

Preliminary Plan for ESPA CAMP Modeling Scenario with Estimated Implementation Schedule

ESPA CAMP Meeting

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Idaho Falls

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ESPA CAMP Modeling Scenario

- Original 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.
- Request was made to take into account an estimated implementation schedule.
- The previous assumptions regarding management actions did not change.

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.
- Because of the timeline regarding the repair of the dam, we estimate the raise could happen within approximately 10 years to coincide with the A&B conversion schedule.

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.
- Acquisition of below-Milner water rights could begin as soon as funding is in place, but delivery to conversion projects would be constrained by the implementation timetable.

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 salmon flow exchange and new storage.
- Would require new delivery infrastructure.
- Estimate a 10-year planning, design, and construction schedule before surface water is delivered to A&B.

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.
- Some amount of managed recharge capacity currently exists, but is well below full development level.

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.
- Estimate a 20-year development period.

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, but not as much as below American Falls
- Estimate a 10-year development period.

Soft Conversions

- Opportunistically pursue soft conversion projects where excess water exists, canal capacity to mixed-source lands exists, and timing allows.
- Estimate a 10-year implementation schedule to install on-farm pumps, ditches, and other works necessary for soft conversions.

Demand Reduction (including CREP)

- Assume a 200,000 acre-foot reduction in withdrawals from the ESPA through a combination of CREP, buy-outs, dry-year leases, or other measures to reduce demand. Assume follow-up program for CREP lands after 15 years.
- Assumed additional lands above Thousand Springs, above American Falls, and in Power County (not CREP-eligible) were bought out and retired.
- Estimate a 10-year program to fully implement this program of retirements and demand reduction.

Questions?