



RATHDRUM PRAIRIE ASSESSMENT – “ISSUES AND OPTIONS” (ASSESSMENT PGS 23-32)

Issue # 1 – Surface-Ground and Quality-Quantity Interactions and Options

Option 1.1 Reconvene some or all of the members of the advisory committee that created the *Groundwater Management Plan* to review the issues and options considered in that plan, and to evaluate the implementation and impact of proposed actions.

Option 1.2 Create and use various scenarios to promote collaborative learning on this set of complex issues.

Option 1.3 Review how other Western states have dealt with this mix of issues, particularly as related to a comprehensive aquifer management plan.

Option 1.4 Review and consider all of the options presented below.

Issue # 2 -- Water Supply and Availability

Option 2.1 Conserve water upstream through voluntary, incentive-based mechanisms as well as regulatory requirements.

Option 2.2. Require a water use permit for all future wells and uses of groundwater.

Option 2.3 Augment the supply of water in the aquifer (and therefore the River) through re-use or scenarios such as pumping water from Lake Pend Oreille to recharge the aquifer during the winter months to make it available to recharge the River in the late summer months.

Option 2.4 Explore other ways to augment Spokane River flows where and when needed.

Option 2.5 Manage population growth upstream.

Option 2.6 If feasible, require Avista to adjust flows in their dams.

Option 2.7 Re-allocate existing uses through voluntary, market-based mechanisms.

Option 2.8 Impose volume limits on different water uses.

Option 2.9 Explore the feasibility of artificial recharge/aquifer storage.

Option 2.10 Re-use water (purple pipe) recognizing that reuse may divert water around some river stretches.

Option 2.11 Relocate some pumping so that the depletive effects on the River are not as immediate (such as during Summer and Fall when River flows are low).

Issue # 3 – Existing Water Uses and Rights

Option 3.1 Complete the water adjudication process in both Idaho and Washington as soon as possible.

Option 3.2 Complete negotiation over aboriginal and reserved water right claims by the Coeur d’Alene Tribe as soon as practicable.

Option 3.3 Create a series of aquifer management options based on alternative scenarios in terms of how the adjudication processes in these various jurisdictions play out.

Option 3.4 Address the interstate management of the aquifer through one or more of the options presented below under Issue # 7– Regional Cooperation.

Option 3.5 Monitor and measure all water uses.

Issue #4 - Waste water and disposal

Option 4.1 Improve water treatment facilities to meet or exceed the standards required to receive an NPDES permit.

Option 4.2 Appropriately treat and reuse wastewater.

Option 4.3 Apply wastewater to land.

Option 4.4 Limit or prohibit on-site sewage disposal for smaller lots.

Issue #5 - Water quality

Option 5.1 Monitor and measure water quality in Lake Coeur d’Alene and the Spokane River including, perhaps, the use of “citizen science” programs.

Issue #6 - Land and water use

Option 6.1 Use the emerging Kootenai County Comprehensive Land Use Plan as a vehicle to help facilitate the integration of land and water decisions.

Option 6.2 Require future development proposals to demonstrate that the proposing entity has secured water rights as a condition for receiving the necessary permits for development.

Option 6.3 Regulate land and water uses when and where necessary (including both local and state).

Option 6.4 Acquire conservation easements on agricultural land to preserve open space and direct growth to appropriate places.

Option 6.5 Impose a fee to use water from the aquifer for selected purposes.

Issue #7 - Coeur d’Alene Tribe Rights

Option 7.1 At a minimum, be aware of this issue and consider it in developing the RP CAMP.

Option 7.2 As appropriate, learn more about the potential water rights claims and develop one or more scenarios on how those rights might affect future use and management of the aquifer.

Issue # 8 - Regional cooperation

Option 8.1 Build on existing working relationships within the region.

Option 8.2 Build on existing and emerging forums and studies.

Option 8.3 Promote regional communication, understanding, and cooperation by allowing the development of the RP CAMP to unfold in a way that promotes inclusive participation, informed dialogue, and transparency.

Option 8.4 Identify and implement water management solutions that meet the needs and interests of both Idaho and Washington – for example, water conservation.

Option 8.5 Promote new opportunities for regional dialogue and deliberation on water issues, such as through groups such as the Spokane Joint Aquifer Board and/or the Spokane River Forum.

Option 8.6 Explore the range of options available to jointly manage a shared water resource.

Issue # 9 - Civic and political good will

Option 9.1 Encourage state agencies and elected officials to continue meeting to build a shared political commitment to water resources.

Option 9.2 Develop and implement a regional public information and education campaign to increase awareness of the value, threats, and future of the aquifer.

Option 9.3 Convene an ongoing “regional” forum to exchange information, build relationships, and explore opportunities to work together.

Option 9.4 Use the Spokane River Forum (particularly their annual conference) as a way to raise public awareness and understanding

Issue #10 – Potential exportation of water from the aquifer