provided a briefing on curtailment and enforcement activities.

**Agenda Item No. 15: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

Following a brief update from Mr. Barker, Chairman Raybould continued to Agenda Item No. 16.

**Agenda Item No. 16: Next Meeting & Adjourn**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton, reported that the next regular meeting is calendared for November 20-21, 2025. Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Mc Mahon seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

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Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

## MINUTES MEETING NO. 13-25

Water Center  
Conference Rooms 602 B - D  
322 E. Front Street  
BOISE

October 31, 2025

### Board Meeting No. 13-25

**Brad Little**  
Governor

**Jeff Raybould**  
Chairman  
St. Anthony  
At Large

**Jo Ann Cole-Hansen**  
Vice Chair  
Lewiston  
At Large

**Dean Stevenson**  
Secretary  
Paul  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**Brian Olmstead**  
Twin Falls  
At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**  
Grace  
District 4

**Patrick McMahon**  
Sun Valley  
At Large

At 1:00 PM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho and on Zoom. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel after the executive session.

#### **Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call**

##### *Board Members Present*

Jeff Raybould, Chairman  
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman  
Al Barker  
Marcus Gibbs, *Online*  
Patrick McMahon, *Online*  
Brian Olmstead, *Online*  
Dean Stevenson, Secretary *Online*  
Dale Van Stone, *Online*

##### *Staff Members Present*

Mat Weaver, *online*  
Brian Patton  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Matt Anders  
Mike Morrison  
Nick Banish  
Justin Ferguson  
Wesley Hipke  
Neeley Miller  
Meghan Carter  
Sara Ajeti  
Jennifer Strange

##### *Public Present*

Johnathan Jennings, Krista Davis  
*Online* Steve Stuebrer  
Ann Yribar Scott Pugrud  
Lt. Governor Scott TJ Budge, *Online*  
Bedke, *Online* Michael Fuss, Stantec

Aaron Dalling, *Online*

**Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session**

At 01:01 PM, Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve into executive session 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 Mr. Van Barker seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 01:14 PM. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice vote:** All in favor. The motion carried. The executive session was closed to the public, and no action was taken during the executive session.

**Item Added: Public Comment**

At this time, Chairman Raybould called for anyone wishing to make public comment, per the amended agenda.

Brian Murdock with Murdock Farms addressed the Board request that the board table the non-diversion agreement, as he feels that it is not that appropriate time to impose restrictions on said recharge issue.

With no other public comment, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 4.

**Agenda Item No. 3: Dworshak Small Hydro Power Plant**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton, introduced the agenda item and advised that Engineer Mike Morrison would be briefing the Board on said item and presenting a resolution for consideration.

Mr. Morrison addressed the Board and provided some background noting that since May 5, 2021, Thompson Construction Group, Inc. (Thompson) has operated the Dworshak Small Hydroelectric Project (Power Plant) for the Board under a five-year contract. On April 25, 2025, Thompson notified the Board that it was terminating its contract with the Board effective October 22. Thompson stated that its decision to terminate the contract was the result of corporate restructuring and a decision to terminate its Idaho operations.

As such, Mr. Morrison advised that staff negotiated a one-year, \$100,000 contract with OAC to continue operating the Power Plant for one year and KME will continue in its current role as OAC's subcontractor and continue operating the Power Plant and perform basic O&M under a purchase order issued by the Board.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion to approve the resolution, as amended, per staff's presentation.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution, as amended to Execute an Operation and Maintenance Service Support Agreement with OAC, Inc., in the matter of the Dworshak Small Hydroelectric Project. Ms. Cole-Hansen seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4: Measuring and Monitoring Grant Approvals**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton reported that the Financial Programs Committee (Committee) recommended the IWRB approve the grant awards, as identified in staff's Attachment A and B. Accordingly, the Board is asked to consider a resolution to award funding for the approved IWRB Telemetry & Monitoring grant applications using funds awarded to the IWRB by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and to temporarily use funds from the Water Management Account to fund these projects, to be reimbursed by Reclamation once the funds become available.

Mr. Patton further advised that said resolution incorporates conditions that no funds will be awarded for the purchase of flowmeters and funding for the Raft River application will be contingent upon the issuance of an order to include the Raft River Basin into the Snake River Plain Aquifer Area of Common Groundwater.

Ms. Cole-Hansen noted that the Committee recommendation condition was to not allow the purchase of replacement flowmeters. Mr. Patton clarified that this is a typo and the final resolution will include that the condition is no replacement flowmeters.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution, as revised by discussion, to Award Funding in the matter of Surface Water Coalition Monitoring Support Grant Program. Mr. McMahon seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5: Flood Management Grants – Supplemental Application Cycle**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton introduced the item conveying that on October 28, 2025, Financial Programs Committee recommended a supplemental round of funding to utilize remaining funds from the 2025 appropriation. As such, for the Board's consideration is a resolution to approve supplemental round of funding.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Approve a Supplemental Round of Funding in the matter of Flood Management Grants. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6: Cloud Seeding Program**

##### **a. Bear River Project Authorization**

##### **b. High County RC & D Funding Request**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the Cloud Seeding Committee (Committee) reviewed said item and recommended that the Board authorize the State of Utah's request for authorization to conduct cloud seeding operations in the Bear River Basin.

In response to a question from Chairman Raybould regarding overlapping flight patterns over the two basins, Mr. Patton explained that IDWR staff met with representatives from the State of Utah and the contractor, Rainmaker. Cloud Seeding Program Manager Nick Banish reported that the meeting resulted in an agreed-upon path forward reducing conflicts between aircraft and drone operations. Idaho Power Company will conduct its cloud seeding activities using manned aircraft, and Rainmaker will remain in communication with operators and yield to manned aircraft operations.

Following review, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution for Authorization of State of Utah's Northern Utah/Bear River Basin Program in the matter of Cloud Seeding in the State of Idaho. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried.

Next, speaking on *6.B., High Country RC & D Funding Request*, Mr. Patton reported that the Committee reviewed this item and recommended the Board approve and authorize the funding request for the High-Country Resource Conservation & Development (HCRC D) for its manual cloud seeding ground program operations for the winter 2025-2026 season.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Approve Funds for the HCRC D 2025-2026 Cloud Seeding Program in the matter of Cloud Seeding in the State of Idaho. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

### **Agenda Item No. 7: IWRB Recharge Water Right Non-Diversion Agreement**

IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton reported that this item was reviewed by the Board's Water Supply Management Committee, which considered a proposed managed recharge agreement. The agreement would specify conditions under which the Board would not divert all water available under water rights 017504 and 011609.

As such, Mr. Patton advised that a resolution has been presented to the Board for consideration to approve and execute the Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert, as presented in Attachment A in the Board's meeting packet.

At this time, TJ Budge provided comments in relation to the item and presented suggested provisions that could be added to said agreement, with the addition of protections to the Board while also pleasing water users. Continuing, Mr. Budge cited Policy 4a and 4b from the State Water Plan in support of his proposed provisions.

Following Mr. Budge's comments, a discussion ensued. Mr. Barker stated that the 77 cfs reported by Mr. Budge appears to be overstated. Mr. Olmstead added that he supports recharge and believes additional recharge above American Falls is needed; however, he does not see that occurring without the assistance of cloud seeding. The discussion then continued.

Chairman Raybould invited Scott Pugrud to provide comments; whereby, he conveyed that it is his understanding that Mr. Budge noted that the suggested provisions would not impact the agreement *Not to Divert* in relation to the Milner Zero Flow Policy and the Swan Falls Agreement. Interjecting, Legal Counsel Ann Yirbar advised that she has not seen or reviewed the language in question as it was not sent to her for review. The discussion then continued.

Legal Counsel, Ann Yirbar conveyed that an additional two weeks should be sufficient time for additional review of what has been proposed and presented for future Committee recommendation and future Board action.

At this time, Mr. Barker moved to table the item for further review and presentation for action at the November Board meeting. Mr. McMahon seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried.

## **Agenda Item No. 8: Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resiliency Project**

- a. **Beneficial Use Notice Letter**
- b. **BLM Easement Transfer**
- c. **Ownership Transfer Agreement**

Addressing the Board, Attorney Meghan Carter reported that presented for the Board's consideration are three action items along with two resolutions related to the Mountain Home Air Force Base Resiliency Project. Ms. Carter advised that a proposed letter has been drafted to J.R. Simplot Company (Simplot) regarding the termination of Simplot's option to repurchase water rights at Snake River. A resolution has been provided for the Board's consideration authorizing to provide Simplot with the identified attachments and notification of the accomplishment of beneficial use.

At this time, Mr. Gibbs shared his comments that he is pleased with this outcome, and it has been a great project to be part of.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to Issue Written Notice of Accomplishment of Beneficial Use Under the Water Rights Purchase and Sale Agreement Between the Idaho Water Resource Board and the J.R. Simplot Company in the matter of the Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice vote**: 7 ayes and 1 abstention from Mr. Barker. Motion carried.

Speaking on *8.B, the BLM Easement Transfer and 8.C. Ownership Transfer*, Ms. Carter reported that said resolution is being presented for the Board's consideration to provide authority to assign property under a right-of-way through the Department of Lands, as the execution of the Water Resiliency Project Operating Agreement with the United States Air Force (USAF).

Ms. Carter noted that although certain details remain pending due to the government shutdown, the final resolution raises no concerns. She reported that it requests that the Chairman execute the assignment of all remaining easements and rights-of-way to the USAF for the Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Sustainability Project.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Provide Authority to Assign Property and Execute Ownership Conveyance Agreement in the matter of the Mountain Home Air Force Base Sustainable Water Supply Project. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

## **Agenda Item No. 9: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

There were no items to come before the Board.

## **Agenda Item No. 10: Adjourn**

Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Mc Mahon seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 02:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

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Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

## MINUTES MEETING NO. 14-25

**Brad Little**  
Governor

**Jeff Raybould**  
Chairman  
St. Anthony  
At Large

**Jo Ann Cole-Hansen**  
Vice Chair  
Lewiston  
At Large

**Dean Stevenson**  
Secretary  
Paul  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**Brian Olmstead**  
Twin Falls  
At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**  
Grace  
District 4

**Patrick McMahon**  
Sun Valley  
At Large

Water Center  
Conference Rooms 602 B - D  
322 E. Front Street  
BOISE

November 21, 2025  
**Board Meeting No. 14-25**

At 8:01 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho and on Zoom. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel after the executive session.

### Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

#### *Board Members Present*

Jeff Raybould, Chairman  
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman  
Marcus Gibbs  
Patrick McMahon  
Brian Olmstead  
Dean Stevenson, Secretary  
Dale Van Stone

#### *Staff Members Present*

Mat Weaver  
Brian Patton  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Matt Anders  
Nick Banish  
Justin Ferguson  
Wesley Hipke  
Neeley Miller  
Corri Parsley  
Spencer Patton  
Craig Saxton  
Amy Cassel, *online*  
John Loffredo, *online*

#### *Public Present*

Brian Murdock  
John Williams  
Al Grant

### **Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session**

At 8:03 AM, Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve into executive session 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 Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 9:25 AM. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice vote**: All in favor. The motion carried. The executive session was closed to the public, and no action was taken during the executive session.

### **Agenda Item No. 3: Public Comment**

At this time, Brian Murdock with Murdock Farms addressed the Board to deliver public comment speaking on the non-diversion agreement with Idaho Power, his recent delegation meeting in Washington D.C., and the level of growth versus the number of reservoirs in the state. Next, John Williams with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) provided his comments to the Board regarding the recent preliminary injunctions filed by environmental groups related to the Columbia River Operations Case, affirmed the financial condition of BPA—despite a challenging water year, and lastly comments on BPA’s Residential Exchange Program.

With no other public comment, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 4.

### **Agenda Item No. 4: Financial Report**

Senior Planner, Neeley Miller provided a summary financial report, as of October 31, 2025, on the Idaho Water Resources Boards available and committed balances. Said funds were reported as follows: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$40,409,425, committed \$25,050,443, and uncommitted \$15,358,982; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$36,381,094, committed balance \$24,485,588, loan principal outstanding \$23,010,596, and uncommitted balance \$11,895,506; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$343,721,791, total committed funds \$346,069,553, and uncommitted funds \$-2,347,762.

### **Agenda Item No. 5: Water Management Account and Secondary Fund Spending Plans**

Introducing the agenda item, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton introduced the item conveying that the Financial Programs Committee spent quite a bit of time reviewing the items in preparation for the Board’s consideration. As such, two resolutions are being presented for the Board to consider which would modify both the Spending Plan for the Secondary Aquifer Fund and the Water Management Account. Mr. Patton suggested that the Board address the Secondary Aquifer Fund first.

Mr. Patton conveyed that the net effect of the resolution would be to restore the 3 percent reduction that the Board had originally approved and taken out of the Secondary Fund Spending Plan.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget in the matter of Amending the Statewide Water Sustainability and Aquifer Stabilization, and the Secondary Aquifer Stabilization, and Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye;

Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Continuing, Mr. Patton moved to the Water Management account, whereby he reported that in addition to restoring the 3 percent holdback this resolution makes some additional funding commitments and minor edits/modifications to the subject resolution.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to Approve the Second Amended Fiscal Year 2026 Water Management Account Spending Plan in the matter of the Idaho Water Resource Board's Water Management Account. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6: Aging Infrastructure Grant Awards**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton introduced the item, noting that it was reviewed thoroughly at the Financial Programs Committee, at which time he invited Senior Planner Neeley Miller to continue staff's presentation.

Mr. Miller addressed the Board and reported that the Finance Committee asked staff to investigate one application and has determined that the information that was brought to staff's attention is indeed correct and will not have a negative impact on the aquifer. As such, Mr. Miller conveyed that the scoring has been updated with a revised recommended funding fund award amount of \$22,919.08.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to Award Funds in the matter of Aging Infrastructure Grants. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye with a declaration requested that his vote note an abstention from voting on three applications: District 45 Board of Control, Upper Wood River Valley, and the Boise Project Board of Control. Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye with a declaration that she is no longer affiliated with LOID; Mr. Gibbs, aye with an abstention on the Last Chance Canal Co. application; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye with an abstention on the Freemont Madison Irrigation District and the Henry's Fork GWD applications, 8 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 7: Proposed State Water Plan & ESPA CAMP Changes**

Senior Planner Neeley Miller addressed the Board to report on the agenda item. Mr. Miller announced that as the Board is aware the legislature recently passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 110, which supports the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan between water users and the Idaho Water Resource Board to enhance water management in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). Moreover, it focuses on revising the State Water Plan to establish specific recharge goals for the aquifer and improving the management of its connection to the Snake River.

Following the Public Hearings and summaries of public comments that were received, Mr. Miller reported that the Planning Committee reviewed the comments for consideration in its update to the State Water Plan and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP). Following the identification of Sections 4B, 4D, 4E, and the ESPA CAMP proposed changes, as outlined in the Board's meeting packet, Mr. Miller stood for any questions on said proposed changes.

Following comments from Mr. Barker related to an additional recommended edit to Section 4D, with the addition of a phrase which reads:

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

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Approve to Adopt Changes in the Matter of the Changes to the Idaho State Water Plan and the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan, as amended. Mr. Mc Mahon seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahan, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

With no further discussion, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 8.

#### **Agenda Item No. 8: American River Stream Channel Alternation Permits**

Providing historical background, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the item had been discussed by the Planning Committee, which recommended approval of the stream alteration permits related to the South Fork Clearwater Basin Plan. The Plan establishes additional requirements for certain types of stream alterations and prohibits others. He explained that the American River, a tributary within the South Fork Basin, requires approval from the Department of Water Resources Board for certain stream alterations, and a resolution has therefore been presented for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Approve Stream Channel Alternations in the matter of the South Form Clearwater Stream Channel Alternation Permit No. S82-20206 and No. S82-20207. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Agenda Item No. 9: ESPA Recharge Program Update**

Technical Programs Supervisor Matt Anders provided a brief review on the status of the Board's recharge program for the season.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould thanked staff for the update and moved to the next order of business.

#### **Agenda Item No. 10: Little Wood River Channel – City of Gooding Flood Control Project**

Joining the meeting via Zoom, Project Manager Amy Cassel provided the Board with a briefing update on the Regional Water Sustainability Project List—City of Gooding's Flood Control Project and a resolution for the Board's consideration to approve additional funding in the amount of \$1,197,000.

Ms. Cassel conveyed that the Finance Committee recommended that the city provide 5 percent of the total increase, which is \$63,000 (\$1.26 million x 5%). The total requested cost share from the IWRB's Regional Sustainability Project List is \$1,197,000.

With no further discussion, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to Award Additional funds for the City of Gooding Flood Control Project in the matter of the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 11: IWRB Recharge Water Right Non-Diversion Agreement**

Providing an update on the subject agenda item, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the Water Supply Committee (Committee) recommended the Board approve the resolution in the matter of the Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert with the Idaho Power Company. The Committee further recommended that additional language be added to the agreement identified in Section 7 stating that nothing in said agreement is intended to affect the State Water Plan, the Zero Flow at Milner Policy, or the Board's ability to pursue its recharge goal of 350K AF on an annual average basis, or the 1984 Swan Falls Agreement, and 2009 Framework Reaffirming the Swan Fall Settlement.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution authorizing Chairman Raybould to execute the Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert with the Idaho Power Company. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice Vote**: All ayes. Motion carried.

Following the unanimous Board vote, a representative from the Idaho Power Company shared comments in thanking the Board for their support of the Non-Diversion Agreement. In closing, the Idaho Power Company extended its gratitude for the Board's leadership through this process.

**Agenda Item No. 12: Cloud Seeding Program Update**

Cloud Seeding Program Manager, Nick Banish provided the Board with an update on the current activity on the Cloud Seeding Program, which commenced on November 1, 2025, and its most recent events. Looking forward, Mr. Banish highlighted that IDWR staff will be coordinating meetings with Water Users (IGWA, WD01, WD37 & WD63) to gain an understanding of their budget, present information on cloud seeding benefits and the increased costs of cloud seeding to reassess the contributions from Water Users to the Collaborative program.

Addressing a question posed by Mr. Barker regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report, Mr. Banish advised that to his knowledge there is no further activity on the GAO, as had been published and released a year ago. However, should any updates be announced, staff will keep the Board informed.

At that time, Water Projects Section Manager Wesley Hipke noted that staff had heard last year that the project was moving forward. However, they are now working to obtain additional data for analysis that has been reported to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, where such reports are submitted.

Hearing no further questions from the Board, Chairman Raybould thanked staff for the update.

**Agenda Item No. 13: Upper Salmon L-6 Annual Agreements Renewal**

Addressing the item, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that Transactions Program Manager John Loffredo would be discussing said item and presenting a resolution for the Board's consideration to approve and fund renewal of the proposed short-term agreements not to divert in the lower Lemhi River.

At this time, attending the meeting via Zoom, Mr. Loffredo provided a brief update reporting that staff proposes development of additional short-term agreements not to divert to reduce or eliminate the gap of 15.23 cfs between the permanent and long-term transactions and the 35 cfs flow target. As in previous years, payment will be based on the number of days each irrigator's water deliveries are restricted to meet the minimum flow at a rate of \$110.00/24-hour cfs. He further noted that proposed resolution is subject to the condition that the Board receives the requested funding from the Bonneville Power Administration through the Idaho MOA/Fish Accord Water Transaction Program or the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Fund in an amount up to \$465,811.50.

Mr. McMahon moved to adopt the resolution to Make a Funding Commitment in the Matter of the Lower Lemhi 2026-2028 Water Right Subordination Agreements. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 14: Potential Legislation of Interest**

At this time, Deputy Attorney General Garrick Baxter provided the Board with a briefing on legislation of interest to the Department of Water Resources.

Following review, Chairman Raybould moved to the next order of business.

#### **Agenda Item No. 15: Director's Report**

Director Mat Weaver addressed the Board to provide comments on the Water Supply Bank Program (Program). He explained that, as Director of the Department of Water Resources, a key goal has been to eliminate the year-to-year backlog by developing a new process and ensuring the department has sufficient resources to complete the workload. He noted that this remains a priority; however, staff turnover in positions supporting the Program has made progress challenging.

To address this issue, Mr. Weaver stated that the department has reorganized by consolidating all staff responsible for Water Supply Bank work into a single operating unit within the Water Rights Section. This reorganization includes a Water Right Supervisor, Water Right Principal, Water Right Agent, and two Technical Record Specialists.

Moreover, Mr. Weaver stated that if we can get fully staffed under this new reorganization and keep these resources working, IDWR will see some significant improvements in the numbers. Another added benefit to being fully staffed is we will have the experience to evaluate the processes in place and see what opportunities there are to streamline and improve.

Next, he provided a recap on the Surface Water Coalition (Coalition) delivery call proceeding; whereby, this irrigation season analysis found an injury of 86,756 AF to the carryover volume of storage water that the Coalition is entitled to, which is the largest carryover volume IDWR ever determined.

Moving on, Mr. Weaver shared information related to the evaluation of expanding the area of common groundwater supply for the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer into tributary basins. He advised that two letters would be going out regarding his decision not to move forward with an expansion at this time. As for the other three basins, deliberation continues and we hope to have a decision by the end of the year.

Hearing no questions from the Board, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 16

**Agenda Item No. 16: 2026 Meeting Dates**

Presented for the Board's review and consideration were the 2026 Regular Meeting dates for the 2026 Calendar Year.

The dates were approved, as presented with some changes expected in January with respect to the legislative session and to avoid a conflict in November 2026 with respect to the Soil Water Commissions fall meeting.

Mr. Stevenson moved to approve and accept the 2026 Regular Meeting schedule. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item No. 17: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

There were no items to come before the Board.

**Agenda Item No. 18: Next Meeting and Adjourn**

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Patton announced that the Bureau of Reclamation noticed IDWR Board's letter of interest in the WaterSMART Basin Study Program has been selected to proceed to the next phase of the application process.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. McMahon seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

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Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

**Brad Little**  
Governor

**Jeff Raybould**  
Chairman  
St. Anthony  
At Large

**Jo Ann Cole-Hansen**  
Vice Chair  
Lewiston  
At Large

**Dean Stevenson**  
Secretary  
Paul  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**Brian Olmstead**  
Twin Falls  
At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**  
Grace  
District 4

**Patrick McMahon**  
Sun Valley  
At Large

## MINUTES MEETING NO. 1-26

Water Center  
Conference Rooms 602 B - D  
322 E. Front Street  
BOISE

January 23, 2026

### Board Meeting No. 1-26

At 8:00 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho and on Zoom. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel after the executive session.

#### Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

##### *Board Members Present*

Jeff Raybould, Chairman  
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman  
Marcus Gibbs  
Patrick McMahon  
Brian Olmstead  
Dean Stevenson, Secretary  
Dale Van Stone

##### *Staff Members Present*

Matthew Weaver  
Brian Patton  
Shelley Keen  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Justin Ferguson  
Wesley Hipke  
Nelley Miller  
Corri Parsley  
Craig Saxton  
Amy Cassel, *Online*

##### *Public Present*

Tony Dixie  
Michael Foss  
Brian Murdock

### **Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session**

At 8:03 AM, Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve into executive session 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 Mr. Barker seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 8:18 AM. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice vote:** All in favor. The motion carried. The executive session was closed to the public, and no action was taken during the executive session.

### **Agenda Item No. 3: Federal Affairs Update**

At this time, Mark Limbaugh with the Ferguson Group, LLC., provided a federal affairs update to the Board. Mr. Limbaugh's PowerPoint included highlights related to the fiscal year 2026 appropriations, fiscal year 2026 Bureau of Reclamation Infrastructure Investment and Jobs ACT-Spending Plan, Inflation Reduction Act, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and 2025 IWRB Federal Activities.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould thanked Mr. Limbaugh for his report and moved to Agenda Item No. 4.

### **Agenda Item No. 4: Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

However, it was noted that the public seated in the audience were in attendance to speak on Agenda Item No. 14, *Lost Valley Reservoir Enlargement Project*.

### **Agenda Item No. 5: Financial Report**

Senior Planner, Neeley Miller provided a summary financial report, as of December 31, 2025, on the Idaho Water Resources Boards available and committed balances. Said funds were reported as follows: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$40,429,679, committed \$23,991,776, and uncommitted \$16,437,904; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$34,683,660, committed balance \$26,153,534, loan principal outstanding \$25,004,258, and uncommitted balance \$8,530,126; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$341,561,547, total committed funds \$335,488,695, and uncommitted funds \$6,072,855.

### **Agenda Item No. 6: 2026 Governor's Proposed Budget**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton addressed the Board to provide an update on the Governor's IDWR Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

### **Agenda Item No. 7: Quagga Mussel Treatment Update**

Chief Treatment Engineer Jeremy Varley with the Idaho Department of Agriculture provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the changes related to the Quagga Mussel Treatment Project.

Following review, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 8.

### **Agenda Item No. 8: Idaho Code Cleanup**

Addressing the Board, IDWR Deputy Director Shelley Keen provided an update review of the Department of Water Resources compliance with the Idaho Code Cleanup Act. Mr. Keen's presentation focused on the Idaho Code Cleanup Project, as it relates to the Idaho Legislature and related actions.

Mr. Keen conveyed that following IDWR's review, staff identified several statutes that were inactive and/or outdated, as well as statutes that enable the state to negotiate interstate compacts for Salmon Falls Creek and for the Columbia River Basin.

Following review, Chairman Raybould moved to the next order of business.

#### **Agenda Item No. 9: Water Rights Backlog**

IDWR Water Allocations Bureau Chief Craig Saxton provided a review on the 2026 Allocation Bureau Update. Mr. Saxton's PowerPoint presentation provided an overview of the Water Allocation Bureau, the Adjudication Program and Water Rights Program, Water Supply Bank Re-organization, the current workforce, and looking ahead to focus on department efficiency and productivity.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould thanked staff for their efforts and moved to Agenda Item No. 10.

#### **Agenda Item No. 10: State Water Plan Update**

Senior Planner Neeley Miller provided the Board with a briefing update on the State Water Plan and the Eastern Snake River Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) changes, notably, to address water supply challenges along the Eastern Snake plain and the Board's efforts to increase aquifer recharge goals from 250,000-acre feet to 350,000-acre feet. Said changes were submitted to the Legislature on January 9, 2026.

Addressing a question posed by Mr. Gibbs, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton conveyed that the Legislature has not responded as to their actions on the State Water Plan (Plan); however, the Legislature can accept, amend, or reject it within 60 days by concurrent resolution or allow the 60 day time frame to run out, which would then result in the Plan being automatically accepted.

With no further discussion, Chairman Raybould moved to the next order of business.

#### **Agenda Item No. 11: Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Update**

Providing an update on the subject agenda item, Project Manager Justin Ferguson reviewed background details on the project and provided some recent updates related to staff activities and ongoing construction mitigation. Mr. Ferguson conveyed that staff proposes to schedule a potential Storage Committee meeting in early February to discuss the options to mitigate the potential impacts on stakeholders during construction.

Next, Mr. Ferguson advised that staff will review additional information regarding project design and updated cost estimates to present at a subsequent Committee meeting.

#### **Agenda Item No. 12: Upper Sanke Basin Study**

Joining the meeting, via Zoom, Project Manager Amy Cassel provided a brief update on staff's work on the Upper Snake Basin study. Following a chronological review of tasks completed, Ms. Cassell conveyed that staff's efforts have been focused on preparing the 15-page proposal, along with the Bureau of Reclamation, by the submission deadline of March 16, 2026.

Continuing, Ms. Cassel reviewed the timeline schedule of upcoming Committee and Board meetings with public comments and the Special Board meeting scheduled for February 10 for Board approval prior to the final submission target date of March 13, 2026.

Hearing no questions from the Board, Chairman Raybould thanked staff for their hard work and moved to take a recess comfort break.

Following the short recess, Chairman Raybould reconvened the meeting and continued to the next order of business, Agenda Item No. 13.

**Agenda Item No. 13: Flood Grant Program Awards**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton reported that the Financial Programs Committee recommended the Board approve the funding recommendation in the proposed resolution to award the package applications for a total of \$559,358.

At this time, Senior Planner Neely Miller provided a brief background on the Board's actions from round one of the grant applications which totaled eight applications and awarded \$460,646 by Resolution No. 33-2025. Continuing, Mr. Nelly then highlighted the supplemental round of grant applications for the Board's consideration by way of a resolution.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to award funds in the matter of Flood Management Grants in the amount of \$559,358. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 14 Loan Program**

**a. Magic Valley Groundwater District (MVGWD)**

**b. Lost Valley Reservoir Enlargement Project**

Project Manager Justin Ferguson addressed the Board to review new water project loan applications. The first was received from the MVGWD for \$10,000,000, 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.

Addressing a question related to security, Mr. Ferguson conveyed that since the MVGWD is a government entity with taxing and assessment authority, shareholder assessments have been offered as collateral to secure the loan.

Following review of the resolution, Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to authorize loan funding for costs related to the Magic Valley Pumping Project. Mr. McMahon seconded. **Roll call vote:**

Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, abstain; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 7 ayes. The motion passed

Moving on to the next loan application, Mr. Ferguson reported that the Lost Valley Reservoir Project proposes to raise and rebuild 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. The loan application request is in the amount of \$17,662,000, which would be for construction costs.

Following review of the term sheet updates and corresponding resolution, Chairman Raybould invited the guests in attendance for public comment.

Addressing the Board, the following speakers were heard in relation to public comment under the agenda item:

1. Mr. Jones
2. Mr. Lien

Following public comments and a brief discussion period, Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution to authorize loan funding for costs related to the Lost Valley Reservoir Project. Mr. Barker seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 15 Cloud Seeding Program Update**

Cloud Seeding Program Manager Nick Banish provided a review and update of the Cloud Seeding Program for December 2025.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 16.

#### **Agenda Item No. 16 Cloud ESPA Recharge Program Update**

Technical Programs Supervisor Matt Anders addressed the Board to speak on the agenda item. Mr. Anders provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the Managed Aquifer Recharge Program for 2025-2026. To conclude, Mr. Anders highlighted a summary of new proposed recharge projects presented at the Aquifer Stabilization Committee.

Next, Mr. Anders presented for the Board's consideration a funding request for proposed recharge projects by way of resolutions.

Following review of the resolutions, Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the four resolutions to authorize and approve funds for the following Managed Recharge Projects: Bringham GWD Dubois & Riverside Site, Butte Market Lake Canal Improvements, Freemont Madison– Wilford Canal Pilot Project, and Southwest Searle Well. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, abstain. 7 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 17 Potential Legislation of Interest**

At this time, Deputy Attorney General Garrick Baxter provided the Board with a verbal update on legislation of interest to the Department of Water Resources.

**Agenda Item No. 18 Director's Report**

Director Mat Weaver did not have anything to report.

**Agenda Item No. 19 Non-Action Items for Discussion**

No items for discussion.

**Agenda Item No. 20: Next Meeting and Adjourn**

Mr. Patton stated the next regular Board meeting would be March 26-27, 2026, in Boise. Mr. Stevenson moved to adjourn. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

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Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

**Brad Little**  
Governor

**Jeff Raybould**  
Chairman  
St. Anthony  
At Large

**Jo Ann Cole-Hansen**  
Vice Chair  
Lewiston  
At Large

**Dean Stevenson**  
Secretary  
Paul  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**Brian Olmstead**  
Twin Falls  
At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**  
Grace  
District 4

**Patrick McMahon**  
Sun Valley  
At Large

## MINUTES MEETING NO. 3-26

Water Center  
Conference Rooms 648A  
322 E. Front Street  
BOISE

February 24, 2026  
**Board Meeting No. 3-26**

At 9:00 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho and on Zoom.

### **Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call**

#### *Board Members Present*

Jeff Raybould, Chairman  
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman, Online  
Al Barker  
Marcus Gibbs, Online  
Patrick McMahon, Online  
Brian Olmstead, Online  
Dean Stevenson, Secretary, Online

#### *Staff Members Present*

Brian Patton  
Shelley Keen  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Joy Vega, Attorney General's Office  
Scott Campbell, Attorney General's Office  
David Perkins, Attorney General's Office, *Online*  
Milin Ream

### **Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session**

At 9:02 AM, Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve into executive session 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. Mr. Barker seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 6 ayes. The motion passed.

At 9:08 AM Mr. Gibbs joined the Board Executive Session online.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 9:43 AM. Mr. Barker seconded. **Voice vote**: 7 ayes. The motion carried. The executive session was closed to the public, and no action was taken during the executive session.

**Agenda Item No. 3: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

At this time, Mr. Barker noted that a Minute Order had recently been issued in the ongoing Columbia River System Operations (CSRO) litigation. Attending staff from the Office of the Attorney General provided additional discussion and clarification regarding the implications of the Court's order.

**Agenda Item No. 4: Adjourn**

With no other business to come before the Board for discussion, Mr. Barker moved to adjourn. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Voice vote**: 7 ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:51 AM.

Respectfully submitted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

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Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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Lewiston  
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Secretary  
Paul  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**Brian Olmstead**  
Twin Falls  
At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**  
Grace  
District 4

**Patrick McMahon**  
Sun Valley  
At Large

## MINUTES MEETING NO. 4-26

Water Center  
Conference Rooms 602 C-D  
322 E. Front Street  
BOISE

March 4, 2026

### Board Meeting No. 4-26

At 10:01 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho and on Zoom.

#### Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

##### *Board Members Present*

Jeff Raybould, Chairman, Online  
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman, Online  
Marcus Gibbs, Online  
Patrick McMahon, Online  
Brian Olmstead, Online  
Dale Van Stone, Online  
Dean Stevenson, Secretary, Online

##### *Staff Members Present*

Brian Patton  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Wesley Hipke  
Benjamin Camp  
Mackenzie Kienholz  
Justin Ferguson  
Mary Condon  
Mike Morrison  
Amy Cassel, *Online*  
Milin Ream

##### *Others Present:*

Brian Murdock, Murdock Farms  
Michael Fuss, Stantec

## **Agenda Item No. 2: Public Comment**

Given the nature of Agenda Item No. 3, the Upper Snake River Basin Study, IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton suggested that the Board receive public comment following the staff presentation. Hearing no objections, Chairman Raybould proceeded to rearrange the order of the Agenda and proceed to Item No. 3.

## **Agenda Item No. 3: Upper Snake River Basin Study**

At this time, Project Manager Amy Cassel provided the Board with a recap of the Upper Snake River Basin Study, outlining key milestones from the initial Letter of Interest to today's presentation overview. She also highlighted a newly added section featuring a timeline and task list for the Board's review. In closing, Ms. Cassel noted that the proposal remains in draft form, pending any updates or revisions from the Board.

Following a brief period of review and discussion, the Board reached consensus to update the map legend to include defining the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and to identify Henry's Fork as a tributary of the Snake River in lieu of the Teton River.

With no further review or questions, Chairman Raybould moved to Public Comment.

## **Public Comment**

Brian Murdock with Murdock Farms addressed the Board seeking clarification regarding the cost share breakdown for the Study. Following staff's explanation, Mr. Murdock thanked staff for providing additional information.

With no further public comments, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to direct staff to submit the Upper Snake River Basin Study to the Bureau of Reclamation with the edits, as discussed. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice vote**: 7 ayes. The motion passed.

## **Agenda Item No. 4: Non-action Items for Discussion**

With no other action items before the Board for discussion, Chairman Raybould noted the upcoming Governors Water Meeting for the Board's information.

## **Agenda Item No. 5: Next Meeting and Adjourn**

Mr. Patton stated the next regular Board meeting would be March 26-27, 2026, in Boise. Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice vote**: 7 ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.

Respectfully submitted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

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Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*

# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)  
**From:** Neeley Miller, Planning & Projects Bureau  
**Date:** March 18, 2026  
**Subject:** Financial Status Report

As of February 28, 2026, the IWRB’s available and committed balances are as follows:

**Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management & Implementation Fund:**

Cash Balance	\$41,454,212
Committed	\$23,388,491
Uncommitted/Available Funds	\$18,065,721

**Revolving Development Account:**

Cash Balance	\$34,921,787
Committed Balance	\$31,950,977
Uncommitted Balance/Available Funds	\$2,970,810
Loan principal outstanding	\$25,670,707

**Water Management Account:**

Cash Balance	\$336,914,113**
Total Committed Funds	\$331,294,626
Uncommitted Funds/Available Funds	\$5,619,487

**ARPA:**

Appropriations

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

Total Obligated	\$250,213,747*
Expended	\$161,941,802**
Remaining Committed Balance	\$89,030,987

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

*\*\*Enterprize and Egin were moved from ARPA to WMA, but the expenses were not moved in Luma until March. Cash balance of WMA will decrease, and expended amount will decrease in ARPA by \$758,952.*

# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)  
**From:** Cynthia Bridge Clark  
**Date:** March 23, 2026  
**Subject:** Proposed Amendments Water Manage Account and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Plans

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**REQUESTED ACTION:** Consider potential Finance Committee recommendations to amend spending plans for the Fiscal Year 2026 Water Management Account and ARPA funds.

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## **Background:**

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) manages three accounts to fund programs and provides financial assistance for water development projects: the Revolving Development Account (RDA), Water Management Account (WMA), and the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management and Implementation Fund (Secondary Fund). Since 2019, the Idaho Legislature has appropriated a total of \$362.4 million to the IWRB's Water Management Account (WMA) to support water project development and water sustainability programs. In addition, the 2022 Idaho Legislature allocated approximately \$250 million of the State's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support IWRB-approved projects.

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

To help guide investment in projects that support water supply sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide scale in accordance with legislative direction, the IWRB maintains a list of priority projects: Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List (RWSP Priority List). The IWRB also implements grant programs that target aging infrastructure, flood management, groundwater to surface water conversion projects, measurement and monitoring activities, and water delivery system efficiency.

## **IWRB Meeting:**

The IWRB passed a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 spending plan for the WMA on May 23, 2025 (Resolution no. 19-2025) which incorporated the \$30 million ongoing appropriation authorized under House Bill 445, enacted during the 2025 legislative session. The plan was amended on September 12, 2025 (Resolution no. 34-2025) and on November 21, 2025 (Resolution no. 51-2025) to reflect IWRB new IWRB funding obligations.

The IWRB adopted a spending plan for ARPA funds on July 1, 2024 (Resolution 31-2024).

On March 26, 2026, the Finance Committee will consider additional amendments to the WMA and ARPA spending plans to address current cost estimates for the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise,

new funding proposals, and reallocation of available ARPA funding. Draft resolutions proposing assignment of ARPA funds are attached. An amended WMA spending plan resolution will be presented at the Finance Committee meeting.

Staff will present any Finance Committee recommendations to the full IWRB on March 27, 2026.

**Attachment(s):**

IWRB Finance Committee Meeting Attachments:

- *WMA FY2026 Spending Plan – Amended by IWRB Resolution(s) through January 23, 2026, based on balances as of February 28, 2026*
- *ARPA Spending Plan – Adopted by the IWRB July 1, 2024, with Proposed Changes for IWRB Consideration*
- *Draft Resolution – Resolution to Approve Funds from the Water Management Account for ESPA Recharge Infrastructure*
- *Draft Resolution – Resolution to Modify the IWRB’s ARPA Funding Spending Plan and Provide Spending Authorization*

*Pending Committee Recommendation, additional materials to be presented.*

**Idaho Water Resource Board - Water Management Account**  
**FY 2026 Spending Plan**  
*Amended by IWRB Resolution(s) through January 23, 2026*

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

FY 2020 (HB 285, Sec 1, Leg 2019)	\$20,000,000
FY 2022 (SB 1121, Sec 1, Leg 2021)	\$50,000,000
FY 2023 (HB 769, Sec 6, Leg 2022 - 1/3 or \$25M to be used for AI Grants)	\$75,000,000
FY 2024 (HB 361, Sec 1, Leg 2023 - 1/3 or \$50M to be used for AI Grants)	\$150,000,000
FY 2025 (SB 1411, Sec 3, Leg 2024)	\$30,000,000
FY 2026 (HB 445, Sec 4, Leg 2025)	\$30,000,000
Flood Management Grant Appropriations (FY 2019 - FY 2026)	\$7,400,000
Water Quality Collection Program Appropriation (FY 2020 - FY 2022)	\$600,000
Interest Earned State Treasury (as of Feb 28, 2026)	\$38,379,481
Water Project Loan Interest (as of Feb 28, 2026)	\$5,276
Water Project Loan Repayments (as of Feb 28, 2026)	\$346,074
Misc Revenue	\$4,350,000
	<b>\$406,080,831</b>

<b>STATEWIDE REGIONAL WATER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS &amp; OTHER LARGE PROJECTS</b> <i>(Projects listed in alphabetical order)</i>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution</b> <b>(as of 1/23/2026)</b>
Anderson Ranch Dam Raise **	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000 *
Bear Lake Additional Storage	\$2,000,000	\$1,200,000 *
City of Gooding - Little Wood River Channel Flood Control Project	\$5,197,000	\$5,197,000
City of Nampa Wastewater-to-Irrigation Reuse	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline (Governor's Initiative) & Other Statewide Special Projects	\$60,000,000	\$60,000,000 *
Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project **	\$1,287,000	\$1,287,000
Lost Valley Reservoir Enlargement - Planning	\$560,000	\$560,000
Milner Dam Rehabilitation Project	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project **	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000 *
Nampa Meridian Irrigation District Ridenbaugh Canal Diversion Modernization Project	\$9,169,047	\$9,169,047
North Fremont Canal Systems Phase 5 Pipeline Project	\$7,811,056	\$7,811,056
Palouse Basin Aquifer Water Supply Planning	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000 *
Priest Lake Water Management Project	\$5,420,000	\$5,420,000
Priest Lake Outlet Dam Litigation	\$2,748,000	\$2,748,000
Raft River Pipeline Project	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000 *
Statewide Recharge Infrastructure	\$14,493,000	\$14,493,000 *
Thousand Springs Area Water Subordination Agreements	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000 *
Treasure Valley Water Supply Assessment Project (WD 63)	\$474,320	\$474,320
Upper Snake River Basin Study	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000 *
Upper Payette Basin Storage Water Project	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000 *
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$161,659,423</b>	<b>\$160,859,423</b>

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

**Idaho Water Resource Board - Water Management Account**  
**Amended FY 2026 Spending Plan**  
*Amended by IWRB Resolution(s) through January 23, 2026*

	Budgeted Amount	Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 1/23/2026)
<b>ESPA REGIONAL WATER SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM</b>		
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Improvement Projects	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000 *
Near Blackfoot to Minidoka Reach Gain Improvements Projects	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000 *
ESPA Recharge Infrastructure **	\$21,506,587	\$21,506,587
ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grants	\$38,621,296	\$38,621,296
Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiencies Program (AFRD2 & TFCC Project )	\$27,332,574	\$27,332,574
Measuring & Monitoring Support Grant	\$815,102	\$815,102
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	\$100,000	\$100,000
ESPA Groundwater Measurement Database	\$500,000	\$500,000 *
IDWR Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Support	\$500,000	\$500,000 *
<b>ESPA Regional Sustainability Program Total:</b>	<b>\$99,375,559</b>	<b>\$99,375,559</b>

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

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

	Budgeted Amount	Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 1/23/2026)
<b>STATEWIDE AGING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS ^</b>		
FY 2023 (Approp. \$25M)	\$10,679,352	\$10,679,352
FY 2023 (Supplemental Round)	\$13,889,175	\$13,889,175
FY 2024 (Approp. \$50M)	\$9,033,074	\$9,033,074
FY 2024 (Supplemental Round)	\$6,843,940	\$6,843,940
FY 2025	\$9,823,523	\$9,823,523
FY 2026	\$22,919,008	\$22,919,008
FY 2027 (scheduled)	\$26,240,428	\$26,240,428 *
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$99,428,500</b>	<b>\$99,428,500</b>

\* Funds are obligated by IWRB resolution and through appropriations in HB 769 and HB 361 but remain subject to IWRB approval of the project plan.

