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**Roger W. Chase** Chairman Pocatello District 4

Jeff Raybould Vice-Chairman St. Anthony At Large

Vince Alberdi Secretary Kimberly At Large

**Peter Van Der Meulen** Hailey At Large

Charles "Chuck" Cuddy Orofino At Large

Albert Barker Boise District 2

John "Bert" Stevenson Rupert District 3

**Dale Van Stone** Hope District 1

### AGENDA

#### **IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

#### Workshop Meeting on Efforts to Resolve Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Issues

September 17, 2015 at 8:30 am

University of Idaho Aquaculture Research Institute/ Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station 3059F National Fish Hatchery Rd Hagerman, ID 83332

- Introductory Remarks Speaker Scott Bedke, Senator Steve Bair, Chairman Roger Chase
   Aquifer Decline Background
  - Mathew Weaver, IDWR Deputy Director
- 3. Surface Water Coalition Settlement Overview Speaker Scott Bedke
- 4. IWRB Managed Recharge Program Brian Patton, IDWR Planning Bureau Chief
- 5. Proposed Hagerman Valley Settlement *Clive Strong, Deputy Attorney General*
- 6. Aquifer and Springflow/reach gain modeled response to recharge and settlement actions *Michael McVay, IDWR Technical Hydrogeologist*
- 7. Wrap-Up Speaker Scott Bedke and Senator Steve Bair

--- The meeting will break for lunch at approximately 12:00pm.---

1:00 pm: IWRB Field Trip to selected points of interest related to Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer solutions including the Rangen Pipeline and the Shoshone Recharge site. Transportation will be provided for Board members, staff, and invited guests.

#### Americans with Disabilities

The meeting will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please make advance arrangements by contacting Department staff by email <u>Mandi.Pearson@idwr.idaho.gov</u> or by phone at (208) 287-4800.



# History of Aquifer Declines on the Eastern Snake Plain and Related Implications

Idaho Water Resource Board Meeting

Presented by Mat Weaver, September 17, 2015



### ESPA Change in Storage Volume & Thousand Springs Discharge



# Factors Effecting Declines in the ESPA

- Increase in GW Diversions
- Increase in surface water irrigation efficiencies (i.e. less incidental recharge)
- Winter Water Savings
- Flow Augmentation Releases
- Changing Climate



DAHO Department of Water Resources

#### **Aquifer Storage and GW Irrigation Development**



DAHO Department of Water Resources \*Irrigated acreage is estimated by summing total WR diversion rates developed in a single year and assuming a standard duty of water of 0.02 CFS per acre.



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### **Aquifer Storage and Precipitation**



DAHO Department of Water Resources \*Precipitation data is PRISM precipitation data for the entire year averaged for Bingham, Blaine, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Jefferson, Jerome, Gooding, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Power Co.

Aquifer Storage and Reservoir Storage



DAHO Department of Water Resources

### ESPA and the Snake River – A Combined System



DAHO Department of Water Resources





## Cumulative Change in Aquifer Volume vs. ESPA Delivery Calls



# **ESPA Stabilization and Swan Falls Agreement**

State responsibility to ensure minimum flows at Murphy Gage just below Swan Falls Dam of:

- 3,900 cfs (4/1 through 10/31)
- 5,600 cfs (11/1 through 3/31)



Swan Falls Dam

However, 180 miles Upstream at Milner Dam



Milner Dam

- Water planning, policy, and practice provides for full development of Snake River above Milner Dam
- At times this reduces Snake River flow at Milner Dam to zero

**IDAHO** Department of Water Resources



When flow is zero at Milner Dam, flow at Swan Falls Dam is made up almost entirely of spring flows from the ESPA.

# 2015 Snake River Hydrograph at Swan Falls Dam





# The End



DAHO Department of Water Resources

#### Surface Water Coalition Delivery Call Settlement Agreement Overview Agreement Entered Into June 30, 2015 and Finalized August 1, 2015 Between Participating Members of the Surface Water Coalition and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc.

