



Modernizing Idaho's Water Infrastructure

Introducing the Idaho Water Resource Board's Regional Water Sustainability Program

IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Projects

Over the last three years, Gov. Brad Little and the Idaho Legislature allocated state surplus funds and federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Idaho Water Resource Board for Leading Idaho Regional Water Sustainability Projects.

In the State Water Plan, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) defines "sustainability" as the "active stewardship of Idaho's water resources to satisfy current uses and assure future uses of this renewable resource in accordance with state law and policy."

Since Idaho's water resources are not inexhaustible, stewardship also includes taking affirmative steps to address declining trends in Idaho's water supplies.

In July 2023, the IWRB awarded funds to nine water projects statewide at a cost of \$60 million in the first round of funding for Regional Water Sustainability Projects.

The IWRB also has earmarked funds for four Regional Water Sustainability Projects authorized and under way:

• **Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Supply Project** – Target completion: 2026

• **Anderson Ranch Reservoir Enlargement Project** - IWRB is partnering with the Bureau of Reclamation to raise the reservoir by about 6 feet to increase storage by 29,000 acre-feet. Target completion: 2029



Wilson Canyon ESPA recharge site, north of Twin Falls. The Idaho Water Resource Board's ESPA Recharge Program is an ongoing Regional Water Sustainability Project.

• **How to get a project on the Regional Water Sustainability List:** Two ways:

- 1) Project sponsors submit a request to IWRB to be added to the list by Dec. 1, 2023;
- 2) IWRB can add projects to the List at its discretion. The List will be updated in January of each year.

• **Eligible entities:** Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Flood Control Districts, Regional Water Supply Organizations, Municipal Irrigation Districts, Water Districts, cities, counties, and water-related stakeholders.

• **Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Recharge Projects** - Ongoing

• **Priest Lake Water Management Project** - Target completion in 2024.

The IWRB will be awarding more funds for Regional Water Sustainability Projects in the future.

In general, projects on the Regional Water Sustainability List are large, capital-intensive projects that need to be funded by multiple agencies with a local cost-share commitment and strong community support.

For more information, go to: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrp/programs/financial/regional-water-sustainability-list-projects/>