

# TREASURE VALLEY DCM WATER-DEMAND PROJECTIONS (2015-2065)

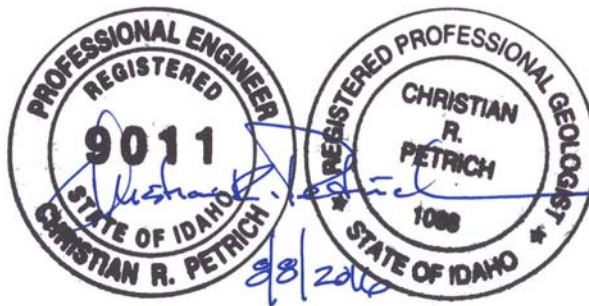
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## Executive Summary

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The purpose of this Treasure Valley water-demand forecast was to (1) estimate current DCMI water use and (2) project the amount of additional water needed to supply domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial (DCMI) water demand by the year 2065.

The primary conclusion from this analysis is that the net DCMI water demand<sup>1</sup> could increase from 110,000 AF/year in 2015 to between 219,000 and 298,000 AF/year by the year 2065. This represents a DCMI water-demand increase ranging from 109,000 to 188,000 AF/year.

Specific conclusions include the following:

1. The Treasure Valley population is expected to increase from approximately 624,500 people in 2015 to approximately 1.57 million people by the year 2065, representing an increase of approximately 250%. The number of households is expected to increase from approximately 226,600 in 2015 to 638,700 in the year 2065, an increase of approximately 280%.
2. Average temperatures by the year 2065 could increase by approximately 1.9°F to 6.1°F. Summary evapotranspiration could increase by approximately 5 to 20 percent as a result of temperature increases.
3. Substantial water-demand reductions are possible through conservation. These Treasure Valley DCMI water-demand projections included assumed reductions in water use (compared to 2015 rates) of 10 to 30 percent.
4. While all of the projections have inherent uncertainty, Scenario 2 (a DCMI water-demand increase of approximately 158,000 AF by the year 2065, excluding demand met by currently-developed surface water supplies) is arguably more probable than the other scenarios. This scenario was based on an assumed 20% reduction over 2015 rates in indoor use and a 10% across-the-board reduction in outdoor use.
5. Options for supplying the increased net DCMI demand could include (1) diversions from the Boise River (through increased surface-water storage, use of flood flows for aquifer storage and recovery strategy, or direct diversions from the Boise River below Star, Idaho), (2) additional development of Treasure Valley groundwater, (3) new diversions from the Snake River, or (4) reuse of treated municipal effluent.

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<sup>1</sup> The "net DCMI water demand" is the demand that will not be met by surface-water supplies already in use for agricultural irrigation.

6. Surface water from existing agricultural irrigation could become more available for indoor DCMI uses in the future. However, this would likely require (1) market incentives to cover the costs of delivery-system improvements and operations and (2) changes in existing Boise River basin storage contracts.
7. The Elmore County population is projected to decrease from approximately 27,000 people in 2010 to 22,400 people in 2065. Absent increased economic activity at the MHAFFB or in the City of Mountain Home, the DCMI water demand is projected to decrease over the next 50 years. However, expansion of the MHAFFB or development of other economic activity in the Mountain Home area could lead to population increases with associated increases in future DCMI water demand.

## Acknowledgements

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The following entities and individuals contributed to this report:

1. SPF Water Engineering, LLC (SPF) prepared estimates of existing water use, developed the water-demand forecasting tool, and projected future water use. Individuals contributing to this effort included Christian Petrich (project manager, primary author), Breanna Paulson (data compilation, GIS), Lori Graves (GIS), Roxanne Brown (GIS analysis), and Terry Scanlan (review).
2. John Church (Idaho Economics) provided historical population data and forecasts of future population, households, and employment growth.
3. Bob Taunton (Taunton Group) reviewed various regional planning documents and interviewed city and county planning officials to help project future urban growth patterns and household density.
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Appendix B: Increased Evapotranspiration as a Result of Climate Change

Appendix C: Conservation Measures

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Background

The Treasure Valley of southwestern Idaho (Figure 1) is home to about 630,000<sup>2</sup> people, or approximately 38 percent of Idaho's 1.64 million residents.<sup>3</sup> Most of the valley's residents live in or near the cities of Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Caldwell, Garden City, Eagle, and Kuna. The Treasure Valley is one of Idaho's fastest growing areas: the two primary counties – Ada County and Canyon County, which cover approximately 1,067,700 acres – grew approximately 46 percent between the years 2000 and 2014; the population more than doubled between 1990 and 2014.