#### 1. Objectives

- a. Mitigate for material injury to senior water users in the Surface Water Coalition (SWC) Delivery Call
- b. Provide safe harbor to participating ground water users in participating Ground Water Districts (GWD)
- c. Minimize economic impact to water users and the State economy
- d. Increase reliability and enforcement of water use, measurement, and reporting across the Eastern Snake Plain
- e. Develop adaptive management plan to stabilize and enhance the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) ground water levels to meet existing water right needs

#### 2. Near Term Practices (2015 Water Year)

- a. Delivery of 110,000 acre-feet of storage water to SWC by Idaho Ground Water Appropriators (IGWA)
- b. Dedication of \$1.1 million to provide water to existing conversion projects

#### 3. Long Term Practices (Commencing 2016)

- a. Consumptive use reduction of ground water by 240,000 acre-feet annually
- b. Annual storage water delivery of 50,000 acre-feet
- c. Irrigation season reduction: April 1 October 31 (benefit to Swan Falls min. flows)
- d. Mandatory installation of approved measurement devices by 2018
- e. Support State sponsored recharge program of 250,000 acre-feet annually
- f. Additional support for the following: NRCS conservation programs; new conversion projects; management of Trust Water Rights; and participation in review and possible recommendations of changes to IDWR administrative processes on the ESPA.

#### 4. Term Sheet Benchmarks and Ground Water Level Goal

- a. <u>Goal</u>: stabilize and ultimately reverse the trend of declining ground water levels and return ground water levels to levels equal to the average ground water levels from 1991-2001
- <u>Benchmarks</u>: (1) by 2020 ground water levels will equal ground water levels in 2015; (2) by 2023 ground water levels will be halfway between 2015 ground water levels and the goal; and (3) by 2026 goal is reached and ground water levels equal or exceed 1991 2001 average.
- c. <u>Metrics</u>: ground water levels are measured in 19 mutually agreed to sentinel wells

#### 5. Adaptive Management

 a. If any benchmarks or the ground water level goal is not met, additional recharge, consumptive use reduction, or other measures shall be implemented by the participating water parties to meet the goal.



Path: F:\Projects\Surface Water Coalition\Arcview 9\observation well map.mxd



10.00 8.00 6.00 4.00 2.00 Well Index 0.00 1986 1991 2006 2011 2016 2021 2026 1981 2001 -2.00 -4.00 -6.00 -8.00 -10.00 -12.00 ----- ESPAM 2 Simulation 240K AF CU Reduction w 250K AF recharge Well Index Target=Average 1991-2001

Figure 1: IGWA-SWC Well Index with ESPAM2 Simulated Benefit from 240K AF of Consumptive Use Reduction & 250K AF Recharge

This figure shows a time-series of the IGWA-SWC Well Index. The historic index values cover 1981-2014 and represent an integration of water level data across a set of mutually agreed to wells. The time-series over the period from 2015-2026 is an ESPAM2 simulated result showing the increase in the projected Well Index from 240K AF of consumptive use reduction (evenly distributed across the GWDs) and 250K AF of recharge. The green line across the chart marks the average value for the Well Index over the period 1991-2001 or the "Well Index Target".

Lynker Technologies 5485 Conestoga Court Suite 220 Boulder, Colorado 80301

Tel: 303.284.8627

7/15/2015



# ESPA Managed Recharge Program Update

Idaho Water Resource Board Hagerman, Idaho

**Brian Patton** 

September 17, 2015















# Topics

- ✓ State's goals for ESPA recharge
   ✓ Factors that define how ESPA recharge is accomplished
- ✓ 2014-2015 recharge season recap

## ✓ Moving forward

Recharge test – Wilson Lake on North Side Canal March 5, 2015



# Water Resource Board

















Note: 2013 and 2014 data values are preliminary.

### Eastern Snake Plain

















## ESPA Stabilization and Swan Falls Agreement

State responsibility to ensure minimum flows at Murphy Gage just below Swan Falls Dam of:

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✓ 5,600 cfs (11/1 through 3/31)



## However, 180 miles Upstream at Milner Dam



•Water planning, policy, and practice provides for full development of Snake River above Milner Dam

•At times this reduces Snake River flow at Milner Dam to zero







When flow is zero at Milner, flow at Swan Falls Dam is made up almost entirely of spring flows from the ESPA

# Water Resource Board











# Water Resource Board











## Implications of Aquifer Situation

✓ ESPA can no longer meet all the uses that have been assigned to it – delivery calls determine what water uses come off the system

✓ ESPA must be managed to sustain spring flows sufficient to meet the Swan Falls minimum flows

