Department of Water Resources

2015 Legislative Presentation
Gary Spackman
Director
February 5-6, 2015

2015 Resource Committee Presentations.pptx
Mountain Snow Water Equivalent
As of Monday, February 2, 2015.
Idaho Snow Survey SNOTEL Data

Percent of Median (1981-2010)

- 0-24
- 25-50
- 51-70
- 71-90
- 91-110
- 111-125
- 126-150
- 151-175
- 176-200
- 201-500

64% Spokane Basin
84% Clearwater Basin
65% Weiser Basin
80% Payette Basin
89% Boise Basin
90% Big Wood Basin
80% Big Lost Basin
82% Big Lost Basin
99% Medicine Lodge Basin
96% Salmon Basin
95% Bruneau Basin
93% Little Wood Basin
88% Bear River Basin
108% Snake Basin Above Palisades
101% Henry's Fork Teton Basin
111% Little Lost Birch Basins
111% Salmon Falls Basin
144% Brandy Basin
12% Lodge Basin
8% Raft Basin
60% Northern Panhandle
IDWR General Fund Appropriation
10 Year Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>General Fund $</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2006</td>
<td>$16,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2007</td>
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<td>FY 2008</td>
<td>$11,827,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2009</td>
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<td>FY 2014</td>
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<td>FY 2015</td>
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<td>FY 2016</td>
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$11,827,400
Adjudication – Palouse River Basin
Reservoir Fill/Refill – Flood Control
Reservoir Fill/Refill – Flood Control
Surface Water Coalition Call

- Remand from Judge Wildman requires a rewrite of the order to determine deficient supply to senior surface water users
  - Requires preseason prediction of supply and mitigation
  - Requires midseason adjustment and additional mitigation
  - Requires safety factors to protect senior against inaccurate predictions
Evaluation of Areas where Alternative Seal Depths may be Warranted

• Island Park – This is an area which has historic bacterial contamination with known illness.
• Wood River Valley – This is an area where a number or waivers have been granted because of the highly permeable coarse gravel and sand.
• Donnelly Area – This is an area where glacial deposits consisting of sand, gravel, silt and clay are present and ground water is very shallow.
Island Park

- At least 82 people became sick from *Shigella sonnei* bacteria in 1995 from poorly sealed wells
- Studies in the area show that the ground water and surface water are in hydrologic connection
- Deeper seals have been required since 1996
- Health District indicated that most of the contamination has been eliminated by installing deeper seals from the surface to the production zone
- The Department will continue to require deep seals to prevent illness and protect wells in the area
Wood River Valley

- Department and USGS studies document coarse sediments comprise the aquifer
- Aquifer is highly conductive with no confining layers
- Hydrogeologic conditions in the Wood River Valley are similar to the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer
- The Department has agreed that a reduction of the minimum surface seal to 18 feet would be consistent with requirements in the Rathdrum Prairie
Donnelley Area

- Department studied the geology and hydrogeology in the Donnelly area.
- The upper fine grained sediments are oxidized with low yields but good water quality.
- Deeper sediments are coarse, under reduced conditions, show artesian pressure and poor water quality with dissolved iron and sulfur.
Donnelley Area

- The 38 foot minimum seal is appropriate for the Donnelley Area based on the hydrogeologic conditions.
- Wells 38 feet or less can install an 18-foot seal.
- If the well is deeper than 38 feet, a 38-foot seal or deeper is required to prevent comingling of aquifers of different pressure and water quality.
- Alternative surface seal depths can be evaluated through the waiver process on a case by case basis.
IDWR Water Supply Bank Rental Applications Pending