Concerns about projected population growth – and the ability of existing resources to meet future water demand – has led to a renewed interest in expanding Boise River basin storage. In response, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) partnered on an assessment of Boise River basin storage requirements. Part of this assessment included projecting future Treasure Valley water demand for domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial (DCMI) purposes. The IWRB, through the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), retained SPF Water Engineering, LLC (SPF) to prepare these forecasts of future Treasure Valley DCMI water demand.

## 1.2 Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Treasure Valley water-demand forecast was to estimate current DCMI water use and project the amount of additional water needed to supply DCMI water demand from 2015 to 2065. Specific objectives included the following:

1. Review previous Treasure Valley water-demand projections (i.e., Cook et al., 2001; WRIME, 2010).
2. Compile existing DCMI water-diversion data, focusing on the largest Treasure Valley DCMI providers (United Water Idaho, Capitol Water Corporation, Eagle Water Company, City of Eagle, Garden City, City of Kuna, City of Meridian, City of Caldwell, and the City of Nampa).
3. Prepare estimates of per capita water use during the winter (i.e., the December through February non-irrigation season) and annual per capita water use based on the data collected from DCMI purveyors.

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<sup>2</sup> See Section 5.

<sup>3</sup> 2014 US Census Bureau data.

4. Project Treasure Valley population, number of households, and employment over the next 50 years.
5. Define Treasure Valley subregions based on water availability, i.e., (1) areas in which surface water is currently used for irrigation purposes, (2) areas in which surface water is not available but additional groundwater is likely available for development, and (3) areas in which neither surface water nor groundwater is available in sufficient amounts to supply anticipated population growth.
6. Project the spatial distribution of population, household, and employment growth.
7. Review recent climate-trend projections; prepare an estimate of increased evapotranspiration over the next 50 years as a result of increasing average summer temperature for use in projecting future DCMI irrigation requirements.
8. Evaluate potential DCMI water-demand reductions as a result of water conservation.
9. Project future DCMI water demand based on existing water-use patterns, population and household projections, water availability, projections of climate-variability impacts, and conservation potential.
10. Compile existing DCMI water use data, project population growth for the City of Mountain Home and the Mountain Home Air Force Base, and prepare preliminary projections of future DCMI water demand for those areas.
11. Prepare a report (this document) presenting (1) existing DCMI water-use data, (2) estimates of per capita water use, (3) Treasure Valley population projections, (4) maps showing the general Treasure Valley subregions defined based on water availability, (5) the spatial distribution of population and growth in the number of households, (6) a review of climate projections, (7) a review of potential future DCMI water conservation effects, and (8) future water-demand projections. The summary report also includes a discussion of possible sources of water to meet the projected DCMI water demand (e.g., surface water, groundwater, new basin storage, etc.).

### **1.3 Study Area**

For the purposes of this study, the Treasure Valley is defined as the area between the Boise foothills and the Snake River (Figure 1).<sup>4</sup> The Treasure Valley encompasses the lower Boise River basin, although some surface water and groundwater in the southern portion of the valley drains or discharges directly toward the Snake River.

This study also included compiling existing water-use data for the City of Mountain Home and the Mountain Home Air Force Base, both of which are in the Mountain

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<sup>4</sup> The study area does not include the Payette River basin.



Home Plateau and outside the Treasure Valley. The USACE did not evaluate the possible use of storage water from the Boise River basin in the Mountain Home Plateau. However, limited water supply and groundwater-level declines in the Mountain Home Plateau prompted IWRB interest in projecting future DCMI water use in the Mountain Home Plateau area as part of this effort.