✓ If economic damage is to be minimized, ESPA must be managed to sustain spring flows sufficient to reduce need for conjunctive water delivery calls

✓ Current situation is due partly to "deferred maintenance" of the ESPA

✓ Need to "re-build" ESPA















## Recharge Goal: Stabilize & Rebuild ESPA

 ✓ HB 547 passed by 2014 Legislature allocates \$5 million annually from cigarette tax to Water
 Resource Board for *"statewide aquifer stabilization"*

✓ ESPA is first priority

 ✓ HB 479 allocated \$4 million one-time to Water Board for ESPA recharge infrastructure

✓ 2015 Legislature allocated additional one-time funds

Milepost 31 recharge basin along Milner-Gooding Canal















## Recharge Goal: Stabilize & Rebuild ESPA

Need to continue and expand recharge:

- State Water Plan goal of 250,000 AF/year
- Component of SWC Settlement Term Sheet
- Needed to maintain Swan Falls Minimum Flows
- Needed to maintain Idaho's economic viability

Recharge operations in Twin Falls Canal November 12, 2014



# Water Resource Board











# Factors That Define ESPA Recharge – two different water supply patterns

✓ Lower Valley at Milner:

Downstream of all Upper Snake reservoirs
Recharge water available all winter (Nov-Mar)
Even in driest years 500 cfs spills past Milner

✓ Upper Valley upstream of American Falls:

Recharge water available during flood control releases from reservoirs
Need to ensure reservoirs fill first
Senior hydro right at Minidoka

> Recharge operations in the Great Feeder Canal System – February 2015



## Water Available for Recharge 2000 - 2012















# Factors That Define ESPA Recharge – Water Rights

IWRB holds 1980-priority water right for recharge •1,200 cfs

- •Divert anywhere on Snake River
- •Junior to irrigation and existing reservoirs
- •Junior to Minidoka Hydropower (2700 cfs)
- •Senior to Milner Hydropower
- •Senior to other recharge rights
- •Additional recharge water right applications in progress by IWRB and others


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#### Factors that Define ESPA Recharge Water Rights & Water Supply















### Factors that Define ESPA Recharge How to get water in ground?

- •Unlined canals that divert from river and cross the plain!
- Most cost effective way to divert & recharge large volumes of water contract with canal companies & irrigation districts to carry water to recharge
- •Supplement with spreading/spill basins
- Injection wells used in a few cases















#### Winter Recharge 2014-2015

- •Taking recharge from "pilot scale" to "full scale"
- •Use existing canals to extent possible to deliver recharge water
- •Water Board adopted incentivized payment schedules for canals – <u>MAKE RECHARGE A</u> PARTNERSHIP!



Recharge at MP31 recharge basin/Milner-Gooding Canal – Jan 16, 2015













#### Winter Recharge 2014-2015

October 27 to February 15:

- ✓ Recharge water right "on" at Milner Dam
- ✓ Recharged 37,000 AF in canals diverting from Milner
- ✓ Also spilled 200,000 AF past Milner due to lack of capacity

 ✓ Water Board working with canal company partners to address this capacity issue

> Recharge operations in Twin Falls Canal November 12, 2014



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#### Winter Recharge 2014-2015

#### February 16 to March 4:

✓ Recharge water right "on" <u>both</u> upstream American
 Falls and at Milner Dam

✓ Recharge began in canals upstream of American Falls

✓ 500 cfs recharged in canals upstream of American Falls
& 700 cfs in canals at Milner (full right is 1,200 cfs)

✓ Must maintain 2,700 cfs passing Minidoka Dam for recharge to occur upstream of AMF

Recharge operations in the Great Feeder Canal February 2015



## Water Resource Board











#### Winter Recharge 2014-2015

March 5 to March 24:

- ✓ Recharge water right turned "off" above American Falls✓ Recharge right still "on" at Milner
- ✓ 12,800 AF recharged, but 17,070 AF spilled past Milner due to lack of diversion capacity
- ✓ Recharge shut down with start of irrigation on Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>

Shoshone Recharge Basin Milner-Gooding Canal March 5, 2015















#### Winter Recharge 2014-2015

Total ESPA recharge: 75,234 AF
Amount below Minidoka: 61,068 AF
Amount above American Falls: 14,166 AF
Total spill past Milner Oct - Mar: ~ 300,000 AF