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

**Idaho Water Resource Board - Water Management Account**  
**Amended FY 2026 Spending Plan**  
*Amended by IWRB Resolution(s) through January 23, 2026*

	Budgeted Amount	Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 1/23/2026)
<b>STATEWIDE FLOOD MANAGEMENT GRANTS</b>		
FY 2019 (Approp. \$1M)	\$901,678	\$901,678
FY 2020 (Approp. \$800K)	\$624,251	\$624,251
FY 2021 (Approp. \$800K)	\$688,743	\$688,743
FY 2022 (Approp. \$800K)	\$893,346	\$893,346
FY 2023 (Approp. \$1M)	\$529,274	\$529,274
FY 2024 (Approp. \$1M)	\$831,015	\$831,015
FY 2025 (Approp. \$1M)	\$695,517	\$695,517
FY 2026 (Approp. \$1M)	\$460,646	\$460,646
FY 2026 - Supplemental Round	\$559,358	\$559,358
Carry Forward for Future Rounds	\$1,216,172	\$1,216,172 *
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$7,400,000</b>	<b>\$7,400,000</b>

\* Funds are obligated pursuant to the Flood Management Grant appropriation but remain contingent upon IWRB approval of individual grant

	Budgeted Amount	Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 1/23/2026)
<b>STATEWIDE LOANS, GRANTS, &amp; OTHER POTENTIAL NEEDS ^</b>		
Lost Valley Reservoir Company Loan (total authorized \$13,246,500)	\$13,246,500	\$13,246,500 *
Magic Valley Groundwater District Loan	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
North Side Pumping Co Loan	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
Raft River Recharge Group Loan	\$14,111,000	\$14,111,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$38,557,500</b>	<b>\$38,557,500</b>

\* Loan may be funded from the WMA or RDA.

^ Funds obligated for loans will be available for reallocation upon repayment.

	Budgeted Amount	Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 1/23/2026)
<b>WATER QUALITY COLLECTION PROGRAM</b>		
DOI-USGS Agreement FY 2020 - Mid-Snake River (HB 285, Sec 3, 2019)	\$200,000	\$200,000
DOI-USGS Agreement FY 2021 - Mid-Snake River (HB 646, 2020)	\$200,000	\$200,000
DOI-USGS Agreement FY 2022 - Mid-Snake River (HB 646, Sec 5, 2021)	\$200,000	\$200,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$407,020,982</b>	<b>\$406,220,982</b>
<b>Remainder Available:</b>	<b>(\$940,151)</b>	

**Idaho Water Resource Board**  
**American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA) Spending Plan & Expenditures \***  
*Adopted by the IWRB July 1, 2024 with Proposed Changes for IWRB Consideration*

<b>Legislative Appropriations</b>	<b>Appropriations</b>
FY 2023 (HB 769, Sec 8, Leg 2022)	\$100,000,000
FY 2024 (SB 1181, Sec 6; Leg 2023)	\$50,000,000
FY 2025 (SB 1411, Sec 7, Leg 2024)	\$50,000,000
Scheduled FY 2026	\$50,000,000

**Total Received through FY 25: \$200,000,000**

**Total Scheduled through FY 26: \$250,000,000**

Regional Water Sustainability Projects	Funds Obligated by IWRB Resolution (as of 12/31/2024)	Proposed Obligation (3/26/2026)	Anticipated Project Timeline * (ARPA funds will be expended by Dec 31, 2026 per contract conditions)
Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Funding **	\$112,500,000	\$118,583,409	Projected completion project by 2031
Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project **	\$33,000,000	\$31,390,050	Pipeline/Pumpstation complete. Air Force WTP Estimated Completion 2026.
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Recharge Infrastructure	\$14,000,000	\$9,526,541	Multiple projects - projected completion 2026
American Falls Dam Spillway Repair	\$12,500,000	\$12,500,000	Projected completion by 2032
New York Canal Rehabilitation Project	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	Projected completion by 2030
Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project	\$28,000,000	\$28,000,000	Projected completion engineering & design 2025; Construction timeline TBD
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$250,000,000</b>	<b>\$250,000,000</b>	

\* Federal guidelines require that ARPA Funds are obligated and under contract by December 31, 2024. Funds must be spent by December 31, 2026.

\*\*Additional funding authorized from Water Management Account if needed.

**BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF THE EASTERN SNAKE  
PLAIN AQUIFER RECHARGE INFRASTRUCTURE  
PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WITH AMERICAN  
RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS FROM  
THE WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT  
FOR ESPA RECHARGE INFRASTRUCTURE

1           WHEREAS, due to numerous factors, including drought, the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer  
2 (ESPA) has been losing approximately 216,000 acre-feet annually from aquifer storage since the  
3 1950s, resulting in declining groundwater levels and reduced spring flows to the Snake River; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, implementation of managed recharge on the ESPA will assist in stabilizing and  
6 improving of aquifer levels to protect municipal and domestic drinking water supplies, support  
7 agriculture and other industries important to the state economy, and help address climatic  
8 variability, including drought; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, the 2025 Idaho Legislature passed and approved Senate Concurrent  
11 Resolution 110 supporting the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan and supporting the Idaho Water  
12 Resource Board (IWRB) in revising the State Water Plan and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer  
13 Management Plan to establish a state-funded ESPA managed recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet  
14 on an average annual basis; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, in 2022 the Idaho Legislature passed House Bill 769 in which it expressed its  
17 intent to set aside approximately \$250,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to  
18 support projects managed by the IWRB, including for the continued identification, study,  
19 construction, or enlargement of managed aquifer recharge sites above Milner Dam; and  
20

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

27           WHEREAS, as of January 2026, the IWRB's Water Management Account Spending Plan  
28 allocates over \$14,000,000 for Statewide Recharge Infrastructure; and  
29

30           WHEREAS, the IWRB previously approved ARPA funding for the following projects;  
31 however, federal ARPA requirements mandate that funds be disbursed by December 31, 2026,  
32 and given the anticipated completion schedules for certain recharge projects, it is necessary to

33 reallocate ARPA funds to other eligible projects and authorize funding from the WMA to ensure  
34 completion of the following originally approved projects: and

- 35
- 36 • Enterprize Canal Swan Highway Project (IWRB Resolution No. 49-2022)
  - 37 • Minidoka Irrigation District Goyne Sump Project (IWRB Resolution No. 29-2022)
  - 38 • Southwest Irrigation District Murtaugh Well Development (IWRB Resolution No. 48-2022)
  - 39 • Butte Market Lake Canal Company Poitevin Injection Well Site (IWRB Resolution No. 08-2024); and
- 40

41 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB Water Management Account Spending Plan  
42 shall be amended as necessary to reflect the use of Statewide Recharge Infrastructure funds for the above  
43 referenced projects.

44

45 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its Chairman or designee,  
46 to execute the necessary agreements or contracts to carry out the purpose of this resolution.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman  
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

**BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF THE IWRB AMERICAN  
RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING SPENDING PLAN

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE IDAHO  
WATER RESOURCE BOARD'S ARPA  
FUNDING SPENDING PLAN AND PROVIDE  
SPENDING AUTHORIZATION

1           WHEREAS, in 2022 the Idaho Legislature passed House Bill 769 in which it expressed its  
2 intent to set aside approximately \$250,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the  
3 Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to be used for certain ARPA-eligible water projects; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature, though House Bill 769 passed in 2022, Senate Bill 1181  
6 passed in 2023, Senate Bill 1411 passed in 2024, and House Bill 445 passed in 2025 appropriated  
7 a total of \$250 Million from the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund to support ARPA-eligible water  
8 projects managed by the IWRB; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, the IWRB maintains a Regional Water Sustainability Projects (RWSP) Priority  
11 List to help guide spending from state general funds, ARPA funds, or other applicable sources for  
12 projects that support water supply sustainability on a regional, basin, or statewide scale; and  
13

14           WHEREAS, the IWRB adopted Resolution No. 02-2022 approving an initial allocation of  
15 ARPA funds for specific projects (ARPA Funds Spending Plan). The ARPA Funds Spending Plan was  
16 adjusted to account for additional authorized projects and cost estimates through IWRB  
17 resolutions No. 30-2023 and No. 31-2024. The current ARPA Funds Spending Plan (Resolution No.  
18 31-2024) is:  
19

20           Anderson Ranch Dam Raise	\$112,500,000
21           Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project	\$33,000,000
22           ESPA Recharge Infrastructure	\$14,000,000
23           American Falls Dam Spillway Repair	\$12,500,000
24           New York Canal Rehabilitation Project	\$50,000,000
25 <u>Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project</u>	<u>\$28,000,000</u>
26	TOTAL \$250,000,000; and
27	

28           WHEREAS, due to updated cost estimates and the need to transition portions of certain  
29 projects requiring extended completion timelines to the Water Management Account, a total of  
30 \$5,737,324.28 of ARPA funds is available for reallocation; and  
31

32           WHEREAS, on March 26, 2026, the IWRB's Finance Committee recommended the IWRB  
33 reallocate these available ARPA funds to the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project to address

34 increased projected costs and to ensure compliance with ARPA federal obligation and  
35 expenditure deadlines;

36  
37 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the following modified ARPA  
38 Funds Spending Plan as recommended by the Finance Committee:

39

40	Anderson Ranch Dam Raise	\$118,583,409.40
41	Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project	\$31,390,049.88
42	ESPA Recharge Infrastructure	\$9,526,540.72
43	American Falls Dam Spillway Repair	\$12,500,000
44	New York Canal Rehabilitation Project	\$50,000,000
45	<u>Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project</u>	<u>\$28,000,000</u>
46		TOTAL \$250,000,000

47

48 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the modified ARPA Funds Spending Plan  
49 does not preclude to use of funding from other sources, including IWRB accounts, to complete  
50 the above referenced projects if required.

51  
52 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to meet ARPA Funding federal and  
53 state obligation and expenditure requirements, the IWRB authorizes expenditures from the ARPA  
54 State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the projects and corresponding amounts identified above.

55  
56 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its Chairman or  
57 designee, to execute the necessary agreements or contracts to carry out the purpose of this  
58 resolution.

59  
60 DATED this 27<sup>TH</sup> day of March 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman  
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)  
**From:** Planning & Projects Bureau Staff  
**Date:** March 20, 2026  
**Subject:** Mountain Home Plateau Regional Water Sustainability Program

---

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Consider Potential Aquifer Stabilization Committee Recommendation - Establishing a Mountain Home Plateau Water Sustainability Program

---

On March 26, 2026, the Aquifer Stabilization Committee will consider the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer Regional Sustainability Proposal by the Elmore County Commissioners.

Staff will present any Aquifer Stabilization Committee recommendations to the full IWRB on March 27, 2026.

**Attachments:**

- *IWRB Board Letter, dated March 20, 2026*
- *Elmore County Water Alternatives Update*
- *PowerPoint Presentation*

# Elmore County Board of Commissioners

Phone (208) 587-2129 Ext.270

ELMORE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
150 South 4th East Suite #3  
Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

Fax (208) 587-2159

**Albert Hofer**  
(208) 599-1620

**Crystal Rodgers**  
(208) 999-2206

**Franklin L. Corbus**  
(208) 599-1294

Elmore County Board of Commissioners  
150 South 4th East Street  
Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

March 20, 2026

Idaho Water Resource Board  
Aquifer Stabilization Committee  
322 E Front Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Re: Request to Establish the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer Water Program

Dear Members of the Aquifer Stabilization Committee:

On behalf of the Elmore County Board of Commissioners, we appreciate the Committee's willingness to convene and consider the critical groundwater challenges facing the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer. We respectfully request that the Committee take action to formally establish a Mountain Home Plateau Water Sustainability Program, modeled in purpose and structure after the successful Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA) program.

For decades, the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer has experienced a persistent and well-documented overdraft, with annual groundwater pumping significantly exceeding natural recharge. This imbalance threatens the long-term viability of municipal, agricultural, and industrial water supplies in our rapidly growing region. The aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for our residents and supports the broader Mountain Home community, which provides the housing, schools, workforce, and services that are essential to the long-term stability of the region, including those who live and work in connection with Mountain Home Air Force Base. Mountain Home Air Force Base has been an engaged partner in regional water discussions and recognizes that long-term water sustainability in the surrounding community is essential to supporting their mission and maximizing the State's existing investment in water infrastructure. In addition, continued growth in the Treasure Valley is placing increasing development pressure on Elmore County, and the new jobs created by Micron's massive expansion under the federal CHIPS Act will increase housing demand in the county.

Elmore County, in partnership with the Idaho Water Resource Board and other stakeholders, has taken meaningful and measurable steps to address this deficit, as detailed in the Elmore County Water Supply Alternatives 2026 Status Report.

While these efforts demonstrate strong local commitment and progress, they also highlight a fundamental challenge: the absence of a dedicated, long-term funding and implementation framework for the Mountain Home region risks slowing the momentum we have been building to address this challenge. To date, much of this work has been advanced through intermittent grant opportunities and significant local investment, with Elmore County and the City of Mountain Home collectively contributing hundreds of

thousands of dollars to plan, study, and advance solutions. Establishing a more consistent and sustainable programmatic approach is necessary to build on this momentum and ensure long-term aquifer stabilization.

Establishing a Mountain Home Plateau Water Sustainability Program would provide the necessary structure to:

- Support long-term, reliable funding for aquifer stabilization projects;
- Enable coordinated planning and implementation of recharge and surface water conversion projects;
- Leverage the knowledge and experiences the Board and its committee and staff members have gained through their state-wide water supply enhancement efforts;
- Provide flexibility to respond to changing hydrologic conditions and opportunities; and
- Recognize the regional and statewide importance of stabilizing this aquifer system.

We respectfully request that the Committee recommend to the full Idaho Water Resource Board the creation of a Mountain Home Plateau Water Sustainability Program, including the identification of funding mechanisms and implementation strategies to support ongoing and future projects.

Elmore County stands ready to continue its partnership with the Board and to assist in the development and implementation of this program. We appreciate your leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Elmore County Board of Commissioners



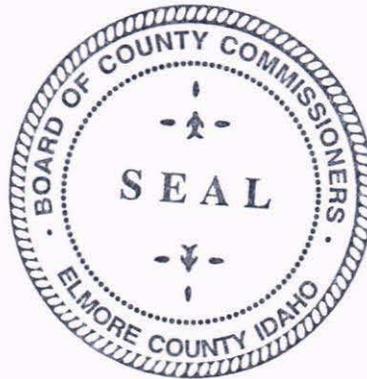
Franklin L. Corbus, Commissioner



Crystal Rodgers, Commissioner



Albert Hofer, Chair Commissioner

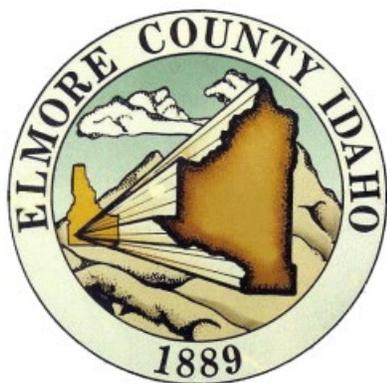


cc: Mountain Home Irrigation District  
City of Mountain Home  
Mountain Home Air Force Base

# Elmore County Water Alternatives - 2026 Status Report

*Report prepared by Elmore County Board of County Commissioners for submittal to the Idaho Water Resource Board*

March 23, 2026



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

2017 Report	<i>Elmore County Water Supply Alternatives</i>
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CCBCGWA	Cinder Cone Butte Critical Ground Water Area
cfs	cubic feet per second
ESPA	Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer
ESPAM	Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model
GWD	groundwater district
GWMP	ground water management plan
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department
IWRB	Idaho Water Resources Board
MHID	Mountain Home Irrigation District
MHAFB	Mountain Home Air Force Base
MHGWA	Mountain Home Ground Water Area
MHGWMA	Mountain Home Ground Water Management Area
MTAC	Model Technical Advisory Committee
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
SFBR	South Fork Boise River
Simplot	JR Simplot Company
WeSPAM	Western Snake Plain Aquifer Model
WAG	Water Advisory Group
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

# Chapter 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background and Purpose

The regional aquifer beneath the Mountain Home Plateau in Elmore County, Idaho, was developed using deep wells to supply agricultural irrigation and other uses primarily from the mid-1960s through the early 1980s. Aquifer water levels responded to development by rapidly declining, resulting in establishment of the Cinder Cone Butte Critical Ground Water Area (CCBCGWA) in 1981 and Mountain Home Ground Water Management Area (MHGWMA) in 1982 (Figure 1). Since that time, groundwater development within these administrative areas has largely stopped (with some localized exceptions).

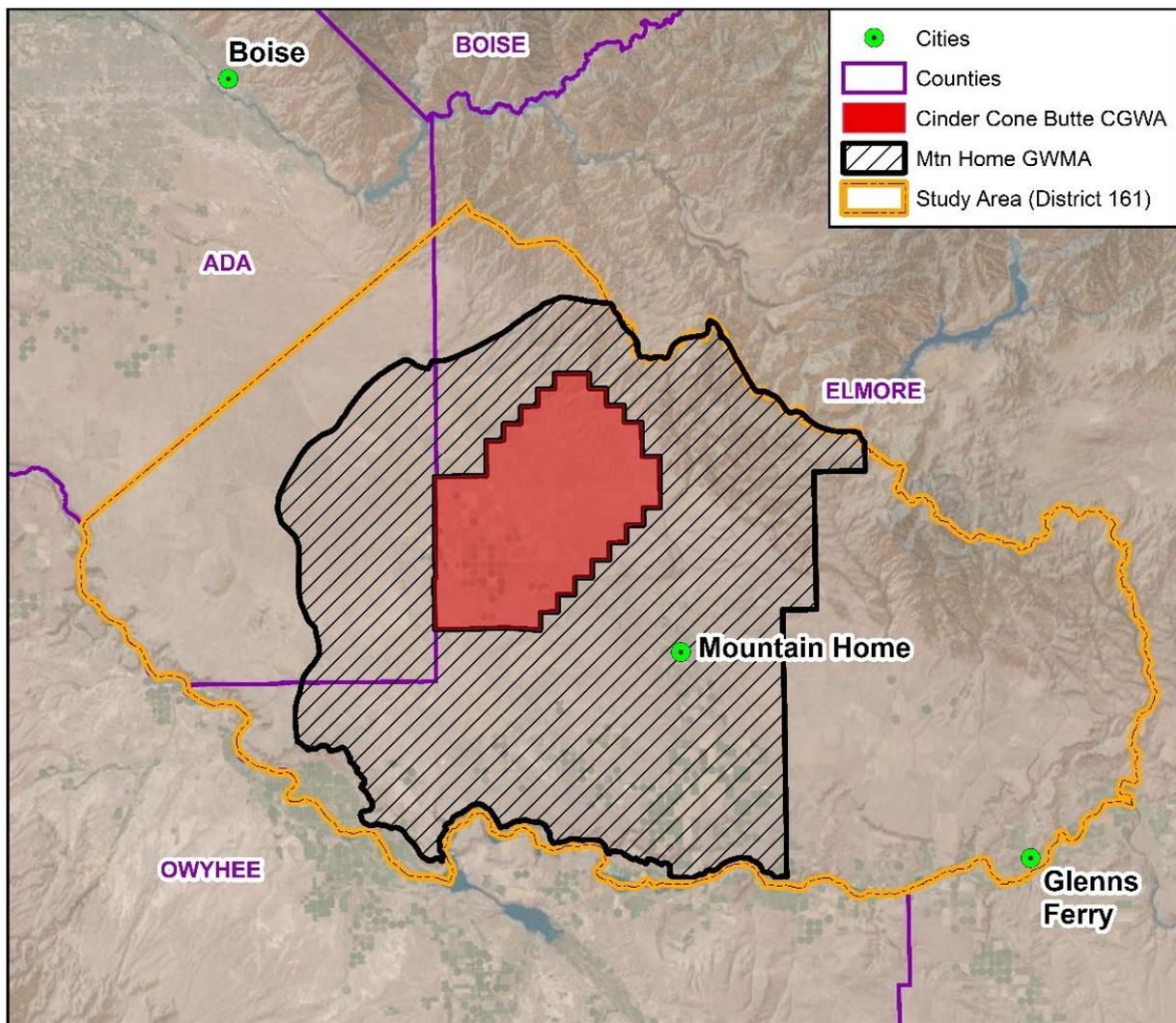


Figure 1. Administrative Areas on the Mountain Home Plateau

The cessation of groundwater development has reduced economic growth within the Elmore County (County), with industry and housing often bypassing the area due to lack of water supply. Chronic

water level declines present a threat of curtailment to existing water rights, further constraining growth.

In 2016, the Elmore County Board of County Commissioners (County Commissioners), with financial assistance from the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB), commissioned an investigation of water supply conditions that culminated in a summary report (2017 Report). The 2017 Report<sup>1</sup> included recommendations for potential actions to improve water supply within the County.

The purpose of this document is to revisit findings and recommendations from the 2017 Report and present a summary of water supply improvement actions completed, currently underway, or proposed since 2017.

The 2017 Report did not address an alternative water supply for Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB). This important project was already underway at that time under the guidance of the IWRB and now provides Snake River water to MHAFB to replace groundwater supplies. Groundwater remains available as a backup water source and stabilization of aquifer levels at MHAFB through County-sponsored actions will improve base resiliency. While this project secures a reliable, long-term water supply for the base itself, it does not materially benefit aquifer conditions for the Mountain Home area approximately 10 miles to the northeast—and upgradient—of the MHAFB. This is important, because the MHAFB depends on the Mountain Home area for housing, schools, spousal employment, and other essential services.

Similarly, the 2017 Report does not discuss the Anderson Ranch Dam raise project. This IWRB project is also vitally important to Elmore County as it has potential to provide an important source of water supply to the Mountain Home Plateau.

## 1.2 2017 Report Findings

Key findings from the 2017 Report are briefly listed below.

### 1.2.1 Water Levels

Groundwater levels in portions of the aquifer have declined since the 1970s, with nearly 100 feet of decline south of the City of Mountain Home (Figure 2) and more than 150 feet of decline in portions of the CCBCGWA (Figure 3). Little or no decline has occurred in some other areas, including north of Interstate 84 near Mountain Home (where Canyon Creek and Mountain Home Irrigation District [MHID] provide incidental recharge) and Mayfield (with minimal water development to date and recharge from Indian Creek).

---

<sup>1</sup> Elmore County Water Supply Alternatives, report prepared for the Elmore County Board of County Commissioners, February 28, 2017, SPF Water Engineering, LLC. [Elmore County Water Supply Alternatives | February 28, 2017](#)

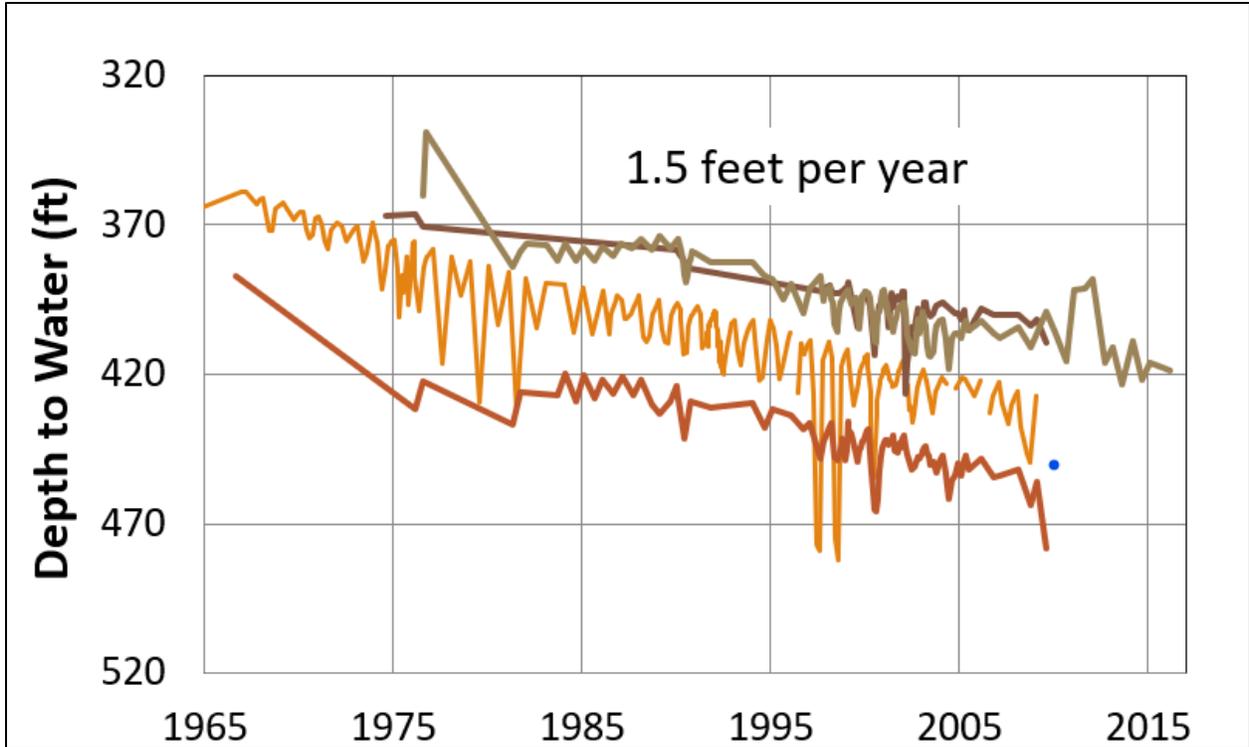


Figure 2. Water level hydrographs for wells located south of Mountain Home

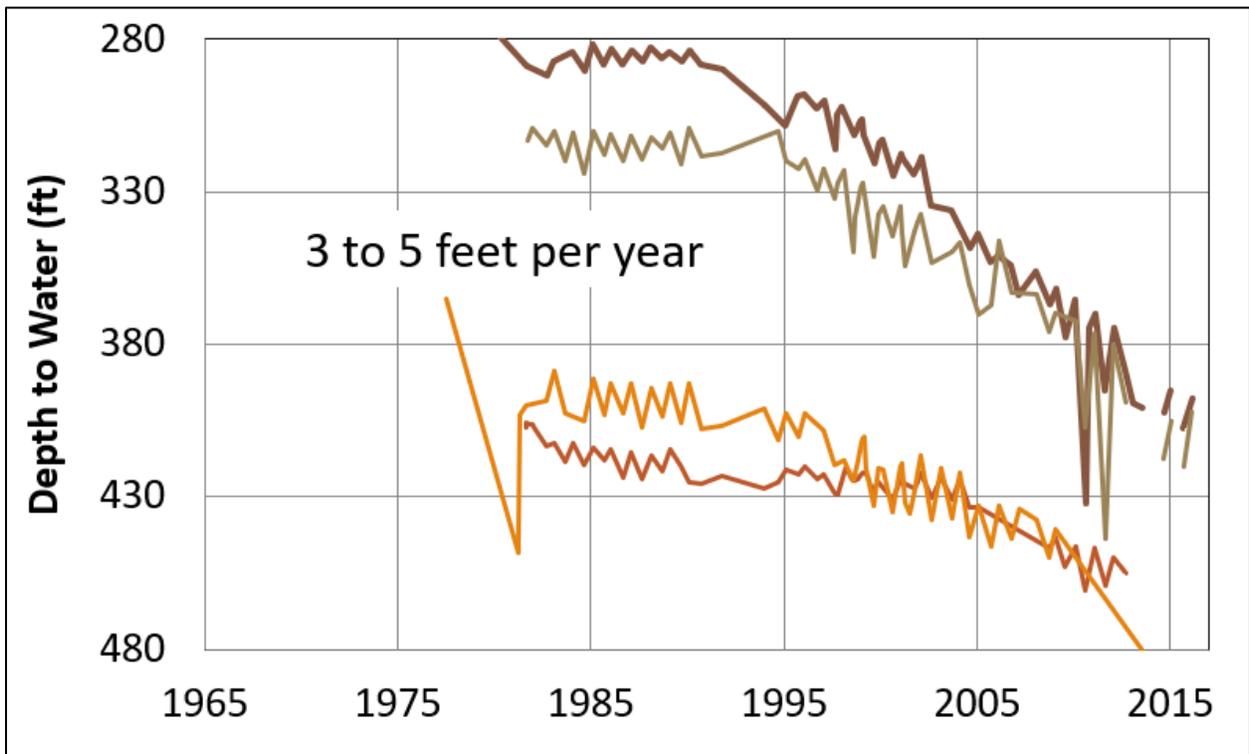


Figure 3. Water level hydrographs for wells located near Cinder Cone Butte

## 1.2.2 Pumping Deficit

Annual groundwater diversion within the study area (Water District 161) was estimated at slightly less than 80,000 acre feet, with more than 90 percent of diversions used for agricultural and municipal irrigation. Based on an analysis of water level decline since 1970, an average annual deficit of 43,000 acre feet was estimated. This estimate was similar in magnitude to a previous water-balance derived deficit estimate of 30,000 acre feet by Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR)<sup>2</sup>.

## 1.2.3 Methods to Achieve Groundwater-Level Stabilization

Simply put, the report concluded that groundwater-level stabilization can be achieved by reducing the net groundwater use within the area of water-level decline through reduced groundwater pumping or increased groundwater recharge, or both. Groundwater pumping can be reduced by converting existing irrigation (and other uses) from groundwater to imported surface water from the Snake River and Boise River. Recharge using surface water sources can also provide a net reduction in groundwater withdrawals.

## 1.2.4 Sources of Alternative Water Supplies

The Boise River within Ada and Elmore counties was identified as fully appropriated at most times of the year, with water available only in years of above average runoff and for limited durations. It was noted that stored water in the Boise River reservoir system or senior-priority natural flow Boise River water rights would be more reliable sources, although neither were available at that time.

The Snake River was identified as the most physically available water supply, with flows exceeding the minimum streamflow limits more than 99 percent of the time. It was noted that appropriation of Snake River water is restricted by statute and must be determined to be in the public interest.

## 1.2.5 Infrastructure for Water Importation

Five infrastructure alternatives for delivering Boise River water to the study area were evaluated, and nine infrastructure alternatives for delivering Snake River water to the study area were evaluated. Unit costs for delivery of Boise River water ranged from \$100 to \$200 per acre foot, with lower costs for alternatives with longer pumping durations. Unit costs for delivery of Snake River water ranged from \$90 to \$270 per acre foot. Unit costs did not include water right acquisition.

## 1.3 2017 Report Recommendations

The 2017 Report provided the following five recommendations.

1. **Snake River Appropriation.** The County should seek a determination from the IDWR director, through a declaratory ruling or other means, that diversion of trust water from the Snake River in Elmore County for supplemental irrigation, aquifer recharge, and municipal purposes that results in Snake River depletions of more than 2 acre feet per day are in the public interest under the criteria of Idaho Code Section 42-203C(2).

---

<sup>2</sup> Ondrechen, B., 2004. Memorandum updating water budget for Mountain Home Ground Water Management Area, Idaho Department of Water Resources

2. **Snake River to Mountain Home Value Engineering Study.** The County should conduct a value engineering study for a pumping station and pipeline from the Snake River directly north to Mountain Home. The project would provide the following benefits.
  - a. A replacement supply for up to 4,000 acres that are currently irrigated with groundwater in this area. The Snake River water would be used when available to reduce groundwater diversions for aquifer stabilization purposes.
  - b. A supplemental supply for participating acres within MHID. The Snake River water would be used when MHID supplies are limited due to water supply conditions.
  - c. An available municipal supply for the City of Mountain Home. The water could be appropriated under a reasonably anticipated future needs application and be made available to support City growth. To the extent used, the water could be used as raw water in pressurized irrigation or be treated to support new industry and residential growth.
  - d. An available supply for aquifer recharge to support municipal and existing irrigation uses. Snake River water delivered to the southern end of MHID could be exchanged for Canyon Creek water used for aquifer recharge north and west of Mountain Home in the Canyon Creek streambed, gravel pits, or Mountain Home Reservoir.
3. **Snake River to Cinder Cone Butte Value Engineering Study.** The County should conduct a value engineering study for a pumping station and pipeline from the Snake River to Cinder Cone Butte. Use of this water would be for replacing existing groundwater supplies, either by direct pumping or aquifer recharge.
4. **Boise River Reservoir Storage Space Acquisition.** The County should continue to participate in activities to obtain storage space within the Boise River reservoir system, either through development of additional storage space or through obtaining uncontracted storage.
5. **Canyon Creek Recharge Improvements.** The County should initiate or support actions to enhance recharge using runoff water from Canyon Creek or other streams crossing the Plateau.

## Chapter 2 Actions Taken Since 2017 Report

The County has spent approximately \$3.4M on water projects since mid-2015, with most of these expenditures following completion of the 2017 Report in February 2017. Since February 2017, the County has taken the following actions to address water supply deficits on the Mountain Home Plateau.

### 2.1 Water Rights

Water rights obtained by Elmore County are described below, with copies provided in Appendix A.

#### 2.1.1 Canyon Creek Recharge Permit and License

Water right authorizations are necessary to divert water for aquifer recharge. Elmore County had achieved limited aquifer recharge using Canyon Creek runoff diverted into a gravel pit managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) northwest of Mountain Home. This recharge had been authorized under permit 61-7731 held by the Mountain Home Ground Water Advisory Committee. The permit lapsed in 2008 but the County Commissioners, recognizing the importance of recharge to local groundwater supplies, took actions to obtain necessary approvals to revive the recharge project, including the permit.

##### 2.1.1.1 Licensing of Lapsed Permit 61-7731

The County Commissioners obtained an assignment of lapsed permit 61-7731 from the former members of the Mountain Home Ground Water Advisory Committee, along with a BLM right-of-way and temporary use permit (S.N. IDI-32357). The County Commissioners then submitted to IDWR a beneficial use field report, a permit amendment, a statement of completion, a Request to Reinstate a Permit Lapsed More than 60 Days, and the necessary filing fee. Following IDWR review, the permit was amended and then licensed on February 20, 2018. The license authorizes diversion of 22.68 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 962 acre-feet annually for groundwater recharge in two gravel pits known as the BLM Pit and the JR Simplot Company (Simplot) Pit. The priority date was advanced to June 12, 2017, to match the date that the statement of completion was submitted.

##### 2.1.1.2 Permit 61-12314

An application for permit seeking 200 cfs from Canyon Creek for groundwater recharge was submitted to IDWR on March 3, 2017. The application listed four gravel pits (BLM, Simplot, State, and Ireland pits) as places of use. The BLM, Idaho Power Company, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), and Cat Creek Energy submitted protests. All protests were resolved prior to hearing, and the permit was approved on May 9, 2019. Permit conditions include the following:

- Compliance with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality water quality monitoring requirements
- Monitoring of daily diversions with reporting prior to February 1 each year.

#### 2.1.2 South Fork Boise Recharge and Supplemental Irrigation Permit

Application for permit 63-34348 seeking 200 cfs and 10,000 acre feet of storage from South Fork Boise River (SFBR) was submitted to IDWR on March 3, 2017. Proposed uses included diversion to

storage, storage in Little Camas Reservoir for groundwater recharge and irrigation, irrigation and irrigation from storage within MHID, and groundwater recharge from storage in four gravel pits (BLM, Simplot, State, and Ireland pits) northwest of Mountain Home.

The Boise Project Board of Control, numerous Boise River canal companies and irrigation districts, Cat Creek Energy, Idaho Conservation League, and the BLM protested the application. Following 8 days of hearings, the hearing office issued a Preliminary Order approving the permit. Elmore County filed a petition for reconsideration and several other parties filed exceptions resulting in an Amended Preliminary Order. Exceptions were filed to the Amended Order, resulting in the IDWR directing issuing a Final Order, which approved the application in the quantities requested, with the following significant permit conditions (paraphrased for brevity):

- In any given year, water diverted for irrigation from storage and irrigation shall not exceed 50 percent of the total volume of water diverted for all uses described by the right.
- Water for irrigation from storage and irrigation shall only be used to supplement lands irrigated with MHID water rights.
- The right holder shall only exercise this right when the Boise River is on flood release below Anderson and Lucky Peak dams.

### 2.1.3 Snake River Recharge and Supplemental Irrigation Permit

The county submitted application 02-10535 seeking 20 cfs of year-round diversion from the Snake River to IDWR on March 3, 2017. Proposed uses included supplemental irrigation within the MHID, groundwater recharge in four gravel pits (BLM, Simplot, State, and Ireland pits) northwest of Mountain Home, and municipal use within the City of Mountain Home.

Idaho Power Company, IDL, IWRB, Cat Creek Energy, Idaho Conservation League, and the BLM protested the application. All protests were resolved by negotiated stipulations.

The application was approved on September 12, 2025, for groundwater recharge and supplemental irrigation uses. The proposed municipal use was not approved based on a letter to IDWR from the City of Mountain Home stating that they had no plans to use the water. Significant permit conditions (paraphrased for brevity) include the following:

- This right may only be used for supplemental irrigation on the same lands within the MHID service area irrigated with MHID water rights.
- Monitoring of daily groundwater recharge diversions with reporting prior to February 1 each year.
- The right is for the use of trust water and is subject to review 5 years after the date of permit approval.

## 2.2 Canyon Creek Recharge System Improvement and Operation

The County diverted groundwater for recharge in gravel pits northwest of Mountain Home intermittently since 1998, using flood flows from Canyon Creek (Figure 4) located, as authorized by permit 61-7731 (200 cfs groundwater recharge and groundwater recharge storage) issued to the Mountain Home Ground Water Area (MHGWA) Advisory Committee in 1998. The MHGWA Advisory Committee constructed headgates for this purpose, and a recharge event was documented in 1999.

The Advisory Committee was disbanded in approximately 2006, and the permit lapsed in 2008. Water was diverted for recharge intermittently after 2008 during high runoff years, but volume was not documented until the large runoff event of 2017, when approximately 4,460 acre feet were recharged<sup>3</sup>.

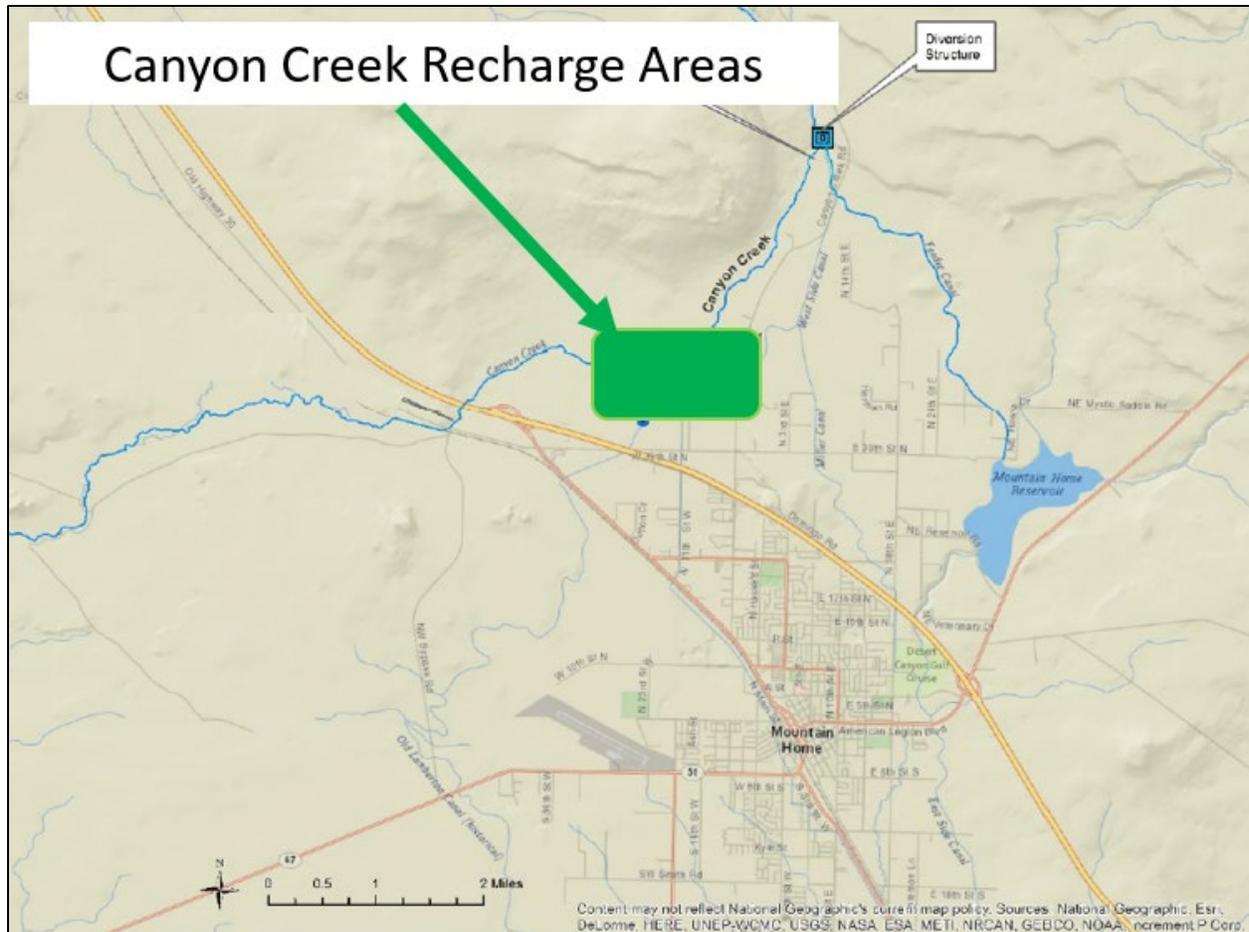


Figure 4. Recharge area vicinity map

After the 2017 event, the County received an assignment of lapsed permit 61-7731, obtained licensing of 61-7731 for 22.68 cfs and 962 acre-feet annually, and in 2019, gained approval of permit 61-12314 (200 cfs) for rates and volumes more than authorized by license 61-7731. The County also obtained an expanded right-of-way from the BLM for a recharge pit, and license agreements with Idaho Transportation Department, JR Simplot Company, and Calvin Ireland for recharge in their pits.

Elmore County entered into a \$140,000 financial assistance contract with the IWRB in 2017 for recharge site upgrades. The IWRB-funded upgrades included installing check structures, headgates, culverts, and measurement weirs (Figure 5) at three sites during the winter of 2018-2019. The City of Mountain Home assisted Elmore County by boring under Mashburn Road to connect the BLM and Idaho Transportation Department pits. Photos of the groundwater recharge system improvements are provided in Appendix B.