## **1.4 Report Organization**

This report presents DCMI water-demand projections (and supporting information) for the Treasure Valley. The report is organized into the following sections:

Section 1: Introduction.

Section 2: Review of previous water-demand projections.

Section 3: Overview of approach and methodology.

Section 4: Summary of Treasure Valley water-supply characteristics.

Section 5: Review of historical population-growth trends.

Section 6: Projections of population, households, and employment.

Section 7: Estimate of current Treasure Valley DCMI water use.

Section 8: Discussion of precipitation deficit and potential climate-change impacts.

Section 9: Review of water conservation and reuse potential.

Section 10: Treasure Valley DCMI water-demand projections.

Section 11: Conclusions.

Supporting materials are provided in appendix and electronic form.

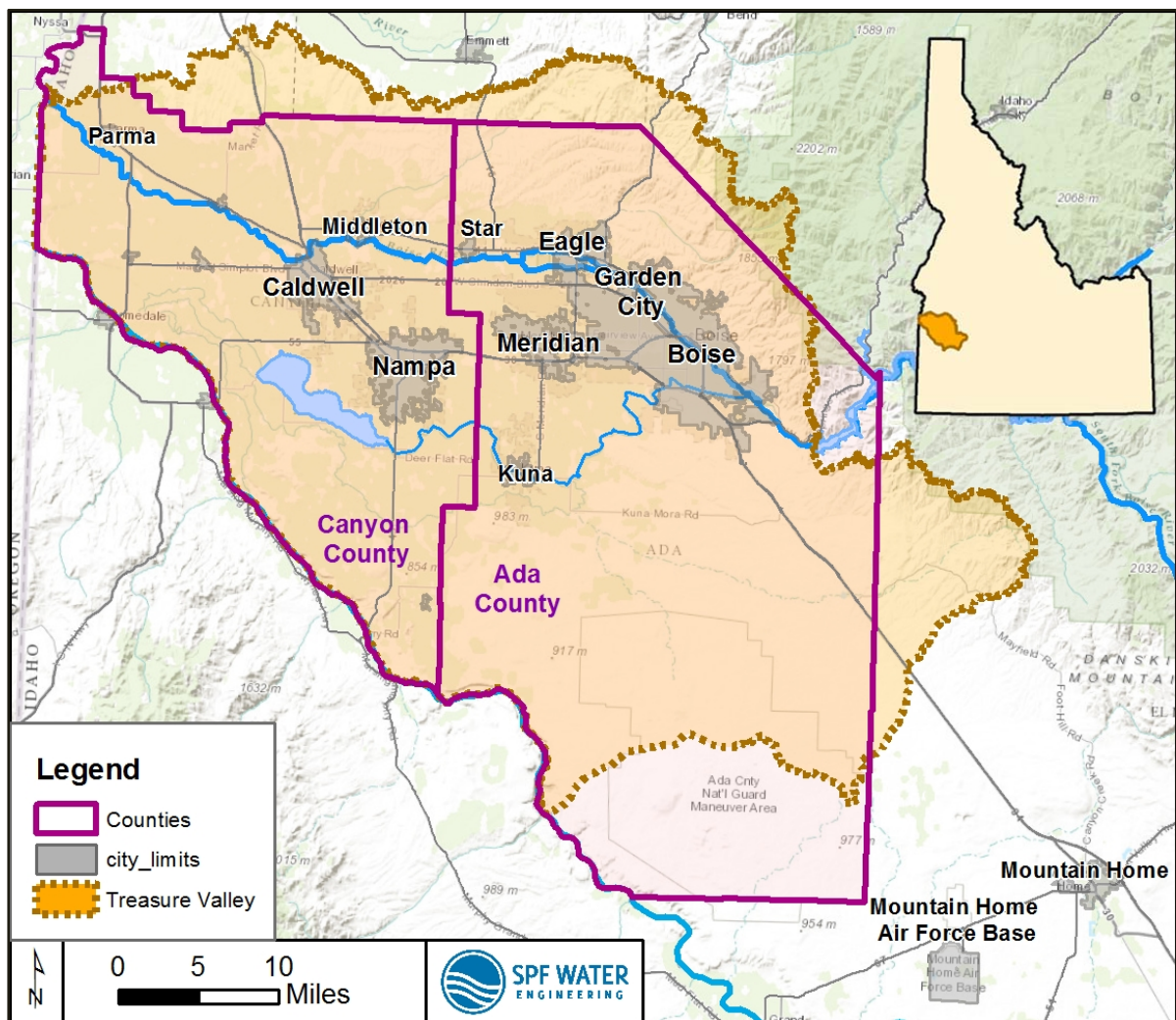


Figure 1. Study area.