Recharge operations in Aberdeen-Springfield Canal & Hilton Spill February 26, 2015



#### **Total Water Board Recharge Rates During 2014 - 2015 Season**

Total Volume of Recharge = **75,234 ac-ft** as Oct. 27 to Mar. 23





### **ESPA Managed Recharge Summary**

Oct 27th, 2014 to March 23rd, 2015

ESPA Area	Canal System	5-Year Retention Time (%)	Median Recharge Rate (cfs)	Days Recharged	Volume Recharged (Acre-feet)
Upper Valley	Aberdeen-Springfield Canal Company	~26	169	10	3,322
	Great Feeder Canal Company	18	170	17	5,454
	Fremont Madison Irrigation District	-44	170	17	5,389
	Upper Valley Total			14,165	
Lower Valley	American Falls Reservoir District No. 2 (Milner-Gooding Canal)	~40	153	118	37,907
	Northside Canal Company	~40	127	34	8,581
	Southwest Irrigation District	-55	25	47	1,928
	Twin Falls Canal Company	-50	39	148	12,653
	Lower Valley Total				61,069
TOTAL					75,234

















### Working with Canal Company Partners to Improve Systems for Recharge





















#### IWRB FY 2016 Budget for Aquifer Stabilization

ESPA Managed Recharge Operations & GW level monitoring	1,200,000
ESPA Managed Recharge Infrastructure	
Milner-Gooding Recharge Capacity Projects (Flume, MP31, Road, 28 hydro)	1,110,000
Twin Falls Canal recharge improvements	500,000
Northside canal hydro plant bypasses	2,000,000
Great Feeder Canal recharge improvements	500,000
Milner Pool Development and other Projects	2,000,000
Egin Recharge Enlargement	500,000
Investigation/engineering for further ESPA recharge capacity improvements	300,000
Administrative expenses	50,000
Ground water conservation grants in priority aquifers (Roger's proposal)	200,000
Amount reserved for projects in other priority aquifers	1,000,000
TOTAL FY2016 BUDGETED FUNDS	9,360,000

### **IDAHO** Water Resource Board











### **Recharge Improvements in Milner-Gooding Canal – Winter 2015/2016**

•Recharge water is available all winter

•Existing recharge sites along canal include MP31, Shoshone, and Big Wood Dry Bed – Shoshone and Big Wood cant be used in winter because of conveyance limitations

Projects this coming winter will increase recharge capacity from:
 ✓ 200 cfs (40,000 AF over 100 winter days) to
 ✓ 600 cfs (120,000 AF over 100 winter days)

#### •Projects:

- ✓MP31 expansion
- ✓ Concrete channel rehab at Shoshone
- ✓Access road improvements
- ✓ MP28 Hydro Plant bypass
- ✓ Dietrich Drop Hydro Plant bypass

\$200,000 \$700,000 (state share) \$150,000 \$60,000 TBD Big Wood Dry Bed Recharge Site (existing)

Shoshone Recharge Site (existing)

Wendell

Shoshone Concrete Channel Rehabilitation

• Sho, hone

Recharge Improvements in Milner-Gooding Canal – Winter 2015/2016

MP31 Recharge Site Expansion

MP28 Hydro Plant Bypass

Diversion from Snake River where recharge water available all winter

Burley

Dietrich Drop Hydro Plant Bypass

• Jerome

• Filer

• Twin Falls

Kimberly

Jerome













#### North Side Canal Recharge Improvements – Winter 2016/2017

- •Northside Canal Milner to Wilson Lake
- •125 cfs recharge rate in Wilson Lake (25,000 AF over 100 days in winter)
- •Recharge water all winter long
- •Four hydropower plants
- •Engineering underway by CH2M-Hill















### Working with Canal Company Partners to Improve Systems for Recharge

Twin Falls Canal – improvements for every-year recharge deliveries

•De-icing systems, spill structures

Icing on Murtaugh Lake outlet gates, Nov. 2014

Southwest Irrigation District – retrofit West Cassia Pipeline for winter deliveries



















#### **Upper Valley Recharge Infrastructure Projects**

•Fremont-Madison Irrigation District – expand delivery capacity to Egin Bench Recharge areas

•Great Feeder Canal Company – recharge conveyance project









### **JDAHO** Water Resource Board











### ESPA Recharge – Monitoring Program

#### QA/QC Program

- Recharge Flow Measurements
  - Cooperative Effort with:
    - -Water District 01
    - -Canal Companies
    - –Idaho Power
    - –IDWR Staff
- Water Level Monitoring
- Dye Testing
- Water Quality Monitoring



IDWR and NSCC staff measuring flows at the inlet to Wilson Lake on March  $11^{\rm th}$ 



LSRARD and Idaho Power assisting IDWR staff with borehole camera Milner Reservoir test well.