<sup>3</sup> Owsley, Dennis. Summary of Canyon Creek Recharge Project – Spring 2017. IDWR Open File Report, July 2017.



**Figure 5. Measurement weir for recharge inflow to the BLM gravel pit**

Since the 2019 approval, recharge has occurred when flood flows were available, including 1,403 acre feet in 2019<sup>4</sup>, 100 acre feet in 2022, 912 acre feet in 2023, 2370 acre feet in 2024, and 759 acre feet in 2025.<sup>5</sup> Recharge volumes have averaged approximately 1,100 acre feet annually since 2017 and 800 acre feet annually since 2019.

During each year that recharge has occurred, the County has conducted a groundwater quality monitoring program by collecting water quality samples from wells in the vicinity of the recharge sites. Water quality monitoring is conducted in accordance with a sampling plan approved by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Up to 16 wells are sampled in each sampling event, with sampling events occurring before, during, and after recharge to the extent practical. Samples from each well are analyzed in the field for pH, temperature, and conductivity, and in the laboratory for the following parameters:

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<sup>4</sup> Elmore County – Canyon Creek Recharge Project Update. May 8, 2019 Memorandum from Terry Scanlan (SPF Water Engineering) to Roger Chase (IWRB).

<sup>5</sup> 61-12124 Recharge Monitoring Report for 2020 through 2025, July 10, 2025 letter from Sean Alberson P.E., (HDR Engineering) to Jacob Caraig, E.I.T. (IDWR).

- total coliform
- E. coli
- bicarbonate
- chloride
- sulfate
- calcium
- magnesium
- potassium
- sodium
- arsenic
- cadmium
- selenium
- nitrate
- phosphorus
- pH
- temperature
- conductivity

Recharge activities will continue in coming years whenever water is available for this purpose.

## 2.3 South Fork Boise River Diversion Project

The SFBR Diversion Project proposes to pump water from the South Fork Boise River at Anderson Ranch Reservoir to Little Camas Reservoir. The water can be delivered from Little Camas Reservoir to the Mountain Home area through the MHID delivery system. The MHID system includes 13 miles of open canal and flume, with 15 tunnels that convey water from Little Camas Reservoir within the Boise River drainage through a divide into the Canyon Creek drainage. The last tunnel discharges into the East Fork of Long Tom Creek (tributary to Canyon Creek), and the water subsequently travels through natural stream channels and Long Tom Reservoir to reach the MHID feeder canal diversion structure located 3 miles north of Mountain Home. The SFBR water can then be either diverted into the MHID system for irrigation, incidental recharge, or storage in Mountain Home Reservoir or delivered 2 to 3 miles downstream of the feeder canal diversion structure to the Canyon Creek recharge sites.

Water right authorization for the project was obtained with approval of permit 63-34348 in 2019 authorizing 200 cfs from SFBR and 10,000 acre feet of storage in Little Camas Reservoir. Permitted uses include diversion to storage, storage for groundwater recharge and irrigation, irrigation and irrigation from storage within the MHID, and groundwater recharge and groundwater recharge from storage in four gravel pits. The County is currently seeking to acquire a storage water entitlement from the Anderson Dam raise project and will also seek Water District 63 Rental Pool water when the diversion project is complete.

Since approval of the water right permit, Elmore County has proceeded with design and permitting of the project. A 60 percent design was completed in December 2025 for the pump station and pipeline. A right-of-way agreement has been secured for the private-land portion of the pipe route. Approval of the pump station and pipeline on federal land from the U.S. Forest Service is pending completion of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies. Geotechnical studies have been completed, and negotiations/investigations of power supply alternatives with Idaho Power Company are ongoing. County expenditures toward design and permitting of the project exceed \$1M.

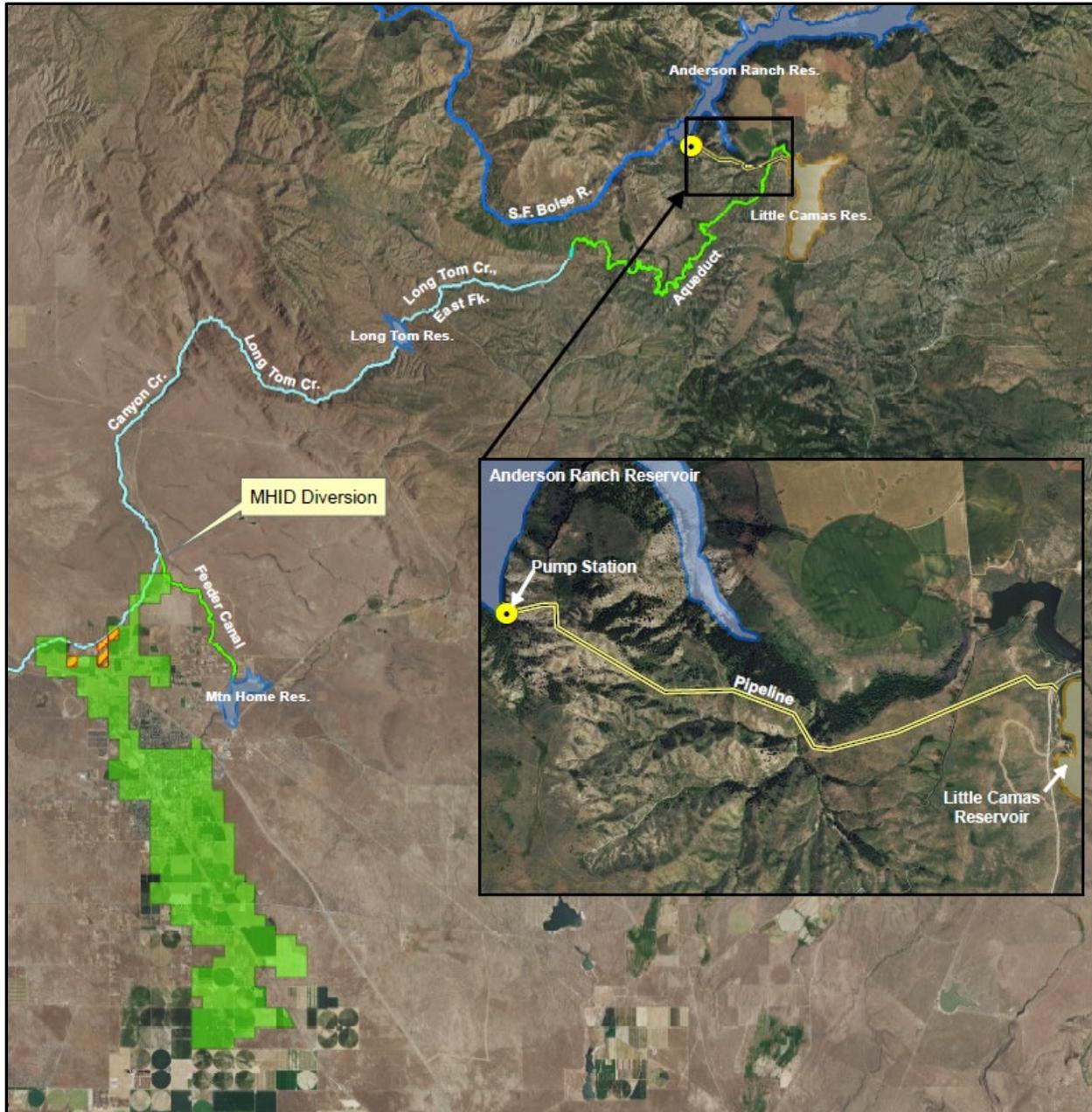


Figure 6. South Fork Boise Diversion Project Location

The 60 percent design proposes a nominal 50-cfs pump station, expandable to 70 cfs. Five 1,500-horsepower, horizontal submersible pumps are proposed initially, although the pump station is expandable for up to seven pumps and a 70 cfs flow rate. A 48-inch pipeline is proposed, with sections of either epoxy-lined and coated steel or fiberglass reinforced plastic, depending on operating pressure. The pipeline can discharge into Little Camas Reservoir or directly into the MHID Canal downstream of the reservoir. Estimated construction cost is \$53.1M (+20 to -15 percent range). Idaho Power Company has quoted a cost of \$19.8M to bring power to the site, for a total project cost of approximately \$73M. The text of the 60 percent design report and pipeline plan and profile sheets extracted from the 60 percent design set are provided as Appendix C.

The SFBR Diversion Project has the potential to deliver approximately 10,000 acre feet annually into the Mountain Home area if operated for 100 days per year at 50 cfs. This estimate would rely on the

SFBR flood water permit for approximately 23 days per year and SFBR storage for 77 days per year. It is likely that most of this volume would be used for either direct groundwater recharge or for indirect recharge by replacing groundwater that would have been used for supplemental irrigation. A portion will also be lost to incidental recharge.

## 2.4 MHID Canal and Tunnel Repairs and Upgrades

The SFBR Diversion Project will rely on the MHID Canal and tunnels located between Little Camas Reservoir and the East Fork of Long Tom Creek to convey water diverted from the SFBR at Anderson Ranch Reservoir. Likewise, the MHID has relied upon the same system to deliver natural flow and storage water from Little Camas Reservoir, which is within the Boise River Basin, to the Mountain Home area for over 100 years. The annual volume currently imported from the Boise River watershed through the canal is assumed to average approximately 10,000 acre feet (i.e., 100 days at 50 cfs average flow). This imported water supports not only irrigation within MHID, but also groundwater users in the Mountain Home vicinity because approximately 50 percent of the water diverted by MHID is lost to incidental groundwater recharge in the Mountain Home vicinity.

The canal, tunnels, and flumes within the Boise River watershed have long been recognized as a weak link within the MHID delivery system. Collapse of a tunnel (as happened during the summer of 2024 at Tunnel #9) has the potential to be catastrophic for irrigators and for the SFBR Diversion Project. Repairs and upgrades of the system have been ongoing for the past several years. Projects have included:

- Permanent repair of Tunnel #9, which included pulling a steel pipe through the entirety of the tunnel.
- Partial repair, using Gunite, of tunnels #7 and #8.
- Access and equipment pad development for access of tunnels and flumes.
- Bypass pipe and headgate replacement at tunnels #7, #10, #13, and #15.
- Gunite of flumes between tunnels #2 to #3, #6 to #7, and #7 to #8.

Recognizing the importance of the delivery system to MHID and to groundwater users, funding via three Aging Infrastructure Grants for the projects has been provided by the IWRB (\$1.28 million), contributions from Elmore County (\$200,000) and the City of Mountain Home (\$200,000), and from assessment increases to the MHID patrons.

## 2.5 Snake River Project

The Snake River currently provides irrigation supply to more than 30,000 acres in Elmore County. Water from the Snake River is currently used for municipal supply in Glens Ferry and will soon be used for municipal supply to MHAFB.

Appropriation of water from the Snake River in Elmore County is currently restricted by the on-going Snake River moratorium, by policies within the State Water Plan, and by minimum flow water rights held by the IWRB at the Murphy gage located downstream of Swan Falls Dam. Despite these restrictions, water right permits can be approved if the applications meet the requirements of Idaho statutes, administrative rules, and policies, as demonstrated by the 2025 approval of the permit for Elmore County (02-10535) and pending approval of a permit for MHAFB (02-10556).

Elmore County's water right permit 02-10535 authorizes a 20-cfs diversion for supplemental irrigation within the MHID and for year-round recharge purposes at the County's Canyon Creek recharge facilities. Between groundwater recharge and reduced groundwater pumping for supplemental irrigation purposes, this permit has the potential to reduce the groundwater deficit by more than 10,000 acre feet if operated year-round. If exercised only during the irrigation season (April 15 to September 15) for supplemental irrigation and for recharge (through an exchange with MHID for Canyon Creek water), the permit could provide a 6,000 acre foot benefit to the aquifer.

The County has investigated opportunities for using existing pump station and pipeline infrastructure to deliver water under permit 02-10535.

## 2.6 Western Snake Plain Aquifer Model (WeSPAM)

Elmore County recognizes that although all proposed actions to import water to the Mountain Home Plateau are likely to be beneficial, the quantification of the location, magnitude, and timing of benefits cannot be accomplished without a predictive tool for this purpose. The County initiated discussions with IDWR and IWRB staff to determine the feasibility of developing a numerical model of the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer in 2020. At that time, a numerical model of the Treasure Valley Aquifer was nearing completion.

The southeast boundary of the Treasure Valley Groundwater-Flow Model is located near the border between Elmore and Ada counties. This location does not reflect a hydrologic boundary; productive aquifers beneath the Western Snake River Plain extend from southeast of Mountain Home northwest to the vicinity of the City of Payette. Given that the aquifer system is continuous throughout the Western Snake Plain, IDWR staff proposed expanding the Treasure Valley Model across the Mountain Home Plateau rather than create a distinct model for the Mountain Home area. Elmore County petitioned the IWRB at the May 2021 meeting to expand the Treasure Valley Model to create a Western Snake Plain Aquifer Model (WeSPAM). The WeSPAM model could be analogous to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Model (ESPAM), and similarly used for evaluating transfers, mitigation plans, reductions, and curtailment actions.

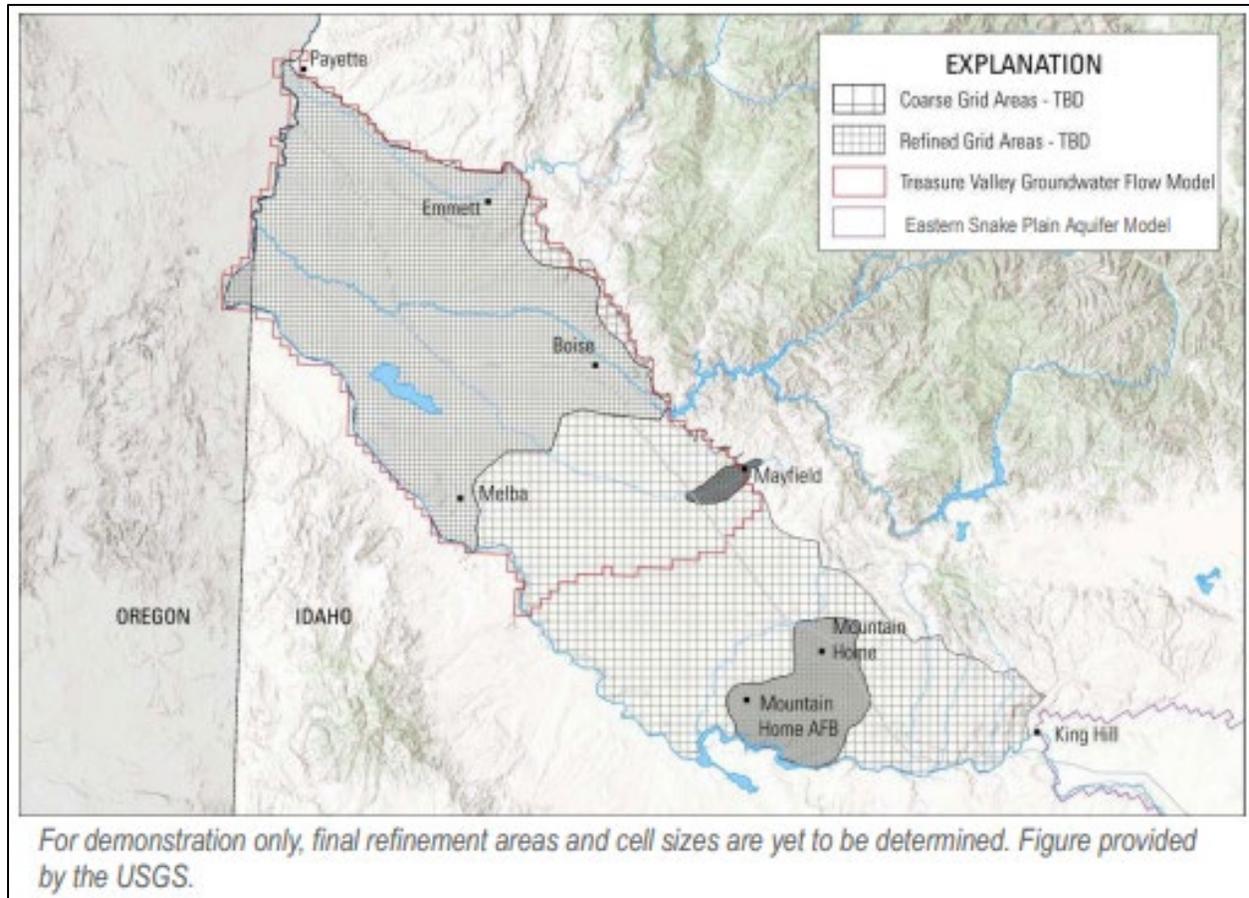


Figure 7. Preliminary WeSPAM model area

IWRB approved the concept of expanding the model. The following actions have occurred.

- In January 2022, the IWRB passed a resolution for a \$750,000, 3.5-year hydrologic study of the Mountain Home area.
- Later in 2022, the IWRB entered into agreements with IDWR and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for water budget, hydrologic framework, and groundwater level measurement work.
- In the spring and fall of 2024, an IDWR contractor drilled five monitoring wells within the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer, collected borehole geophysical data, and installed water level transducers.
- The IWRB passed a resolution for \$850,000 over FY25-FY28 to construct the WeSPAM.
- The USGS published a hydrogeologic framework report for the Mountain Home area in January 2025.<sup>6</sup>
- In June 2025, IDWR released an update of groundwater conditions in the Mountain Home Ground Water Management Area and Cinder Cone Butte Critical Ground Water Area.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Hydrogeologic framework of the Mountain Home area, southern Idaho

<sup>7</sup> Update of Groundwater Conditions in the Mountain Home Ground Water Management Area and Cinder Cone Butte Critical Ground Water Area

- A Model Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) meeting was held in Mountain Home on August 26, 2025, attended by representatives from IDWR, USGS, Elmore County, and Mountain Home Irrigation District.<sup>8 9 10</sup> A second MTAC meeting was held in Boise on March 10, 2026.
- A groundwater budget for the Mountain Home Area in 2022-2023 was completed by the USGS, as described in a report dated February 26, 2026.<sup>11</sup> The budget information will help inform the WeSPAM model work.

When the model is complete, it will be able to evaluate the impact of various water management actions. Scenarios can be developed to show the groundwater-level effects of initiation or cessation of groundwater pumping in various areas, reductions in groundwater diversions, increases in aquifer recharge, or curtailment of water rights that are junior to a specific date.

## 2.7 Elmore County Community Outreach

Elmore County has initiated outreach to the local community to seek input on local and regional water supply issues.

### 2.7.1 Water Resource Survey

In 2023, the County conducted a survey to understand the community's current understanding of the water issues in the region and the level of support for potential solutions. More than 1,145 people participated in the survey. Results showed a high awareness of groundwater problems facing Elmore County.<sup>12</sup> Of the survey respondents that use private wells, 23 percent reported having experienced water level decline and 14 percent reported having had to deepen their wells.<sup>13</sup>

### 2.7.2 Elmore County Water Resources Webpage

Since 2022, the County has maintained a water resources web page<sup>14</sup> on the County website. The web page includes links to news, current water projects, and past studies.

### 2.7.3 Water Advisory Group

A Water Advisory Group (WAG) meets approximately quarterly to discuss County water projects and initiatives. WAG meetings are open to the public and attendees typically include a County Commissioner, County consultants, interested water users and community members, and representatives from MHAFFB, MHID, Elmore Soil and Water Conservation District, and Water District 161. In addition, while participation by the City of Mountain Home has historically been inconsistent,

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<sup>8</sup> [Western Snake Plain Aquifer Model Introduction and Background](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Western Snake Plain Aquifer Model Scope and Objectives](#)

<sup>10</sup> [20250826-MTAC-USGS-Modeling-Approach.pdf](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Groundwater budget for the Mountain Home area, southern Idaho, 2022–23 | U.S. Geological Survey](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Water-Resources-Survey-Report.pdf](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Water Resources Infographic](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Elmore County Water Resources - Elmore County, Idaho](#)

a City Council member has been regularly attending these meetings since 2025. The meetings provide updates on various water matters and allow for community input.

## 2.8 Economic Study

The County authorized Triple Point Consulting to conduct a study of the impacts of a water delivery call that would reduce pumping from the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer by 40,000 acre feet. The study<sup>15</sup> found that a delivery call reducing groundwater pumping in Elmore County by 40,000 acre feet would result in a \$424M annual reduction in total economic output and a loss of 2000 jobs. The study then examined the effects of five water supply improvement scenarios following curtailment. As would be expected, each scenario provided significant economic improvement compared to curtailment, with scenarios providing a net increase in total water supply following curtailment resulting in significant economic growth.

## 2.9 Historical Research

The County commissioned a study of past water supply improvement proposal in the Mountain Home area. The resultant historical report<sup>16</sup> found that community leaders have sought to improve the water supply in the Mountain Home vicinity for more than 100 years. Beginning in the 1940s, plans for various projects were approved but never completed. Several of these proposals included the Anderson Dam project where the Bureau of Reclamation indicated that the dam would “serve as a source of supply for irrigation of the 400,000-acre Mountain Home area,” including 110,000 irrigated acres within a project area designated the “Long Tom Unit”. Bureau of Reclamation’s proposed projects included

- Payette Unit, Mountain Home Project (Payette Unit Exchange Agreement) in the 1940s
- Sloan’s Boise River Valley Pumping Exchange Plan in the 1950s
- Guffey Unit Exchange Proposal, Mountain Home Division in the 1950s and 1960s
- Mountain Home Division, Southwestern Idaho Water Development Project in the 1960s.

The failure of federal projects to materialize then led to development of privately financed Snake River and groundwater irrigated projects in the 1960 and 1970s. The extensive groundwater development within this period resulted in over appropriation of the groundwater resource with declaration of the CCBCGWA in 1981 and the MHGWMA in 1982.

## 2.10 Legislative Efforts

Elmore County actively monitors activities within the Idaho Legislature and has contracted with a lobbyist to provide guidance on potential legislation that can impact water development activities. The County recognizes that it may need to work the legislature to modify existing statutes to support operation of proposed projects or may need to obtain legislative appropriations for construction and operation of projects.

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<sup>15</sup> *Economic Impacts of Elmore County Water Supply Alternatives* - Triple Point Consulting, December 2024

<sup>16</sup> *The History of Reclamation Efforts on the Mountain Home Plateau* - Historical Research Associates, April 2025  
[The History of Reclamation Efforts on the Mountain Home Plateau](#)

## 2.11 Funding

In addition to continued partnership with the Idaho Water Resource Board, Elmore County is actively pursuing a diversified funding strategy to advance these projects. Due to the scale of infrastructure required, many traditional funding sources are insufficient on their own. The County has demonstrated significant local commitment by self-funding preliminary project development efforts, including completion of the 60 percent design for the South Fork Boise River Diversion Project, pre-NEPA activities, and associated consultant and legal team costs across all projects. The County has also self-funded procurement of critical water rights necessary to advance these efforts. In addition, the County received a \$280,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to support initial engineering for the SFBR Diversion Project. Since July 2015, the County has invested more than \$3.35 million in local funds toward water supply development.

The County is coordinating with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to evaluate opportunities under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), specifically to support development of the Snake River Project. The proximity and regional importance of Mountain Home Air Force Base provide a strong nexus for additional federal funding opportunities that are uniquely available to this area, particularly where projects enhance water supply reliability, community resilience, and long-term mission sustainability. These opportunities include potential alignment with Department of Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) funding. In addition, the County is evaluating other federal and state programs, as well as bonding and local financing mechanisms, to ensure these projects are positioned to move forward as funding opportunities arise and to maximize leverage of IWRB investments.

## Chapter 3 Proposed Future Actions

The seven proposed future actions listed below will contribute to stabilization of the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer. These actions are:

- South Fork Boise River Final Design, Permitting, and Construction
- Mountain Home Irrigation District Canal Repairs and Upgrades
- Snake River Alternatives Study
- Water Right Permit for Soft Conversions of Groundwater to Snake River Water Supplies
- Snake River Pump Station and Pipeline Design, Permitting, and Construction
- Evaluation of Groundwater Districts and Other Entity Types for Operation
- Revive the Mountain Home Ground Water Area Advisory Committee and complete a Ground Water Management Plan for the MHGWMA.

None of these projects stand alone. Instead, each project depends on facets of some or all of the other projects to meet the County's goal of stabilizing water levels in the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer near Mountain Home and MHAFB and providing water supply for domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial growth within the area. The projects, in combination, can increase importation of Boise River and Snake River water supplies by more than 30,000 acre feet annually, resulting in a similar reduction in net groundwater withdrawals from the aquifer. Successful implementation of these projects can provide a roadmap for future projects to potentially address declining aquifer levels in the Cinder Cone Butte Critical Ground Water Area.

### 3.1 South Fork Boise River Final Design, Permitting, and Construction

Following completion of the 60 percent level design of SFBR pump station and pipeline in late 2025, the County recently approved a proposal to complete 90 percent design work in 2026. Thus far, the County has self-funded this design work.

Before proceeding to final design and construction, several other tasks need to be completed, including the following:

- SFBR Pump Station and Pipeline NEPA and Right-of-Way. The County will need to complete the environmental studies associated with the pump station and first half mile of pipeline before construction can begin. The U.S. Forest Service will need to allocate resources to allow the County to complete this permitting process in a timely manner.
- Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Confirmation and Storage Allocation. Although the SFBR project can go forward with water right permit 63-34348 and potential annual rental of storage from Water District 63, having guaranteed access to storage water from the Anderson Dam raise project will significantly increase the feasibility of the SFBR project. The County continues to work with IWRB to obtain an allocation of 10,000 acre feet of storage space.
- Idaho Power Company. A substantial portion of the SFBR project cost is associated with extending power and constructing a substation. The County has been evaluating alternatives to decrease these costs. Long lead times are anticipated for transformers and other components, and orders will potentially need to be placed 2 years or more in advance of delivery.

- Project Construction and Operation Funding. A construction funding package must be secured for the project. The County will investigate multiple sources for construction funding, including both state and federal grants and bonding. Funding will also need to be obtained to operate the project. A district will likely be formed for long-term operation and ownership of the project as discussed in Section 3.5.

The County would like to have a shovel-ready project by 2028 to take advantage of any funding opportunities that occur and to complete construction activities within the reservoir pool concurrently with the water-level drawdown for the dam raise project.

## 3.2 Mountain Home Irrigation District Canal Repairs and Upgrades

As previously described, the MHID Canal delivers water from Little Camas Reservoir (within the South Fork Boise River watershed) into the East Fork of Long Tom Creek (within the Canyon Creek watershed). The conveyance is an excavated canal with 14 tunnel sections that were constructed in the early 1900s. MHID has experienced cave-ins in their tunnels and has been repairing them, as necessary, to put the canal back in service as quickly as possible. The repairs are typically isolated to the area of the cave-in and do not address full lengths of tunnels. These repairs reduce the cross-sectional area of the tunnels, which reduces hydraulic capacity. The tunnels are well over 100 years old and were not lined when originally constructed. Their age and lack of lining create a failure risk every irrigation season.

The MHID currently has secured an Aging Infrastructure Grant for rehabilitation of tunnels 1 through 8, 11, 12, and 14. The Grant also authorizes access improvements and flume repairs.

In 2026, the County would like to evaluate the canal and tunnel system to further optimize upgrades and repairs. A seepage study is needed to identify the canal reaches that are losing excess water to seepage that does not benefit the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer. With that knowledge, alternatives for reducing seepage losses can be developed. Alternatives for reducing tunnel failure risk would also be addressed. The County currently holds a proposed scope of work and cost estimate of \$158,400 for this study in Appendix D. The County has not yet approved the contract and hopes to obtain funding assistance for the study from the IWRB.

Completion of the seepage and tunnel study would allow MHID to plan for currently unfunded system upgrades, including seeking funding from federal, state, and local agencies. These repairs and upgrades will complement the County's SFBR pump station and pipeline project and help to ensure that water for aquifer recharge and irrigation can continue to flow into the Mountain Home area.

## 3.3 Snake River Projects

### 3.3.1 Alternatives Study

The currently authorized point of diversion for Elmore County's 20-cfs Snake River water right permit 02-10535 is the MHAFB pump station site. This site was selected in 2017 when it appeared that there was potential for the County to share facilities with the IWRB project being developed to support MHAFB. A pipeline would have extended from MHAFB to the City of Mountain Home. That potential for infrastructure sharing no longer exists. Based on these changed circumstances, the previously proposed pump station and pipeline locations may not be the optimum locations. Instead,

a shorter, more cost-effective pipeline route extending from the Snake River north to Mountain Home may make more sense. Likely alternatives include sharing an existing pump station owned and operated by Clover Hollow Company and South Elmore Irrigation Company, or a new pump station near the Highway 51 bridge or near the mouth of Rattlesnake Creek. The pump station and pipeline would be the first phase of the County's Snake River development project.

The County also recognizes an opportunity to facilitate supply of Snake River water to groundwater irrigated farms located outside of MHID. In areas south and southwest of Mountain Home, more than 6,000 acres are irrigated exclusively from groundwater. If these lands could be irrigated from the Snake River, the groundwater deficit in the County could be reduced by up to 15,000 acre feet annually. The County would like to evaluate locations for a nominal 100-cfs pump station and pipeline to supply these lands and then apply for a permit for supplemental irrigation purposes. This pump station and pipeline would be a second phase of Snake River development project.

The County currently holds a proposed scope of work and cost estimate of \$207,400 for this study in Appendix E. The County has not yet approved the contract and hopes to obtain funding assistance for the study from the IWRB. The studies would evaluate three potential pump station locations south of Mountain Home, with a capacity of 20 cfs for Phase 1 and an additional 100 cfs for Phase 2. For each alternative, the studies will describe the required facilities (pump size, pipeline diameter, routes, site improvements, power upgrades, etc.). The need for booster stations and storage ponds will be assessed and included if required. A conceptual level cost estimate (AACE Level 4) will be provided for each alternative, along with an estimate of operating costs per acre foot delivered. Pros and cons for each site will be discussed, including access issues, power supply, environmental permitting, and known easement issues. The conceptual descriptions will be adequate for the County to choose their preferred alternative(s). As part of this work, the County will provide initial liaison with existing pump station owners and with landowners in the southern portion of the Mountain Home Irrigation District.

### 3.3.2 Water Right Permit for Soft Conversions of Groundwater to Snake River Water Supplies

Phase 2 of the Snake River Alternative Study will evaluate potential pump station location and pipeline routing alternatives for a 100-cfs project to deliver Snake River water to irrigated agricultural lands located south and southwest of Mountain Home. Approximately 6,000 acres are currently groundwater irrigated within 8 miles of the Snake River in this area. These "soft conversions" allow groundwater users to switch to surface water as a primary water source, using Snake River supplies at such times when the water is available but maintaining the ability to pump groundwater if surface water is not available due to mechanical problems or priority curtailment. If successfully constructed and implemented, the project could reduce groundwater pumping by up to 15,000 acre feet annually and thereby stabilize and potentially begin recovering groundwater levels in the area around Mountain Home and MHAFB.

To implement such a project, a water right permit is required. The County could apply for the permit, with authorization from landowners that would receive water. The County would need to show how appropriation of Snake River trust water is in the public interest and conforms to the goals of the State Water Plan because it will:

- (1) be regulated to fully respect and comply with minimum streamflow water rights at Murphy and Weiser,

- (2) stabilize or recover aquifer levels and potentially stabilize or increase groundwater inflows to the Snake River;
- (3) provide a supplemental source of water for irrigation of existing lands;
- (4) conjunctively manage surface water and groundwater; and
- (5) provide regional economic benefits.

Over the most recent 20-year period (2006-2025), the annual volume of water in excess of the minimum streamflow at Murphy has averaged 2.64 million acre feet (3,641 cfs average flow), with 1.14 million acre feet (1,577 cfs average flow) above the minimum flow during the lowest flow year (2022). These volumes demonstrate that there is a significant amount of water available for appropriation if applications meet the relatively narrow statutory, administrative, and policy requirements for Snake River appropriations.

### 3.3.3 Snake River Pump Station and Pipeline

Design, funding, construction, and operation of a 20-cfs pump station and pipeline to supply water right permit 02-10535 is Phase 1 of the Snake River project. If the County can obtain a Snake River water right for soft conversions of currently groundwater irrigated lands south of Mountain Home, this pump station or a separate pump station would provide an additional 100 cfs as Phase 2. Locations and sizing of the pump station(s) and pipelines will depend on the results of the currently proposed alternative study.

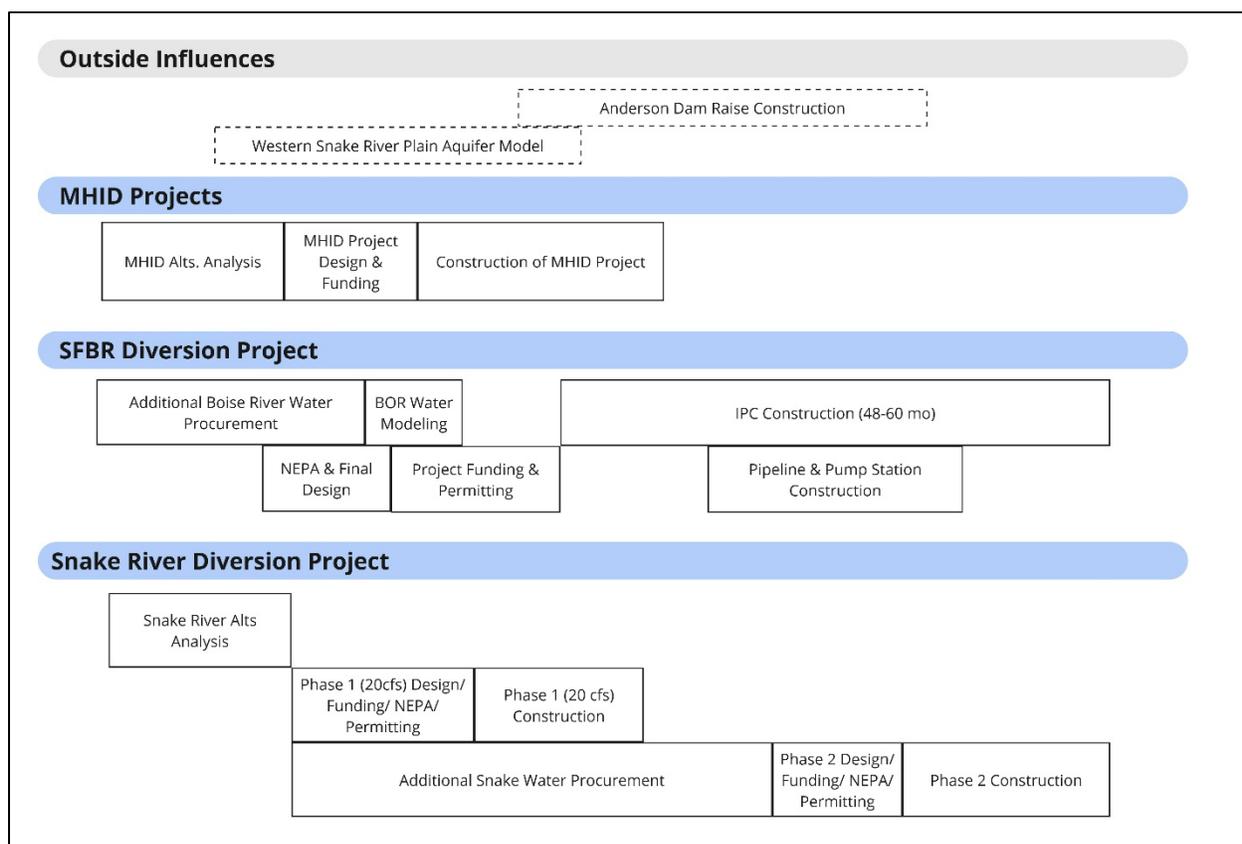
The schedule for implementing the Snake River pump station and pipeline project will depend on (1) results of the proposed alternatives study, and (2) whether a Phase 2 water right permit is approved. It is possible that the alternatives study will identify existing infrastructure that can be upgraded to supply permit 02-10535, in which case Phase 1 of the project can proceed within the next few years. Alternatively, Phase 2 may take more than 5 to 10 years to obtain a water right permit, followed by BLM right-of-way permit, design, funding, and construction.

## 3.4 Estimated Total Aquifer Benefits of Projects

The annual groundwater deficit on the Mountain Home Plateau has been estimated to be in the range of 30,000 to 40,000 acre feet. Areas of water level decline generally correlate with areas of high-volume pumping and associated deficit, and include Cinder Cone Butte, south-southwest of Mountain Home, west of MHAFB, MHAFB, and City of Mountain Home. The amount of water needed for aquifer stabilization in these areas will be better defined upon completion of the WeSPAM model. The currently operating and proposed recharge and conversion projects seek to eliminate the annual deficit and provide water for economic growth. Estimated benefits from the proposed projects are summarized in Table 1 below. A relative timeline of actions associated with these projects is provided as Figure 8.

**Table 1. Estimated Total Aquifer Benefits of Existing and Proposed Projects**

Project	Assumptions	Annual Benefit (af)	Annual Benefit (af) by Project	Cumulative Annual Benefit (af)
Canyon Creek Recharge	Canyon Creek flood water	1,100	1,100	1,100
MHAFB Sustainability	Snake River supply; based on 2010-2014 avg	1,630	1,630	2,730
SF Boise Diversion	SF Boise Flood water (50 cfs x 23 days avg avail)	2,300	7,800	5,030
	Anderson Dam Raise (10Kaf, fills 50% of years)	5,000		10,030
	Rental Pool - assumed available	500		10,530
Snake River Phase 1	Supplemental Irrigation (20 cfs x 60 days)	2,400	21,000	12,930
	Recharge (20 cfs x 90 days); MHID exchange	3,600		16,530
Snake River Phase 2	5000 acres S-SW of Mtn Home converted at 3 af/ac	15,000		31,530



**Figure 8. Relative timeline of project activities**

### 3.5 Evaluation of Post-Construction Operation Entity such as a Groundwater District

IWRB has requested that a section of this report address the County’s consideration of the entity that will ultimately own and operate these water projects post-construction. According to IWRB, it would be unusual for a county government to operate large water projects on an ongoing basis, and IWRB has suggested the County consider a groundwater district (GWD) as a possible operational entity.

The Elmore County Commissioners agree with IWRB’s suggestion that post-construction, these water projects would ideally be owned and operated by one or more special purpose districts whose

members benefit from its projects. The County Commissioners anticipate assigning the County's water permits to one or more districts for that purpose at the appropriate time.

Before discussing IWRB's specific suggestion to consider a GWD, some historical context regarding the events leading up to Elmore County's taking ownership of this regional challenge will be helpful.

### 3.5.1 Historical Context

#### 3.5.1.3 Mountain Home GWMA Advisory Committee

As previously referenced, IDWR created the MHGWMA in 1982. It also issued an order<sup>17</sup> establishing the Mountain Home Ground Water Area Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) in 1996. Membership in the Advisory Committee included representation from the City of Mountain Home, MHID, Elmore County, MHAFFB, the well-drilling industry, the irrigation community, domestic water users, and industrial water users. Among other things, the Advisory Committee was established to:

- “Develop a draft groundwater management plan” for the area;
- “Develop and propose implementation of a groundwater recharge program;”
- “Serve as a forum for communication of water related issues with the community”, and
- “[S]eek a consensus on solutions that are beneficial to all parties.”

In 1997, the Advisory Committee filed application for permit no. 61-7731 for aquifer recharge from Canyon Creek. IDWR issued the water permit in 1998, and in that same year, BLM issued a right-of-way approval for use of federal lands associated with the proposed recharge activities. However, the Advisory Committee's activities effectively ceased in 2006. The Advisory Committee failed to pursue development of this permit, and it lapsed pursuant to IDWR order in 2008.

Elmore County began taking concrete steps to address the groundwater deficit in 2014-2015. In 2017, the Advisory Committee reconstituted itself for the specific purpose of assigning the Canyon Creek recharge permit to Elmore County. To the extent the Advisory Committee intended to resume its water supply improvement efforts that ceased in 2006, this would have been the natural time for it to do so. Instead, it actively chose to cede those activities to the County. In the formal permit assignment document, the Advisory Committee stated among other things, that:

The Advisory Committee “has no interest in becoming an active Committee” and “does not intend to become active in the foreseeable future;” and

Elmore County's expenditure of public funds to improve the groundwater supply “have served a genuine need” and are “in the best interests of the public of Elmore County....”

As a result, Elmore County acquired the lapsed permit and successfully reinstated it later in 2017. That permit has now been licensed and is one of the water rights pursuant to which the County engages in recharge activities when water is available, through infrastructure jointly funded by the County and IWRB.

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<sup>17</sup> [Order Establishing the Mountain Home Ground Water Area Advisory Committee | June 6, 1996 | idwr.idaho.gov](#)

### 3.5.1.4 Unfulfilled 2004 Legislative Working Group Recommendations

In addition to the activities of the local Advisory Committee, in 2004, the Idaho Legislature's Expanded Natural Resources Interim Committee formed the Mountain Home Working Group (Working Group) in order to "hear local concerns, discuss groundwater conditions, and analyze strategies to address the [water supply] issues and concerns specific to the Mountain Home area." The Working Group's efforts culminated in the issuance of its "Final Report and Recommendations" on December 6, 2004. Those recommendations included:

That the Advisory Committee "complete and submit to IDWR a recommended [ground water] management plan....;"

That IDWR "reconsider the boundaries of the Mountain Home Ground Water Management Area and the Cinder Cone Butte Critical Ground Water Area, and redefine the boundaries of a [sic] areas for ground water management to match physical evidence of declining water levels and areas of water supply;"

Adoption of "legislation that would authorize the creation of an umbrella aquifer management authority with broad authority for inclusion of ground water users, for implementing actions to address water shortages, and for equitably assessing all water users to finance the actions;" and

Allocating funds "to IDWR for installation of dedicated monitoring wells...to provide valuable and accurate data for evaluating the aquifer conditions and changes."

Generally speaking, most of the Working Group's recommendations have thus far gone unfulfilled. To the best of the County Commissioners' knowledge, any attention the recommendations have received (such as installation of dedicated monitoring wells) has been a result of the more recent efforts by the County and IWRB—not efforts pursued in the immediate aftermath of the 2004 report. The County, however, recently (i.e., March 19, 2026) learned that a draft management plan was submitted to IDWR in 2006, but no evidence has been found that the plan was approved by the Director.

In short, the County Commissioners began taking ownership of the regional water supply deficit in 2014 to fill the void created by the dissolution of the Advisory Committee and the lack of concrete responses to the Working Group's 2004 report. This historical context is an important predicate to the County's consideration of appropriate operational mechanisms.

### 3.5.1.5 GWD Formation on the ESPA and Local Groundwater Model Development

It is also worth recognizing that, to the County's knowledge, all of the existing GWDs within the State of Idaho have been formed in response to existing or imminent delivery call actions seeking to curtail junior groundwater diversions. The history of GWD formation within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) and its tributary basins demonstrates that, if a delivery call action is filed on the Mountain Home Plateau, a grass roots effort to form a GWD or other appropriate special purpose district is a likely outcome. So, from the County's perspective, the question posed by IWRB at this time relates to how to approach the operational question for as long as the current situation remains the status quo (i.e., in which there is a known annual groundwater deficit that lowers the local groundwater table each year, but the lack of any formal requests for water right administration has not yet prompted the formation of such a district).

