



Eastern Snake Plain Comprehensive Aquifer Implementation Committee

August 13, 2009





- Defining Conversions
- Project Sites
- Criteria for Project Selection
- Criteria for Final Package of Recommendations
- Next Steps



- **Soft Conversions:** projects in which the infrastructure to divert and deliver surface water is constructed for an individual or farm level system. Canal delivery infrastructure is located nearby (e.g. less than one mile). Wells will be maintained for future use.
- Phase I projects should be considered soft conversions. In this first year, soft conversions projects will be implemented as immediate action items that produce timely results and can be expanded upon in future Phases. These soft conversions projects include larger projects that can be implemented to gain “more bang for the buck”.

The Conversions Working Group, using maps developed by IDWR, narrowed the list of project sites and indicated ones for which more information is needed. The project sites that will be further analyzed (costs, etc) are:



- o Hazleton Butte
- o H & P Farms
- o West End A & B Project
- o Rockford Canal
- o East Shelley

*includes sites that are below and above American Falls

Once the project sites listed in the previous slides have been further analyzed, the following criteria will help to prioritize or even eliminate project areas. The criteria have not been identified in any ranking order yet, but they have been categorized as follows:

Eligibility Criteria

- ✓ Within ESPA boundaries**
- ✓ Benefit to the aquifer**
- ✓ No injury to existing water rights**
- ✓ No supplemental wells**

Preferred Criteria

- ✓ **Senior water rights will be honored over junior ones**
- ✓ **Long-term commitment; people will continue project**
- ✓ **Adequate/reliable canal capacity**
- ✓ **Multiple benefits or purpose (i.e. recharge and conversions)**
- ✓ **Long-term benefit to the aquifer**

Preferred Criteria Continued

- ✓ **Willing to participate financially**
- ✓ **Economically viable; can support themselves**
- ✓ **Adequate/reliable canal capacity**
- ✓ **Emphasize reduction to groundwater pumping**
- ✓ **People are ready and willing**
- ✓ **A need for conversions**
- ✓ **Cost-benefit ratio**
- ✓ **Cost of implementation**
- ✓ **Environmental factors**



- (In addition to the criteria for project selection):
- Geographic diversity within ESPA
- Mixture of early action items and long-term projects



- ❖ Determine specific project areas/sites to strategically target and incentivize, once additional analysis is complete
- ❖ Develop incentives to bring people into ESPA conversions program
- ❖ Develop an administrative mechanism for managing projects from application stage to construction to water delivery
- ❖ Design public outreach and education strategy
- ❖ Incorporate environmental factors



The Demand Reduction Working Group will focus on developing a long-term plan for Demand Reduction during Phase I, including pilot projects and other research. The following topics will be addressed in 2009:

- Increasing CREP enrollment
- Surface Water Conservation
- Crop Mix
- Buy-downs & Buy-outs

The Working Group will address the issue of ***downstream transfers***, included in the Plan as part of the 'Additional Plan Components.'



- ✓ Agreed on Working Group charge, parameters and workplan, including the necessity to incrementally build a demand reduction program in Phase
- ✓ Developed two proposals on increasing CREP enrollment
- ✓ Held initial discussions on surface water conservation and identified potential surface water conservation sites



1. *Discuss screening and ranking criteria for AWEP funds*
2. *Propose ideas for outreach to farmers and identifying potential applicants.*
3. *Discuss whether/how to prioritize projects (includes review of conversions maps)*
4. *Gather information from demand reduction programs from other states*
5. *Learn about lessons from the Lemhi River System*
6. *Compare IDWR proposal and Lynn Tominaga Proposal and reach agreement on CREP incentives*