Preliminary Plan for ESPA CAMP Modeling Scenario

ESPA CAMP Meeting

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ESPA CAMP Modeling Scenario

- Assignment from the CAMP Subcommittee was to evaluate the reach gain and water level changes from a 600KAF – 900KAF change in the ESPA water budget.
- Because the effects differ depending on what actions are used, and where they occur, we had to make a number of assumptions regarding actions and locations.

ESPA CAMP Modeling Scenario

- The following is a preliminary plan meant to begin the discussion and analysis of options to change the ESPA water budget.
- This plan outlines one combination of management options that achieves a change of 900KAF. There may be other alternatives not shown, or they may be applied in different combinations than shown here.

A&B Conversion

- Convert A&B Irrigation District to a surface water supply. This would remove 60,000 acres from ground water pumping.
- Water would be supplied from the High-Lift exchange and new storage.
- Would require new delivery infrastructure.

Managed Recharge

- Utilize the Water Board's recharge water right, assuming a resolution to the Milner Hydro Permit or a negotiated settlement with permit holders.
- Split available flow between upstream and downstream of American Falls based on water availability and water right constraints.

Managed Recharge Below American Falls

- Utilize full diversionary capacity of Northside and Milner-Gooding canals after March 1st, in excess of irrigation deliveries and when the IWRB natural flow water right is in priority.
- Assume all water diverted for recharge can be recharged. This will require significant new construction.

Managed Recharge Above American Falls

- Utilize full diversionary capacity of Aberdeen-Springfield, Egin Bench and other canals after March 15th, in excess of irrigation deliveries and when the IWRB natural flow water right is in priority.
- Assume all water diverted for recharge can be recharged. This will require significant new construction.

CREP

- Assume modifications and incentives to CREP to achieve the full 100,000 acre enrollment limit.

Soft Conversions

- Opportunistically pursue soft conversion projects where excess water exists, canal capacity to mixes-source lands exists, and timing allows.

Remaining Measures

- Assume any remaining shortfall in water budget change will be accomplished through reduced pumping through voluntary measures such as buy-outs, dry-year leases, or other similar measures.

New Storage

- Assume the construction of 50 KAF of new storage through the Minidoka enlargement, or through off-stream sites below American Falls. This water would be needed to achieve the A&B conversion.
- Begin evaluating 300 KAF of new storage above American Falls, but because this would be several decades to completion, it is not included in this modeling exercise.

Salmon Flow Exchange

- Assume all available salmon flow augmentation water released from Upper Snake storage is exchanged for use on the Snake River Plain. This is needed for both the A&B conversion and for soft conversions.
- The salmon flow would be replaced with water from below-Milner sources, such as high-lift buyouts or new storage in southwest Idaho.

Questions?