Another factor worth recognizing is the fact that the groundwater model for the area is currently under development. According to the most recent update from IDWR staff of which the County is

aware, model development activities are expected to continue through the end of 2028. Until the model is complete, specifically identifying the lands benefiting from these projects and, hence, who should finance their operations on an ongoing basis, is difficult. The Working Group specifically recognized this in their recommendation to “reconsider...and redefine the boundaries...for ground water management” to more closely align with tangible benefits.

### 3.5.2 Discussion of GWDs and Other Operational Options

Subject to the above reminders, at IWRB’s suggestion, the County Commissioners have studied the GWD Act in Title 42, Chapter 52 of the Idaho Code. GWDs have clearly been an effective tool for operating aquifer recharge projects and surface supply projects replacing groundwater withdrawals on the ESPA, and it appears to the County Commissioners that a GWD could be helpful on the Mountain Home Plateau, as well.

Candidly, the County Commissioners’ primary concern about GWDs as they are currently established under Idaho law relates to how they allocate expenses for operating water projects. As the County understands, the GWD Act currently places the primary financial responsibility for ongoing operational costs on groundwater “irrigators.” See Idaho Code § 42-5214(1). While there are mechanisms for non-irrigators to “opt in” to a GWD, see Idaho Code § 42-5210(3), history demonstrates that participation is much more likely to occur in response to an active or imminent delivery call.

The County Commissioners believe the costs for these regional water supply projects should be borne by a broader group of stakeholders than just groundwater irrigators. The Working Group specifically recognized this concern in its 2004 report recommendation for legislation that would create “an umbrella aquifer management authority...for equitably assessing all water users to finance the actions” necessary to address the groundwater deficit. Similarly, a draft goal presented in a recent Elmore County Water Supply workshop (February 13, 2026) was to “ensure that the costs of aquifer stabilization and surface water development are shared equitably among all beneficiaries of improved groundwater supply reliability, in a manner that reflects economic benefits while avoiding subsidy and disproportionate financial burden on any one economic sector.”

While there are irrigation components to both of the County’s current water permits, there are also aquifer recharge components that will directly or indirectly benefit everyone in the region. Clearly, landowners who receive water from the City of Mountain Home’s municipal wells or from their own individual wells will benefit from improved aquifer conditions.

In addition, a significant impetus for the County to continue its water supply development efforts is to verify there is a viable economy and community to support the needs of the MHAFB. The MHAFB is a critical engine of the regional economy, and its superior airspace and buffer from urban development make it a coveted military installation that is important to national security. As the Working Group recognized in 2004, these unique considerations mean that solutions that have worked elsewhere in the state may need to be tweaked to equitably and sustainably allocate costs for water supply projects on the Mountain Home Plateau.

Idaho law already establishes other types of special purpose districts that could be part of the solution. For example:

- Irrigation districts may exercise the same authorities as GWDs. See Idaho Code § 42-5275. There is already an existing irrigation district in the Mountain Home area.

- Aquifer protection districts may charge fees to landowners whose lands benefit from improved aquifer conditions. See Idaho Code § 39-508(2).
- Drainage districts also provide an example of a framework for allocating costs to lands benefiting from a district and its projects. See Idaho Code §§ 42-2903, 42-2914.
- Neighboring states such as Utah have created other types of special purpose districts, such as water conservancy districts, that could inform this process. See Utah Code Ann. §§ 17B-2a-1001, et seq.

The County has established ongoing relationships with government relations firm Primus Policy Group and governmental financial advisory firm Clearwater Financial. While the state continues to develop the local groundwater model, the County intends to continue to work with its legal and financial advisors and its legislative delegation to further evaluate these options and whether updates to existing Idaho law would be helpful for equitably allocating operational costs for projects on the Mountain Home Plateau.

## 3.6 Ground Water Management Plan

At a recent (March 18, 2026) meeting with IWRB staff, it was suggested that the County consider completing and implementing a Ground Water Management Plan (GWMP). A GWMP is described in Idaho Code § 42-233b as follows:

*When a ground water management area is designated by the director of the department of water resources, or at any time thereafter during the existence of the designation, the director may approve a ground water management plan for the area. The ground water management plan shall provide for managing the effects of ground water withdrawals on the aquifer from which withdrawals are made and on any other hydraulically connected sources of water.*

Establishment of a GWMP will require reconstituting the MHGWA Advisory Committee as described in the 1996 order. The draft plan that was submitted in 2006 could be reviewed, updated, and submitted to the Director for approval. An approved GWMP could then be used as the formal guidance document for actions seeking to stabilize ground water levels within the MHGWMA.

The attendees of the current quarterly WAG meetings led by the County have a composition similar to that of the Advisory Committee mandated by the 1996 order. Several of those attendees would likely agree to serve on a new MHGWA Advisory Committee. The County could present to the IDWR Director a list of representatives for the Advisory Committee. Following Director approval, the Advisory Committee could work with IWRB to develop a GWMP as part of a Mountain Home Plateau Water Sustainability Program.

## Chapter 4 Summary

A 2017 study of water supply within the Mountain Home Plateau was jointly funded by Elmore County and the IWRB. The study found groundwater levels were declining within the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer at rates ranging from 0 to more than 2 feet per year. Declines were occurring in areas of concentrated pumping, including CCBCGWA, east and west of MHAFB, and on the south side of Mountain Home. Groundwater levels were largely stable in other areas, including north of

Mountain Home and in the Mayfield area, because of local recharge or minimal groundwater pumping in those areas.

The declining water table prevents new groundwater development and associated economic growth and also presents a threat of future water right curtailment with severe economic impacts. The 2017 study determined that groundwater levels could be stabilized by converting existing groundwater uses to surface water sources and by aquifer recharge. Both actions would require importation of water supplies from the Boise River or Snake River. Infrastructure alternatives for water importation were presented.

Since 2017, Elmore County has actively sought to improve the regional water supply at a cost of approximately \$3M. These actions include

1. obtaining water right permits for recharge and supplemental irrigation purposes from South Fork Boise River, Snake River, and Canyon Creek
2. Canyon Creek aquifer recharge site improvements and operation
3. South Fork Boise River pump station and pipeline initial design and permitting
4. MHID canal and tunnel improvements
5. seeking allocation of 10,000 acre feet of storage space as part of the Anderson Ranch Dam raise project
6. petitioning the IWRB for creation of a numerical model to evaluate water management actions on the Mountain Home Plateau,
7. community outreach activities including (1) a survey of residents to determine water resource awareness, (2) creation of a county water resources webpage to disseminate information about local water resources, and (3) formation of a local water advisory group,
8. economic study to determine the impacts of potential water right curtailment,
9. historical research to provide context for current county water resource improvement efforts
10. ongoing legislative presence to monitor water legislation and to provide guidance for future legislative activities.

Currently proposed actions include the following:

1. Develop the SFBR water supply, including (1) acquisition of Anderson Ranch Reservoir storage and (2) pump station and pipeline final design, permitting, funding, and construction.
2. Improve the MHID canal and tunnel system, including (1) ongoing infrastructure repair projects and (2) a canal and tunnel study to (a) determine areas of seepage loss, (b) define projects to stabilize the canal and tunnels, and (c) minimize canal losses outside of the Mountain Home Plateau aquifer watershed.
3. Develop Snake River water supplies by (1) an alternative study to determine optimum locations for pump stations and pipelines to supply the County's existing 20-cfs water right permit and a future permit for large scale conversion of groundwater irrigated lands to the Snake River source, (2) application for a Snake River water right permit for soft conversion of groundwater irrigated lands, and (3) design, permitting, funding, and construction of pump

stations and pipelines to supply Snake River water for recharge and groundwater to surface water conversions.

4. Form one or more districts (groundwater district or similar entity) to own and operate water supply improvement projects.
5. Reconstitute the MHGWA Advisory Committee and complete a GWMP for the MHGWMA. Upon approval of the plan by the IDWR Director, the GWMP could serve as a guidance document for a Mountain Home Plateau Water Sustainability Program.



## Appendix A. Water Rights Obtained Since 2017

State of Idaho  
 Department of Water Resources  
**Water Right License**  
 WATER RIGHT NO. 61-07731

**PRIORITY:** June 12, 2017

Maximum Diversion Rate: 22.68 CFS  
 Maximum Diversion Volume: 962.0 AF

It is hereby certified that:

ELMORE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS    ELMORE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
 150 S 4TH E STE 3    MOUNTAIN HOME ID    83647

has complied with the terms and conditions of the permit, issued pursuant to Application for Permit dated March 21, 1997, and has submitted Proof of Beneficial Use on June 12, 2017. An examination confirms water is diverted from:

**SOURCE:**  
 CANYON CREEK

**TRIBUTARY:**  
 SNAKE RIVER

and a water right has been established as follows:

<u>BENEFICIAL USE</u>	<u>PERIOD OF USE</u>	<u>DIVERSION RATE</u>	<u>ANNUAL DIVERSION VOLUME</u>
GROUND WATER RECHARGE	01/01 to 12/31	22.68 CFS	962.0 AF

**LOCATION OF POINT(S) OF DIVERSION:**

CANYON CREEK    SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, Twp 03S, Rge 06E, B.M.    ELMORE County  
 CANYON CREEK    NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, Twp 03S, Rge 06E, B.M.    ELMORE County

**PLACE OF USE:** GROUND WATER RECHARGE

Twp	Rge	Sec	NE				NW				SW				SE				Totals
			NE	NW	SW	SE													
03S	06E	10	X			X							X						

**CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

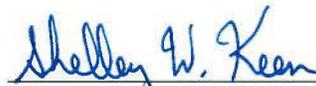
1. Prior to the diversion and use of water under this approval, the right holder shall comply with applicable water quality monitoring and/or permitting requirements administered by the Department of Environmental Quality or the Department of Agriculture.
2. Use of water under this right may be regulated by a watermaster with responsibility for the distribution of water among appropriators within a water district. At the time of this approval, this water right is within State Water District No. 61A.
3. After specific notification by the Department, the right holder shall install a suitable measuring device or shall enter into an agreement with the Department to use power records to determine the amount of water diverted and shall annually report the information to the Department.
4. Pursuant to Section 42-234(3), Idaho Code, the Director may reduce the amount of water that may be diverted for recharge purposes under this right even though there is sufficient water to supply the entire amount authorized for appropriation under this right.

State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Water Right License**  
WATER RIGHT NO. 61-07731

5. This right is not an authorization for the described recharge effort to be used as mitigation or credit for any other purpose. The sufficiency of the recharge effort authorized under this right for mitigation or credit for some other purpose may be determined by the Department upon proper submission of a mitigation plan pursuant to the Department's Rules of Conjunctive Management of Surface and Ground Water Resources, a mitigation plan to offset depletion in association with a water right application, a Management Program pursuant to Idaho Code Section 42-1416B, or any other proposal to utilize credit for the recharge effort.
6. Seepage from Canyon Creek incidental to or coincident with delivery of water to the recharge sites shall not be considered ground water recharge under this right.
7. This right is subject to all prior water rights, including those water rights for power purposes that may otherwise be subordinated by contract entered into by the governor and Idaho Power Company on October 25, 1984, and ratified by the legislature pursuant to section 42-203B, Idaho Code.
8. This right is for the use of trust water, and it is subject to review 20 years after date of permit approval to re-evaluate the availability of trust water for the authorized use and to re-evaluate the public interest criteria for reallocating trust water.
9. When the minimum stream flow water rights in the Snake River at Murphy Gage are not being satisfied, the right holder shall cease diverting water for the uses authorized by this right.
10. The diversion and use of water described in this right may be subject to additional conditions and limitations agreed to by the protestant and the right holder under a separate agreement to which the Department is not a party. Because the Department is not a party, the Department is not responsible for enforcement of any aspect of the agreement not specifically addressed in other conditions herein. Enforcement of those portions of the agreement not specifically addressed in other conditions shall be the responsibility of the protestant and the water right holder.
11. This right does not grant any right-of-way or easement across the land of another.

This license is issued pursuant to the provisions of Section 42-219, Idaho Code. The water right confirmed by this license is subject to all prior water rights and shall be used in accordance with Idaho law and applicable rules of the Department of Water Resources.

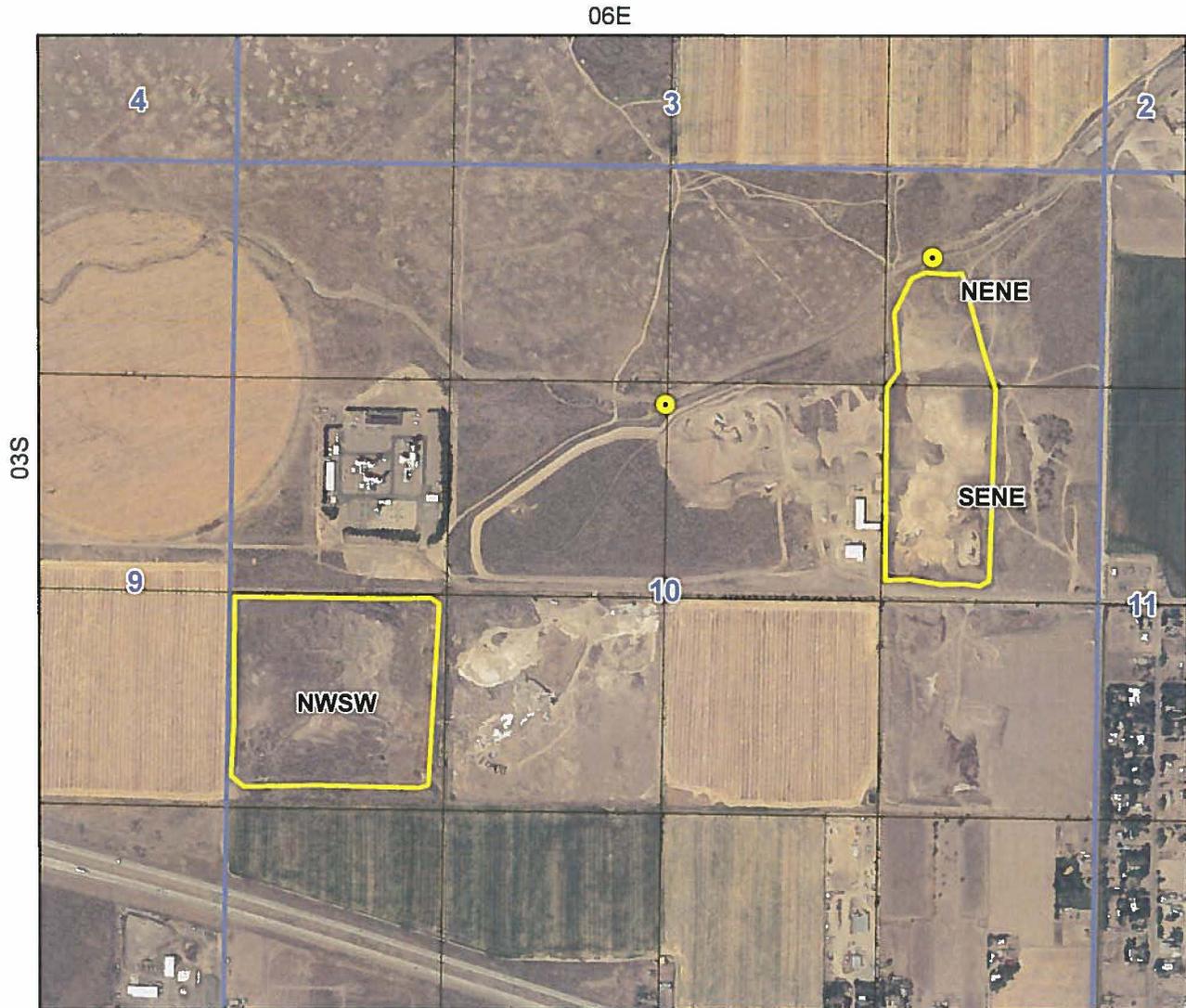
Signed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.



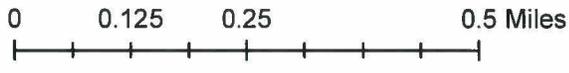
SHELLEY W. KEEN  
Water Rights Section Manager

State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Attachment to Water Right License**  
61-7731

This map depicts the GROUND WATER RECHARGE place of use boundary for this water right at the time of this approval and is attached to the approval document solely for illustrative purposes.



- Point of Diversion
- Place Of Use Boundary
- Townships
- PLS Sections



**State of Idaho**  
**Department of Water Resources**  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**  
**No. 61-12314**

**Priority:** March 03, 2017

**Maximum Diversion Rate:** 200 CFS

This is to certify that

ELMORE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
 ELMORE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
 150 S 4TH E STE 3  
 MOUNTAIN HOME, ID 83647

has applied for a permit to appropriate water from:

**Source :** CANYON CREEK

**Tributary:** SNAKE RIVER

and a permit is APPROVED for development of water as follows:

<u>Beneficial Use</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>Rate of Diversion</u>
GROUND WATER RECHARGE	01/01 to 12/31	200 CFS

**Location of Point(s) of Diversion**

CANYON CREEK	SW¼ NE¼, Sec. 10, Twp 03S, Rge 06E, B.M.	ELMORE County
CANYON CREEK	SW¼ SW¼, Sec. 2, Twp 03S, Rge 06E, B.M.	ELMORE County
CANYON CREEK	NE¼ NE¼, Sec. 10, Twp 03S, Rge 06E, B.M.	ELMORE County
CANYON CREEK	SE¼ NW¼, Sec. 10, Twp 03S, Rge 06E, B.M.	ELMORE County

**Place of Use:** GROUND WATER RECHARGE

Twp	Rng	Sec	NE				NW				SW				SE				Totals	
			NE	NW	SW	SE														
03S	06E	2																		
03S	06E	10	X			X							X					X		
03S	06E	11						X												

**Conditions of Approval**

1. Proof of application of water to beneficial use shall be submitted on or before **May 01, 2024**.
2. Subject to all prior water rights.
3. Prior to the diversion and use of water under this approval, the right holder shall comply with applicable water quality monitoring and/or permitting requirements administered by the Department of Environmental Quality or the Department of Agriculture.
4. Use of water under this right may be regulated by a watermaster with responsibility for the distribution of water among appropriators within a water district. At the time of this approval, this water right is within State Water District No. 61A.
5. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-234(3), the Director may reduce the amount of water that may be diverted for recharge purposes under this right even though there is sufficient water to supply the entire amount authorized for appropriation under this right.
6. This right is not an authorization for the described recharge effort to be used as mitigation or credit for

**State of Idaho**  
**Department of Water Resources**  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**  
**No. 61-12314**

any other purpose. The sufficiency of the recharge effort authorized under this right for mitigation or credit for some other purpose may be determined by the Department upon proper submission of a mitigation plan pursuant to the Department's Rules of Conjunctive Management of Surface and Ground Water Resources, a mitigation plan to offset depletion in association with a water right application, a Management Program pursuant to Idaho Code Idaho Code § 42-1416B, or any other proposal to utilize credit for the recharge effort.

7. This right is for the use of trust water, and it is subject to review 5 years after its initial approval (date of permit approval) to re-evaluate the availability of trust water for the authorized use and to re-evaluate the public interest criteria for reallocating trust water.
8. When the minimum stream flow water rights in the Snake River at Murphy Gage are not being satisfied, the right holder shall cease diverting water for the consumptive uses authorized by this right. The minimum stream flow water rights are for 3,900 cfs from April 1 through October 31 and 5,600 cfs from November 1 through March 31 consistent with IDAPA 37.03.08.030.
9. This right does not grant any right-of-way or easement across the land of another.
10. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-234(4), to ensure that other water rights are not injured by the operations of the recharge project authorized by this right, the Director has authority to approve, disapprove, or require alterations in the methods employed to achieve ground water recharge.
11. This approval does not constitute approval by the Idaho Water Resource Board, which may also be required pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1737.
12. The right holder shall record the daily quantity of water diverted for ground water recharge and shall report the diversion data for the prior calendar year to the Department by February 1 each year. Reporting shall occur in the manner specified by the Department, consistent with Idaho Code § 42-701. To facilitate this reporting requirement, the right holder shall install and maintain a totalizing measuring device approved by the Department at each point of diversion and at each point where water is delivered from the conveyance system into a designated recharge site.
13. Prior to diversion and use of water on federal land under this approval, the right holder shall obtain Bureau of Land Management authorization necessary to access the point of diversion or place of use or to convey water across federal land.
14. The diversion and use of water described in this right may be subject to additional conditions and limitations agreed to by the protestant and the right holder under a separate agreement to which the Department is not a party. Because the Department is not a party, the Department is not responsible for enforcement of any aspect of the agreement not specifically addressed in other conditions herein. Enforcement of those portions of the agreement not specifically addressed in other conditions shall be the responsibility of the protestant and the water right holder.
15. The Director retains jurisdiction to require the right holder to provide purchased or leased natural flow or stored water to offset depletion of Lower Snake River flows if needed for salmon migration purposes. The amount of water required to be released into the Snake River or a tributary, if needed for this purpose, will be determined by the Director based upon the reduction in flow caused by the use of water pursuant to this permit.
16. Project construction shall commence within one year from the date of permit issuance and shall proceed diligently to completion unless it can be shown to the satisfaction of the Director of the Department of Water Resources that delays were due to circumstances over which the permit holder had no control.

State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**  
No. 61-12314

This permit is issued pursuant to the provisions of Idaho Code § 42-204.

Signed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

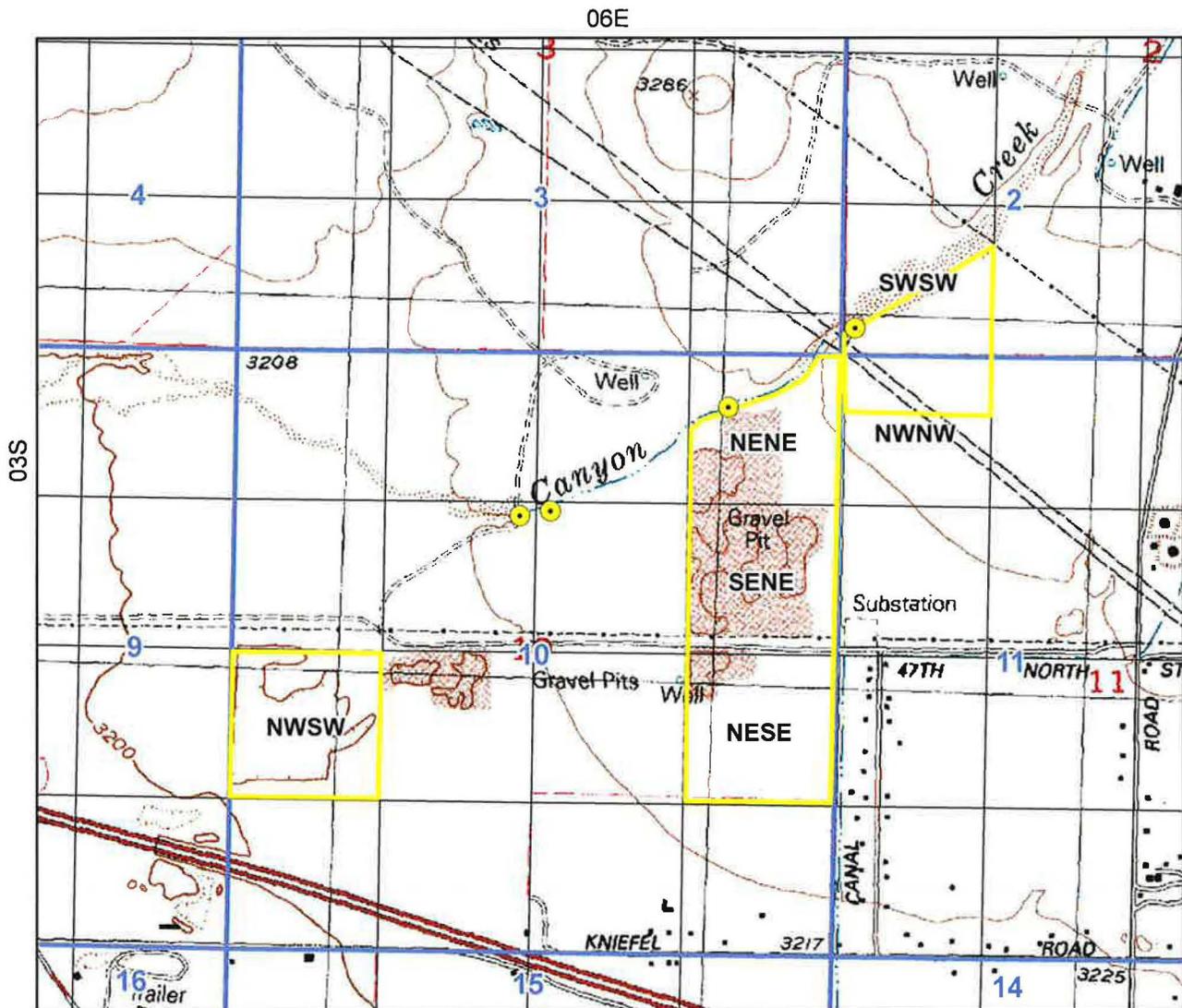


NICK MILLER  
Engineer, Manager 2

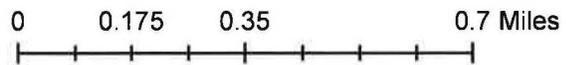


State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriative Water**  
61-12314

March 18, 2019



-  Point of Diversion
-  Place Of Use Boundary
-  Townships
-  PLS Sections
-  Quarter Quarters



**State of Idaho**  
**Department of Water Resources**  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**  
**No. 63-34348**

**Priority:** March 03, 2017

**Maximum Diversion Rate:** 200.00 CFS

This is to certify that

ELMORE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS    ELMORE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
 150 S 4TH E STE 3    MOUNTAIN HOME    ID    83647

has applied for a permit to appropriate water from:

**Source :** SOUTH FORK BOISE RIVER

**Tributary:** BOISE RIVER

and a permit is APPROVED for development of water as follows:

<u>Beneficial Use</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>Rate of Diversion</u>	<u>Annual Volume</u>
GROUND WATER RECHARGE STORAGE	01/01 to 12/31		10,000.0 AF
IRRIGATION	03/15 to 11/15	100.00 CFS	
IRRIGATION STORAGE	01/01 to 12/31		5,000.0 AF
IRRIGATION FROM STORAGE	03/15 to 11/15		5,000.0 AF
GROUND WATER RECHARGE	01/01 to 12/31	100.00 CFS	
GROUND WATER RECHARGE FROM STORAGE	01/01 to 12/31		10,000.0 AF
DIVERSION TO STORAGE	01/01 to 12/31	200.00 CFS	

**Location of Point(s) of Diversion**

SOUTH FORK BOISE RIVER L1 ( NW¼ NW¼), Sec. 7, Twp 01S, Rge 09E, B.M.    ELMORE County

**Place of Use:** IRRIGATION

Twp	Rng	Sec	NE				NW				SW				SE				No QQ	Totals
			NE	NW	SW	SE	NE	NW	SW	SE	NE	NW	SW	SE	NE	NW	SW	SE		
02S	06E	35													40.0			40.0		80.0
02S	06E	36									40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0						160.0
03S	06E	1					0.1 L3	40.0 L4												40.1
03S	06E	2	40.0 L1	40.0 L2	40.0					0.4		40.0	40.0		40.0	40.0			280.4	
03S	06E	9	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0			40.0	40.0				40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0		440.0	
03S	06E	10							0.6	0.2	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	0.2	40.0	40.0	40.0		281.0
03S	06E	11		40.0	40.0		40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0		560.0	
03S	06E	12									40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0						160.0
03S	06E	13					40.0	40.0												80.0
03S	06E	14					40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0						320.0	
03S	06E	15	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	0.3	0.3	40.0				40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0		400.6	
03S	06E	22	0.5	0.4															0.9	
03S	06E	23			40.0		40.0	40.0	39.0	40.0	40.0		0.3	40.0		40.0	40.0	40.0	399.3	
03S	06E	24										40.0	40.0			40.0	40.0		160.0	
03S	06E	25	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0		640.0	
03S	06E	26	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	0.1	0.1	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0		560.2	
03S	06E	27	0.3			0.1													0.4	
03S	06E	36	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0		640.0	





State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**  
No. 63-34348

**Conditions of Approval**

1. Proof of application of water to beneficial use shall be submitted on or before **April 01, 2024**.
2. Subject to all prior water rights.
3. This right when combined with all other rights shall provide no more than 0.02 cfs per acre nor more than 4.0 afa per acre at the field headgate for irrigation of the place of use.
4. This right when combined with all other rights shall provide no more than 5.0 afa per acre for irrigation storage and irrigation from storage for the place of use.
5. Rights 61-263, 61-264, 61-266, 61-363, 61-10417, 61-10419, 61-10421, 63-19893, 63-2188, 63-2214, 63-20139 and 63-34348 when combined shall not exceed the irrigation of 7,420.2 acres within the boundaries of the Mountain Home Irrigation District.
6. In any given year, water diverted for irrigation from storage and irrigation shall not exceed 50 percent of the total volume of water diverted for all uses described by the right.
7. The storage of water under this right occurs in the storage facilities for the Mountain Home Irrigation District: Little Camas Reservoir, Long Tom Reservoir, and Mountain Home Reservoir.
8. In any given year, this right may only be used for irrigation from storage and irrigation on the same lands irrigated within the Mountain Home Irrigation District service area with Rights 61-263, 61-264, 61-266, 61-363, 61-10417, 61-10419, 61-10421, 63-19893, 63-2188, 63-2214, 63-20139 and 63-34348.
9. Water shall only be used for irrigation from storage and irrigation to supplement existing rights 61-263, 61-264, 61-266, 61-363, 61-10417, 61-10419, 61-10421, 63-19893, 63-2188, 63-2214, 63-20139 and 63-34348.
10. Diversion of water under this right will be regulated by a watermaster with responsibility for the distribution of water among appropriators within a water district. At the time of this approval, the source of water and point of diversion for this right is within Water District No. 63.
11. Prior to diversion of water under this right, the right holder shall install a lockable device, subject to the approval of the Department, in a manner that will provide the watermaster suitable control of the diversion.
12. Prior to diversion of water under this right, the right holder shall develop a plan acceptable to the watermaster(s) and the Department that includes the installation of measuring devices as necessary to understand and monitor water use under this right. The Department may require modification of the plan, now and in the future, as required.
13. The watermasters of Water Districts 63, 63C, and 61A shall coordinate administration of this right to ensure beneficial use occurs in a manner consistent with the limitations and conditions of the right.
14. This right is subordinated to the capture and retention of water in existing on-stream storage reservoirs operated for storage and flood control purposes during and following flood control operations until the date of allocation.
15. The right holder must mitigate for diversions out of Anderson Ranch Reservoir that occur when water is not being released for flood control purposes as authorized by this right.
16. If measured or calculated Boise River flows immediately downstream of the New York Canal diversion are less than 240 cfs during the period beginning June 16 and ending February 29, water shall not be diverted pursuant to this right. If measured or calculated Boise River flows immediately downstream of the New York Canal diversion are less than 1,100 cfs during the period beginning March 1 and ending May 31, water shall not be diverted pursuant to this water right. If the benchmark stream maintenance flows of 240 cfs (from June 16 to February 29) and 1,100 cfs (From March 1 to May 31) subsequently change, then the diversion of South Fork Boise River flows under this right will be limited to provide for the new benchmark flows.
17. If measured or calculated South Fork Boise River flows downstream from Anderson Ranch Dam are less than 800 cfs, water shall not be diverted pursuant to this right.
18. The right holder shall exercise this right only when authorized by the District 63 watermaster when the

**State of Idaho**  
**Department of Water Resources**  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**  
**No. 63-34348**

Boise River is on flood release below Anderson Ranch dam/outlet and when the Boise River is on flood release below Lucky Peak dam. Flood releases shall be determined based upon the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Army and the Department of Interior for Flood Control Operations of Boise River Reservoirs, dated November 20, 1953, contracts with Reclamation contract holders in the Boise River Reservoirs, the Water Control Manual for Boise River Reservoirs, dated April 1985, and any modifications adopted pursuant to the procedures required in these documents and federal laws. The right holder shall not seek, directly or indirectly, any change to the flood control operations of the 1985 Water Control Manual for Boise River reservoirs. This water right may not be used to divert water released from storage to augment lower Snake River flows during the migration of Snake River salmon as authorized under Idaho law.

19. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-234(4), to ensure that other water rights are not injured by the operations of the recharge project authorized by this right, the Director has authority to approve, disapprove, or require alterations in the methods employed to achieve ground water recharge.
20. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-234(3), the Director may reduce the amount of water that may be diverted for recharge purposes under this right even though there is sufficient water to supply the entire amount authorized for appropriation under this right.
21. This approval does not constitute approval by the Idaho Water Resource Board, which may also be required pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1737.
22. This right is not an authorization for the described recharge effort to be used as mitigation or credit for any other purpose. The sufficiency of the recharge effort authorized under this right for mitigation or credit for some other purpose may be determined by the Department upon proper submission of a mitigation plan pursuant to the Department's Rules of Conjunctive Management of Surface and Ground Water Resources, a mitigation plan to offset depletion in association with a water right application, a Management Program pursuant to Idaho Code Idaho Code § 42-1416B, or any other proposal to utilize credit for the recharge effort.
23. This right does not grant any right-of-way or easement across the land of another.
24. Prior to the diversion and use of water under this approval, the right holder shall comply with applicable water quality monitoring and/or permitting requirements administered by the Department of Environmental Quality or the Department of Agriculture.
25. Prior to diversion and use of water under this approval, the right holder shall obtain authorization from United States agencies necessary to access the point of diversion or place of use or to convey water across federal land.
26. Project construction shall commence within one year from the date of permit issuance and shall proceed diligently to completion unless it can be shown to the satisfaction of the Director of the Department of Water Resources that delays were due to circumstances over which the permit holder had no control.
27. The Director retains jurisdiction to require the right holder to provide purchased or leased natural flow or stored water to offset depletion of Lower Snake River flows if needed for salmon migration purposes. The amount of water required to be released into the Snake River or a tributary, if needed for this purpose, will be determined by the Director based upon the reduction in flow caused by the use of water pursuant to this permit.

State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**  
No. 63-34348

This permit is issued pursuant to the provisions of Idaho Code § 42-204.

Signed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019.



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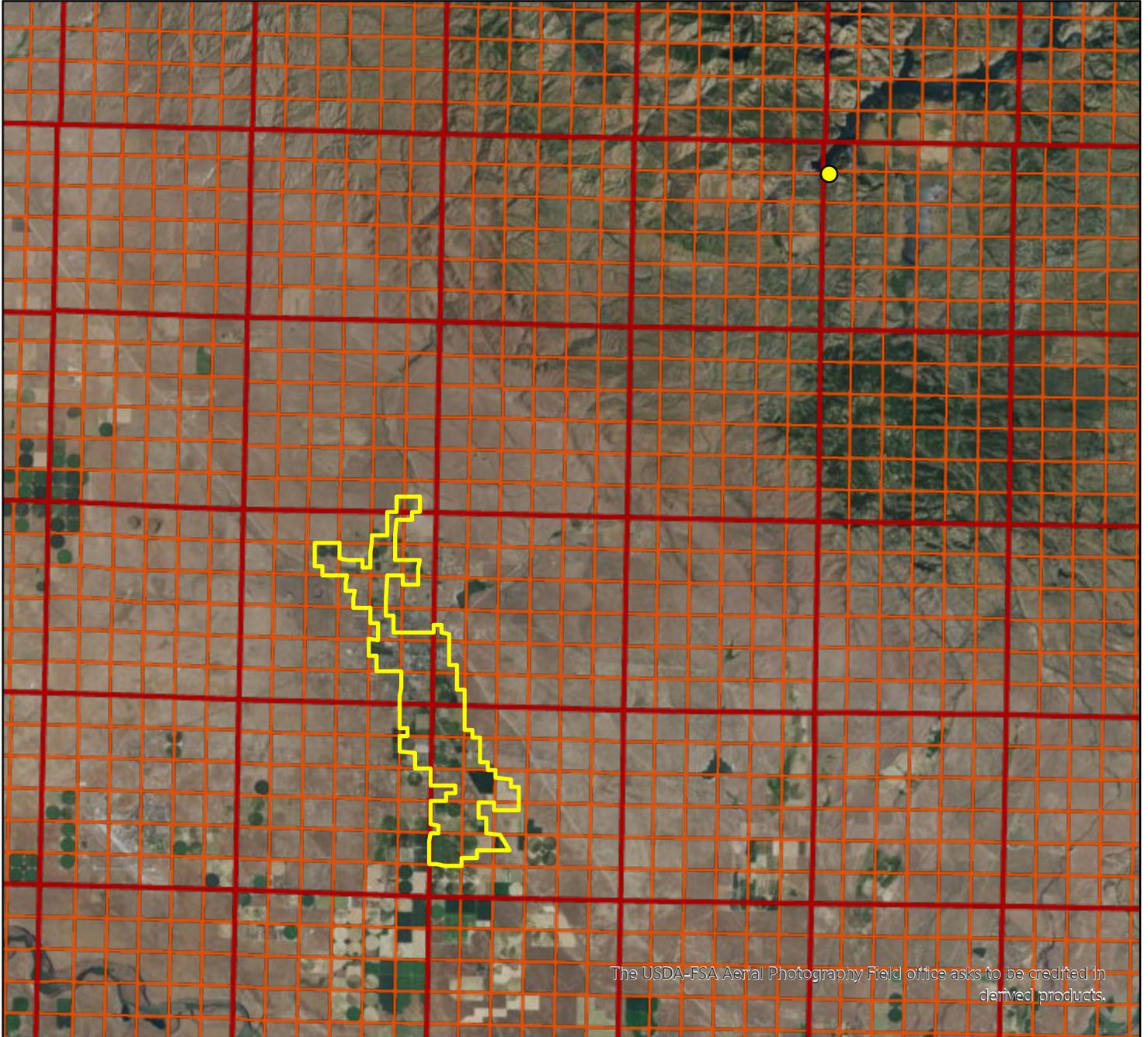
GARY SPACKMAN  
Director

State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**

63-34348

IRRIGATION

The map depicts the place of use for the water use listed above and point(s) of diversion of this right as currently derived from interpretations of the paper records and is used solely for illustrative purposes. Discrepancies between the computer representation and the permanent document file will be resolved in favor of the actual water right documents in the water right file.



The USDA-FSA Aerial Photography Field office asks to be credited in derived products.



**Legend**

- PLS Sections
- Townships
- Place of Use Boundary
- Point of Diversion

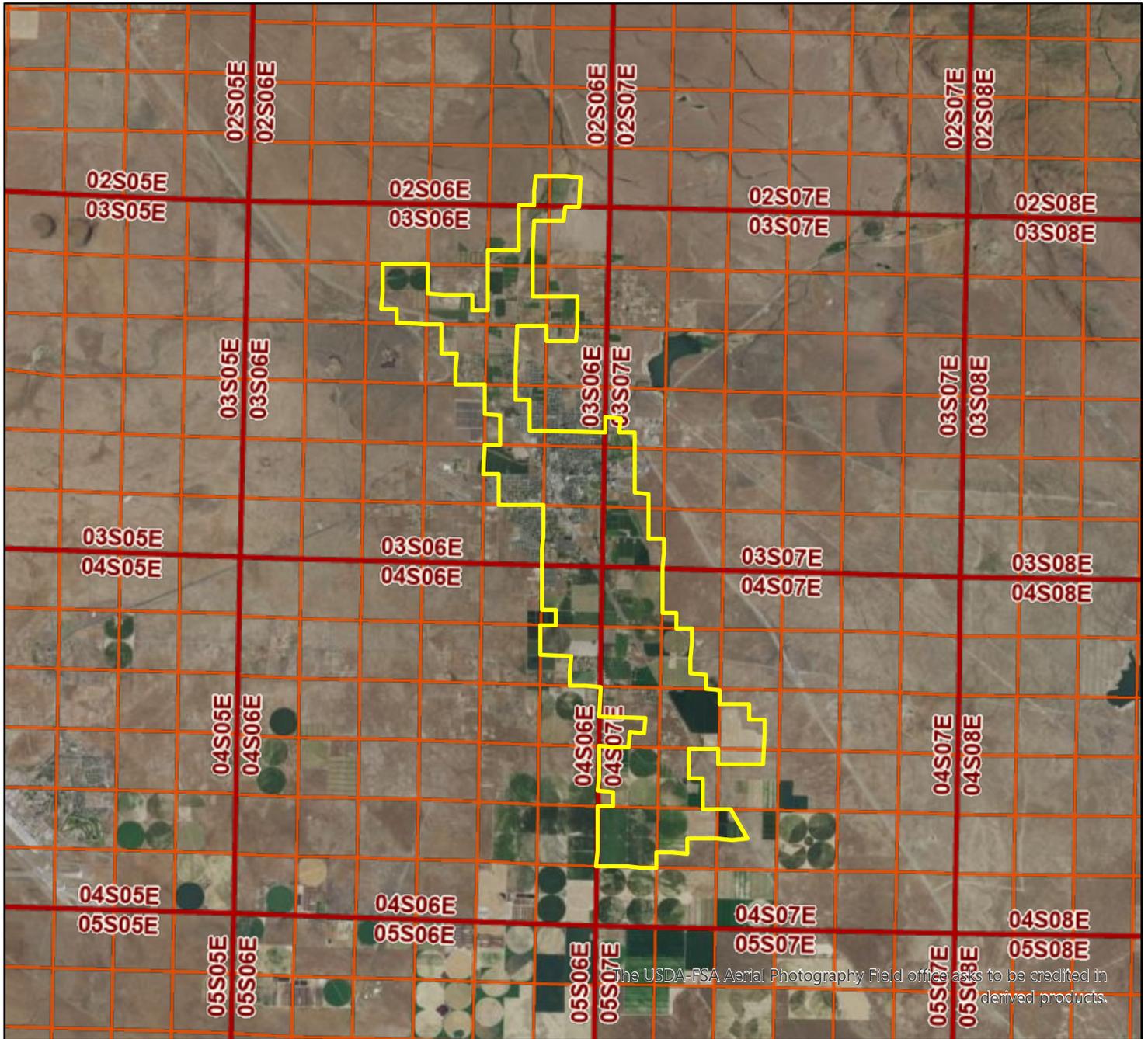


State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**

63-34348

IRRIGATION

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Legend

- PLS Sections
- Townships
- Place of Use Boundary

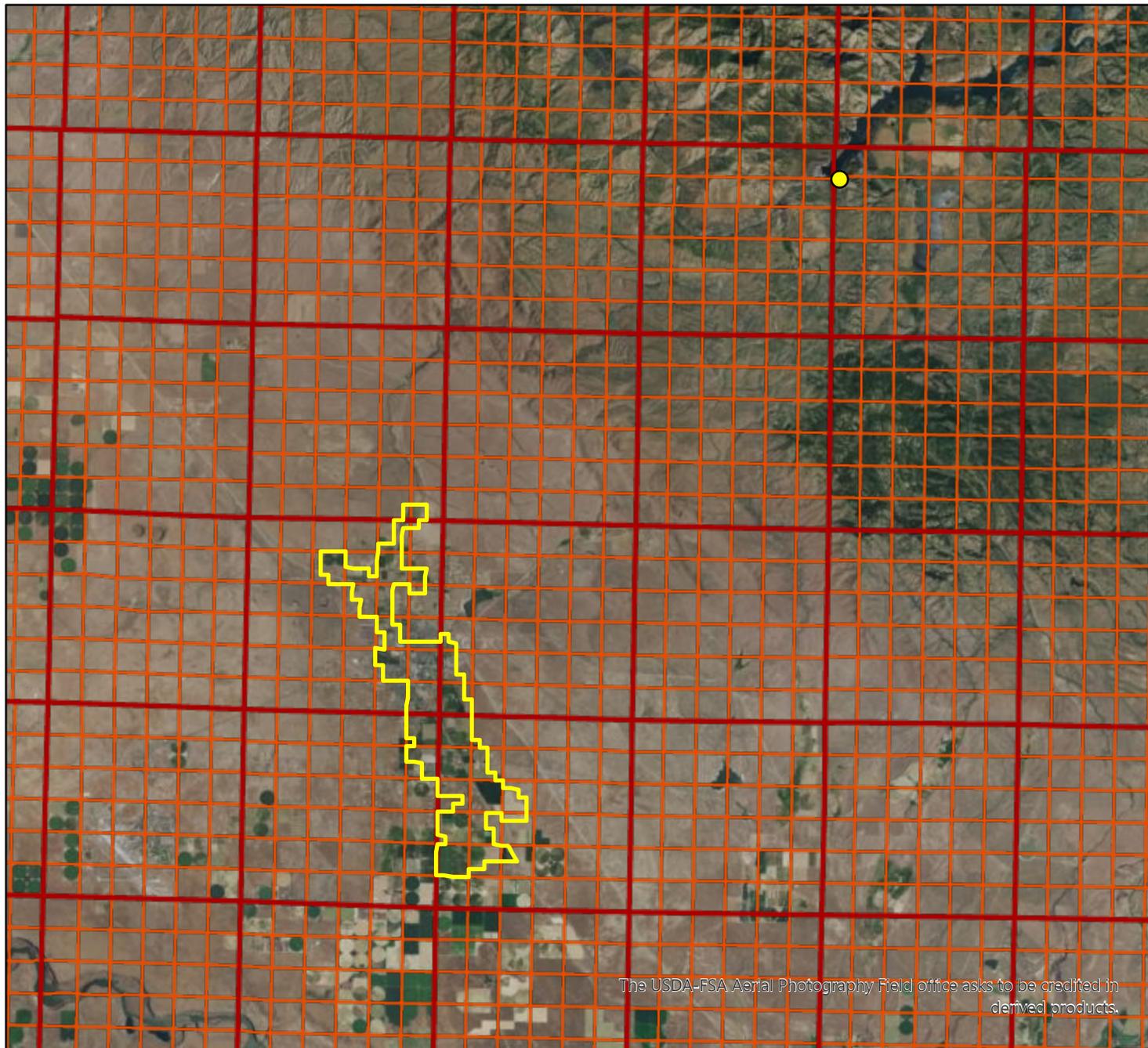


State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**

63-34348

IRRIGATION FROM STORAGE

The map depicts the place of use for the water use listed above and point(s) of diversion of this right as currently derived from interpretations of the paper records and is used solely for illustrative purposes. Discrepancies between the computer representation and the permanent document file will be resolved in favor of the actual water right documents in the water right file.



