



Idaho Water Resource Board

ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan

Presentation to Idaho Water
Users Association

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Outline

- Background: Framework Process
 - Goal and Objective
- CAMP Advisory Committee Process
 - Advisory Committee Charge
 - Representatives and Governmental Agencies
 - Advisory Committee Roles
 - Tasks and Work Plan
- Lessons Learned: Consensus Decision Making



ESPA Framework

- Broadened public participation across the ESPA – public meetings and management alternative working group
- Identified management alternatives and strategies in one document
- Summarized input on how to fund management alternatives
- Outlined qualitative Goal and Objectives



Goal for Aquifer Management

Sustain the economic viability and social and environmental health of the Eastern Snake Plain by adaptively managing a balance between water use and supplies.



Objectives for Aquifer Management

- Increase predictability for water users by managing for reliable supply
- Create alternatives to administrative curtailment
- Manage overall demand for water within the Eastern Snake Plain
- Increase recharge to the aquifer
- Reduce withdrawals from the aquifer



Advisory Committee Charge

- Develop strategies and approaches to manage the ESPA that are acceptable to water users,
- Make consensus recommendations to the Board for decision-making,
- Inform and involve stakeholders regarding proposals, ideas and direction of the Advisory Committee.

Advisory Committee Representatives

- Municipalities/Counties
- Business
- Land developers
- Surface water users
- Groundwater users
- Spring water users
- Hydropower
- Domestic well owners
- Environmental/Conservation
- Mixed-Use
- County Assessors



Governmental Participants

- Bureau of Reclamation
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Legislature and Governor's office
- US Fish and Wildlife Service



Advisory Committee Roles

- **Water Resources Board**
 - Decision-making with recommendations from Advisory Committee and public
- **Advisory Committee Representatives**
 - Deliberate and provide recommendations to Board
 - Coordinate with constituents/public
- **Governmental Agencies**
 - Provide technical and policy input
- **Facilitators**
 - Provide neutral, process support to reach outlined objectives
 - Encourage parties to develop agreements



Advisory Committee Tasks

- **Interim Targets.** Develop recommendations for quantitative 5 and 10 year interim targets.
- **Management Actions.** Develop recommendations for initial management actions to be taken to reach the interim targets
- **Funding Mechanisms.** Develop recommendations for funding mechanisms
- **Adaptive Management.** Develop recommendations for adaptive management mechanisms that will assess progress



Advisory Committee Work Plan – Interim Targets

Interim Targets (3 - 5 months)

- Consult with technical experts on range of water budget change necessary to achieve qualitative goal
- Discuss with technical experts on water budget changes possible from various management alternatives over 5 and 10 year time frames
- Using information provided, Committee recommends quantitative water budget change ranges for each objective in the 5 and 10 year time frames



Advisory Committee

Work Plan – Management Actions

Management Actions (4 - 6 months)

- Technical experts provide information to assist Committee in identifying potential projects, expected outcomes, risk factors, costs, etc.
- The Committee compares potential management actions with each other on a costs and benefits basis, including economic and other considerations.
- Committee recommends prioritized projects and funding needs for each management action.



Advisory Committee Work Plan – Funding

Funding Mechanisms (3 - 5 months)

- Committee examines total funding required to meet 5 and 10 year quantitative goals.
- Committee recommends funding strategy to provide resources necessary to implement management actions.



Advisory Committee Plan - Adaptive Management

- Adaptive Management (1 - 2 month)
 - Committee recommends process for continuous evaluation of progress toward interim targets, including responsibilities



Lessons Learned

- Clear direction and leadership regarding roles and expectations,
- Good faith effort to understand and address needs, concerns and interests,
- Convergence of Executive, Legislature, Board and public regarding ESPA management
- Others?