#### Winter 2015-2016 Recharge Projection

#### 1. Downstream of Minidoka Dam



- Projected total recharge ~ 110,000 AF
  Projected delivery costs ~ \$750,000
- 2. Upstream of American Falls Reservoir
  - •Projected total recharge = ?
  - •Projected delivery costs = ?
  - •Depends on water supply conditions!

## Water Resource Board











### ESPA Recharge for Aquifer Stabilization and Recovery – Costs & Timeline

- •200,000 AF/year average in 2019 (+/-)
- •250,000 AF/year average full build-out in 2025 (+/-)
- •\$30M capital cost
- •\$2-to-3M/year ongoing, for operations, maintenance, and replacements
- •Schedule contingent on adequate resources (Cigarette Tax funds)













#### We need your help & support to get this done!



Measuring recharge flow in Milner-Gooding Canal January 16, 2015

#### THOUSAND SPRINGS WATER SUPPLY RESTORATION FRAMEWORK

#### 1. Objectives

- a. Proactively mitigate for material injury to senior spring water rights caused by diversions under junior ground water rights so that delivery calls will not be necessary.
- b. Develop an adaptive management plan to stabilize and enhance the ESPA spring flows to meet existing water rights and future needs.

#### 2. Billingsley Creek Component – Goal to restore stream flow

- a. Direct delivery of up to 10 CFS of spring water to head of Billingsley Creek
- b. Curren Ditch Exchange
- c. Capture North Side tail water for reuse

#### 3. Spring Component – Goal to address water supply shortfalls

- a. Direct delivery of substitute water where feasible
- b. Lease agreement
- c. Subordination Agreement

#### 4. Above the Rim Component

- a. Recharge Program
- b. Conservation Program

#### 5. Adaptive Management Component

- a. Spring flow monitoring program
- b. Steering Committee to oversee implementation and to address changed circumstances
- c. Measureable goals and targets

## THOUSAND SPRINGS WATER SUPPLY RESTORATION FRAMEWORK

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD HAGERMAN VALLEY MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Proactively mitigate for material injury to senior spring water rights caused by diversions under junior ground water rights so that delivery calls will not be necessary.
- Develop an adaptive management plan to stabilize and enhance the ESPA spring flows to meet existing water rights and future needs.

### **RESTORATION FRAMEWORK**

Billingsley Creek Component

- Spring Component
- Above the Rim Component

Adaptive Management Component

## BILLINGSLEY CREEK COMPONENT

- Direct delivery of 10 CFS of spring water to head of Billingsley Creek
- Curren Ditch Exchange
- Capture North Side tail water in Sandy Ponds for reuse

## SPRING COMPONENT

 Direct delivery of substitute water where feasible

- Lease Agreement
- Subordination Agreement

## ABOVE THE RIM COMPONENT

# Recharge Program Conservation Program

## ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT

Spring flow monitoring program

 Steering Committee to oversee program implementation and to address changed circumstances

Measureable goals and targets

## QUESTIONS



Analysis of SWC Settlement Agreement Actions using ESPAM2.1

Presented by Mike McVay P.E., P.G. 9/17/2015





#### **Consumptive Use Reduction**

Average consumptive use has been used to model reductions of 240,000 acre-feet/year.






## Managed Recharge

Current and proposed sites were used to model recharge at 260,000 acre-feet/year.







## Benefits to Surface Water

Benefits to Surface Water have been assessed relative to:

- 1. Increased reach gains in Billingsley Creek.
- 2. Increased reach gains in relation flow at Murphy.



## **Increased Reach Gains: Billingsley Creek**











Conclusions

Efforts to solve ESPA issues associated with the SWC Settlement Agreement provide significant reach gains to both Billingsley Creek and the larger Kimberly-to-King Hill Springs reach.





## Questions?