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- Legend**
- PLS Sections
  - Townships
  - Place of Use Boundary
  - Point of Diversion

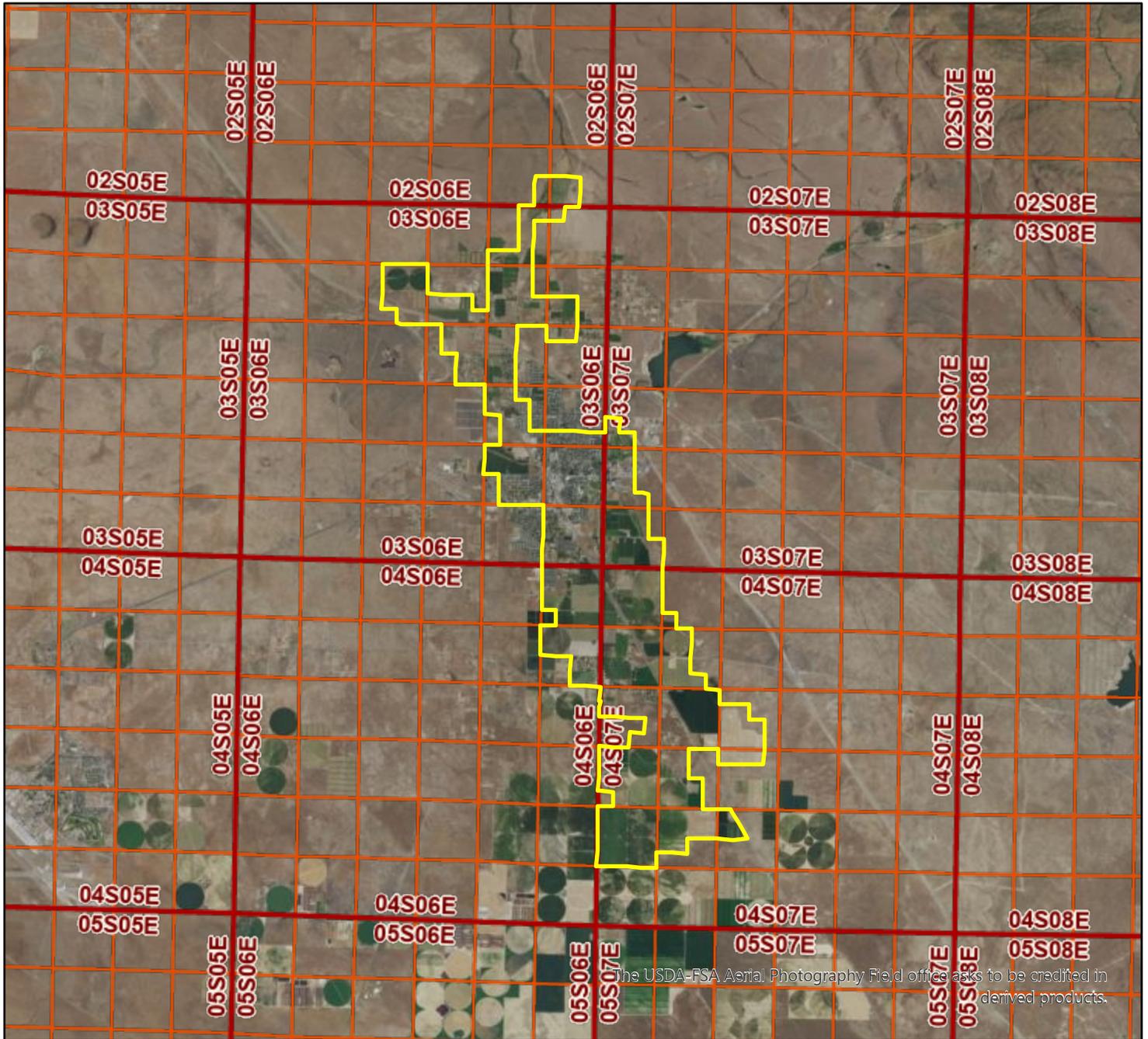


State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**

63-34348

IRRIGATION FROM STORAGE

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The USDA-FSA Aerial Photography Field office asks to be credited in derived products.



Date created: 3/9/2026



Legend

- PLS Sections
- Townships
- Place of Use Boundary

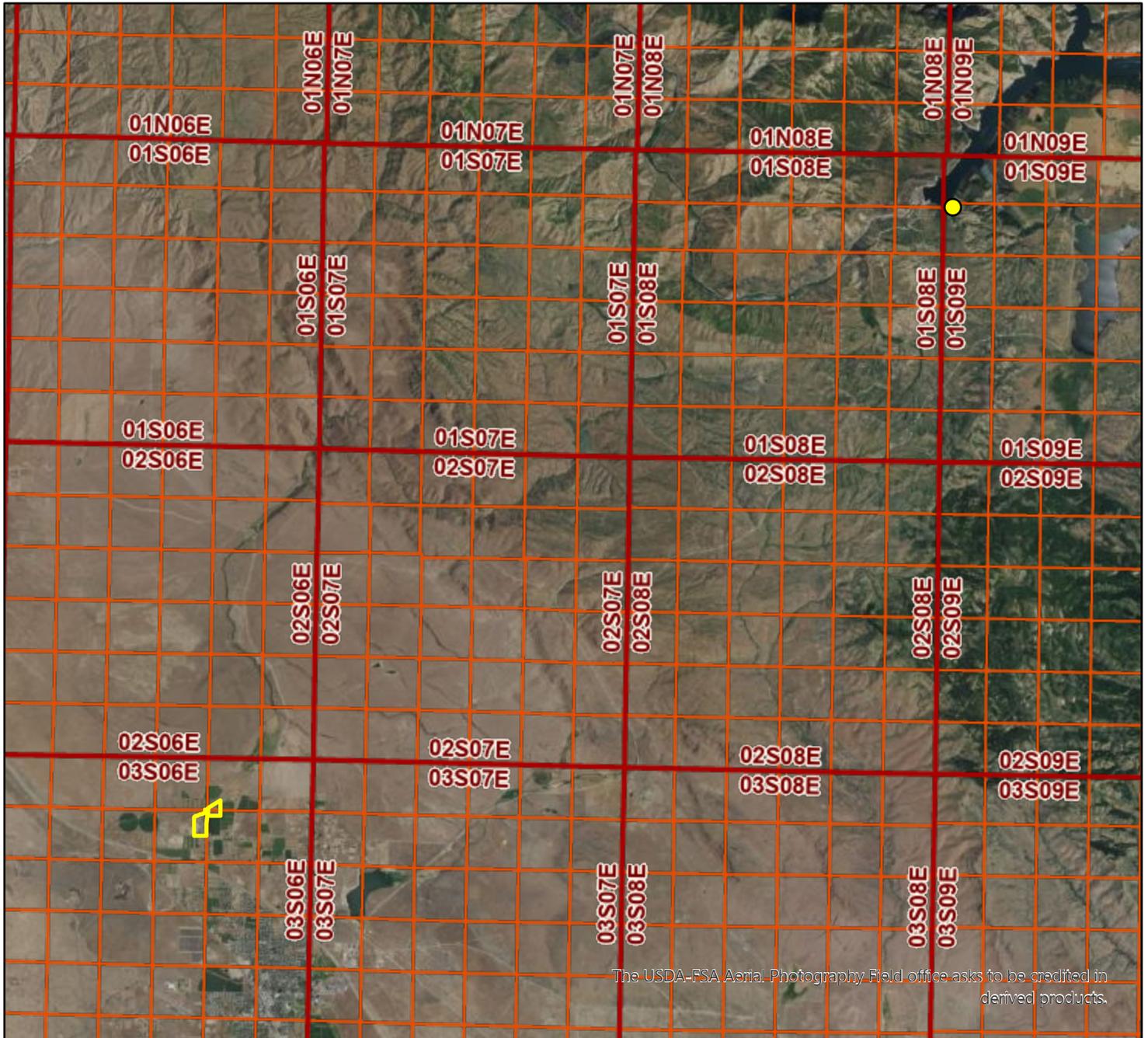


State of Idaho  
 Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**

63-34348

GROUND WATER RECHARGE

The map depicts the place of use for the water use listed above and point(s) of diversion of this right as currently derived from interpretations of the paper records and is used solely for illustrative purposes. Discrepancies between the computer representation and the permanent document file will be resolved in favor of the actual water right documents in the water right file.



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Legend

- PLS Sections
- Townships
- Place of Use Boundary
- Point of Diversion

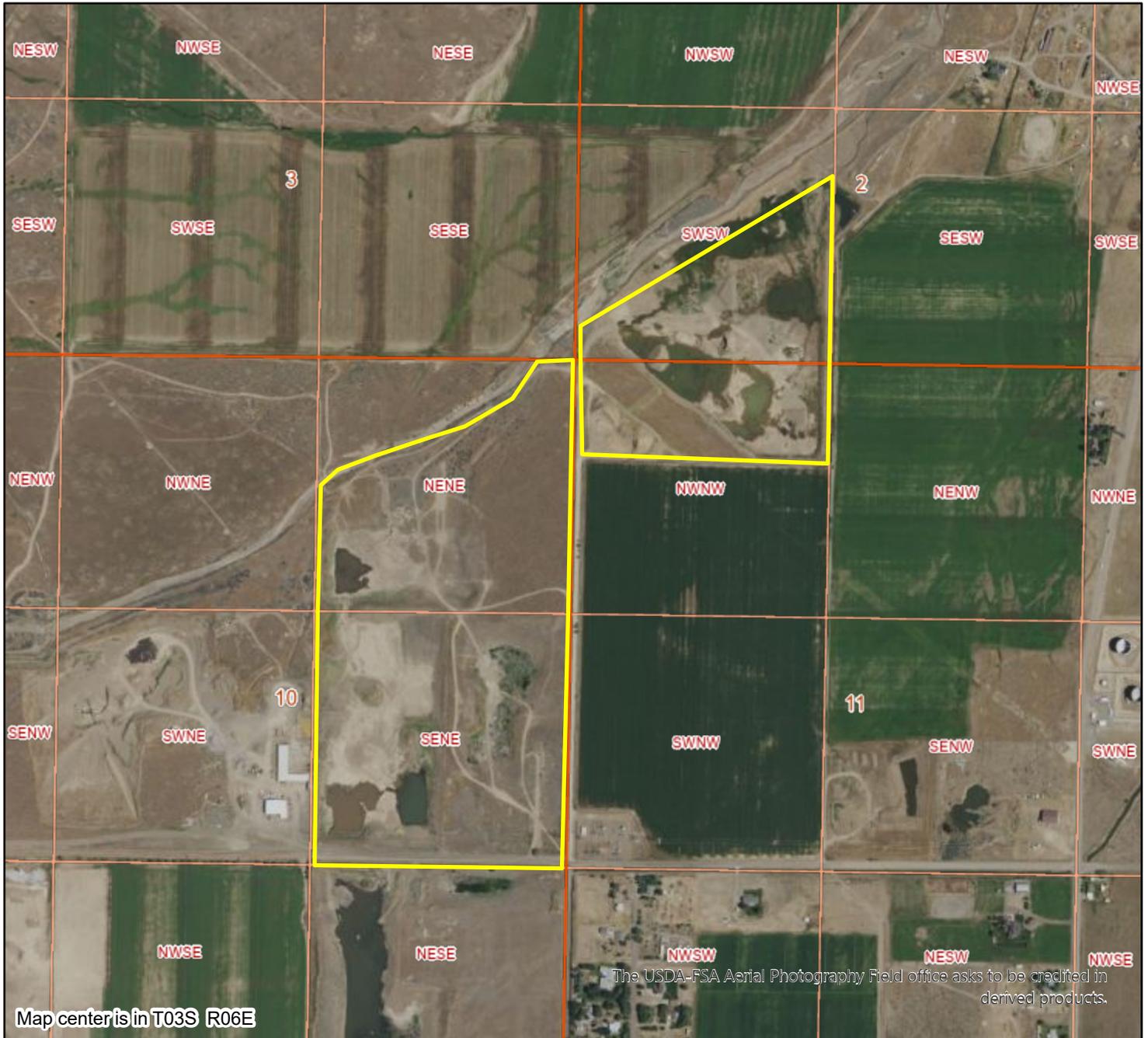


State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**

63-34348

GROUND WATER RECHARGE

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Date created: 3/9/2026



Legend

- Quarter Quarters
- PLS Sections
- Townships
- Place of Use Boundary

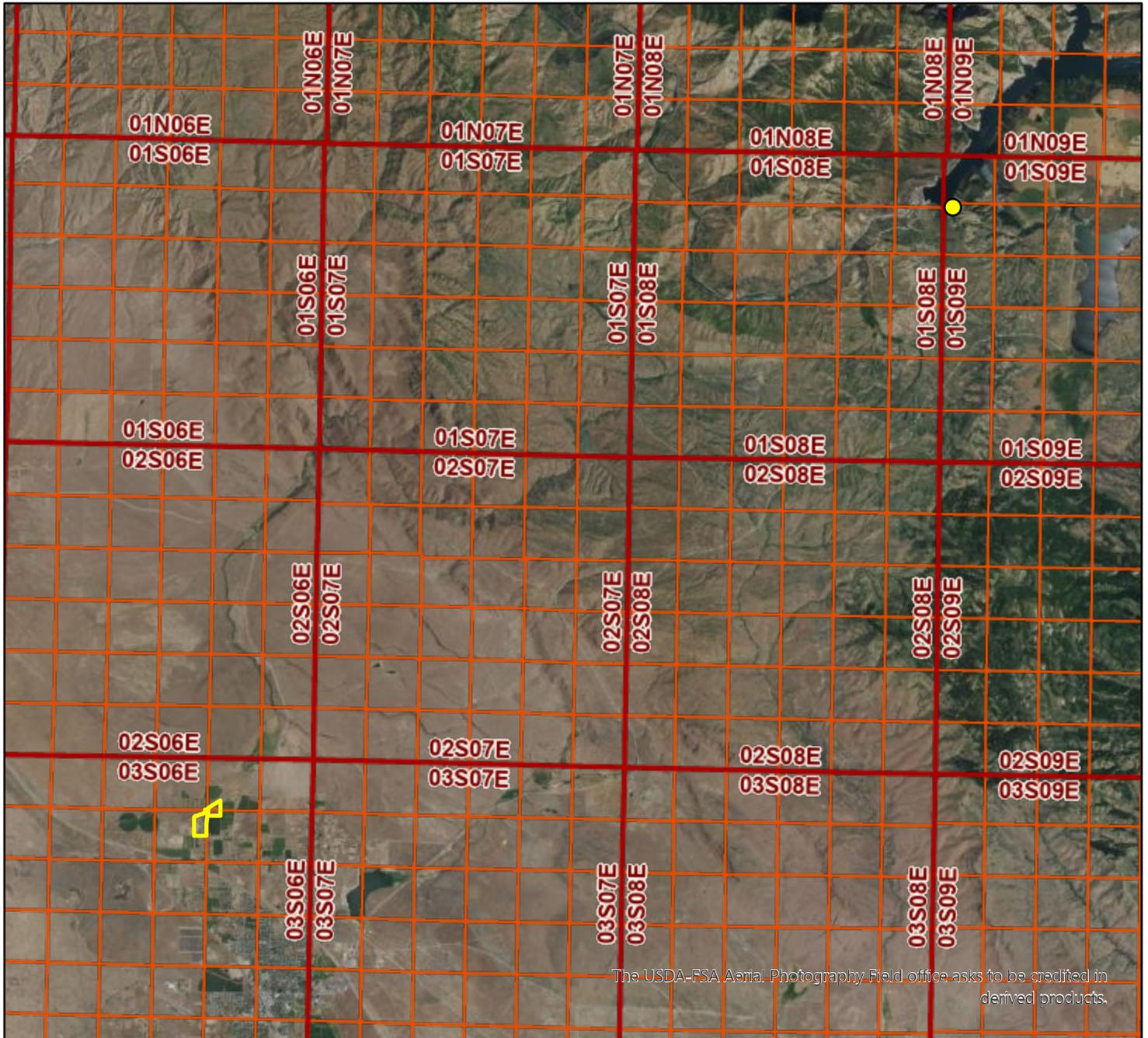


State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**

63-34348

GROUND WATER RECHARGE FROM STORAGE

The map depicts the place of use for the water use listed above and point(s) of diversion of this right as currently derived from interpretations of the paper records and is used solely for illustrative purposes. Discrepancies between the computer representation and the permanent document file will be resolved in favor of the actual water right documents in the water right file.



The USDA-FSA Aerial Photography Field office asks to be credited in derived products.



Date created: 3/9/2026



Legend

- PLS Sections
- Townships
- Place of Use Boundary
- Point of Diversion

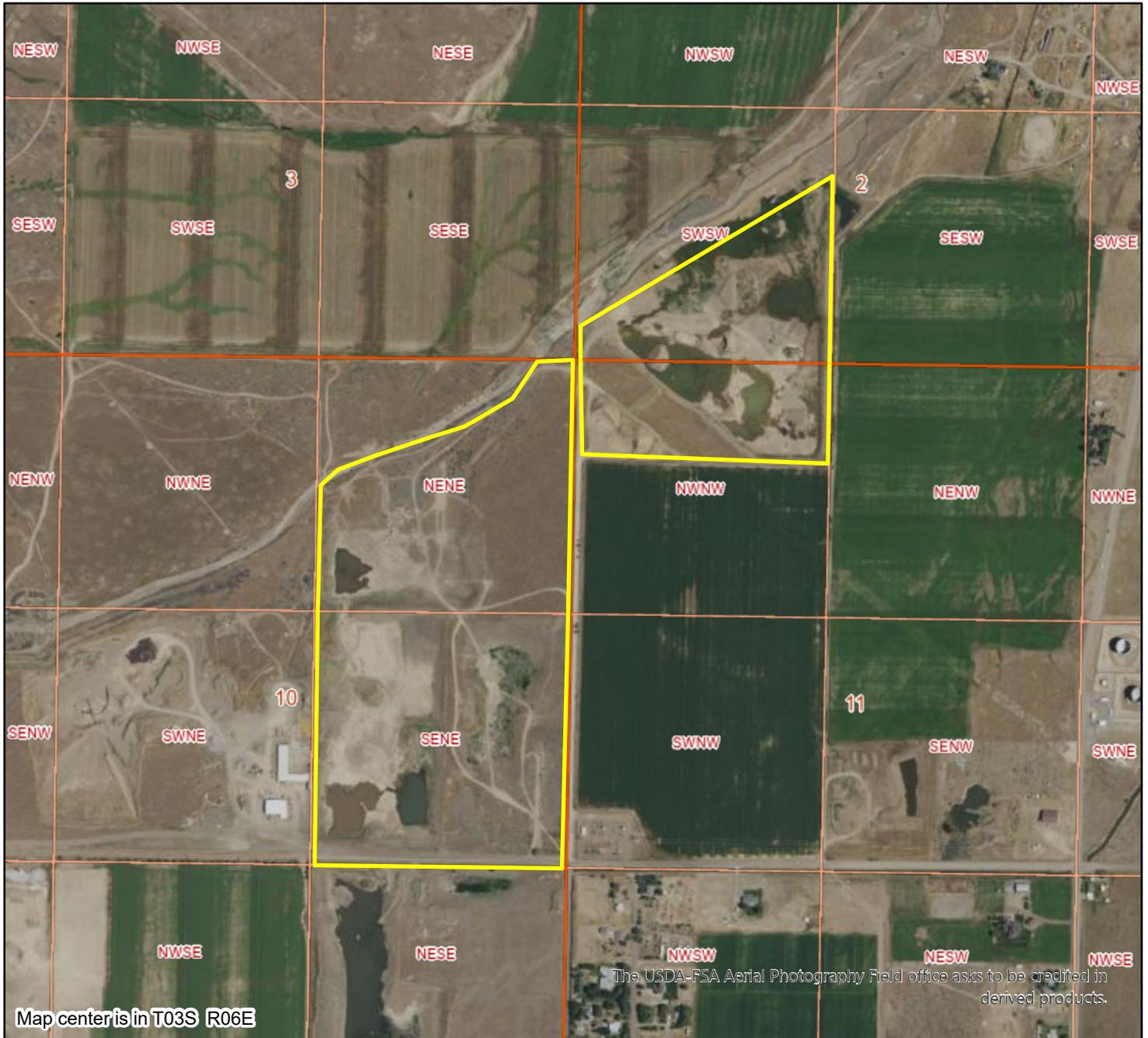


State of Idaho  
 Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**

63-34348

GROUND WATER RECHARGE FROM STORAGE

The map depicts the place of use for the water use listed above and point(s) of diversion of this right as currently derived from interpretations of the paper records and is used solely for illustrative purposes. Discrepancies between the computer representation and the permanent document file will be resolved in favor of the actual water right documents in the water right file.



Date created: 3/9/2026



**Legend**

- Quarter Quarters
- PLS Sections
- Townships
- Place of Use Boundary



State of Idaho  
 Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**  
 No. 2-10535

**Priority:** March 27, 2017

**Maximum Diversion Rate:** 20.0 CFS

This is to certify that

ELMORE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 150 S 4TH E MOUNTAIN HOME ID  
 83647-3060

has applied for a permit to appropriate water from:

**Source :** SNAKE RIVER

**Tributary:** COLUMBIA RIVER

and a permit is APPROVED for development of water as follows:

<u>Beneficial Use</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>Rate of Diversion</u>
GROUND WATER RECHARGE	01/01 to 12/31	20.0 CFS
IRRIGATION	03/15 to 11/15	20.0 CFS

**Location of Point(s) of Diversion**

SNAKE RIVER L4 ( SW¼ SW¼), Sec. 22, Twp 05S, Rge 04E, B.M. ELMORE County

**Place of Use:** GROUND WATER RECHARGE

Twp	Rng	Sec	NE				NW				SW				SE				Totals
			NE	NW	SW	SE													
03S	06E	10	X			X													
03S	06E	11						X											
03S	06E	2											X						

**Place of Use:** IRRIGATION

Twp	Rng	Sec	NE				NW				SW				SE				Totals	
			NE	NW	SW	SE	NE	NW	SW	SE	NE	NW	SW	SE	NE	NW	SW	SE		
03S	06E	1	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	600.0
			L1	L2			L3	L4												
03S	06E	2	40	40	40	40				40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	520
			L1	L2																
03S	06E	9	40	40	40	40	40			40	40			0.1	40	40	40	40	40	440.1
03S	06E	15	40	40	40	40	40	0.3	0.3	40					40	40	40	40	40	400.6
03S	06E	22	0.5	0.4																0.9
03S	06E	25	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	640
03S	06E	26	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	0.1	0.1	40	40	40	40	40	40	560.2
03S	06E	27	0.2			40														40.2
03S	06E	36	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	640
04S	06E	1	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	0.5	40	40	40	40	40	40	600.5
			L1	L2			L3	L4												
04S	06E	11	0.3			0.1														0.4
04S	06E	12	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	0.7	0.5		0.3	40	40	40	40	40	40	481.5
03S	06E	11		40	40		40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	560.0
03S	06E	12		40			40	40				40	40	40	40		20			340
03S	06E	13		0.1			40	40												80.1
03S	07E	31		40	40		40	42	42	40	40	43	43	40	40	40	40	40	40	570.0
								L1	L2			L3	L4							

**State of Idaho**  
**Department of Water Resources**  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**  
**No. 2-10535**

04S	06E	13	40	0.6		0.3													40.9
04S	06E	24	0.1			0.2								0.3					0.6
04S	06E	25	0.5			0.6								0.7			0.8	2.6	
04S	07E	6	39	40	40	40	40	43	42	39	39	42	41	39	40	41	41	41	647.0
			L1	L2				L3	L4	L5		L6	L7						
04S	07E	7	40	40	40	40	39	41	41	39	40	41	41	40	41	41	40	41	645
								L1	L2			L3	L4						
04S	07E	17	38	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	638
04S	07E	18	40	40	40	40	40	41	41	40	0.7	0.7	0.2	40	40	0.6	40	40	484.2
								L1	L2			L3	L4						
04S	07E	19	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	1.5	40	40	40	40	40	601.5
								L1	L2			L3	L4						
04S	07E	20	1.4	1.0			40	40	40	40	41	41	41	41		39	40		405.4
04S	07E	29	39	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	39	40	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3			398.9
04S	07E	30	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	38	638
								L1	L2			L3	L4						
04S	07E	31	0.1	0.1			0.1	0.1	L1										0.4
03S	06E	3				41									40	41	40	40	202.0
03S	06E	10			0.1			24	16	0.2	40	40	40	40	0.2	40	40	40	320.5
03S	06E	14					40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40					320
03S	06E	23			40		40	40	39	40	40		0.3	40		40	40	40	399.3
03S	07E	30					40	41	41	40	40	41	41	40			40		364.0
								L1	L2			L3	L4						
04S	07E	21		40	0.6		40	40	1.0	0.8									122.4
02S	06E	35													40		40	40	120
02S	06E	36									40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	320
04S	07E	8					39	40	40	39	40	41	41	40			39		359.0
04S	07E	16							39	38	40	40	40	40		39	40		316.0
04S	07E	28					6.9	39	40	28		0.3							114.2
03S	06E	4																0.1	0.1
03S	06E	24											40	40			40	40	160.0
03S	07E	19									40	40	40	40			40		200.0
												L3	L4						
04S	07E	5											40	40					80.0

Right Acre Limit: 7,420.2

Total Acres: 14,374.5

**Conditions of Approval**

1. Proof of application of water to beneficial use shall be submitted on or before **September 01, 2030**.
2. Subject to all prior water rights.
3. Rights 61-263, 61-264, 61-266, 61-363, 61-10417, 61-10419, 61-10421, 63-19893, 63-2188, 63-2214, 63-20139, 63-34348, and 2-10535 when combined shall not exceed the irrigation of 7,420.2 acres within the boundaries of the Mountain Home Irrigation District.
4. In any given year, this right may only be used for irrigation on the same lands irrigated within the Mountain Home Irrigation District service area with Rights 61-263, 61-264, 61-266, 61-363, 61-10417, 61-10419, 61-10421, 63-19893, 63-2188, 63-2214, 63-20139 and 63-34348.
5. Water shall only be used for irrigation to supplement existing rights 61-263, 61-264, 61-266, 61-363, 61-10417, 61-10419, 61-10421, 63-19893, 63-2188, 63-2214, 63-20139 and 63-34348.
6. This right when combined with all other rights shall provide no more than 0.02 cfs per acre nor more than 4.0 afa per acre at the field headgate for irrigation of the place of use.
7. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-234(4), to ensure that other water rights are not injured by the

**State of Idaho**  
**Department of Water Resources**  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**  
**No. 2-10535**

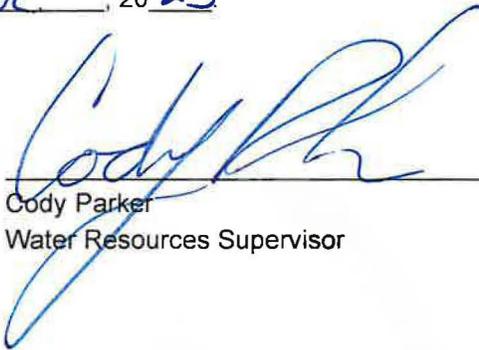
- operations of the recharge project authorized by this right, the Director has authority to approve, disapprove, or require alterations in the methods employed to achieve ground water recharge.
8. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-234(3), the Director may reduce the amount of water that may be diverted for recharge purposes under this right even though there is sufficient water to supply the entire amount authorized for appropriation under this right.
  9. This approval does not constitute approval by the Idaho Water Resource Board, which may also be required pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1737.
  10. The right holder shall record the daily quantity of water diverted for ground water recharge and shall report the diversion data for the prior calendar year to the Department by February 1 each year. Reporting shall occur in the manner specified by the Department, consistent with Idaho Code § 42-701. To facilitate this reporting requirement, the right holder shall install and maintain a totalizing measuring device approved by the Department at each point of diversion and at each point where water is delivered from the conveyance system into a designated recharge site.
  11. Consistent with Idaho Code § 42-234(5), seepage from canals incidental to or coincident with delivery of water pursuant to water rights for any other beneficial use shall not be considered ground water recharge under this right. Canal seepage will be considered to be ground water recharge only when the canals are not conveying water for irrigation or other beneficial uses.
  12. This right is not an authorization for the described recharge effort to be used as mitigation or credit for any other purpose. The sufficiency of the recharge effort authorized under this right for mitigation or credit for some other purpose may be determined by the Department upon proper submission of a mitigation plan pursuant to the Department's Rules of Conjunctive Management of Surface and Ground Water Resources, a mitigation plan to offset depletion in association with a water right application, a Management Program pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1416B, or any other proposal to utilize credit for the recharge effort.
  13. This right is for the use of trust water, and it is subject to review 5 years after its initial approval (date of permit approval) to re-evaluate the availability of trust water for the authorized use and to re-evaluate the public interest criteria for reallocating trust water.
  14. When the minimum stream flow water rights in the Snake River at Murphy Gage are not being satisfied, the right holder shall cease diverting water for the uses authorized by this right. The minimum stream flow water rights are for 3,900 cfs from April 1 through October 31 and 5,600 cfs from November 1 through March 31.
  15. Use of water under this right may be regulated by a watermaster with responsibility for the distribution of water among appropriators within a water district. At the time of this approval, this water right is within State Water District No. 02.
  16. Prior to the diversion and use of water under this approval, the right holder shall comply with applicable water quality monitoring and/or permitting requirements administered by the Department of Environmental Quality or the Department of Agriculture.
  17. Irrigation place of use is within the area served by Mountain Home Irrigation District.
  18. The boundary encompassing the irrigation place of use for this water right is described with a digital boundary as authorized by Idaho law. The data comprising the digital boundary are stored in the electronic document management system of the Department and are incorporated into this approval by this reference. A map depicting the place of use is attached to this approval document to illustrate the place of use described by the digital boundary.
  19. The Director retains jurisdiction to require the right holder to provide purchased or leased natural flow or stored water to offset depletion of Lower Snake River flows if needed for salmon migration purposes. The amount of water required to be released into the Snake River or a tributary, if needed for this purpose, will be determined by the Director based upon the reduction in flow caused by the use of water pursuant to this permit.
  20. This right does not grant any right-of-way or easement across the land of another.
  21. The diversion and use of water described in this right may be subject to additional conditions and

State of Idaho  
Department of Water Resources  
**Permit to Appropriate Water**  
No. 2-10535

limitations agreed to by the protestant and the right holder under a separate agreement to which the Department is not a party. Because the Department is not a party, the Department is not responsible for enforcement of any aspect of the agreement not specifically addressed in other conditions herein. Enforcement of those portions of the agreement not specifically addressed in other conditions shall be the responsibility of the protestant and the water right holder.

This permit is issued pursuant to the provisions of Idaho Code § 42-204.

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 20 25



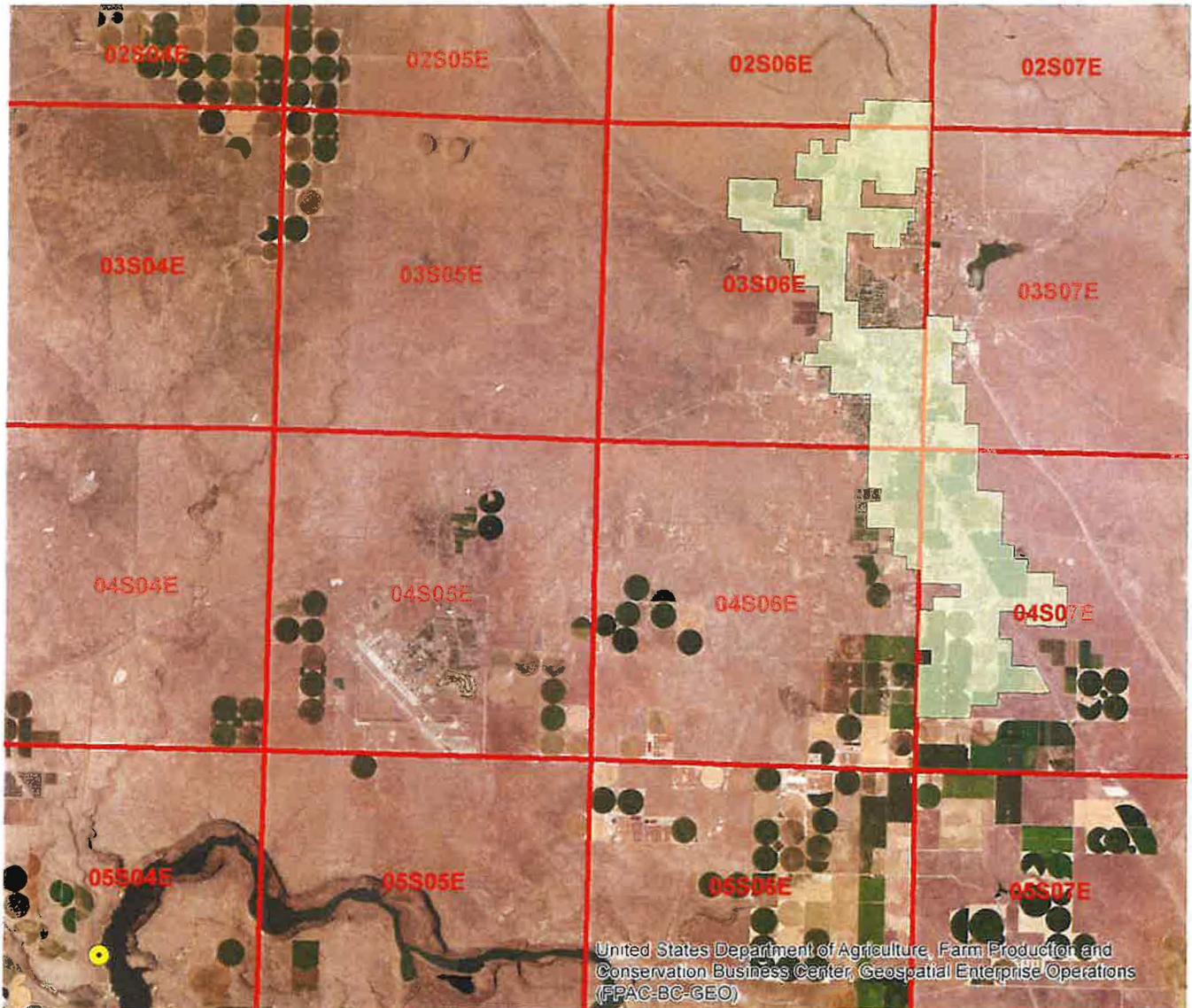
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Cody Parker  
Water Resources Supervisor

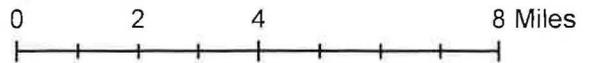
# Attachment to Permit to Appropriate Water

2-10535

This map depicts the IRRIGATION place of use boundary for this water right at the time of this approval and is attached to the approval document solely for illustrative purposes.



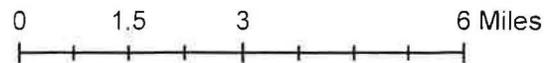
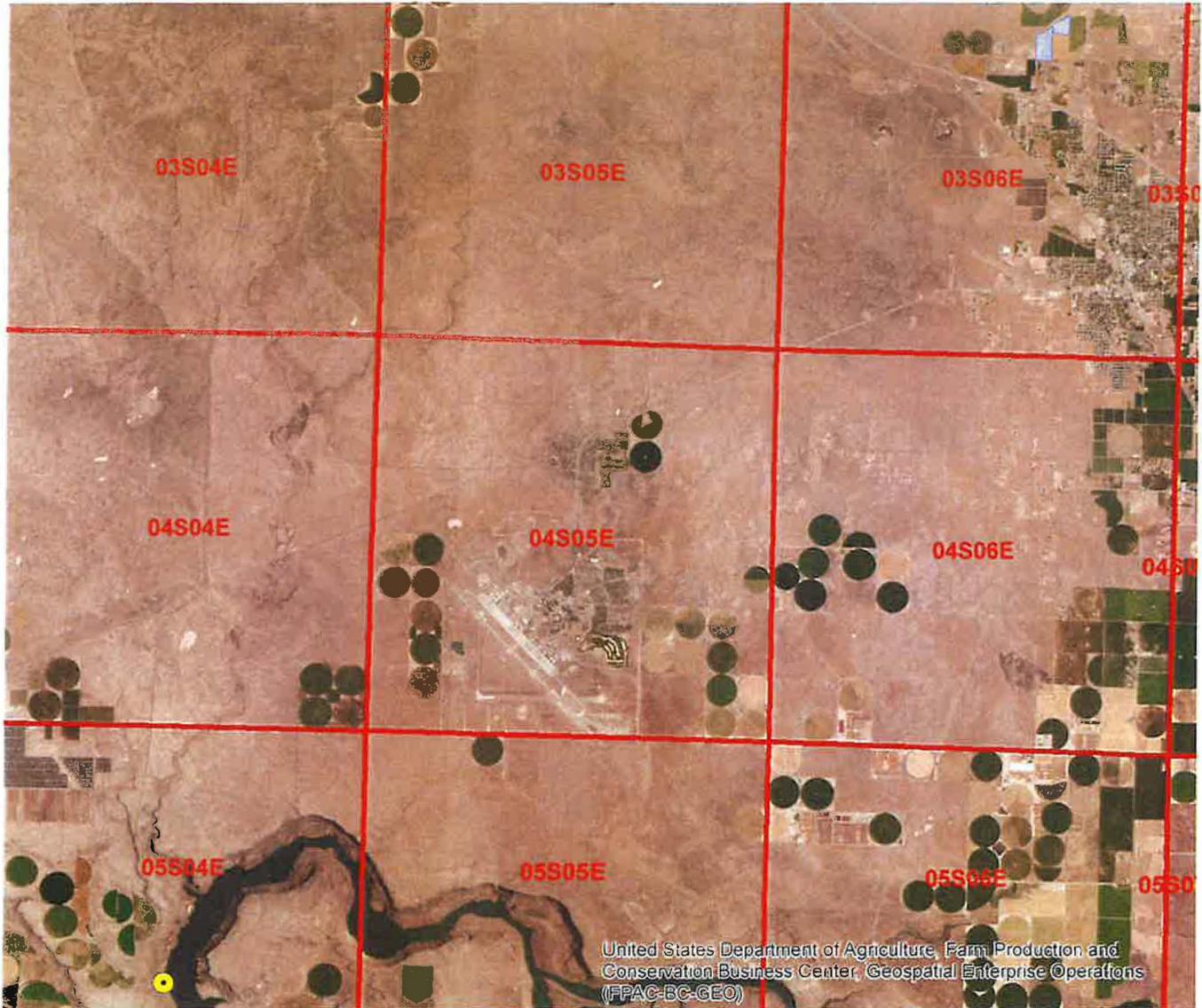
-  Water Permit POD
-  IRRIGATION
-  Township/Range



# Attachment to Permit to Appropriate Water

2-10535

This map depicts the GROUND WATER RECHARGE place of use boundary for this water right at the time of this approval and is attached to the approval document solely for illustrative purposes.



-  Water Permit POD
-  GROUND WATER RECHARGE
-  Township/Range





# Appendix B. Groundwater Recharge System Improvements

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 8, 2019

**TO:** Roger Chase – Chairman, Idaho Water Resources Board

**FROM:** Terry Scanlan, P.E., P.G. – SPF Water Engineering

**CC:** Bud Corbus – Elmore County Commissioner  
Scott Campbell – Elmore County Water Attorney

**RE:** Elmore County - Canyon Creek Aquifer Recharge Project Update

---

The Elmore County Board of Commissioners has completed diversion system improvements at Canyon Creek for purposes of aquifer recharge northwest of the City of Mountain Home. The improvements were accomplished using financial assistance from the Idaho Water Resources Board under Contract No. CON001251.

