Rental Pools in Idaho
Treasure Valley CAMP Advisory Committee
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Rental Pools

- Rental pools provide a mechanism for those holding storage water (stored in reservoirs) to make their storage available to others if they don't use all of it in a given year.

- First known rental of storage water was in 1932 in the Upper Snake Basin, although the statutory framework was not put into place until 1979.

- Authorized by Idaho Code 42-1765.
Rental Pools

- Rental pools have been established in the
  - Boise River Basin (Water District 63)
  - Payette River Basin (Water District 65) & Lake Fork (Water District 65-K)
  - Upper Snake River Basin (Water District 1)

- Special purpose rental pools have been established in the Big Wood and Lemhi Rivers.

- Establishing one in the Bear River Basin has been under consideration, but the interstate nature of the river has complicated this issue.

Rental Pools

- Idaho Water Resource Board appoints a local committee to manage the rental pool – has always been the water district advisory committee.

- Local committee develops procedures for the operation of their rental pool, which then must be approved by the Idaho Water Resource Board.

- Procedures include a pricing structure and other operational requirements.
Rental Pools

• In all rental pools:
  • There is an in-basin rental price and an out-of-basin rental price. In the Boise Rental Pool there are the same at $14/AF total cost. The Nez Perce Water Rights Agreement fixed the out-of-basin price at $14/AF for all rental pools and will increase over time.
  • The local water district receives a fee for administration of the water—generally between $0.50 and $1.00/AF.
  • The Water Resource Board receives a fee equal to 10% of the return to the spaceholder—this varies between $0.20/AF to $2.00/AF.
  • The remainder to the lease price goes to the spaceholder.

• The Water Resource Board uses funds received from rental pools to make loans to build, re-build, and improve water infrastructure around the state.

Rental Pool Use

The use of the three rental pools (Boise, Payette, Upper Snake) averages as shown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rental Pool</th>
<th>Average Annual Rental Pool Use (past 8 years)*</th>
<th>Basin Storage Volume</th>
<th>Acres in Basin Irrigated by Surface Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boise</td>
<td>6,236 AF</td>
<td>1 million AF</td>
<td>300,000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payette</td>
<td>63,741 AF</td>
<td>800,000 AF</td>
<td>200,000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Snake</td>
<td>129,073 AF</td>
<td>4 million AF</td>
<td>1,200,000 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Exclusive of release of BOR uncontracted space

Use of the Boise Rental Pool appears low compared to the other rental pools despite having rapidly growing DCMI uses.
Questions?