



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Applications open for Groundwater to Surface Water conversion projects; up to \$5M available per application

BOISE - (Sept. 5, 2024) – The Idaho Water Resource Board is offering a new statewide grant program that encourages the conversion of lands irrigated with groundwater to surface water.

The application period is currently open for the new grant program. Applications are due by Oct. 4, 2024. Up to \$5 million is available per application.

Eligible applicants include: Groundwater Districts, Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control and Canal Companies. If individual producers would like to apply, they should apply through one of those entities listed above.

Applicants must currently be irrigating with groundwater to be eligible. Projects also must be located in a designated [Critical Groundwater Management Area](#) or [Groundwater Management Area](#) in Idaho. Follow those web links to see maps and locations of CGWA's and GWMA's.

Board staff will consider two types of projects for funding:

- **Hard Conversions** - projects that would permanently convert from groundwater irrigation to surface water; proof will be required of a long-term surface water contract.
- **Soft Conversions** - projects that would partially convert to surface water but may have to use groundwater when surface water is not available.

See the grant program [webpage](#) and [criteria](#) for details.

“The Board is making this new grant program available to encourage water users to reduce the consumption of groundwater resources in areas of the state where our aquifers are in decline,” said Brian Patton, IDWR Deputy Director and Executive Manager of the Idaho Water Resource Board. “This would include the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and other parts of Idaho where aquifers are designated as a Critical Groundwater Area or a Groundwater Management Area.

“Funds are limited so we encourage water users to submit applications promptly by the October 4<sup>th</sup> deadline.”

For more information, contact Neeley Miller, grant program administrator, [Neeley.miller@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:Neeley.miller@idwr.idaho.gov); 208-287-4800.

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