



Idaho Water Resource Board

ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan Progress Report

Presentation to the 2008 Idaho
Legislature

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Outline

- Background and Framework Development process
- Formation and Operation of Advisory Committee
- Key Topics and Issues Addressed by Committee
- Initial Board and Committee Recommendations
 - Study of Minidoka Dam Enlargement
 - Voluntary Demand Reductions in the ESPA
 - ESPA Recharge
- Request to the Legislature



Idaho Water Resource Board Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan Background

- Framework Plan funded by 2006 Legislature, SCR 136
- Board conducted extensive stakeholder outreach to develop an ESPA CAMP Framework (2007)
- 2007 Legislative funding and authorization included technical studies and a facilitated planning effort, HCR 28 and HB 320.
- Framework identified a goal and objectives for aquifer management
- Currently finishing year two of a three year effort with the objective presenting a completed plan to the 2009 Legislature.



Framework 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.



Framework 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



Background and Framework Development Process

- Framework identified interim measures
 - Recharge
 - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
 - Targeted Demand Reduction
 - Groundwater Model
- Framework recommended creation of an Advisory Committee to develop the CAMP



Background and Framework Development Process

- Pursuant to House Bill 320 the Board created and convened the ESPA CAMP Advisory Committee
 - Broadly based representatives across ESPA charged with developing consensus-based recommendations to Board (18-month process)
 - Focus on long-term aquifer management plan
 - Guided by the Framework Goal and Objectives



Formation and Operation of the Advisory Committee

- Committee composition established through a stakeholder nomination and Board selection process
- 16-member Committee met for first time in May 2007
- 9 Committee meetings and numerous sub-committee meetings held
- Meetings convened across the ESPA
- Operating Protocols established
 - Consensus-based decision making process



Formation and Operation of the Advisory Committee

- **Committee Work Plan Developed**
 - **Targets** – establish quantitative 5 and 10, 20 and 30 year targets
 - **Management Actions** – identify tools to achieve targets
 - **Funding Mechanisms** – develop funding strategies to implement actions
 - **Adaptive Management Plan** – develop plan to assess progress toward qualitative and quantitative goal and objectives



Key Topics and Issues Addressed by Advisory Committee

- **The Model** – The Eastern Snake Aquifer Hydrologic Model was discussed as a planning tool and aid to CAMP development
- **Settlement Efforts** – Reviewed and discussed previous efforts to address ESPA issues
- **Funding** – Initial funding strategy principles reviewed



Key Topics and Issues Addressed by Advisory Committee

- Management Alternative Matrix
 - Managed and incidental recharge
 - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
 - Additional surface water storage
 - Groundwater to surface water conversions
 - Buy-outs and subordination agreements
 - Below Milner dam salmon flow augmentation exchanges
 - Dry-year leasing
 - Crop mix (incentives to plant low-water use crops)
 - Weather modification
 - Water conservation measures



Key Topics and Issues Addressed by Advisory Committee

- Quantitative Goal Analysis
 - Evaluation of reach gain and water level changes from a 900kaf change in water budget
 - Review of management action assumptions to accomplish change
 - Deliberation regarding quantitative goal targets, implementation and benefit timeframe, impacts and magnitude of costs
 - Evaluation against goal and objectives



Initial Board and Committee Recommendations

- **Study of Minidoka Dam Enlargement**
 - Scheduled for reconstruction in 2011
 - Dam raise could increase available supply between 40kaf and 50kaf annually in ESPA
 - Management actions such as ground water to surface water conversions and others require increased surface water storage
 - Immediate allocation required to complete necessary studies or State will lose opportunity

Estimated Cost: \$1.4 million to support feasibility analysis.



Initial Board and Committee Recommendations

- **Voluntary Demand Reductions** (to reduce demand component of ESPA water budget)
 - Buy down select water rights
 - Pursue subordination agreements
 - Execute short or long term dry-year lease agreements (including CREP augmentation in targeted areas)

Estimated Cost: \$5 million to pursue demand reductions in 2008.



Initial Board and Committee Recommendations

- **ESPA Recharge**
 - Framework objectives include increasing recharge to aquifer.
 - Additional funds necessary to support activities within existing facilities (canals)
 - Measurement of recharge water
 - Construction of appropriate facilities
 - Water wheeling
 - Renting storage water

Estimated Cost: \$ 1 million to conduct recharge activities in 2008.



Request to the Legislature

- Continued leadership and involvement during CAMP
- \$7.4 million in 2008
 - Study of Minidoka Dam Enlargement
 - Voluntary Demand Reductions
 - ESPA Recharge



Questions?

