Preliminary Plan for ESPA CAMP
Modeling Scenario with Estimated Implementation Schedule

ESPA CAMP Meeting
February 28, 2008
Idaho Falls

Brian Patton
Idaho Department of Water Resources
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?