



Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan

Recharge Working Group Meeting

Draft Meeting Summary July 14, 2009 (Teleconference Call)

Overview

The Recharge Working Group (WG) discussed the following:

- Late Season Recharge 2009
 - What is the expected volume of storage water for late season recharge efforts
 - Hydrologic analysis
 - Funding for late season recharge
 - Coordination efforts with the Board, BOR and canal companies

Water Availability for Late Season Recharge 2009

The Working Group confirmed that the planned target for late season recharge is 50 kaf – 100 kaf. The group agreed that the expected carryover minus what is expected to be released for flood control is the volume that would be contracted for late season recharge. Rich Rigby agreed to have the BOR conduct model runs to estimate the surplus storage that would be available in the fall. While the best data will be closer to the end of the irrigation season, he will have preliminary information (carry-over volumes and the prospects for a full system) to inform the August 5th Recharge Working Group.

Hydrologic Analysis of Late Season Recharge

Bill Quinn noted that preliminary information regarding the hydrologic effects of late season recharge was being developed and would be available for the August 5 recharge meeting. The WG agreed that the first priority is to identify the best ‘bang for the buck’ for available water supplies. It was suggested to review the 2008 Egin Bench recharge report as well as rely upon the model for measurement of impact.

Funding

Numerous options were discussed to contract with private lease owners for late season recharge. Options include:

- Use of Board resources currently allocated for early season recharge in 2010; concept to be discussed at the July 23 meeting.
- An IOU or ESPA Plan credit for those contributing water for late season recharge (variation credit toward Plan contributions plus a small cash outlay for wheeling costs).

- Cost of leased water should be low due to the expectation of flood release (value of water is less than earlier in season), although the ‘last to fill’ provision applies.

One issue is whether the hydrologic value and costs of late season recharge are worthwhile, and will be determined with greater information.

Canal Interest

The Aberdeen Springfield, Fremont Madison and Great Feeder and Progressive Districts, as well as others, expressed an interest in late season recharge dependant on the terms and results of analysis.

Timeframe for late season recharge

Information and decision dates for late season recharge were discussed:

- July 23 Board meeting to introduce ideas – WG members encouraged to attend and participate; Board will call members if questions.
- Hydrologic analysis on where to recharge to be available for August 5 meeting
- Initial carryover/surplus storage analysis conducted by BOR by August 5 meeting with refined numbers in mid-September
- Expected Board decision on September 25, 2009 regarding late season recharge
- Climate Impact Group (Univ. of WA) water forecast October 22nd (Hal/Brian to determine if an earlier forecast is available). Predictions calling for a El Nino (poor water year)
- Canals need lead time (a few weeks before turning system off) and work through technical issues (de-icing etc...) information on recharge effort by October 1st.

Next Steps

Action	Responsible
Finalize modeling effort to determine the geographical targets and temporal effects of recharge	Bill Quinn
As of early August, estimate the carryover in the system to inform late season recharge efforts	Rich Rigby
Explore whether there is an earlier water forecast from the Climate Action Group for 2010	Brian/Hal
Develop briefing for IWRB meeting on July 23	Hal/Jonathan B.

Upcoming Meetings

- July 23 – IWRB Board Meeting (late season recharge on agenda)
- August 5 at 8 am (teleconference) – to review list of constructed recharge sites, canal contracts, and liability issues

- September 25 – IWRB Board Meeting (likely decision on go-no-go for fall recharge effort)

MEETING ATTENDEES

Recharge Working Group Members

1.	Peter	Anderson	Conservation
2.	Rebecca	Casper	Development interests
3.	Jeff	Raybould	Surface water
4.	Linda	Lemmon*	Spring Users
5.	Scott	Clawson	GW
6.	Lloyd	Hicks	Surface water
7.	Steve	Howser	Surface water users

Ex Officio Members and Other Attendees

8.	Jonathan	Bartsch	CDR Associates
9.	Brian	Patton	IDWR
10.	Rich	Rigby	BOR
11.	Bill	Quinn	IDWR
12.	John	Chatburn	Governor's Office
13.	Stephan	Goodson	Governor's Office