



# AGENDA

## IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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**Water Storage Projects Committee Meeting No. 1-24**

**Monday, May 6, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. (MT) / 9:00 a.m. (PT)**

Water Center

Conference Room 648 A

322 E. Front St.

BOISE

**Brad Little**

*Governor*

**Jeff Raybould**

*Chairman*

St. Anthony

At Large

**Jo Ann Cole-Hansen**

*Vice Chair*

Lewiston

At Large

**Dean Stevenson**

*Secretary*

Paul

District 3

**Dale Van Stone**

Hope

District 1

**Albert Barker**

Boise

District 2

**Brian Olmstead**

Twin Falls

At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**

Grace

District 4

**Patrick McMahon**

Sun Valley

At Large

**Livestream available at <https://www.youtube.com/@iwrp>**

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1. Introductions and Attendance
2. Upper Payette Basin Storage Water\*
3. Other Items
4. Adjourn

Committee Members: Chair Brian Olmstead, Jeff Raybould, Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Marc Gibbs, and Al Barker.

\* Action Item: A vote regarding this item may be made at this meeting. Identifying an item as an action item on the agenda does not require a vote to be taken on the item.

**Americans with Disabilities**

The meeting will be held in person and online. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please make advance arrangements by contacting Department staff by email [jennifer.strange@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:jennifer.strange@idwr.idaho.gov) or by phone at (208) 287-4800.

Idaho Water Resource Board

Water Storage Project Committee Meeting No. 1-24

# UPPER PAYETTE STORAGE WATER ASSOCIATION

May 6, 2024



# Reasons to Contract Storage Space

- Enlarged administration by Water District 65 to include Payette River tributaries
- Water rights on tributaries will now be identified and accounted for as storage users
- Will not alter stream flows; use already exists
- Rental Pool Procedures prioritize in-basin storage use over flow augmentation
- Supplemental (contracted) storage for tributary users would avoid reliance on Rental Pool

# Reasons to Contract Storage Space

- Upper Payette Storage Water Association to serve a large group of users including irrigation and municipal providers (e.g., McCall, Cascade and Horseshoe Bend)
- Equal opportunity to access federal storage; under current situation, one storage space owner can dictate the fate of another producer

# Reasons to Contract Storage Space

- Uncontracted Cascade space (16,747 acre-feet) is committed to irrigation/municipal uses (also 22,000 acre-feet uncontracted in Deadwood)
- Separate from uncontracted space (95,000 acre-feet) available for flow augmentation
- Improve supply for flow augmentation by avoiding increased in-basin Rental Pool demand
- Fulfill Federal responsibilities to Payette Basin and project cost recovery/spread O&M costs

# 2008 Upper Snake Biological Opinion

- 13.3.1 New Contracts for Water Stored in Reclamation Projects. Reclamation's salmon flow augmentation program is heavily dependent on annual water rentals from Idaho's water rental pools, which are variable and insecure sources. Due to this variability, Reclamation must consult with NOAA Fisheries prior to issuing a new contract that would reduce streamflows or reduce Reclamation's ability to meet salmon flow augmentation commitments, as described in its PA; or whenever Reclamation otherwise determines that listed salmon or steelhead species or critical habitat may be affected.

# 2008 Upper Snake Biological Opinion

- 13.4.1 New Contracts for Water Stored in Reclamation Projects. Prior to entering into any agreement to commit uncontracted storage space in any of its reservoirs covered by this Opinion to any use other than salmon flow augmentation, Reclamation shall consult with NOAA Fisheries under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. In addition, Reclamation shall consult with NOAA Fisheries under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA prior to entering into a new contract that would reduce streamflows or reduce Reclamation's ability to meet its salmon flow augmentation commitments, as described in its PA, or whenever Reclamation otherwise determines that listed salmon or steelhead species or critical habitat may be affected. Such consultations shall identify the amount of discretionary storage being sought or the amount of streamflow reduction, the current probability of such storage or streamflow being available for salmon flow augmentation, and any plan to replace the storage volume or streamflows currently available to salmon flow augmentation that would be lost as a result of the proposed commitment. NOAA Fisheries criterion in conducting such a review is to ensure that there either be an improvement or "zero net impact" on Snake River flows and on Reclamation's ability to provide up to 487 kaf for salmon flow augmentation. Replacement supplies should have at least an equal probability of being available for salmon flow augmentation as the storage space or streamflows that are being committed.