The construction work included diversion system upgrades or new diversion systems at three sites. The three sites are gravel pits owned by JR Simplot Company, Calvin Ireland, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The project included installation of check structures, headgates, culverts, and measurement weirs. Construction began in December 2018 and was completed in February 2019.

Also included in the work was preparation of water quality monitoring plans for each recharge site. The water-quality monitoring plans were approved by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in October 2018. Pre-recharge water-quality sampling events were conducted in late February and early March 2019 at 16 wells, followed by a during-recharge sampling event in April 2019. A post-recharge sampling event is scheduled for late May 2019.

Recharge activities in 2019 commenced on March 25 and were concluded on April 25. Approximately 1403 acre feet of recharge water was diverted and measured through the constructed recharge facilities in spring 2019. All flow in Canyon Creek passing the Mountain Home Irrigation District diversion dam during 2019 was either diverted into the recharge facilities or infiltrated directly into the bed of Canyon Creek upstream of I-84.

The recharge site construction is complete with the exception of (1) installation of a culvert under Mashburn Road to connect the BLM pit with an Idaho Department of Transportation pit and (2) breaching of a berm between the currently utilized BLM pit and an adjacent BLM pit. These items cannot be completed until an expanded right-of-way is granted by the BLM. The right-of-way application and associated NEPA work have been completed by the County, but the BLM has not completed their processing. Elmore County has obtained a license agreement for use of the ITD pit for recharge purposes.

Figure 1 shows the location of the recharge facilities. Figures 2 through 6 show the typical completed recharge facility improvements.

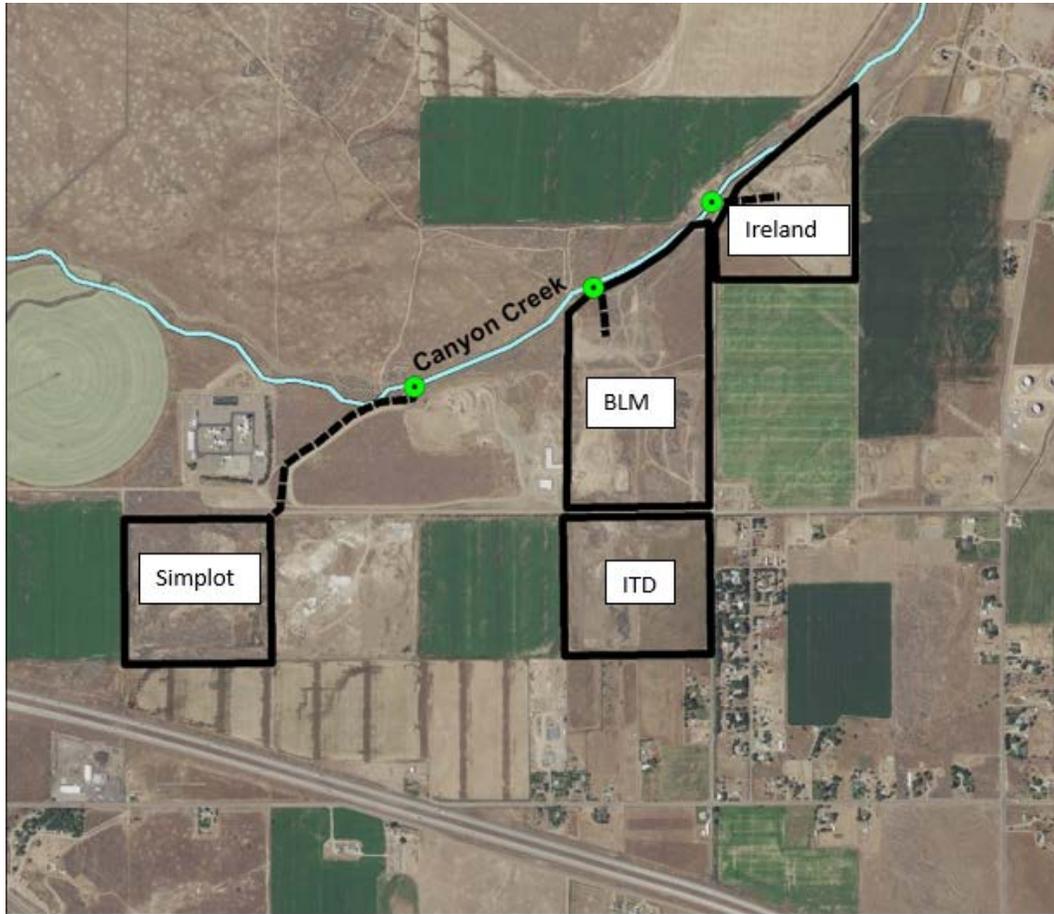


Figure 1. Recharge Pit Locations (approximately 2 miles NW of Mountain Home)



Figure 2. BLM Pit check structure and headgates on Canyon creek



Figure 3. Check structure on Canyon Creek at BLM Pit. Removable ecology blocks are placed on concrete sill to raise the water level at the headgates.



Figure 4. Stilling pool upstream of weir at BLM Pit



Figure 5. 8-foot suppressed weir at BLM Pit



Figure 6. Culverts to Simplot Pit at Mashburn Road



## Appendix C. South Fork Boise River Pump Station and Pipeline – 60% Design Plan and Profile



# 60% Design Report

Elmore County

South Fork Boise River Diversion

*Idaho*

December 19, 2025





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# 60% Design Report

## Background and Introduction

A 2017 Elmore County Water Alternatives Study estimated an annual groundwater pumping deficit on the Mountain Home Plateau of 40,000 acre-feet. The three recharge source alternatives explored during the study were Canyon Creek, Snake River, and the South Fork of the Boise River (SFBR). Previously, <sup>1</sup>HDR created a preliminary design and cost estimate memorandum dated August 2, 2018, for the SFBRD alternative that included a proposed pump station location and pipeline alignment. Elmore County has since been tentatively approved of their 200 cubic feet per second water right from the SFBR by the Idaho Department of Water Resources and been presented by a more refined 30% and 60% design drawings of the proposed pump station and pipeline.

The pump station design consists of an electrical and control building, initially implementing five 1,500 hp horizontal submersible pumps capable of flowing up to 50 cubic feet per second, and a crane and winch system to pull pumps and piping during maintenance. The pump station will host seven pump casings allowing for two future pumps that will allow flow of up to 70 cfs at final buildout. The pipeline design proposes a diameter of 48-inches. Pipeline materials are mainly composed of epoxy lined and coated steel and fiberglass reinforced plastic (RFP) pipe. Delivery points are anticipated to be at the Mountain Home Irrigation District (MHID) lateral and at the end of the pipeline into Little Camas Reservoir.

The following Report includes summaries of progress made thus far from the previous design phase from all disciplines including civil, mechanical, electrical and controls, and structural engineering. The 60% Design Plans are included in Appendix A.

An Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) has also been created for this phase of design. The level of accuracy and sources used to compile the OPCC are detailed in the following sections of the report. It is anticipated to include another more reliable OPCC for the next 90% phase of design.

## Design Progress

### Civil

Civil engineering design efforts have continued to advance since the County Commissioners selected the current submersible pump alternative during the 30% design phase. Grading and drainage design for the pump station access road has progressed, including refinement of

---

<sup>1</sup> SPF Water Engineering was acquired by HDR in 2022. The same project management team is still in place for the project.



roadway elevations, stormwater conveyance features, and integration with overall site grading requirements to ensure reliable access under expected operating and weather conditions.

Final selection of the pump station alternative has enabled the establishment of the facility footprint, allowing for coordinated site layout development, utility planning, and integration of structural, mechanical, and electrical requirements within the project site.

Completion of the surge (transient) analysis has provided critical information for the advancement of the pipeline profile and alignment. See Appendix B for full analysis. The results have informed adjustments to pipeline elevations, appurtenance locations, surge tower dimensions, and final grading to accommodate hydraulic performance requirements and system protection measures.

The location of the pipeline drains have been finalized, and associated design details—including structural, hydraulic, and access considerations—have been developed to support constructability and long-term maintenance. The first point will be at the pump station near the systems manifold. The second point will be in a saddle near the middle of the alignment in a tributary that flows to Little Camas Creek.

Additionally, the delivery locations for water within the system have been solidified, and corresponding details have been prepared to ensure appropriate tie-in configurations, operational functionality, and hydraulic compatibility.

Overall, civil design elements for the pump station and pipeline are progressing in alignment with project objectives and provide a coordinated foundation for continued detailed design in the upcoming phases.

### **Mechanical**

Mechanical engineering design for the pump station and pipeline system has achieved significant milestones during the current reporting period, advancing from 0% to a 60% design level. The system-wide transient (surge) analysis has been completed, establishing maximum surge pressures throughout the pipeline network and identifying the mitigation measures required to ensure safe and reliable system performance under both normal and upset operating conditions.

Pump sizing has been finalized based on hydraulic performance requirements, resulting in the determination of the corresponding power draw and electrical load necessary to support pump operations. This information has been coordinated with the electrical and structural disciplines to inform equipment selection, building sizing, and power distribution design. All of which will be coordinated with Idaho Power.

The mechanical layout of the pump station has progressed with the design and selection of the pump station intake, manifold configuration, process piping, including associated valves, fittings, and appurtenances. These designs reflect hydraulic performance needs, operational accessibility, maintenance requirements, and integration with structural and civil site constraints.



Winch and bridge crane loading requirements have been established to ensure safe lifting, removal, and maintenance of the pumps and associated mechanical components. These load requirements support structural design of crane supports and will be used to inform future operations and maintenance personnel.

It is also noted that the project has incorporated a surge tower in lieu of a traditional surge tank system. Unlike typical surge tanks that require high-cost air compressors reliant on continuous electrical or backup power, the surge tower design employs simple hydraulic principles to absorb and mitigate surge events. This solution reduces mechanical and electrical complexity while enhancing system reliability by eliminating the need for powered equipment to manage surge conditions.

Overall, mechanical design efforts continue to progress in coordination with other engineering disciplines and form a robust foundation for advancing detailed design in the next project phase.

### **Electrical**

Substantial progress has been made in the electrical design for the project during the 60% design phase. Pump sizes and corresponding power demands have been finalized by the mechanical team, thereby establishing a solid preliminary electrical load profile for the facility and enabling progression into detailed equipment sizing and layout. There will be ancillary loads that will be included in the design as the 90% design effort moves forward. The power source and delivery point are in coordination with Idaho Power Company (IPCO), and some adjustments are likely to the exterior transformers once final layout is approved by IPCO.

The transformer pad designs have been further developed, with refinement of the pad dimensions, loading requirements i.e. transformers, and integration with site grading. Additionally, two alternative electrical equipment configurations have been prepared, each based on the specifications of different manufacturers offering equivalent performance. These alternatives incorporate variations in switchgear arrangement, protective devices, equipment clearances, and spatial requirements, and have assisted in establishing the size and footprint of the electrical and control building that will accommodate either manufacturer's electrical distribution configuration. This selection provides a stable basis for ongoing coordination with the structural disciplines and for continued advancement of the detailed electrical layout.

Overall, the electrical design is advancing and is well positioned for continued development in the subsequent design phase.

### **CONTROLS**

Controls engineering activities for the pump station have advanced as well during the 60% design phase. Development of the process and instrumentation (P&ID) for the pump station system has progressed, with major process flows, instrumentation points, control valves, sensing devices, interlocks, and system monitoring interfaces now defined. The P&ID reflects coordination with mechanical and electrical to get accurate representation of process functionality, safety requirements, and control logic needs. A network diagram showcasing point-to-point network connections has been constructed; conduit runs and tags are shown in the drawings for implementation in the field.



In parallel, the electrical one-line diagrams have been developed to a level that establishes the overall control system architecture, including power distribution to control panels, instrumentation circuits, motor control centers, and integration points with supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems. These diagrams incorporate finalized pump sizes, control equipment requirements, and communication pathways essential for system automation and monitoring.

Collectively, these design advances provide a coordinated basis for continued development of detailed control logic, I/O assignments, control panel layouts, and SCADA integration during the next design phase.

### **Structural**

Considerable advancement has been made in the structural design for the pump station and associated pipeline facilities during the current design phase. The structural floor plan for the pump station's electrical building has been developed. The foundation and framing requirements necessary to support the finalized architectural layout and electrical equipment loads have also been established.

The structural foundation and framing plans for the pump station's bridge crane have been developed. These plans define the structural support system for the 10-ton bridge crane rails, associated beams, and load-transferring elements required to accommodate the operational lifting capacities and maintenance functions of the facility.

Design of the pump and pipe maintenance winch system have been advanced. This includes the structural support components and access platform required to safely sustain lifting and handling loads associated with pump extraction and pipe maintenance operations.

Further progress includes the design of multiple cast-in-place concrete vaults intended to house process mechanical piping and appurtenances. These vaults have been configured to meet structural loading requirements, access needs, and integration with site grading and pipeline alignments.

In addition, both horizontal and vertical thrust blocks are being designed for the pipeline system based on recent geotechnical field measurements. Final sizing will be determined during the 90% design phase. These designs address operational hydraulic forces, soil conditions, and alignment constraints to ensure long-term stability and performance of the pressurized pipeline network.

Overall, structural design activities are progressing in alignment with project milestones and provide a solid basis for continued detailed design and interdisciplinary coordination.

### **Opinion of Probable Construction Cost**

Current cost opinions were obtained with two methods; 1) development of a 60% OPCC and 2) an Idaho Power Company provided estimate.



The current 60% OPCC was classified as Class 2 per the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE). This cost opinion summarizes costs with a -15% on the low side and +20% on the high side due to level of design and available pricing information at the time of OPCC development. The total construction cost for the 60% OPCC is 53,149,000. Table 1 below summarizes the OPCC with high and low ranges specified.

**Table 1. Summary of 60% OPCC**

High Range		Low Range
+20%	Construction Cost	-15%
\$63,779,000	\$53,149,000	\$45,177,000

Additional cost opinions were obtained through an Idaho Power Company provided Engineering Assessment. “Option #2: Point of Delivery at Pumping Facility (Overhead Down Canyon Rim)” was the selected option. The Idaho Power Company Option 2 total is \$19,759,578. The Idaho Power Company cost opinion is included in the Appendix.

The Idaho Power Option 2 and 60% OPCC combined cost opinions yield \$72,908,578 for total construction costs. Table 2 below summarizes the combined opinion of costs. Note the Idaho power estimate did not include high and low range as part of their cost opinion, this is reflected in the table below. Therefore with the +20/-15% certainty on the 60% OPCC combined with the Idaho Power singular cost, the range of construction costs are estimate at approximately \$65M on the low to \$83M on the high end.

**Table 2. Combined Cost Opinions**

	High Range		Low Range
	+20%	Construction Cost	-15%
60% OPCC	\$63,779,000	\$53,149,000	\$45,177,000
Idaho Power	\$19,759,578	\$19,759,578	\$19,759,578
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$83,558,578</b>	<b>\$72,908,578</b>	<b>\$64,936,578</b>

1

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NOT TO SCALE

**GENERAL NOTES**

- 1. AERIAL IMAGERY IS APPROXIMATE FROM CAD.



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ISSUE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
C	12/16/2025	60% ISSUED FOR REVIEW
B	07/28/2025	45% ISSUED FOR REVIEW
A	04/10/2023	30% DRAFT

PROJECT MANAGER	M. BOECK
CIVIL	H. WHITE
STRUCTURAL	R. MANSKE
PROCESS/MECH	J. JUSTICE
ELECTRICAL AND I&C	G. CHIN
DESIGNED BY	D. BRANDS
DRAWN BY	D. BRANDS
CHECKED BY	D. BRANDS
PROJECT NUMBER	10355030

**PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION OR  
RECORDING**



**ELMORE COUNTY SFBRD  
PUMP STATION AND PIPELINE**

**GENERAL  
CIVIL  
EXISTING SITE PLAN, CONSTRUCTION ACCESS, AND STAGING**

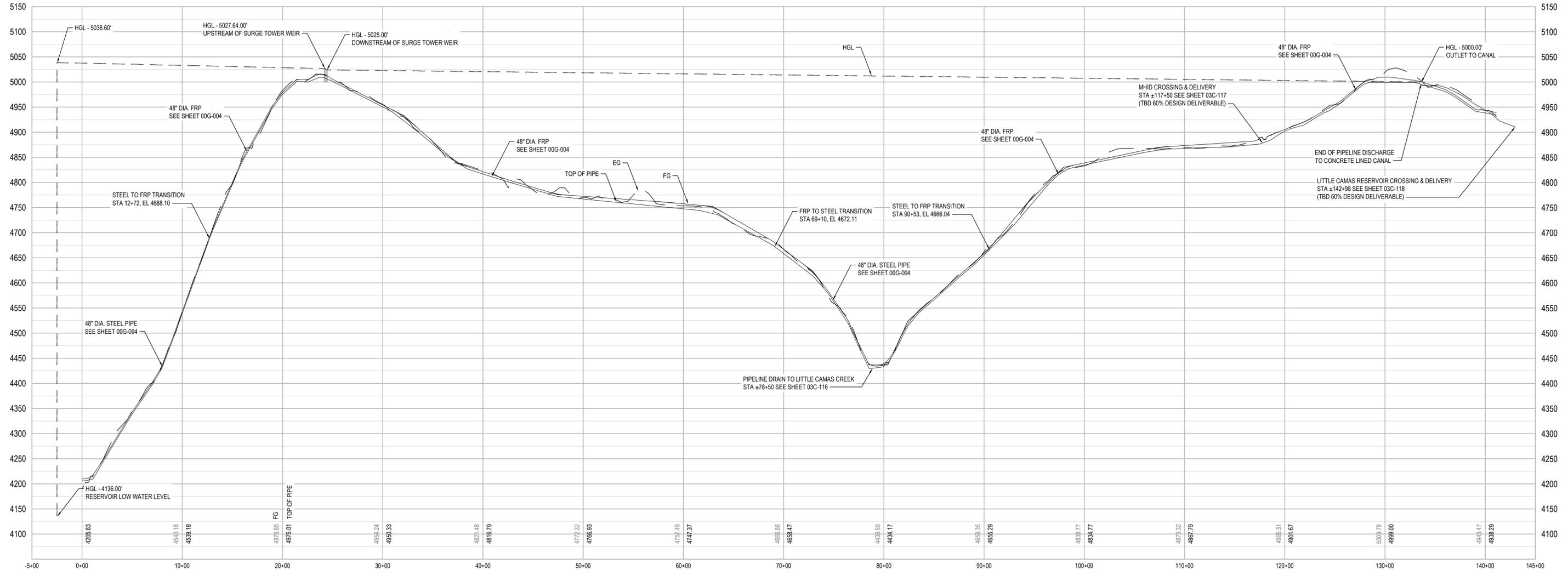


SHEET  
**00C-101**



**GENERAL NOTES**

1. HYDRAULIC GRADE LINE (HGL) ASSUMES HAZEN-WILLIAMS COEFFICIENT, C = 120, AND FLOW THROUGH SYSTEM Q = 70 CFS.
2. MAX WORKING PRESSURE OF FRP ASSUMED TO BE 150 PSI.



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ISSUE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
C	12/16/2025	60% ISSUED FOR REVIEW
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A	04/10/2023	30% DRAFT

PROJECT MANAGER	M. BOECK
CIVIL	H. WHITE
STRUCTURAL	R. MANSKE
PROCESSMECH	J. JUSTICE
ELECTRICAL AND I&C	G. CHIN
DESIGNED BY	J. JUSTICE
DRAWN BY	H. WHITE
CHECKED BY	
PROJECT NUMBER	10355030

**PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION OR  
RECORDING**



**ELMORE COUNTY SFBRD  
PUMP STATION AND PIPELINE**

**GENERAL  
PROCESS  
HYDRAULIC PROFILE**



SHEET  
**00D-002**



# Appendix D. MHID Canal Analysis Proposal 10/10/2025

October 10, 2025

Bud Corbus, Commissioner  
Shondi Lott, Attorney

Elmore County Board of Commissioners  
150 South 4<sup>th</sup> East

Mountain Home, ID 83647

via email: [budcorbus@gmail.com](mailto:budcorbus@gmail.com)

[slotl@elmorecounty.org](mailto:slotl@elmorecounty.org)

*Subject: Proposal for MHID Canal Improvement Analysis*

Dear Bud and Shondi,

HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) is pleased to provide the following scope of work and cost estimate to identify alternatives to improve the efficiency and reliability of MHID's canal from Little Camas Reservoir to Long Tom Creek.

## Background

The Mountain Home Irrigation District canal is a 13-mile conveyance that delivers water from Little Camas Reservoir into the East Fork Long Tom Creek. The conveyance is an excavated canal with 14 tunnel sections, which were constructed in the early 1900s. Water discharged to East Fork Long Tom Creek can then flow downstream through Canyon Creek to provide irrigation to lands within the Mountain Home Irrigation District (MHID).

MHID has experienced cave-ins in their tunnels and has been repairing them as necessary to put the canal back in service as quickly as possible. The repairs are typically isolated to the area of the cave-in and do not address full lengths of tunnels. These repairs reduce the cross-sectional area of the tunnels, which reduces hydraulic capacity. The tunnels are well over 100 years old and were not lined when originally constructed. Their age and lack of lining creates a failure risk every irrigation season.

The excavated canal has experienced historical failures, but MHID staff can typically make repairs within days to the canal bank. There is evidence the canal does leak along its alignment, but it is unknown if the seepage losses are excessive.

Previous work on the MHID canal has been completed by SPF Water Engineering and HDR over the past seven years. HDR staff have historical data and first-hand knowledge that will provide a foundational background to perform additional analysis. A seepage study is needed to identify the canal reaches that are losing excess water to seepage. With that knowledge, alternatives for reducing seepage can be developed. Alternatives for reducing tunnel failure risk will also be addressed within the following scope of work.



## Scope of Work

HDR proposes the following tasks.

### **Task 1 – Canal Flow Measurement**

HDR will utilize their open-channel flow measurement equipment to measure discharge at up to fifteen (15) locations along the length of the MHID canal system beginning near the concrete flume at the Little Camas Reservoir discharge, ending at the Cipolletti Weir 13.2 miles downstream at the Long Tom Creek discharge, and at reasonable intervals in-between. The “in-between” measurement sites will focus on areas with visible groundwater discharge occurring downslope of the canal. We recommend doing three measurement events in approximately June, July, and August. These measurements will help to determine if there are stretches of the canal that have excessive leakage and determine how much loss occurs over the length of the system. During each event, the canal will be visually inspected to confirm that there are no areas of overflow or other non-seepage losses.

The schedule for the three measurement events will be adjusted as appropriate based on water supply and weather. For example, in the event of a drought year with limited water supply, measurements will likely be accelerated to start in May so that three events can be conducted before water supplies are depleted. Similarly, if water supplies are good, the first event may be postponed so that runoff from the watershed above the canal is not adding flow into the canal during the event.

In addition to the field measurements, HDR will pursue installation of level instruments at the Little Camas flume and Long Tom Creek weir. If installations are feasible, the data collected from the instruments will provide accurate time-stamped flowrates at the inlet and outlet so overall canal losses can be calculated at different flow rates over most of the season.

We assume that MHID staff will be available to assist in the seepage study. At a minimum, MHID will maintain a steady release from Little Camas Reservoir during each measurement event and for approximately 24 hours preceding the event. The MHID Water Master will also log when adjustments to the canal flow are manually made throughout the season.

### **Task 2 – Canal Improvement Alternatives**

HDR will evaluate up to three (3) canal lining alternatives for the open channel to reduce seepage losses. The information from Task 1 will be used to identify the locations along the canal that have the highest seepage losses that may be good candidates for lining.

### **Task 3 – Tunnel Analysis and Improvement Alternatives**

HDR will review the videos MHID has taken of the 14 tunnels in the past 3 seasons, to get a general understanding of the conditions and document where repairs have occurred. HDR will perform a desktop analysis using the information gained from the videos and discussions with MHID staff to rank the conditions of the tunnels. HDR will select up to 5 tunnels to gain additional information on existing conditions that may negatively influence hydraulic capacity and the viability of rehabilitation. Additional information on existing conditions can be obtained by MHID making manual measurements and HDR using additional video and LiDAR survey equipment. An



allowance has been included in the budget for equipment use and staff to obtain additional information.

HDR will select up to three (3) options to improve the integrity of the tunnels, improve hydraulic capacity where possible, and increase reliability. HDR staff are not planning on entering any of the tunnels.

### **DELIVERABLES**

A technical memorandum will be developed summarizing the work from each task. The canal profile drawing previously created will be updated with flow data at each measurement location. Recommendations for canal lining and tunnel improvements will be made, and high-level probability of costs will be included for the recommended improvements.

### **SCOPE OF WORK ASSUMPTIONS**

- In providing opinions of probable construction cost, HDR has no control over cost or price of labor and materials, unknown or latent conditions of existing equipment or structures that might affect operation or maintenance costs, competitive bidding procedures and market conditions, time or quality of performance by operating personnel or third parties, and other economic and operational factors that might materially affect the ultimate project construction cost or schedule. HDR, therefore, will not warranty that project costs will not vary from their opinions, analyses, projections, or estimates.
- HDR can access the canal and the tunnels using on-road vehicles and existing roads. Any coordination with property owners will be done by MHID or Elmore County.
- We have included two days of field survey by JJ Howard to supplement historical topographical data on file.
- Instruments placed in the field will be retrieved during the last field measurement.
- MHID will be available to assist HDR staff with their field work. Depending on equipment used within the tunnels, the tunnel floors may need to be cleared of large debris and equipment may need to be retrieved by MHID staff.
- Advanced design, permitting, legal entitlements, and easements are not included.

### **Schedule**

HDR anticipates needing approximately 4 months to complete Task 1 while the canal is flowing. Task 3 will require approximately one month when the canal is not flowing. It is anticipated a Notice to Proceed (NTP) will be received before March 2026 and all services will be performed by November 30, 2026.



### Estimated Costs

HDR proposes performing this work on a time and materials basis with an estimated budget of \$158,400.

Estimated Costs by Task	
Task 1 – Canal Flow Measurement	\$51,400
Task 2 – Canal Improvement Alternatives	\$27,100
Task 3 – Tunnel Analysis and Improvement Alternatives	\$37,900
Allowance – LIDAR Equipment and Field Staff	\$42,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$158,400</b>

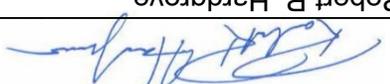
The work shall be conducted under the attached Elmore County approved standard terms and conditions and HDR's standard hourly rates, which are based on a raw labor multiplier of 3.23. The estimated budget includes labor, equipment, and expenses.

Please return a signed copy to our office. We look forward to working with you on this project.

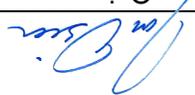
Respectfully submitted,

**HDR ENGINEERING, INC**

**ELMORE COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of Idaho

By   
 Robert R. Hardgrove  
 Vice President

By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crystal Rodgers, Commissioner

By   
 Jon Osier  
 Vice President & Idaho Area Manager

By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Albert Hofer, Commissioner

ATTEST:

By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shelley Essl, Elmore County Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Appendix E. Snake River Alternatives Analysis Proposal 10/7/2025



October 7, 2025

Bud Corbus, Commissioner  
Shondi Lott, Attorney  
Elmore County Board of Commissioners  
150 South 4<sup>th</sup> East  
Mountain Home, ID 83647  
via email: [budcorbus@gmail.com](mailto:budcorbus@gmail.com)  
[slott@elmorecounty.org](mailto:slott@elmorecounty.org)

*Subject: Proposal for Snake River Alternatives Study*

Dear Bud and Shondi,

HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) is pleased to provide the following scope of work and cost estimate to conduct a study of various alternative pump station and pipeline locations to supply Snake River water to lands in the Mountain Home vicinity.

## **Background**

Groundwater levels in the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer have been declining for more than 40 years. Water levels are declining because groundwater withdrawals exceed recharge rates. A 2017 water supply study estimated that average annual pumping volumes exceed annual recharge volumes by approximately 40,000 acre feet. Since completion of that water study, the Elmore County Board of Commissioners have sought ways to increase recharge rates and decrease groundwater pumping to stabilize aquifer water levels. One method that has been considered is importing water from the Snake River to replace groundwater that is pumped for irrigation purposes. Snake River water could also be used for groundwater recharge when not needed for irrigation.

In 2017, the Elmore County Board of Commissioners (County) applied for a water right permit from the Snake River seeking 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) for groundwater recharge, supplemental irrigation within Mountain Home Irrigation District, and municipal purposes in the City of Mountain Home. The application proposed pumping Snake River water from CJ Strike Reservoir through a pipeline extending north along Strike Dam Road and east along State Highway 67/167 (Airbase Road) to Mountain Home. The pipeline would have shared an easement, and potentially facilities, with a pipeline proposed to be constructed from the same pump station site to Mountain Home Air Force Base. At that time, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) - the proponent of the Air Force Base project - was actively inviting such proposals to share infrastructure. This is the reason the County's permit application identifies a point of diversion on CJ Strike Reservoir.

Protests to the County's water right permit application were resolved in 2019, but since that time, the application had been held for various reasons without formal decision by the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). In the meantime, it became clear sharing infrastructure with IWRB and the Air Force was no longer a possibility, and construction of the Air Force Base pipeline proceeded on that basis without accommodations for the County's project. IDWR

approved the County's 20 cfs permit application, for the recharge and irrigation uses only, on September 12, 2025.

Based on these changed circumstances, the previously proposed pump station and pipeline locations may not be the optimum locations. Instead, a shorter, more cost-effective pipeline route extending from the Snake River north to Mountain Home may now make more sense. The County would like to evaluate alternative locations for the pump station and pipeline before selecting a final, definitive location for further permitting, planning, and design. This pump station and pipeline would be the first phase of the County's Snake River development project.

The County also recognizes an opportunity to facilitate supply of Snake River water to groundwater irrigated farms located outside of Mountain Home Irrigation District. In areas south of Mountain Home, approximately 6,000 acres are irrigated exclusively from groundwater. If these lands could be irrigated from the Snake River, the groundwater deficit in the County could be reduced by 15,000 to 20,000 acre feet annually. The County would like to evaluate locations for a nominal 100 cfs pump station and pipeline to supply these lands and then submit an application for permit for supplemental irrigation purposes. This pump station and pipeline would be a second phase of Snake River development project. HDR will explore alternatives to accommodate an economically sound expansion of Phase 1 pumpstation and pipeline and associated infrastructure

## Scope of Work

HDR proposes the following tasks.

### Task 1 – Phase 1 Pump Station and Pipeline Routing Evaluation

HDR will evaluate three alternatives for Phase 1 that will supply up to 20 cfs to the Mountain Home Irrigation District and to recharge sites near Mountain Home. The three sites listed below are initially proposed, although these sites may require adjustment based on preliminary investigations.

- Existing Clover Hollow Pump Station and Pipeline. Clover Hollow Company and South Elmore Irrigation Company have adjacent pump stations located in Lot 2 (NESW) of Section 28, T5S, R7E. This pump station location is approximately seven miles upstream of the Highway 51 bridge (i.e., Loveridge Bridge). Clover Hollow representatives have expressed willingness to work with the County on sharing their facilities, and the Clover Hollow delivery infrastructure extends to the southern boundary of the Mountain Home Irrigation District. An additional pipeline would need to extend north to supply recharge water to the County's recharge sites north of I-84, and capacity upgrades or winterization upgrades may be needed.

- A new facility upstream of Loveridge Bridge. The County could construct a new pump station and pipeline at a location upstream of Loveridge Bridge. It is possible that the new pump station could share access and intake with Clover Hollow and South Elmore or be constructed at a location closer to the Bridge. The Clover Hollow/South Elmore site would likely include a pipeline adjacent to the Clover Hollow pipeline. The location closer to the bridge could include a pipeline extending up Highway 51 or potentially another direct route, such as Powerline Road.

- A new facility downstream of Loveridge Bridge. A potential pump station location would be at the mouth of Rattlesnake Creek, approximately 3 miles downstream of Loveridge Bridge. An existing pump station (Gingrich/Shelter/Hamilton) is at this location and the County will need to determine if sharing of access is possible. A pipeline from this location could cross open BLM land for approximately ½ mile and then follow Gravel Pit Road to Highway 51.

For each of the above alternatives, HDR will briefly describe the required facilities (pump size, pipeline diameter, routes, site improvements, power upgrades, etc.). The need for booster stations and storage ponds will be assessed and included if required. A conceptual level cost estimate (AAACE Level 4) will be provided for each alternative, along with an estimate of operating costs per acre foot delivered. Pros and cons for each site will be discussed, including access issues, power supply, environmental permitting, and known easement issues. Because a watermaster actively regulates diversions from the Snake River in priority, we do not believe it is necessary for this effort to include evaluation of potential injury to other water rights arising from changing the proposed point of diversion. The conceptual descriptions should be adequate for the County to choose their preferred alternative. The County will then proceed to permitting, funding, design, and easement acquisition under separate contracts.

As part of this Task, the County will provide initial liaison with existing pump station owners and with landowners in the southern portion of the Mountain Home Irrigation District. Approximately six meetings are anticipated. Meetings with landowners in Mountain Home Irrigation District will include identification of water delivery locations and water delivery requirements (rates and pressures).

## DELIVERABLES

- Phase 1 Alternative Evaluation Report (PDF).

### Task 2 – Phase 2 Pump Station and Pipeline Routing Evaluation

HDR will evaluate three alternatives for Phase 2 that could supply approximately 100 cfs to groundwater-irrigated lands located south of Mountain Home. The three alternative pump locations will be the same locations evaluated in Phase 1, but pipeline routes may be different because different lands will be served.

As a first step, HDR will identify groundwater irrigated lands in this area. The County will then make initial contact with the landowners to gauge interest in the project. Interested landowners will then meet with HDR to discuss water needs and existing infrastructure. HDR will then create a map of lands requesting supply and their proposed delivery rate.

As with Phase 1, HDR will briefly describe the required facilities (pump size, pipeline diameter and routes, site improvements, power upgrades, etc.) for each alternative. The need for booster stations and storage ponds will be assessed and included if required. A conceptual level cost estimate (AAACE Level 4) will be provided for each alternative, along with an estimate of operating costs per acre foot delivered. Pros and cons for each site will be discussed, including access issues, power supply, environmental permitting, and known easement issues. The conceptual



descriptions should be adequate for the County to choose their preferred alternative. The County will then prepare a water right permit application under a separate contract.

#### **DELIVERABLES**

- Phase 2 Alternative Evaluation Report (PDF).

### **Task 3 - Project Management**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

HDR will provide project management, coordination and administrative activities through completion of deliverable.

#### **APPROACH**

- HDR will provide day-to-day management of the Task Order (TO), including general communication with status updates to the Owner as requested at meetings.
- HDR will provide oversight of project meetings, monthly invoicing, progress reporting, and quality assurance.

#### **DELIVERABLES**

- Monthly invoices and narrative status reports (PDF).

#### **OVERALL SCOPE OF WORK ASSUMPTIONS**

- This is generally a desktop exercise with limited in-field investigations.
- In providing opinions of probable construction cost, HDR has no control over cost or price of labor and materials, unknown or latent conditions of existing equipment or structures that might affect operation or maintenance costs, competitive bidding procedures and market conditions, time or quality of performance by operating personnel or third parties, and other economic and operational factors that might materially affect the ultimate project construction cost or schedule. HDR, therefore, will not warranty that project costs will not vary from their opinions, analyses, projections, or estimates.
- Direct contact with permitting entities is not included.
- Idaho Power Company will be contacted for high-level, no-cost input regarding the feasibility of supplying power to the sites. Idaho Power work orders and design fees are not included.
- Location and alignment maps will be ArcGIS generated; survey is not included.
- Advanced design, permitting, legal entitlements, and easements are not included.

### **Schedule**

HDR anticipates needing approximately 4 months to complete Task 1 after Notice to Proceed (NTP) and Elmore County's initial contact with appropriate landowners. It assumes an NTP on or before December 1, 2025. If Task 2 is part of the initial contract, it will add a month to the overall schedule. If Task 2 NTP is delayed, the budget and timeframe will be reevaluated at that time.



### Estimated Costs

HDR proposes to conduct this work on a time and materials basis with an estimated budget of \$207,400.

Estimated Costs by Task	
1 - Phase 1 Investigation & Report	\$129,200
2 - Phase 2 Investigation & Report	\$67,300
3 - Support/Project Management	\$10,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$207,400</b>

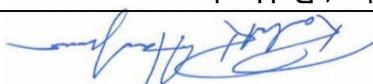
The work shall be conducted under the attached Elmore County approved standard terms and conditions and HDR's standard hourly rates, which are based on a raw labor multiplier of 3.23. The estimated budget includes labor, equipment, and expenses.

Please return a signed copy to our office. We look forward to working with you on this project.

