Eastern Snake Plain Comprehensive Aquifer Implementation Committee

August 13, 2009
• ESPA Framework Plan Developed and Adopted (2007)
• Advisory Committee Convened (2007)
• ESPA Advisory Committee Recommendations Developed (late 2008)
• Unanimous Board Adoption of the ESPA Plan (2009)
• HB 264, adopting ESPA Plan, becomes law on April 23, 2009
600 kaf Water Budget Change
  • Robust mix of conversions, aquifer recharge
    and demand reduction strategies

Implementation Timeline – 20 years

Cost – $600 million not including O&M
  • Estimated annual funding needed, $30 M
Phase I (1 – 10 years)

- Initiate actions that increase aquifer levels, spring and river flows.
- Geographically distribute benefits across the ESPA.
- Build institutional confidence with long-term plan implementation.
• Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions

• Managed and Incidental Aquifer Recharge

• Demand Reduction including; Buyouts, buy-downs, and subordination agreements, rotating fallowing, dry-year lease agreement, CREP, crop mix modification, surface water conservation.

• Pilot Weather Modification Program
**CAMP Implementation Committee**
Refocus CAMP Advisory Committee on Plan Implementation

**Environmental Considerations**
Continue to integrate environmental and other considerations

**Clearinghouse**
Evaluate options to implement a flexible mechanism that connects willing participants in the implementation of ESPA water management projects
**Outreach and Education**
Develop and fund a broad water education and outreach effort.

**Management Flexibility and Innovation**
Explore innovative approaches that can improve water supplies available for conversion, recharge, and/or enhancement of surface supplies.

**Downstream Transfer Policy**
Encourage providing water for recharge and conversion projects through downstream transfers of surface water rights to the ESPA in a manner that enhances flows in flow-limited tributaries.
Purpose is to develop consensus recommendations to the Idaho Water Resource Board (Board) regarding ESPA CAMP implementation on:

- Phase I funding collection mechanisms,
- Implementation criteria, plans and priorities,
- Early action projects, and
- Foundation for Plan implementation - strategically coordinated, consistent and transparent
- **Members**: Previous Advisory Committee members and alternates.

- **Agency Participants**: Active role in Committee deliberation.

- **Board**: Provide decision making authority regarding Plan implementation.

- **Board Staff**: Provide technical support.
- **Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions:**
  Make recommendations to opportunistically pursue conversions.

- **Weather Modification**
  Make recommendations on implementing a five-year weather modification pilot program designed to increase winter snowpack.

- **Demand Reduction**
  Make recommendations on managing overall demand for water within the Eastern Snake Plain.
➢ **Recharge**
Make recommendations to increase recharge to the ESPA.

➢ **Funding**
Make recommendations on funding strategies and mechanisms, including but not limited to further identification of water user, federal, and private funding sources.
Working Groups will make recommendations to the Implementation Committee who, in turn, will make recommendations to the Board for approval.

All Implementation Committee members and others will further identify private, water user and federal funding sources for Plan implementation.