Memorandum

To: Idaho Water Resource Board

From: Helen Harrington

Re: Streamflow Enhancement and Minimum Streamflow Committee Update

Date: September 9, 2013

Information; no action necessary

The Streamflow Committee held a meeting on August 29, 2013. The meeting was held in Salmon, Idaho and was in conjunction with a field tour of the Lemhi River Basin. The agenda for the Committee meeting included an overview and history of the efforts in the Lemhi River Basin to address Endangered Species Act issues from the state's perspective. Mr. Clive Strong provided this presentation. Mr. Mike Edmondson, Governor's Office of Species Conservation, followed up with a presentation and discussion about OSC activities.

Ms. Morgan Case, Idaho Water Transactions Program Coordinator, spoke to the committee about a recent review of the program by the Independent Scientific Review Panel, a group charged with reviewing programs supported by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The Idaho Water Transactions Program meets the criteria for programs, indicating the program is supporting the NPCC program objectives.

Ms. Case also requested Committee guidance on adjustments to compensation for a transaction. The Committee recommended that Ms. Case review the Little Springs McFarland Livestock (Kauer) transaction to determine the basis for the differences which are occurring between the estimated costs and the actual costs over the last two years. After she reviews the information, she will provide the committee with an assessment of the situation and discuss any proposed recommendations.

The Lemhi River Basin field tour itinerary consisted of selected locations where Idaho Water Transactions Program projects have been completed or are underway. The committee members met with local water users and personnel involved with the projects.

In addition to IWRB members, participants on the tour included representatives from the Governor's Office, Office of Species Conservation (OSC), and the Office of the Attorney General; the local water master; and Representative Terry Gestrin, who represents the district. The full-day tour provided Board members and others with discussion about the implementation of the Idaho Water Transactions Program and local attitudes toward the program.