Respectfully submitted,

**HDR ENGINEERING, INC**

**ELMORE COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of Idaho

By   
 Robert R. Hardgrove  
 Vice President

By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crystal Rodgers, Commissioner

By   
 Jon Osier  
 Vice President & Idaho Area Manager

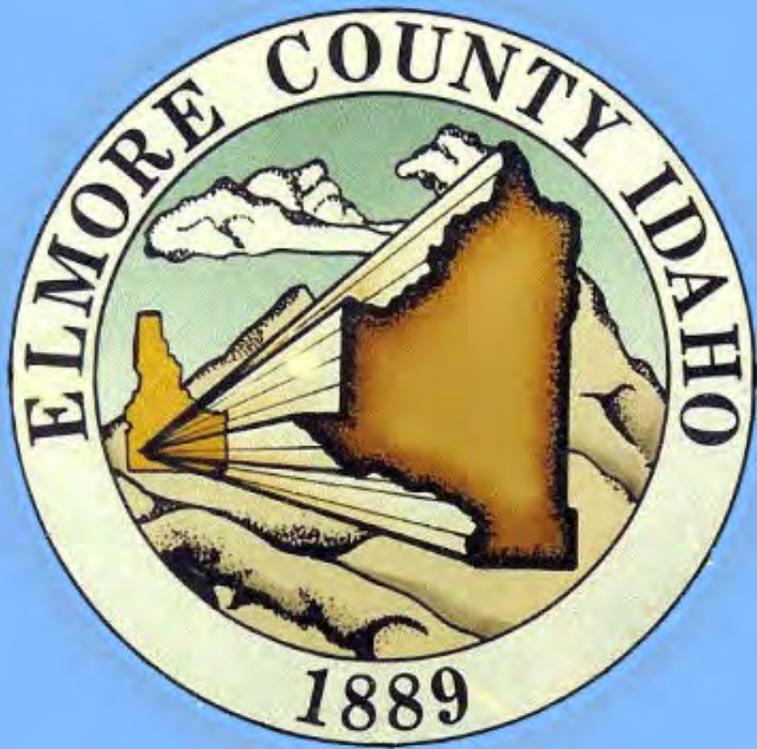
By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Albert Hofer, Commissioner

ATTEST:

By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shelley Essl, Elmore County Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





# Idaho Water Resource Board Aquifer Stabilization Committee

Elmore County's request to create

## The Mountain Home Plateau Regional Water Sustainability Program

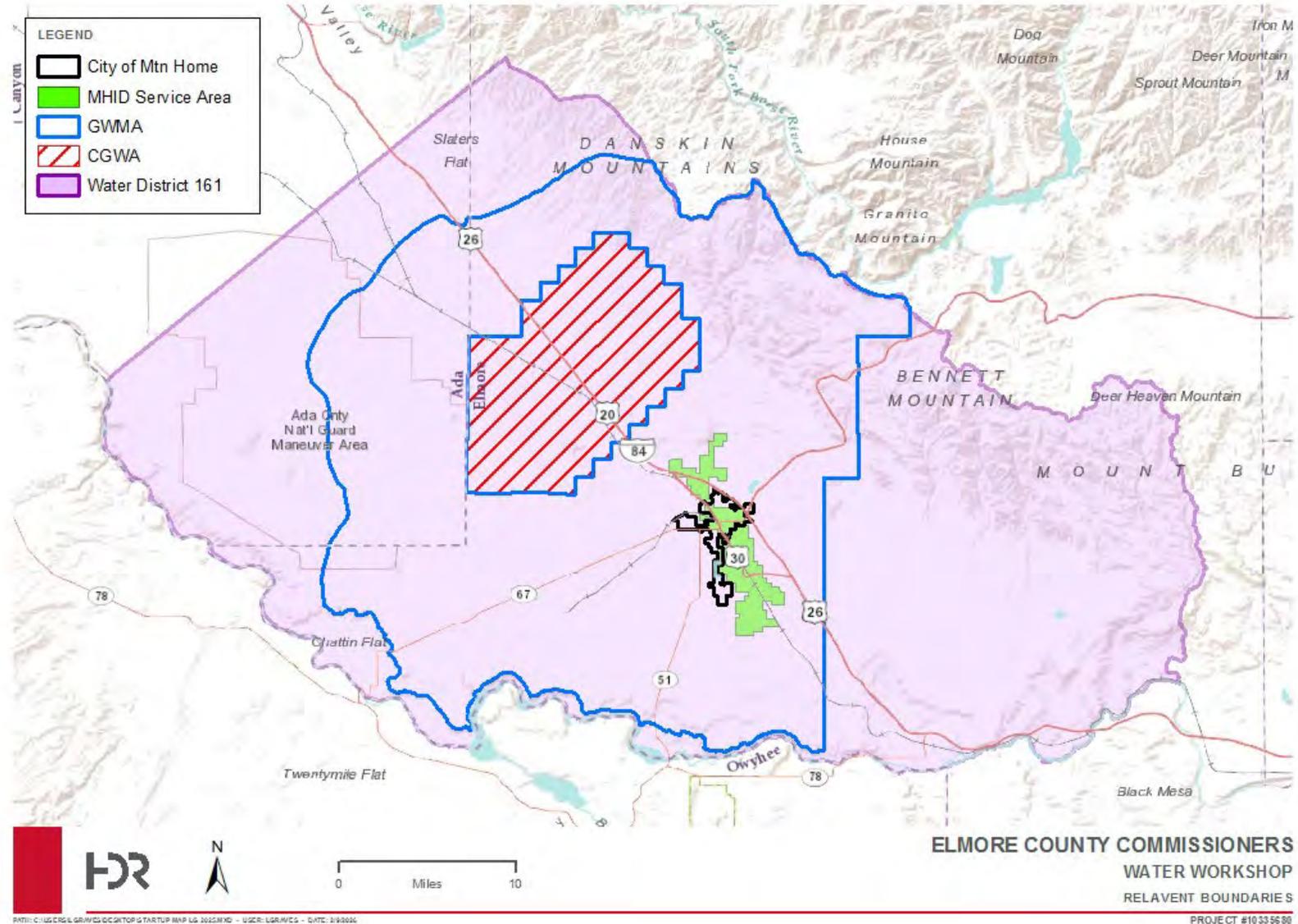


March 26, 2026



# Statement of the Problem

- *Groundwater pumping exceeds annual rate of recharge by 30,000 to 40,000 acre feet annually on the Mountain Home Plateau*
- *Water levels are declining in areas of intense pumping*
- *Significant economic impacts will occur if no action is taken*





## County Goals Related to Water

- **Stop water-level decline in the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer**
- **Avoid curtailment of existing groundwater rights and associated beneficial uses**
- **Develop new water supplies to support municipal, industrial, commercial, and domestic growth**
- **Support long-term viability of MHAFB**



## Methods to Achieve County Water Goals

*A 30KAF to 40KAF annual reduction will stabilize aquifer water levels. Additional reductions in net groundwater pumping volume can support economic growth*

### Reduce net groundwater extraction from the aquifer through:

- Aquifer recharge
- Conversion of groundwater uses to surface water sources

### These actions will require

- Acquisition of deliverable surface water rights to accomplish recharge and conversions
- Funding assistance for construction and operation of facilities to import and deliver surface water

# 2017 Elmore County Water Alternatives Report – 2026 Update

## ELMORE COUNTY WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES

*Prepared for*

**Elmore County Board of County Commissioners**  
c/o Scott Campbell, Campbell Law, Chtd. PO Box 170538  
Boise, ID 83717

*Prepared by*

**SPF Water Engineering, LLC**  
300 East Mallard, Suite 350  
Boise, Idaho 83706  
(208) 383-4140

**February 28, 2017**



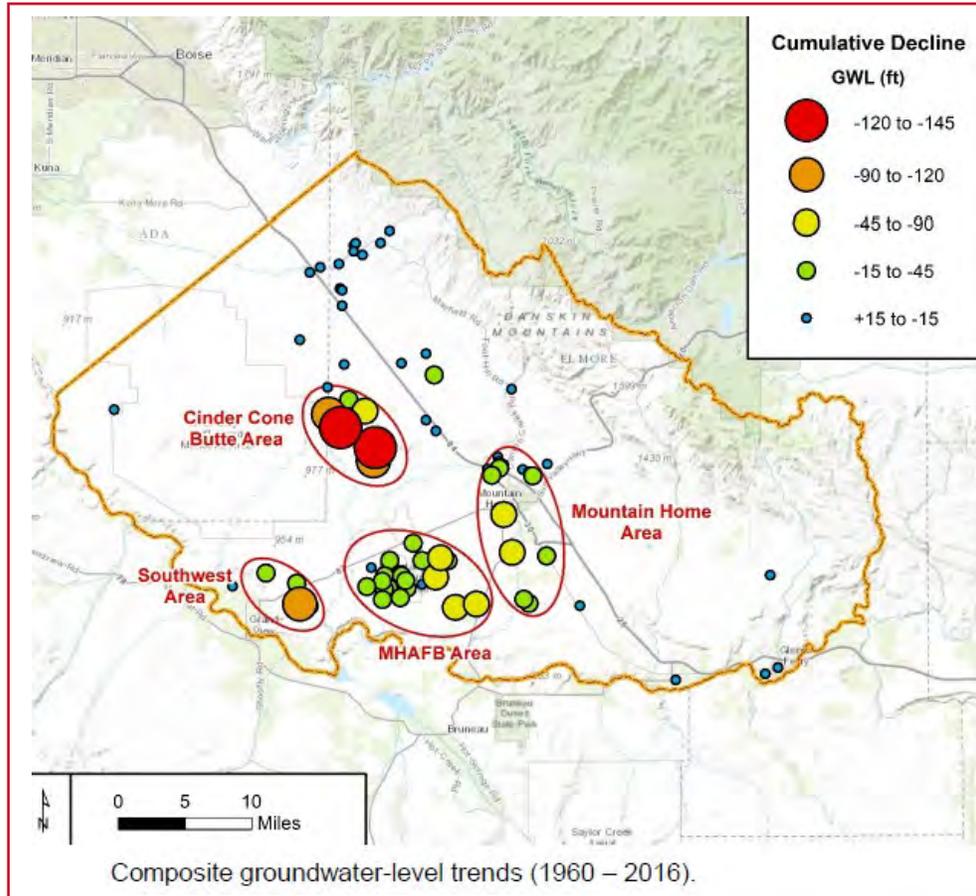
## Elmore County Water Alternatives - 2026 Status Report

*Report prepared by Elmore County Board of  
County Commissioners for submittal to the  
Idaho Water Resource Board*

March 9, 2026



# 2017 Report Findings



1. Water levels
2. Pumping deficit
3. Methods to achieve groundwater-level stabilization
4. Sources of alternative water supplies
5. Infrastructure for water importation

# 2017 Report Recommendations



1. Snake River appropriation for supplemental irrigation, aquifer recharge, and municipal purposes
2. Snake River to Mountain Home Value Engineering Study
3. Snake River to Cinder Cone Butte Value Engineering Study
4. Boise River Reservoir Storage Space Acquisition
5. Canyon Creek Recharge Improvements

# Actions taken by County since 2017

## Water Rights

- Canyon Creek Recharge Water Rights
  - Licensing of lapsed permit 61-7731 – 22.68 cfs / 962 afa
  - Permit 61-12314 – 200 cfs
- South Fork Boise River Permit 63-34348
  - 200 cfs and 10,000 af storage (Little Camas Reservoir)  
–supplemental irrigation in MHID and recharge
- Snake River Permit 02-10535
  - 20 cfs supplemental irrigation in MHID and recharge

# Actions taken by County since 2017

## Canyon Creek Recharge

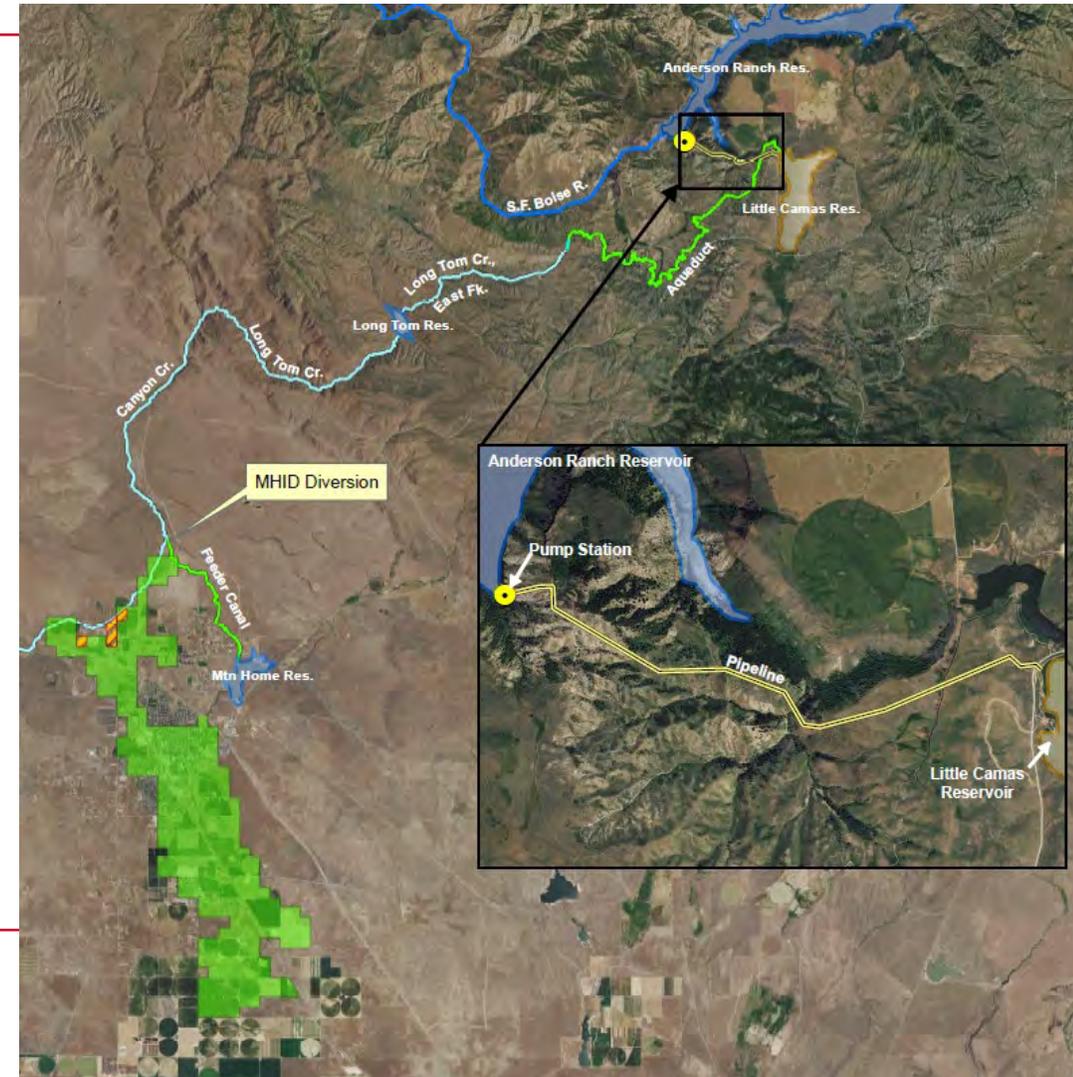
- Measurement weirs, check structures
- Water quality monitoring
- 1100 af annual average since 2017
- No water available in 2020, 21, 22, and 26



# Actions taken by County since 2017

## South Fork Boise River diversion project design and permitting

- 60% design complete
- 50 cfs pump station, expandable to 70 cfs
- 48-inch FRP pipe
- Pipeline easement from Camas Cattle Co.
- \$73M Project Estimate
- 10,000 af/yr nominal project capacity
- Storage water sought



# Actions taken by County since 2017

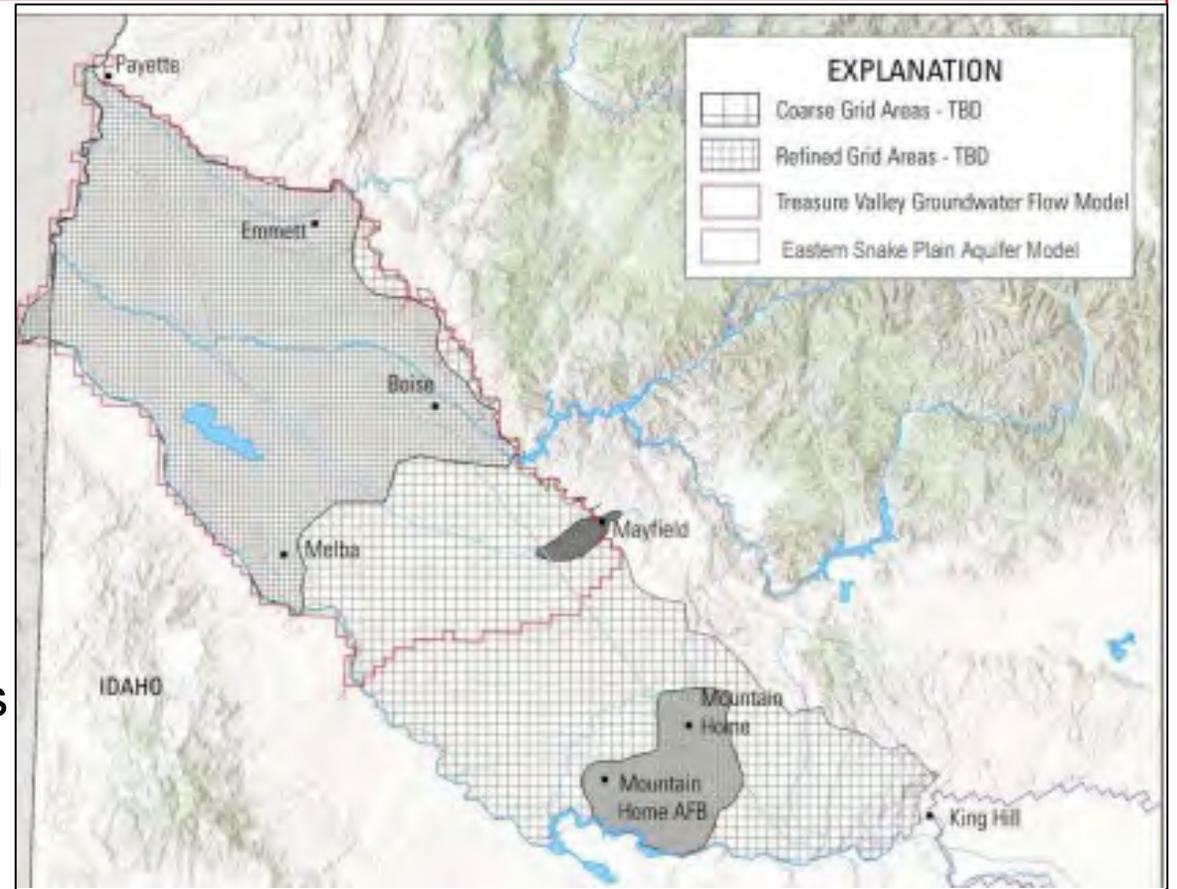
## MHID Canal and Tunnel Repairs

- Tunnel 9 repair – IWRB grant
- Tunnels 10, 13, & 15 repair – IWRB grant
- Contributions from Elmore County and City of Mountain Home

# Actions taken by County since 2017

## Western Snake Plain Aquifer Model (WeSPAM)

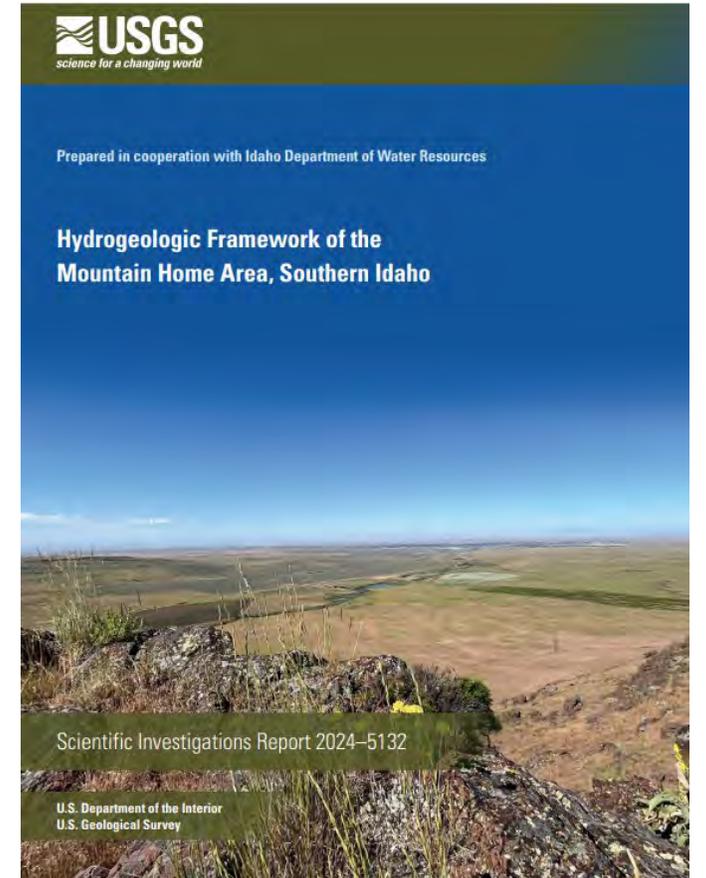
- Requested by Elmore County
- Joint USGS and IDWR effort
- IWRB funding
- Numerical model will allow determination of impacts and benefits of water management actions
- 2028 completion date



# Actions taken by County since 2017

## WeSPAM Associated Activities

- 5 monitoring wells constructed and equipped with transducers
- USGS published hydrogeologic framework report in 2025
- IDWR released an update of groundwater conditions in the Mountain Home GWMA and Cinder Cone Butte CGWA
- Model Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) meetings August 2025 and March 2026



# Actions taken by County since 2017

## Community Outreach Activities

- Water Resource Survey – 2023
  - 1,145 responses
  - High awareness of county groundwater challenges
- Elmore County Water Resources Webpage
  - links to news, current water projects, and past studies
- Water Advisory Group
  - Meets quarterly +/- with updates of water efforts
  - Attended by consultants, MHID, WD161, County Commissioner, MHAFB, ESWCD, City

# Actions taken by County since 2017

## Economic Study

- *Economic Impacts of Elmore County Water Supply Alternatives* - Triple Point Consulting, December 2024
- Evaluated economic impact of a 40,000 af delivery call
  - >2000 jobs lost, \$424M loss in output
- Simulated 5 water supply improvement scenarios following curtailment

# Actions taken by County since 2017

## Historical Research

- *The History of Reclamation Efforts on the Mountain Home Plateau* - Historical Research Associates, April 2025
  - Community Water Development Advocacy Proposal, 1870s to 1920s
  - Federal Interest in Reclaiming Mountain Home, 1918 to 1960s, including Anderson Ranch Reservoir
  - Joint-Venture Plan of Development: The Swan Falls – Guffey Project

# Proposed Future Actions

- South Fork Boise River water supply development – Anderson Ranch Reservoir pump station and pipeline to Little Camas Reservoir
- Mountain Home Irrigation District – canal and tunnel system upgrades
- Snake River water supply development – pump station(s) and pipeline(s)
- Project funding
- District formation – one or more districts to own and operate water supply improvement projects
- Revisit Groundwater Management Plan

# Benefits of Current and Proposed Projects

Project	Assumptions	Project Annual Benefit (af)	Source Annual Benefit (af)	Cumulative Annual Benefit (af)
Canyon Creek Recharge	Canyon Creek flood water	1,100	1,100	1,100
MHAFB Sustainability	Snake River supply; based on 2010-2014 avg	1,630	1,630	2,730
SF Boise Diversion	SF Boise Flood water (50 cfs x 23 days avg avail)	2,300	7,800	5,030
	Anderson Dam Raise (10Kaf, fills 50% of years)	5,000		10,030
	Rental Pool - assumed available	500		10,530
Snake River Phase 1	Supplemental Irrigation (20 cfs x 60 days)	2,400	21,000	12,930
	Recharge (20 cfs x 90 days); MHID exchange	3,600		16,530
Snake River Phase 2	5000 acres S-SW of Mtn Home converted at 3 af/ac	15,000		

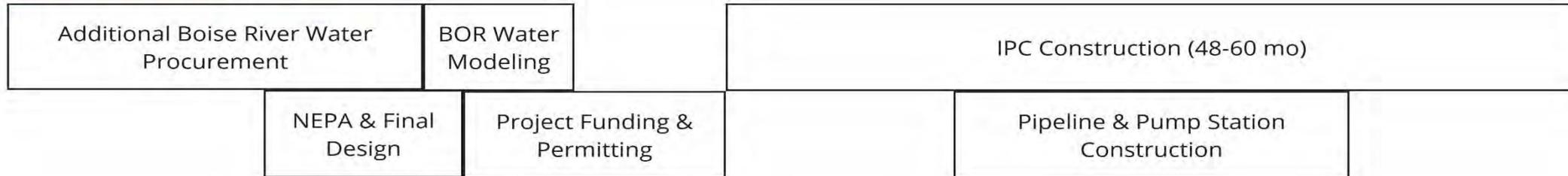
## Outside Influences



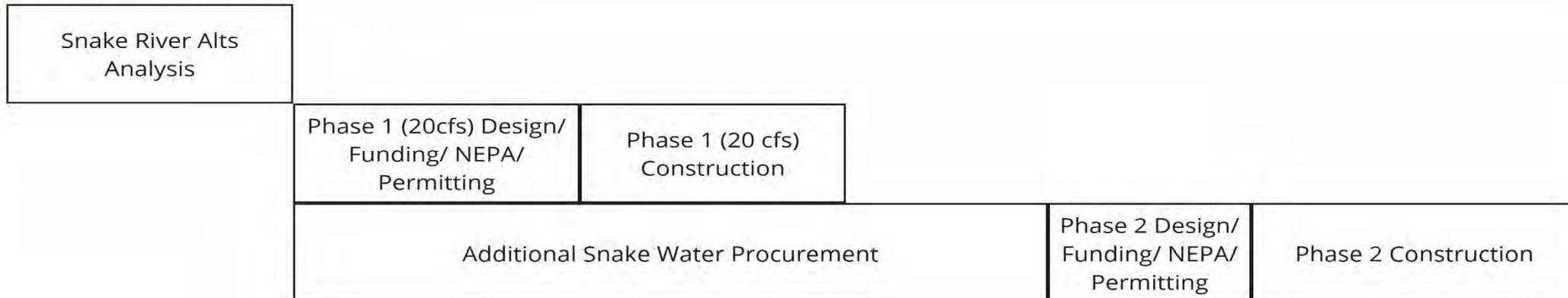
## MHID Projects



## SFBR Diversion Project



## Snake River Diversion Project



# Prerequisites and challenges for project development

MHID Canal And  
Tunnel  
Improvements

- Alternatives Analysis
- Design
- Funding

# Prerequisites and challenges for project development

## SF Boise River Diversion Project

- Anderson Dam Raise Storage Allocation
- Funding for construction and O&M
  - Bonding or district creation
- MHID Canal Improvements
- NEPA
- Power Supply
- Dam raise construction conflicts and schedule
- Reclamation water modeling
- Final design

# Prerequisites and challenges for project development

## Snake River Project

- Alternatives Analysis
- Combine or split phases 1 and 2?
- Water right permitting for additional supply
- NEPA and design
- Funding for construction
- Funding for O&M
- Bonding or district creation

# Funding

- Elmore County - >\$3M since 2015
- City of Mountain Home - >\$200K to MHID for maintenance
- IWRB
  - Grants to County for 2017 Study and aquifer recharge site improvements
  - Aging Infrastructure Grants to MHID
  - Potential future funding through Water Sustainability Program
- NRCS
  - Potential future funding through Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP )
- Department of Defense
  - Potential future funding through Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) and Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC)

# O&M Entity Options

## Goal Statement

“Ensure that the costs of aquifer stabilization and surface water development are shared equitably among all beneficiaries of improved groundwater supply reliability, in a manner that reflects economic benefits while avoiding subsidy and disproportionate financial burden on any one economic sector”

## County is evaluating options

- Groundwater District
- Aquifer Protection District
- Aquifer Recharge District
- Irrigation District
- Utah-style Water Conservancy District

No perfect fit. Legislation will likely be needed.

# A parting thought...

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

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Mountain Home Irrigation Shareholders

At board meeting on March 3, 2026, the discussion about unusual warm winter and lack of snowfall. Shareholders will expect to receive less than one-acre feet per share. Current water in storage **10%** and there is currently no measurable snowpack. Due to these circumstances even with extreme weather events, it is highly unlikely to improve water outlook.

Mountain Home Irrigation District apologizes to all shareholders for the inconvenience.

Eric Orr, MHID Chairman

# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board)  
**From:** Mary Condon  
**Date:** March 23, 2026  
**Subject:** Revisions to Grant Criteria

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**REQUESTED ACTION:** Consider Approval of Resolutions for Revised Flood Management Grant Criteria and SWC Operational Efficiencies Program Criteria

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The IWRB administers the Flood Management Grant program and the Surface Water Coalition (SWC) Operational Efficiencies Program. Revisions to the criteria for both programs were presented to the Board during the work session on March 26, 2026.

A draft resolution for consideration to adopt the revised Flood Management grant criteria is attached. The clean draft of the proposed revised criteria is attached for consideration ahead of the June application filing date.

Also, a draft resolution to adopt the revised Surface Water Coalition Operation Efficiencies Program criteria is attached for your consideration. A clean version of the proposed revisions to the criteria is also included.

**Attachment(s):**

- *Flood Management Criteria – Clean draft*
- *Draft Resolution to Adopt Revised Flood Management Grant Criteria*
- *Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiencies Program Criteria – Clean draft*
- *Draft Resolution to Adopt Revised Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiencies Program Criteria*



## IWRB Flood Management Grant Criteria

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has developed these criteria for the Flood Management Grant to provide financial assistance on a competitive statewide basis to Flood Control Districts, Drainage Districts, Irrigation Districts, Canal Companies, Municipalities, Counties and other public entities interested in pursuing flood damaged stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, and flood prevention projects.

**Eligible Projects:** Pursuing flood damage repair and improvement projects can help prevent or reduce flood damage in Idaho's streams and rivers. To be considered for grant funding, entities must be able to provide evidence of flood damage, or evidence of conditions that create the risk of flooding in a stream channel and submit a funding request document outlining the proposed repairs and/or improvements to the stream channel.

**Ineligible Projects:**

- Projects that are already completed or underway by the application deadline

**Eligible Entities:** Flood Control Districts, Drainage Districts, Irrigation Districts, Canal Companies, **Municipalities**, Counties, and **Soil and Water Conservation Districts**. Other public entities are eligible to apply.

**Eligible Geographic Area:** Statewide

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

**Funding Details:**

- Funding Details: Up to \$200,000 per project; one project per application
- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed 50% of total project costs. Projects that include higher cost share amounts will be prioritized during project evaluations (see evaluation criteria)
- Eligible entity is responsible for providing permit documentation to IWRB staff
- Costs incurred prior to the grant award date are not eligible for reimbursement
- Project costs related to the installation of road appurtenances (road signs, guard rails, etc.) are not eligible for reimbursement
- Reimbursement requests can be made once a cost-reimbursement contract is established between the awardee and IWRB
- Reimbursement of invoices will not surpass 50% of the invoice amount submitted to Board Staff

- Contract term will not exceed 3 years after the grant funding award (date of IWRB Resolution) unless an extension is approved by IWRB's contract manager
- Funds may be reallocated if a project is not completed within the term of the cost-reimbursement contract, or if no response is received by the awardee within 90 days after the grant award date

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

- A **cover letter** that is addressed to the IWRB and with the eligible entity's letterhead. The letter must contain a project summary and the project manager's contact information. The summary must include the funding request dollar amount and expected total project cost, as well as all other funding sources.
- An **application** containing the following:
  1. Project purpose and description of urgency regarding repair or improvement
  2. Photographs and description of damage, if applicable
  3. Project location (county, water source, PLS and/or Lat/Long), including map
  4. Public Benefits achieved pursuant to IC § 42-1760(2)(d) (stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, other ecological benefits)
  5. Project timeline, including start and completion date
  6. Detailed cost estimates, including all labor and materials. In-kind work must be detailed and included in cost estimates.
  7. Entity's *relevant experience* or contractor's relevant experience completing stream channel repair or improvement projects
  8. Summary table that documents cost-share percentage for each funding source including in-kind work. If other grants are required to complete the project (USACE, NRCS, FEMA, etc.), include timelines for receiving those funds.
- Documentation that local stakeholders have been consulted. If the project is within an active Flood Control District, the eligible entity must include a letter of support.
- Conceptual **Design** Documents
- Addresses all **evaluation criteria** described below.
- **Required regulatory approval** and permit documents; if project has not yet received permit documents, note this in the application's project schedule.
- **Proof of liability insurance** for general construction, i.e., ICRMP.
- **Completed Applicant Information Sheet** provided by IWRB.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Projects that are determined not to be flood-related by staff will be declared ineligible and not scored. To maximize the effective and efficient use of available funds, the applications will be evaluated, scored (*125-point scale*), and ranked according to the following criteria:

**First Time Applicant (5 points)**

**Application Professionalism and Clarity (up to 20 points)**

- Cover letter and grant document are well-written and clearly state the goals and objectives of the project (*10 points*)
- Project map clearly shows the project location (*10 points*)

**Effectiveness of Project (up to 45 points)**

- Urgency of the project is explained (10 points)
- The benefits of the project are explained, and are measurable (20 points)
- Grant application considers alternatives solutions and explains why the chosen solution is most beneficial (10 points)

**Readiness of Project (70 points)**

- Description of applying entity and project leadership, documentation of expertise in subject matter of project (10 points)
- Documentation of project support from other stakeholders (10 points)
- The project schedule demonstrates the eligible entity has considered essential milestones (10 points)
- The cost estimate for the project budget is detailed and clearly accounts for all labor and material costs, including in-kind work (10 points)
- Projects that propose matching cost-share amounts above 50% will receive additional points in their score (1 point for each additional 1% up to 20 additional points)

**Application Submission:**

- Applications can be emailed to [IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov). Applications that are emailed must be received by 11:59 pm on the application due date.
- Applications that are mailed must be received by 11:59 pm on the application due date. Mailing address:

ATTENTION: GRANTS TEAM  
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
PO BOX 83720  
BOISE, ID 83720-0098

- Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise. Applications must be dropped off on weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Idaho Water Center is located at:

IDAHO WATER CENTER  
322 E FRONT ST STE 648  
BOISE, ID 83702-7371

**Grant Process:**

- IWRB staff evaluate and score applications based on IWRB approved evaluation criteria
- IWRB staff present funding recommendations to IWRB Finance Committee
- Funding awarded at the IWRB meeting
- IWRB staff will notify eligible entity of grant approval and will administer cost-reimbursement contracts

**Additional Conditions of Award:**

Funding may be reallocated if:

- No response is received from the awardee within 90 days of the award dated resolution
- A proposed contract is not signed and returned within 60 days of issuance
- If the project is not completed within the award contract term
- The contract expires without a renewal or extension request from the awardee

**Cost-Reimbursement Process:**

- Awardee must be registered with the Idaho Secretary of State (SCO) in [IPRO Supplier Portal](#) and in [PaymentWorks](#), See “Action Center” on the homepage of SCO at <https://www.sco.idaho.gov/LivePages/scohome.aspx>
- Funds will be distributed upon awardee submitting an IWRB acceptable funding reimbursement requests to the IWRB.
- Reimbursement of invoices will not surpass 50% of the invoice amount submitted to IWRB staff
- The IWRB and IDWR staff will review and upon approval, pay invoices in accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2302
- In-kind services, labor, and materials must be invoiced to IWRB to be eligible for reimbursement
- The IWRB shall determine the value of in-kind contributions of materials and labor
- Invoices should be sent to [ldwrPayable@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:ldwrPayable@idwr.idaho.gov)
- A certificate of project completion and a financial summary of the total project cost shall be submitted by the awardee in order to receive final reimbursement

**In-kind Matching Funds Documentation.** In-kind matching contributions must be adequately documented and verifiable from the awardee’s official records. Documentation must be sufficient to answer the following:

- Awardee must be able to demonstrate that the contribution is from an acceptable source.
- Awardee must be able to demonstrate what is being used as match is suitable for match.
- The IWRB shall determine the value of the in-kind contribution
  - Awardee is responsible for providing accurate documentation to support their in-kind valuation
  - Value shall be based on standard objective sources rather than best guesses
- Awardee must affirm that the information is correct and IWRB will review and may approve

Accounting records must be supported by source documentation such as vouchers, canceled checks, invoices, payroll, time and attendance records, contract and sub-grant award documents, or other required forms.

**Force account labor and equipment.** The use of the awardee’s staff (labor) and/or equipment costs must be verifiable from the awardee’s accounting system. For labor, the records must include: the name of each worker, dates worked, hourly rate of pay, number of hours worked specific to the grant activity, and the total cost for each worker. Documentation of equipment costs must include the type of equipment used, dates used, hourly rate value, number of hours used, how the hourly rate was determined and total cost.

**Donated contract labor and volunteer services** may be counted as matching share if they are an integral and necessary part of the approved work.

- Rates claimed for volunteer services must be consistent with those rates paid for similar work in other activities and must not include fringe benefits and overhead costs.
- Match must be documented and, to the extent feasible, supported by the same methods used by the awardee for its own employees.
- At minimum this includes signed and dated time sheets filled out by volunteers working and approved by the supervisor with first-hand knowledge of the activity

**IWRB Districts are as follows:**

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

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

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

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

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

DRAFT

**BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF FLOOD  
MANAGEMENT GRANTS

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CRITERIA

1  
2 WHEREAS, House Bill 712 passed and approved by the 2018 legislature created a Flood  
3 Management Grant Program administered by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to be used  
4 for the purpose of flood-damaged stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood  
5 risk reduction, or flood prevention projects; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) last updated the criteria for the award  
8 of Flood Management Grants, through Resolution No. 11-2025, in March 2025; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the IWRB staff have developed updated criteria for the award of Flood  
11 Management Grants; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, staff presented the updated criteria at the IWRB's Work Session held on March  
14 26<sup>th</sup> 2026; and

15  
16 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the  
17 award of Flood Management Grants.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman  
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary



## Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiencies Program

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

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

### Geographic Area

Limited to surface water diversions of the Surface Water Coalition

### Eligible Entities:

Members of the Surface Water Coalition

### Funding Limit

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

### Application Requirements:

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

### Efficiency Results Likely to Be Achieved

- What are the proposed project goals and how will the project improve operational efficiency. Please provide sufficient details supporting how the efficiency results were determined.
- How this project will have no impact to incidental recharge in the ESPA
- Water savings due to operational efficiencies will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

### Project Proposal Clarity & Implementation Schedule

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

March 2026

- Project implementation schedule

#### **Additional Project funding sources**

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

#### **How Does This Project Promote State and/or Local Priorities**

- Demonstrate how this project will support the 2024 stipulated approved mitigation plan ("2024 settlement agreement") between the Surface Water Coalition and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc.

#### **Contract Terms**

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

#### **Application Process**

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

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

#### **Program Proposal Submission**

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

Idaho Department of Water Resources  
Attn: IWRB Grants Team  
P.O Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720

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

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

***If you have questions about the application package or would like to schedule a meeting with the Grants Team, email us at [IWRBGrants@IDWR.Idaho.gov](mailto:IWRBGrants@IDWR.Idaho.gov)***

**BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF THE SURFACE WATER  
COALITION OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES  
PROGRAM

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CRITERIA

1           WHEREAS, as part of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Regional Water Sustainability  
2 Project the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, the Idaho Water Resource  
3 Board (IWRB) adopted criteria (Resolution No. 23-2025) creating the Surface Water Operational  
4 Efficiencies Program; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, staff have developed updated criteria and title for the award of Surface Water  
7 Coalition Operational Efficiencies funding; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, staff presented the updated criteria at the IWRB's Work Session held on March  
10 26<sup>th</sup> 2026; and

11  
12           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the  
13 award of Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiencies funding from the Water Management  
14 Account.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman  
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board  
**From:** David Graybill  
**Date:** March 18, 2026  
**Subject:** Water Supply Bank Rental Pool Procedures

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**REQUESTED ACTION:** Adoption of Resolutions Approving WD 63 and WD 65 Rental Pool Procedures for 2026.

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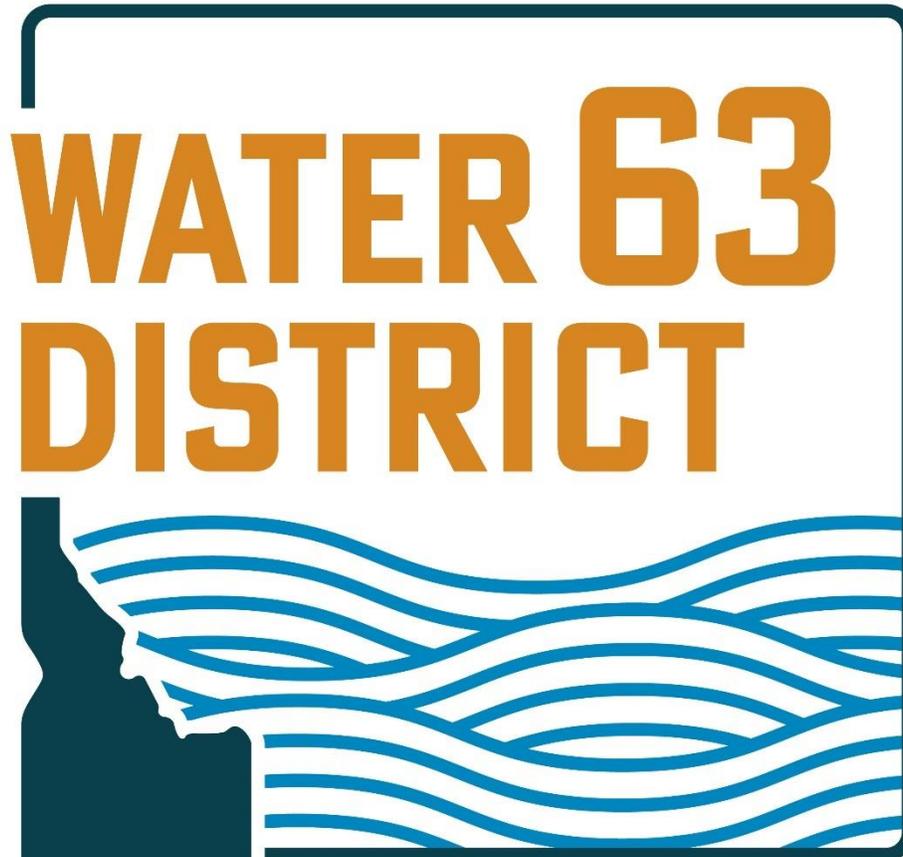
The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board) is responsible for the operation of the Water Supply Bank, inclusive of regional rental pools. The Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) will review rental pool procedures and forms then submit a recommendation to the Board. Consistent with Section 42-1765, Idaho Code and Rule 40 of the Water Supply Bank Rules, IDAPA 37.02.03.040, the Board may approve the amended procedures through resolutions.

The clean final version of the Boise River Basin WD 63 Rental Pool Procedures and the Payette River Basin WD 65 Rental Pool Procedures are available for viewing prior to adoption of each resolution.

**Attachment(s):**

- *WD 63 Rental Pool Procedures for 2026*
- *Resolution*
  
- *WD 65 Rental Pool Procedures for 2026*
- *Resolution*

**Amended 2025**



**WATER DISTRICT 63**

**BOISE RIVER BASIN**

**RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES**

**AMENDED 12/16/2025**

**WATER DISTRICT NO. 63**

**RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES**

The Boise River Rental Pool is administered by the Rental Pool Committee  
through the Boise River Watermaster's office.

Please contact the Watermaster for more information.

Daniel Hoke

Boise River Watermaster

(208) 908-5480

[daniel@wd63.org](mailto:daniel@wd63.org)

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**WATER DISTRICT 63  
RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES**

**RULE 1.0 LEGAL AUTHORITY**

- 1.1 These procedures have been adopted pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1765 and IDAPA 37.02.03.040 to assure orderly operation of the Boise River Rental Pool by the Advisory Board of Water District No. 63.
- 1.2 These procedures shall not be interpreted to limit the authority of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, the Idaho Water Resource Board, Water District No. 63 Advisory Board, or the Watermaster in discharging their duties as prescribed by statute or rule.
- 1.3 These procedures shall be interpreted consistent with Idaho Code, rules promulgated by the Idaho Water Resource Board, relevant provisions of repayment contracts with the United States, and the Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004 commonly referred to as the Nez Perce Mediator's Term Sheet dated April 20, 2004.

**RULE 2.0 DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 **Accounting Year:** the Water District 63 water accounting year that begins on November 1 and ends on October 31
- 2.2 **Acre-foot:** a volume of water sufficient to cover one acre of land one foot deep and is equal to 43,560 cubic feet.
- 2.3 **Administrative Fee:** a fee of One Dollar and Thirty Cents (\$1.55) per acre-foot assessed by the District on all storage rented through the Rental Pool.
- 2.4 **Assignment:** a written agreement to convey a specific quantity of storage into the Rental Pool for use during a specified period of time.
- 2.5 **Assignor:** a person who assigns storage to the Rental Pool.
- 2.6 **Board:** the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB).
- 2.7 **Board Surcharge:** a surcharge equal to ten percent (10%) of the Net Rental Price assessed on all storage rented from the Rental Pool, which is disbursed to the Board.
- 2.8 **Committee:** the Advisory Board of Water District No. 63.
- 2.9 **Department:** the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR).
- 2.10 **Director:** the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources.
- 2.11 **District:** Water District 63 of the State of Idaho.
- 2.12 **Net Rental Price:** The Rental Price less the Administrative Fee and Board Surcharge.
- 2.13 **Person:** an individual, company, association, corporation, partnership, irrigation district, canal company, political subdivision, or governmental agency.

- 2.14 **Reclamation:** the United States Bureau of Reclamation.
- 2.15 **Rent:** a written agreement to acquire the right to use a specific quantity of storage from the Rental Pool for a determinate period.
- 2.16 **Rental Pool:** a market for the exchange of storage operated by the Advisory Board of Water District No. 63.
- 2.17 **Rental Price:** the fee, including the Administrative Fee and Board Surcharge, for rental of storage from the Rental Pool.
- 2.18 **Renter:** a person who rents storage from the Rental Pool.
- 2.19 **Reservoir System:** refers to Arrowrock, Lake Lowell, Anderson Ranch, and Lucky Peak reservoirs.
- 2.20 **Space:** all or any portion of the active capacity of a federal reservoir measured in acre-feet.
- 2.21 **Spaceholder:** the holder of the contractual right to space in the reservoir system, or Reclamation.
- 2.22 **Storage:** water that accrues to reservoir space and is available for use.
- 2.23 **Watermaster:** the watermaster of Water District 63.

**RULE 3.0 PURPOSES**

- 3.1 To promote the maximum beneficial use of stored water establish a process and provide incentives, consistent with Idaho Code § 42-1765, through which storage supplies may be made available for rental by persons who need additional water for beneficial purposes.
- 3.2 Maintain adequate controls and priorities to ensure that (a) irrigation uses are provided an opportunity to obtain supplemental storage supplies ahead of non-irrigation uses, (b) existing water rights are not injured, and (c) the use of storage water obtained through the Rental Pool is consistent with the protection of the local public interest and the conservation of water resources within the state of Idaho.
- 3.3 Provide a source of revenue for the District to offset operating costs of the district.

**RULE 4.0 MANAGEMENT & APPLICATION PROCESS**

4.1 **Committee.** The Committee, which shall decide all matters by majority vote, will exercise the following responsibilities:

- (a) Adopt, and amend as necessary, procedures for operation of the Rental Pool;
- (b) Provide direction to the Watermaster in the operation of the Rental Pool within the framework of these procedures;
- (c) Set policies for the investment and disbursement of funds generated by the Rental Pool in conformity with the Public Depository Law, Chapter 1, Title 57, Idaho Code; and
- (d) Notify the Director and Watermaster of rentals where storage will be moved from the place of use authorized by the permit, license or decree establishing the storage water right.

4.2 **Watermaster.** The Watermaster shall serve as the manager of the Rental Pool and shall take all reasonable actions necessary to administer the Rental Pool consistent with these procedures, which include:

- (a) accepting assignments of storage into the Rental Pool on behalf of the Committee;
- (b) distributing storage rented through the Rental Pool;
- (c) accepting and disbursing funds generated through the rental of storage; and
- (d) taking such additional actions as may be directed by the Committee.

4.3 **Application to Assign Storage to the Rental Pool.**

4.3.101 *Contents.* Applications to assign storage to the Rental Pool shall be made upon forms approved by the Watermaster, which shall include:

- (a) the quantity of storage sought to be assigned to the Rental Pool;
- (b) an indication of whether the storage may be rented for out-of-basin uses; and
- (c) the date received in the Watermaster's office.

4.3.102 *Conditional Assignment.* For purposes of determining the priority of assigned storage under Rule 5.4, storage shall be deemed conditionally assigned to the Rental Pool on the date the application is received by the Watermaster subject to approval by the Committee pursuant to Rule 5.2.

4.3.103 *Subsequent Applications.* Any applicant, having once assigned storage to the Rental Pool, may make application to assign storage in subsequent accounting years by (a) providing written confirmation that the information on the prior assignment application is true and correct, and (b) indicating the quantity of storage sought to be assigned.

4.3.104 *Deadline for Application.* An application to assign storage must be received by the Watermaster and approved by the Committee pursuant to Rule 5.2 not later than October 31 in order for the storage identified in such application, provided it

is subsequently rented within the time limit prescribed in Rule 5.5.101, to be accounted for as having been diverted in the current accounting year.

**4.4 Application to Rent Storage from the Rental Pool.**

4.4.101 *Contents.* Applications to rent storage from the Rental Pool shall be made upon forms approved by the Watermaster, which shall include:

- (a) the amount of storage sought to be rented;
- (b) the purpose(s) for which the storage will be put to beneficial use;
- (c) a single point of diversion identified by legal description and common name;
- (d) a description of the place of use; and
- (e) the date received in the Watermaster's office.

4.4.102 *Acceptance.* For purposes of determining a rental applicant's priority under Rule 6.1, applications are not deemed accepted until received by the Watermaster together with the appropriate rental fee.

4.4.103 *Subsequent Applications.* Any rental applicant, having once rented water from the Rental Pool, may make application for rental of storage in subsequent accounting years by (a) providing written confirmation that the information on the prior rental application is true and correct, (b) indicating the quantity of storage sought to be rented, and (c) tendering the appropriate rental fee.

**4.5 Rental Pool Account.** All monies submitted by rental applicants shall be deposited in the Rental Pool Account and maintained by the Watermaster on behalf of the Committee. Monies in the Rental Pool Account will be disbursed to the District, the Board, the Assignors in the proportions set forth in these procedures. Accrued interest to the Rental Pool Account shall be disbursed to the District for purposes consistent with Rule 3.3. Rental Pool funds shall be considered public funds for investment purposes and subject to the Public Depository Law, Chapter 1, Title 57, Idaho Code.

**RULE 5.0 ASSIGNMENT OF STORAGE TO THE RENTAL POOL**

5.1 **Assignment of Storage.** Any spaceholder may assign storage to the Rental Pool subject to approval by the Committee.

5.2 **Approval by Committee.** The Committee may approve or reject, in whole or in part, an application to assign storage to the Rental Pool and may impose conditions necessary to satisfy the purposes set out under Rule 3.2. All storage approved for assignment into the Rental Pool shall be under the control of the Committee and Watermaster during the term of the assignment.

5.3 **Reservoir Designation.** When an assignor has space in more than one reservoir, storage will be assigned to the Rental Pool from the assignor's space in the reservoir system in the following sequence: Lucky Peak, Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock, and Lake Lowell.

**5.4 Priority of Assigned Storage**

5.4.101 *Assignments Made On or Before July 1<sup>st</sup>.* All storage assigned to the Rental Pool on or before July 1 shall be rented on a pro-rata basis.

5.4.102 *Assignments Made After July 1<sup>st</sup>*. All storage assigned to the Rental Pool after July 1 will be rented on a first-in-first-out basis, but only after all storage assigned under Rule 5.4.101 has been rented.

5.5 **Term of Assignment**

5.5.101 *Unrented Storage*. All storage assigned to the rental pool, but not rented by October 31, shall revert to the assignor, unless the assignor executes a written extension and an extension is approved by the Committee.

5.5.102 *Unused Storage*. All storage assigned to and rented from the Rental Pool, but put to beneficial use by March 1 of the year following the accounting year in which the storage was assigned to the Rental Pool, shall revert to the assignor unless the assignor executes a written extension and the extension is granted by the Committee; provided, however, any extension granted by the Committee shall not extend beyond March 31.

5.6 **Payment to Assignors.**

5.6.101 *Amount of Payment*. Payment to assignor will be made only if the storage assigned to the Rental Pool is subsequently rented. Assignors shall share pro-rata in the Net Rental Price from the rental of storage assigned on or before July 1 and shall receive one-hundred percent of the Net Rental Price from the rental of such storage assigned after July 1 based on a first-in-first-out basis.

5.6.102 *Calculation of Payment*. The Watermaster will calculate the payment due each assignor based on data published in the Annual Report of the Watermaster showing the actual quantity of storage rented from the Rental Pool.

5.6.103 *Timing of Payment*. Payments to assignors shall be due and payable after the Watermaster has calculated the payments under Rule 5.6.102 and after the final water accounting for the accounting year is completed by the watermaster. However, private contracts may request an earlier payout from the water district if amount is set and the total monies have been received. Once any entity signs a rental pool assignment form and monies are delivered to said entity, no financial reimbursements can be made to entity if there are any changes to said private contract.

**RULE 6.0 RENTAL OF STORAGE FROM THE RENTAL POOL**

6.1 **Priority of Rental Applicants.** Storage rented from the Rental Pool shall be pursuant to the following priorities:

6.1.101 *First Priority*. On or before June 1, rental of water by spaceholders for irrigation purposes within the District.

6.1.102 *Second Priority*. After June 1, rental of water for irrigation and all other beneficial purposes.

6.1.103 *Sub-priorities*. Priorities among rental applicants within each of the three priority groups, identified above, shall be determined based on the date the rental application is accepted by the Watermaster pursuant to Rule 4.4; provided, however, during periods of drought or other extraordinary circumstances, the

Committee may develop additional or alternative procedures for determining sub-priorities among competing rental applications.

- 6.2 **Rental Price.** The Rental Price per acre-foot (af) of storage rented from the Rental Pool is \$23.00.
- 6.3 **Out-of-Basin Rentals.** Storage rented for use outside the hydrologic basin of the Boise River or below the confluence of the Boise River and Snake River shall subject the space from which the storage was rented to last to fill in the ensuing accounting year.
- 6.4 **Rentals for Greater than Five (5) Years.** Applications to rent water from the Rental Pool for a period of more than five (5) years shall be submitted to the Board, and separately to Reclamation, for review and approval as a condition of approval by the Committee.
- 6.5 **Arbitrage.** A spaceholder may not assign storage and rent storage in the same accounting year, unless an exception is granted by the Committee.
- 6.6 **Flow Augmentation.** Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, Reclamation may assign and rent storage held in uncontracted space for flow augmentation purposes pursuant to the provisions contained in the Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004 (aka the Nez Perce Mediator's Term Sheet dated April 20, 2004) and Idaho Code § 42-1763B, in which case only an administrative fee shall be assessed pursuant to Rule 2.2.





**BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AMENDED  
RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES FOR THE BOISE  
RIVER RENTAL POOL

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDED RENTAL  
POOL PROCEDURES FOR 2026

1           WHEREAS, section 42-1765, Idaho Code and subsections of IDAPA 37.02.030.040, Water  
2 Supply Bank Rule 40, authorizes the Idaho Water Resource Board to appoint local committees to  
3 facilitate the lease and rental of stored water within rental pools; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, the Water District 63 Advisory Committee appointed by the Idaho Water  
6 Resource Board to facilitate the lease and rental of stored water within the Boise River Rental  
7 Pool; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, the Water District 63 Advisory Committee has adopted amended procedures  
10 for the calendar year 2026, pursuant to which they intend to facilitate the lease and rental of  
11 rental pool stored water; and  
12

13           WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Water Resources has reviewed the local  
14 committee procedures and may recommend that the Idaho Water Resource Board approve the  
15 rental pool procedures; and  
16

17           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the amended Boise River Rental Pool procedures are  
18 approved by the Idaho Water Resource Board.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman  
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

**WATER DISTRICT 65**

**RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES**

**Approved by the Committee on March 10 , 2026 to take effect immediately following approval by Director Weaver and the Idaho Water Resource Board. These procedures will be used for the 2026 season and seasons following or until new changes are approved.**

## Rental Pool Procedures

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## Rental Pool Procedures

### WATER DISTRICT 65 RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES

#### PROCEDURE 1.0 LEGAL AUTHORITY

- 1.1 These procedures have been adopted pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1765 and IDAPA 37.02.03.040 to assure orderly operation of the Water District 65 Rental Pool.
- 1.2 These procedures shall not be interpreted to limit the authority of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, the Idaho Water Resource Board, Water District No. 65 Advisory Board, or the Watermaster in discharging their duties as prescribed by statute or rule.
- 1.3 These procedures shall be interpreted consistent with Idaho Code, rules promulgated by the Idaho Water Resource Board, relevant provisions of repayment contracts with the United States, and the Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004 commonly referred to as the Nez Perce Mediator's Term Sheet dated April 20, 2004.

#### PROCEDURE 2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Acre-foot:** a volume of water sufficient to cover one acre of land one foot deep and is equal to 43,560 cubic feet.
- 2.2 **Administrative Fee:** a fee of One Dollar and fifty-five cents (\$1.55) per acre-foot assessed by the District on all storage rented through the Rental Pool.
- 2.3 **Assignment:** a written agreement to convey a specific quantity of storage into the Rental Pool for use during a specified period of time.
- 2.4 **Assignor:** a spaceholder who assigns storage to the Common Pool.
- 2.5 **Board:** the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB).
- 2.6 **Board Surcharge:** a surcharge equal to ten percent (10%) of the Net Rental Price assessed on all storage rented from the Rental Pool, which is disbursed to the Board. For purposes of these procedures, the surcharge for in-basin rentals under Procedure 6.2.104 (a) and (b) is equal to \$0.49 per acre-foot and for out-of-basin rentals under Procedure 6.2.104 (c) is equal to \$1.95 per acre-foot.
- 2.7 **Committee:** the Advisory Committee of Water District No. 65.
- 2.8 **Common Pool:** storage water made available for rental pursuant to Procedures 5 and 6.
- 2.9 **Department:** the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR).
- 2.10 **Director:** the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources.
- 2.11 **District:** Water District No. 65 of the State of Idaho.
- 2.12 **In-Basin Uses:** Beneficial uses with points of diversion above the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River.

## Rental Pool Procedures

- 2.13 **Lessee:** a person who leases storage from a spaceholder pursuant to Procedure 7.
- 2.14 **Lessor:** a spaceholder who leases storage to a person pursuant to Procedure 7.
- 2.15 **Net Rental Price:** The Rental Price less the Administrative Fee and Board Surcharge.
- 2.16 **Non spaceholder:** Someone who does not hold any contractual rights to storage space in the Reservoir System.
- 2.17 **Out-of-Basin Uses:** Beneficial uses with points of diversion below the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River.
- 2.18 **Person:** an individual, company, association, corporation, partnership, irrigation district, canal company, political subdivision, or governmental agency.
- 2.19 **Reclamation:** the United States Bureau of Reclamation.
- 2.20 **Rental Agreement:** a written agreement to acquire the right to use a specific quantity of storage from the Common Pool for a determinate period.
- 2.21 **Rental Pool:** a market for the exchange of storage operated by the Advisory Committee of Water District No. 65.
- 2.22 **Rental Price:** the fee for rental of storage from the Rental Pool as set forth in Procedure 6.2, which includes the Administrative Fee and Board Surcharge.
- 2.23 **Renter:** a person who rents storage from the Rental Pool.
- 2.24 **Reservoir System:** refers to Cascade Lake, Deadwood Reservoir, Payette Lakes, and the Upper Lakes.
- 2.25 **Space:** all or any portion of the active capacity of a reservoir measured in acre-feet.
- 2.26 **Spaceholder:** the holder of the contractual right to space in the reservoir system, or Reclamation.
- 2.27 **Storage:** water that accrues to reservoir space and is available for use.
- 2.28 **Watermaster:** the watermaster of Water District 65.
- 2.29 **Year:** a calendar year.

### PROCEDURE 3.0 PURPOSES

- 3.1 To promote the maximum beneficial use of stored water establish a process and provide incentives, consistent with Idaho Code § 42-1765, through which storage supplies may be made available on a voluntary basis, for rental by persons who need additional water for beneficial purposes.
- 3.2 Maintain adequate controls and priorities to ensure that (a) irrigation uses are provided an opportunity to obtain supplemental storage supplies ahead of non-irrigation uses, (b)

## Rental Pool Procedures

existing water rights are not injured, and (c) the use of storage water obtained through the Rental Pool is consistent with the protection of the local public interest and the conservation of water resources within the state of Idaho.

- 3.3 Provide a source of revenue for the District to make improvements in distribution of water and aid in increasing the conservation of water in the Payette River Basin.
- 3.4 To maintain adequate controls, priorities, and safeguards to ensure that existing water rights are not injured and that a spaceholder's allocation is not impacted without his or her consent. To financially compensate an impacted participating spaceholder in the common pool as determined by the procedures developed by the Committee.

### **PROCEDURE 4.0 MANAGEMENT & APPLICATION PROCESS**

- 4.1 **Committee.** The Committee, which shall decide all matters by majority vote, will exercise the following responsibilities:
  - (a) Adopt, and amend as necessary, procedures for operation of the Rental Pool;
  - (b) Provide direction to the Watermaster in the operation of the Rental Pool within the framework of these procedures;
  - (c) Set policies for the investment and disbursement of funds generated by the Rental Pool in conformity with the Public Depository Law, Chapter 1, Title 57, Idaho Code; and
  - (d) Notify the Director and Watermaster of rentals where storage will be moved from the point of diversion, place of use, or purpose of use authorized by the permit, license or decree establishing the storage water right.
- 4.2 **Watermaster.** The Watermaster shall serve as the manager of the Rental Pool and shall take all reasonable actions necessary to administer the Rental Pool consistent with these procedures, which include:
  - (a) accepting assignments of storage into the Common Pool;
  - (b) executing rental agreements on behalf of the Committee;
  - (c) distributing storage rented through the Common Pool;
  - (d) accepting and disbursing funds generated through the rental of storage; and
  - (e) taking such additional actions as may be directed by the Committee.
- 4.3 **Application to Assign Storage to the Common Pool.**
  - 4.3.101 *Contents.* Applications to assign storage to the Common Pool shall be made upon forms approved by the Watermaster, which shall include:
    - (a) the quantity of storage sought to be assigned to the Common Pool;
    - (b) an indication of whether the storage is to be used only for In-Basin Uses; and
    - (c) the date received in the Watermaster's office.

## Rental Pool Procedures

4.3.102 *Acceptance.* For purposes of determining the priority of assigned storage under Procedure 5.4, applications shall be deemed conditionally accepted on the date received in the Watermaster's office subject to acceptance by the Committee pursuant to Procedure 5.2.

### 4.4 **Application to Rent Storage from the Common Pool.**

4.4.101 *Contents.* Applications to rent storage from the Common Pool shall be made upon forms approved by the Watermaster, which shall include:

- (a) the amount of storage sought to be rented;
- (b) the purpose(s) for which the storage will be put to beneficial use;
- (c) the point of diversion identified by legal description and common name;
- (d) a description of the place of use; and
- (e) the date received in the Watermaster's office.

4.4.102 *Acceptance.* For purposes of determining a rental applicant's priority under Procedure 6.1, applications are not deemed accepted until received by the Watermaster together with the appropriate rental fee.

### 4.5 **Application for Private Lease**

4.5.101 *Contents.* Applications to enter into a private lease shall be made upon forms approved by the Watermaster, which shall include:

- (a) the amount of storage sought to be leased;
- (b) the purpose(s) for which the storage will be put to beneficial use;
- (c) the point of diversion identified by legal description and common name;
- (d) a description of the place of use;
- (e) the date received in the Watermaster's office;
- (f) the agreed upon price (to determine the Board's fee); and
- (g) signature of both Lessee and Lessor and dated

And all in-basin leases must be submitted by May 1<sup>st</sup> of the year it will affect to be considered for approval.

4.5.102 *Acceptance.* Application will be reviewed to determine local public interest. Any leases greater than five years are required to follow Procedure 6.4. All applications are subject to approval by the Committee.

### 4.6 **Rental Pool Account.**

4.6.101. *Account.* All monies submitted by rental applicants shall be deposited in the Rental Pool Account. which shall be an interest-bearing account maintained by the Watermaster on behalf of the Committee. Rental Pool funds shall be considered public funds for investment purposes and subject to the Public Depository Law, Chapter 1, Title 57, Idaho Code.

4.6.102. *Disbursement of Monies.* Monies in the Rental Pool Account will be disbursed to the District, the Board, and the Assignors in the proportions set forth in these procedures. Accrued interest to the Rental Pool Account shall be disbursed pro-rata to the Assignors at the time payments are made under Procedure 5.6.

4.6.103 *Contingency Fund.* Administrative fees received by the District in excess of actual costs required to operate the Rental Pool shall be maintained by the Watermaster in a separate interest-bearing account to serve as a contingency fund

## Rental Pool Procedures

for use by the Committee for the benefit of the District; provided, however, that such use does not conflict with the Idaho Public Depository Law, Chapter 1, Title 57, Idaho code.

### **PROCEDURE 5.0 ASSIGNMENT OF STORAGE TO THE COMMON POOL**

- 5.1 **Assignment of Storage.** Any spaceholder may assign storage to the Common Pool subject to acceptance by the Committee.
- 5.2 **Acceptance by Committee.** The Committee may accept or reject, in whole or in part, an application to assign storage to the Rental Pool and may impose conditions necessary to satisfy the purposes set out under Procedure 3.2. All storage assigned and accepted into the Common Pool shall be under the control of the Committee and Watermaster during the term of the assignment.
- 5.3 **Reservoir Designation.** When an assignor has space in more than one reservoir the assignment shall designate the reservoir from which the storage is assigned.
- 5.4 **Priority of Assigned Storage**
- 5.4.101 *Assignments Made On or Before June 1<sup>st</sup>.* All storage assigned **to** the Common Pool on or before June 1 shall be rented;
- (a). In-basin first, with the amount determined by the Committee for In-Basin Uses. and,
  - (b). The remainder Out-of-Basin Uses as needed, both on a pro-rata basis.
- 5.4.102 *Assignments Made After June 1<sup>st</sup>.* All storage assigned **to** the Common Pool after June 1 will be rented;
- (a). In-basin first, with the amount determined by the Committee for In-Basin Uses. and,
  - (b). The remainder Out-of-Basin Uses as needed, on a first-in-first-out basis, but only after all storage assigned under Procedure 5.4.101 has been rented
- 5.5 **Term of Assignment**
- 5.5.101 *Unrented Storage.* All storage assigned to the Common Pool, but not rented by December 31, shall revert to the assignor, unless the assignor executes a written extension.
- 5.5.102 *Unused Storage.* All storage assigned to and rented from the Common Pool, but not put to beneficial use by March 1 of the year following the calendar year in which the storage was assigned to the Common Pool, shall revert to the assignor unless the assignor executes a written extension and the extension is granted by the Committee.
- 5.6 **Payment to Assignors.**
- 5.6.101 *Amount of Payment.* Payment to assignor will be made only if the storage assigned to the Common Pool is subsequently rented. Assignors shall be paid for the amount of storage rented on their behalf for the uses determined by 5.4.101, and 5.4.102
- 5.6.102 *Calculation of Payment.* The Watermaster will calculate the payment due each assignor based on the amount of storage rented for each use calculated by the prices in 6.2.104. and data published in the Annual Report of the Watermaster

## Rental Pool Procedures

showing the actual quantity of storage rented from the Common Pool. In the event water is rented after the filing of the Annual Report of the Watermaster; the Watermaster shall file a revised Annual Report to properly represent total Common Pool activity for the reporting period.

5.6.103 *Timing of Payment.* Payments that do not rely on final accounting for calculation can be paid as soon as the money is in the rental account if the spaceholder so chooses to accept it at the time. Payments that rely on final accounting shall be due and payable after the Watermaster has calculated the payments under Procedure 5.6.102

### **PROCEDURE 6.0 RENTAL OF STORAGE FROM THE COMMON POOL**

6.1 **Priority of Rental Applicants.** Storage rented from the Common Pool shall be pursuant to the following priorities:

6.1.101 *First Priority.* On or before June 1, rental of water by space holders for irrigation purposes for In-Basin Uses.

6.1.102 *Second Priority.* After June 1, rental of water for any beneficial purpose.

6.1.104 *Sub-priorities.* Priorities among rental applicants within each priority group, identified above, shall be determined based on the date the rental application is accepted by the Watermaster pursuant to Procedure 4.4; provided, however, during periods of drought or other extraordinary circumstances, with consideration of the local public interest, the Committee may develop additional or alternative procedures for determining sub-priorities among competing rental applications.

6.2 **Rental Prices.** The Rental Price per acre-foot of storage rented from the Common Pool is as follows:

6.2.101 Tier 1 (*In-Basin*) For uses above the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River by Spaceholders.

6.2.102 Tier 2 (*In-Basin*) For uses above the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River by Non-spaceholders.

6.2.103 Tier 3 (*Out-of-Basin*) For uses below the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River.

6.2.104 **Fees & Surcharges** There shall be added to the rental price for all rentals the Board surcharge and administrative fee, resulting in the following summed amounts charged for rentals for the various tiers described in Procedures 6.2.101 through 6.2.103.

(a) Tier 1:           \$4.96+\$0.49+\$1.55= \$7.00

(b) Tier 2:           \$4.96+ \$.49+\$1.55= \$7.00

(c) Tier 3:           \$19.50+ \$1.95+ \$1.55= \$23.00

## Rental Pool Procedures

- 6.3 **Arbitrage.** A person may not assign storage and rent storage in the same calendar year unless an exception is granted by the Committee. In the event an exception is granted by the Committee, the rental price shall equal the amount paid to the person for the prior assignment plus a 10% board surcharge and \$2.30 per acre-foot administrative fee.
- 6.4 **Rentals for Greater than Five (5) Years.** Applications to rent water from the Rental Pool for a period of more than five (5) years shall be submitted to the Board, and separately to Reclamation, for review and approval as a condition of approval by the Committee.

### PROCEDURE 7.0 PRIVATE LEASES

- 7.1 **Purposes.** Storage may be leased through the Rental Pool only for beneficial use purposes. A person may not lease storage to a lessee and rent storage in the same calendar year unless an exception is granted by the Committee.
- 7.2 **Payments to Lessor.** The lessor shall receive one-hundred percent (100%) of the lease price.
- 7.3 **Fee & Surcharges.** There shall be added to the lease price the administrative fee and the Board surcharge.
- 7.4 **Lease of Storage from the Bureau Uncontracted Space.** Notwithstanding the limitations set forth in Procedure 7.1, the Bureau may lease storage from its uncontracted space for flow augmentation as identified in Appendix III of the – Mediator’s Term Sheet of the 2004 Snake River Water Rights Agreement, in which case only an administrative fee shall be assessed pursuant to Procedure 2.2.

### PROCEDURE 8.0 IMPACTS

- 8.1 **Impacts to Spaceholders resulting from all common pool, and private leases.** To avoid impacts to spaceholders caused by rental pool storage provided under Procedures 5, 6, and 7 in years when any storage reservoir in which any spaceholder rented or leased storage the previous year did not fill, the supplying spaceholder’s storage allocation shall be reduced to ensure all other reservoir space receives a 100% fill to its storage allocation ahead of allocations to space evacuated to supply previous year leases, assignments, and rentals. If the amount of storage in the reservoir system exceeds the amount necessary to allocate 100% fill to space that wasn’t evacuated to supply leases, assignments, and rentals but is insufficient to allocate 100% fill to all system spaceholders, allocations to lessors’, assignors’, and other space shall occur in the following priorities:
- (a) Storage supplied under Procedure 5, 6, or 7 for beneficial uses with points of diversion above the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River shall be second to fill.
  - (b) Storage supplied under Procedure 5, 6, or 7 with points of diversion below the confluence of the Payette River and the Snake River shall be last to fill.

**WATER DISTRICT #65 RENTAL POOL  
APPLICATION TO RENT STORAGE FROM THE COMMON POOL**

\_\_\_\_\_ (applicant) hereby requests to rent \_\_\_\_\_  
(acre-feet) of storage from the Water District #65 Rental Pool with the enclosed rental fees  
of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the irrigation season 20\_\_\_\_. The acceptance and approval of this  
rental request by the Water District #65 Watermaster is subject to the adopted Water District  
#65 Rental Pool Procedures pursuant to Idaho Code Section 42-1765.

Description of Point of Diversion: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of River or Stream from which rental is diverted: \_\_\_\_\_

Canal or Pump Name & location: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Use description: \_\_\_\_\_

Water Right Appurtenant to Lands: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature and Address:

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

*(official use only)*

Date Lease Accepted by Watermaster: \_\_\_\_\_

Watermaster Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





**BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AMENDED  
RENTAL POOL PROCEDURES FOR THE PAYETTE  
RIVER RENTAL POOL

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDED RENTAL  
POOL PROCEDURES FOR 2026

1           WHEREAS, section 42-1765, Idaho Code and subsections of IDAPA 37.02.030.040, Water  
2 Supply Bank Rule 40, authorizes the Idaho Water Resource Board to appoint local committees to  
3 facilitate the lease and rental of stored water within rental pools; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, the Water District 65 Advisory Committee is appointed by the Idaho Water  
6 Resource Board to facilitate the lease and rental of stored water within the Payette River Rental  
7 Pool; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, the Water District 65 Advisory Committee has adopted amended procedures  
10 for the calendar year 2026, pursuant to which they intend to facilitate the lease and rental of  
11 rental pool stored water; and  
12

13           WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Water Resources has reviewed the local  
14 committee procedures and may recommend that the Idaho Water Resource Board approve the  
15 rental pool procedures; and  
16

17           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the amended Payette River Rental Pool  
18 procedures are approved by the Idaho Water Resource Board.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman  
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)  
**From:** Justin Ferguson, Planning & Projects Bureau  
**Date:** March 20, 2026  
**Subject:** Raft River Regional Water Sustainability Project – Proposed Contract Terms

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**REQUESTED ACTION:** Consider the proposed contract terms for the Raft River Pipeline Contract

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## Background

A proposal from the Raft River Recharge Group was received by the IWRB in December of 2022, requesting \$7,000,000 in Regional Water Sustainability Program funding for their Raft River Watershed Project. Funding was awarded to the project under resolution 31-2023 the following July, pending the IWRB's approval of the contract terms and conditions. Since that approval, the Raft River Recharge Group has formed a District and is moving forward with construction, expected to begin in October 2026. The Raft River team have provided documentation affirming the formation of the district and judicial confirmation to take on debit, with the expansion documentation to be provided by their legal counsel.

The RRID was recently issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) through their Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment and was selected for funding through the Bureau of Reclamation's Watershed Flood Prevention Operation (WFPO) program. The District will apply for \$25,000,000 in funding through this program to cover construction costs for the project, as pre-construction and design are largely completed. With this finding, RRID is also pursuing funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), with awards to be made this year.

## Additional Proposed Terms

Along with the standard IWRB contract terms and specific terms that were developed for all Regional Sustainability contracts, staff would recommend the following terms unique to the Raft River Watershed Project:

## Invoice-Reimbursement Contract and Proposed Terms & Conditions

- This is an invoice-reimbursement not to exceed Contract where the IWRB has approved funding for the project. The sponsor shall pay the remaining project costs.
- 10% holdback on funds until Project Completion Form is submitted.
- When requested by the IWRB, provide a monthly progress report to the Contract Manager.
- The progress report shall include at a minimum:
  - Updated schedule to completion
  - Issues encountered in the reporting period
  - Final cost forecasts where applicable
  - Up-to-date project budget

- The Contractor shall provide the final invoice with a financial summary of the Project's costs, with a detailed list of the type and amount of funds used to pay for the Project. The financial summary shall include the following:
  - Total final cost of the Project based on expenditures.
  - List all funding sources and the amount used on any aspect of the Project.
  - If a Federal or State grant was awarded for any portion of the Project, include the amount awarded.

**Attachment(s):**

- *Draft Resolution*

**BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF THE RAFT RIVER  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT REGIONAL  
SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT TERMS AND  
CONDITIONS

1           WHEREAS, the IWRB adopted an initial Regional Water Sustainability Priority List to help  
2 guide the Idaho Water Resource Board’s (IWRB’s) spending for large, regional water sustainability  
3 projects from ARPA funds, state general funds, or other applicable sources. The IWRB also, in  
4 October  
5 2022, adopted resolution 39-2022, creating threshold criteria indicating that a project must help  
6 achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin-wide, or state-wide basis to be included  
7 on the Regional Water Sustainability Priority  
8 List; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, on July 21, 2023 the IWRB passed Resolution No. 31-2023 authorizing funding  
11 for nine Regional Water Sustainability Projects statewide for a total of \$59.4 million. The regional  
12 projects were funded with federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies and funds from the  
13 IWRB’s Water Management Account; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, in Resolution No. 31-2023 the Raft River Recharge Group (RRRG) was added  
16 to the Regional Water Sustainability Priority list and awarded funding in the amount of  
17 \$7,000,000, and the IWRB directed staff to work with project sponsors to develop appropriate  
18 terms and conditions to be brought back to the IWRB for approval; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, the project would construct a pipeline from the Snake River into the Raft River  
21 Basin to deliver private water rights, develop flood detention and recharge ponds, and pipe  
22 surface water delivery infrastructure to reduce the Basin’s overall groundwater usage; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, the RRRG will provide documentation of the formation of the Raft River  
25 Irrigation District (RRID) and will convey its interest in the project to said District, and the RRRG  
26 has requested the IWRB approve the change in project sponsor from the RRRG to the RRID; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, the updated total Project costs are estimated to be \$57,884,067, with a target  
29 completion date of March 2030; and  
30

31           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB approves the Terms and Conditions for  
32 the Raft River Pipeline Project as specified in Attachment A to this resolution.  
33

34 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB approves the change in  
35 project sponsor, from the Raft River Recharge Group to the Raft River Irrigation District.

36

37 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB approves funding this project  
38 using the Water Management Account in the amount of \$7,000,000.

39

40 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that execution of the contract is contingent  
41 upon the passage and enactment of Idaho Senate Bill 1337 (2026).

42

43 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that contracts for these projects will also  
44 contain standard IWRB contract conditions and other project-specific Terms and Conditions not  
45 specified in this resolution.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman  
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

# ATTACHMENT A: Terms & Conditions

## Raft River Irrigation District Project

This project will include design work, legal work, permitting, and the construction of a new pump station, power substation, and conveyance infrastructure to allow the Raft River Irrigation District to deliver surface water to its users. Pulling from the Snake River, the pump station will convey the new surface water through a 13-mile pipeline, providing approximately 70 cfs for groundwater recharge and 30 cfs for irrigation. The project also includes the development of flood control and recharge basins, allowing the District to capture 620 acre-feet of water to reduce flood risk and provide recharge opportunities.

As part of the flood risk reduction, the District may also address bank stabilization issues along Heglar Creek. Along with erosion and sediment load controls, an 85-foot debris and storage facility may be constructed to decrease impacts to the creek during flood events.

The RRID will obtain all needed permits, approvals, certifications, and real estate interests needed to complete the project. Pre-construction activities began in March 2023. Construction is scheduled to begin in approximately October 2026 and is projected to be completed by approximately March 2030. All work is subject to weather, permitting, and construction delays.

### **Invoice-Reimbursement Contract and Proposed Terms & Conditions**

- This is an invoice-reimbursement not to exceed Contract where the IWRB has approved funding for the project. The sponsor shall pay the remaining project costs.
- 10% holdback on funds until a Project Completion Form is submitted.
- When requested by the IWRB, provide a monthly progress report to the Contract Manager.
- The progress report shall include at a minimum:
  - Updated schedule to completion
  - Issues encountered in the reporting period
  - Final cost forecasts where applicable
  - Up-to-date project budget
- The Contractor shall provide the final invoice with a financial summary of the Project's costs, with a detailed list of the type and amount of funds used to pay for the Project. The financial summary shall include the following:
  - Total final cost of the Project based on expenditures.
  - List all funding sources and the amount used on any aspect of the Project.
  - If a Federal or State grant was awarded for any portion of the Project, include the amount awarded.

# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)  
**From:** Justin Ferguson  
**Date:** March 27, 2026  
**Subject:** Raft River Recharge Group & Raft River Irrigation District – Loan Security

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**REQUESTED ACTION:** Consider the Proposed Security for the Pending IWRB Loan Contract

---

## **Background**

The IWRB received a proposal from the Raft River Recharge Group (RRRG) requesting loan funding for their Raft River Pipeline Project. This project would construct a pipeline from the Snake River into the Raft River Basin to deliver private water rights, develop flood detention and recharge ponds, and pipe surface water delivery infrastructure to reduce the Basin's overall groundwater usage. The loan application was approved by the IWRB at the November 2022 meeting, pending the approval of acceptable security for the loan. At that time, the Raft River Recharge Group developed a plan to form the Raft River Irrigation District and use the taxing authority as security for the loan.

## **Project Status Update**

The Project was recently issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) through the Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment and was selected for funding through the Bureau of Reclamation's Watershed Flood Prevention Operation (WFPO) program. Along with Regional Water Sustainability funding through the IWRB, the District will apply for \$25,000,000 in funding through the WFPO program to cover construction costs for the project, as pre-construction and design are largely completed. With the issuance of the FONSI, the RRID is also pursuing funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), with awards to be made this year.

## **Proposed Security**

Counsel for the RRID has provided documentation affirming the formation of the district and the expansion to cover all the acres to benefit from the Project (approximately 11,500 acres total) and judicial confirmation to take on debt for the full amount of the loan.

## **Attachment(s):**

- *Draft Resolution*

**BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF THE RAFT RIVER  
RECHARGE GROUP & RAFT RIVER  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT LOAN REQUEST

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LOAN  
FUNDING FOR PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT  
SURFACE DELIVERY INFRASTRUCTURE,  
FLOOD DETENTION, AND RECHARGE

1           WHEREAS, the Raft River Recharge Group (Group) submitted a loan application to the  
2 Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) in the amount of \$14,111,000; and  
3

4           WHEREAS, the Project would construct a pipeline from the Snake River into the Raft River  
5 Basin to deliver private water rights, develop flood detention and recharge ponds, and pipe  
6 surface water delivery infrastructure to reduce the Basin's overall groundwater usage; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, the Group was formed in 2015 to address declining aquifer levels in the Raft  
9 River Aquifer, with members collectively holding over 50,000 acres of land within the project  
10 area; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, the proposed Project is eligible for a loan from the IWRB's Water Management  
13 Account, is in the public interest, is in compliance with the State Water Plan, and has been issued  
14 a Finding of No Significant Impact through its environmental assessment; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, the IWRB approved a loan not to exceed \$14,11,000 from the Water  
17 Management Account at 4.75% interest with a 20-year repayment term pending the approval of  
18 acceptable security to the IWRB; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, the Raft River Irrigation District (District) has been formed to include all the  
21 acreage to benefit from the Project, or approximately 11,500 acres; and  
22

23           WHEREAS, the District has secured judicial confirmation of debt for the full \$14,111,000  
24 and will provide the ability to assess acreage as security for the loan; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, the RRRG will provide documentation of the formation of the Raft River  
27 Irrigation District (RRID) and will convey its interest in the project to said District pending IWRB  
28 approval of the change in sponsor; and  
29

30           WHEREAS, the District has submitted to the IWRB an updated project cost of \$57,884,067,  
31 as well as federal funding programs they are working with to secure additional funding for the  
32 Project to be used to supplement funding from the IWRB in the amount of \$7,000,000 through  
33 the Regional Water Sustainability Program.

34 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB provides authority to the Chairman of  
35 the IWRB, or his designee, to enter into contracts, to effectuate the loan, on behalf of the IWRB.

36  
37 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Raft River Irrigation District will be  
38 the Sponsor for the Project and replace the Raft River Recharge Group.

39  
40 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the assessment authority of the Raft  
41 River Irrigation District, comprised of 11,500 acres, is acceptable security for the loan.

42  
43 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that execution of the loan is contingent upon  
44 the passage and enactment of Idaho Senate Bill 1337 (2026).

45  
46 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the approval of the  
47 loan are subject to the following conditions:

- 48  
49 1) The Group shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations that apply to the  
50 proposed Project.  
51 2) The Company shall maintain a reserve fund equal to one annual loan payment, based  
52 on the amount of funds disbursed, until the loan has been satisfied.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Raybould, Chairman  
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)  
**From:** Justin Ferguson, Planning & Projects Bureau  
**Date:** March 20, 2026  
**Subject:** Farmers Land & Irrigation Company – New Water Project Loan Application

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**REQUESTED ACTION:** Consider a Loan Request of \$40,000

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Farmers Land & Irrigation Company (FLIC) is requesting a new loan in the amount of \$40,000 from the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to install a SCADA system at their existing Soda Creek Diversion. These improvements would allow FLIC to more precisely control flows through the canal and to its patrons.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

The Farmers Land & Irrigation Company, established in 1890, began diverting and delivering water from both Soda and Big Spring Creeks, through the Soda Creek Diversion works, in 1923. Since then, they have grown, serving 4,300 acres and 22 shareholders.

## 3.0 PRIOR LOANS

FLIC currently holds an existing loan with the IWRB for \$185,333 from the Water Management account, for work on their Soda Creek Diversion works repair project. This loan would be consolidated into a single loan, for \$225,333, through the IWRB for both projects under this new proposal.

FLIC is part of the Pooled Loan Program Revenue Bond, Series 2011A (October 7, 2011) to Caribou County. As such, they are responsible for an approximately \$30,000 annual payment to Caribou County. At the time of this memo, a total of 6 payments (annual) remain on the outstanding balance.

## 4.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

The Project will install SCADA equipment at FLIC's existing Soda Creek diversion, allowing the Company to better control deliveries for its patrons. Specifically, FLIC will install a downstream flume, headgate actuators, measurement sensors, and SCADA-specific integrations software to provide the Company with automated diversion controls.

## 5.0 BENEFITS

Accomplishing the Project would provide FLIC with multiple benefits, most notably a more reliable system to consistently deliver water for its patrons. With the installation of the SCADA-integrated system, FLIC will be able to reduce man hours at the diversion site and provide a timelier regulation of flows through the nearly 10-mile stretch.

## 6.0 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The total Project cost is estimated at \$35,000 with a \$5,000 contingency for a total of \$40,000.

Additionally, FLIC is requesting this new application include the existing \$185,333 obligation into a single loan through the IWRB.

The current assessment per share is \$27.00, representing 0.92 acres. Currently, there are 4,760 shares held by 22 shareholders for a total estimated income of \$128,500. The estimated annual payment on the total \$225,333, based on a 15-year term and an estimated 3 equal disbursements, would be \$21,800 at a 4.88% interest rate. This would be a reduction in the overall estimated annual payment from their existing loan of approximately \$700 per year.

Per the application information, FLIC plans to raise the shareholder assessment again in March 2026 for the term of the loan, including costs for operation and maintenance. Aside from the payment due to Caribou County, no other debits were listed in the application.

FLIC has also pursued an Aging Infrastructure grant through the IWRB in their most recent round of awards. This grant will offset 50% of the project costs for their Phase 1 proposal of approximately \$371,000.

## 7.0 WATER RIGHTS

Water Right	Source	Priority Date	Rate	Beneficial Use
11-432	Big Spring Creek	7/1/1905	20.00 cfs	Irrigation
11-531A	Soda Creek	5/1/1892	76.10 cfs	Irrigation
11-2109	Waste Water	4/23/1953	2.84 cfs	Irrigation
11-8081	Soda Creek	12/31/1965	50.00 cfs	Irrigation, Irrigation from Storage

## 8.0 SECURITY

As security for the loan, the applicant has authorized the Board to hold a lien against the company's infrastructure, including the reservoir dam, diversion works, water rights, and parcels of land under the reservoir. Ownership documentation has been provided in the application package from the applicant.

## 9.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The funds requested will be used to supplement the existing Soda Creek diversion works with both automation hardware and software, allowing the Company to better regulate diversions through the system. This project specifically will take advantage of work already in progress at the location, to make significant updates at reduced costs. As a non-profit organization, the Company plans to raise shareholder assessments 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 Board in the Idaho State Water Plan. Staff recommends the approval of the loan request, for the total amount of \$40,000, and a combined total with the existing IWRB loan No. IWRB1046 of \$225,333.

### Attachment(s):

- *Draft Resolution*

**BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FARMERS LAND &  
IRRIGATION COMPANY LOAN REQUEST

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LOAN  
FUNDING FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE  
INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATION  
HARDWARE AND LOAN CONSOLIDATION

1           WHEREAS, Farmers Land & Irrigation Company (Company) submitted a loan application  
2 to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) in the amount of \$40,000 to cover costs associated  
3 with the installation of SCADA software at the existing Soda Creek Diversion; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, the IWRB previously approved a loan to the Company for \$185,333 to cover  
6 costs associated with the repair and replacement of the existing Soda Creek diversion works  
7 (Resolution 29-2024); and  
8

9           WHEREAS, the Company was established in the 1890s and currently delivers  
10 approximately 11,000 acre-feet of irrigation water across 4,300 acres for 22 shareholders; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, the Soda Creek diversion works were constructed in 1923 with work underway  
13 to update and repair the diversion works; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, the proposal is requesting funds to further work at the diversion site, installing  
16 SCADA automation equipment; and  
17

18           WHEREAS, the Company will increase assessments to their shareholders, beginning in  
19 March 2026, to cover costs associated with the annual loan payments; and  
20

21           WHEREAS, the Company is a qualified applicant, and the proposed Project is eligible for a  
22 loan from the Board's Water Management Account; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, the proposed Project is in the public interest and is in compliance with the  
25 State Water Plan.  
26

27           NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB provides authority to the Chairman of  
28 the Idaho Water Resource Board, or his designee, to enter into contracts, to effectuate the loan,  
29 with the Company on behalf of the IWRB.  
30

31           NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB approves a loan not to exceed  
32 \$40,000 from the Revolving Development Account at 4.88% interest with a 15-year repayment  
33 term.

34 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the existing loan to Farmers Land &  
35 Irrigation Company, IWRB1046 from the Water Management account, will be combined with this  
36 approval into a single contract not to exceed \$225,333 from the Revolving Development account  
37 at 4.88% interest with a 15-year repayment term.

38  
39 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the approval of the  
40 loan are subject to the following conditions:

- 41
- 42 1) The Company shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations that apply to the  
43 proposed Project.
  - 44 2) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Company shall comply with all statutory  
45 requirements for incurring debt.
  - 46 3) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Company will provide acceptable security  
47 for the loan to the IWRB.
- 48

DATED this 27<sup>TH</sup> day of March, 2026.

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JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman  
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)  
**From:** Planning & Projects Bureau Staff  
**Date:** March 20, 2026  
**Subject:** Director's Report

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## **INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

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This item is presented to provide the Idaho Department of Water Resources Director, Mathew Weaver, with an opportunity to share any updates or relevant information with the Board.

**Attachments:**

- *None*

# MEMO



**To:** Idaho Water Resource Board (Board)  
**From:** Planning & Projects Bureau Staff  
**Date:** March 20, 2026  
**Subject:** Non-Action Items for Discussion

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## INFORMATIONAL ITEM

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This item is presented to provide an opportunity for discussion of non-action items and general Board updates.

**Attachments:**

- *None*