## **2 PREVIOUS WATER-DEMAND PROJECTIONS**

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Future Treasure Valley DCMI water demand has been projected in two previous studies. The first (Cook et al., 2001) projected DCMI demand in Ada and Canyon counties to the year 2025. Subsequently, WRIME (2010) projected future water demand through the year 2060 as part of the IWRB's Treasure Valley Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) process. Results from these previous water-demand projections are summarized below.

### **2.1 Cook et al. (2001)**

Cook et al. (2001) estimated that the total DCMI water use between 1997 and 1998 was approximately 33.6 billion gallons of water per year (approximately 103,000 AF/year). The authors projected a 74 percent increase in water demand – to approximately 58.5 billion gallons per year (approximately 179,000 AF/year) – by the year 2025. The authors also noted that between 76,000 to 96,000 additional acre-feet of water will be needed to accommodate water demand by the year 2025.

Baseline water use was estimated based on a sampling of water use by United Water Idaho customers. The study differentiated between single-family dwellings, apartments, and mobile homes for residential use. Municipal, commercial, and industrial uses were based on the number of employees by Standard Industrial Code (SIC) and coefficients representing the amount of water used per employee within a SIC group.

Baseline per capita water use (based on the United Water Idaho data) was extrapolated to the rest of the Treasure Valley. Based on average annual data, Cook et al. (2001) estimated that a single-family household used 194 gallons per person per day, apartment dwellers used 82 gallons per person per day, and mobile home residents used 150 gallons per person per day. Over 50 percent of this average use was attributed to irrigation.

The authors noted a lack of data regarding groundwater and surface water use by commercial users. Thus, commercial and industrial water demand was estimated based on business type. The number of employees – classified by Standard Industrialization Classification (SIC) codes – and water-demand coefficients per employee per SIC code were used to estimate commercial and industrial demand. Projections of future employment were used to project future commercial and industrial water demand.

## 2.2 WRIME

More recently, WRIME (2010) projected that the total Treasure Valley water demand will increase from 1,715,948 acre-feet (AF)<sup>5</sup> per year in 2010 to 1,798,837 AF/year by the year 2060,<sup>6</sup> a net increase of 82,889 AF/year (Table 1). WRIME projected that DCMI demand will increase from approximately 228,000 AF/year in 2010 to 962,000 AF/year by the year 2060,<sup>7</sup> an increase of 734,000 AF, or 321 percent. WRIME also projected that agricultural water demand will decrease from 1,487,412 AF/year to 836,760 AF/year under average-year conditions by the year 2060, a decrease of 650,652 AF/year, or 44 percent. Implicit in WRIME's projections was that water previously used for agricultural irrigation would become available for DCMI uses, resulting in a projected 82,889-AF/year net Treasure Valley water-demand increase by the year 2060.

WRIME's projections were made based on (1) a survey (or estimate) of existing water production by United Water Idaho, Capitol Water Corporation, Eagle Water Company, Garden City, Kuna, Meridian, Star, Caldwell, Greenleaf, Melba, Middleton, Nampa, Notus, Parma, and Wilder and (2) population projections prepared by the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) through the year 2035 (COMPASS, 2010) that were then extrapolated to the year 2060. WRIME projected population growth beyond the year 2035 by extrapolation based on a uniform rate (2 percent for the Boise area and 2.1 percent for the rest of the Treasure Valley).

WRIME estimated current average annual water use rates on a per capita basis for Treasure Valley cities (WRIME, 2010, page 3-13). WRIME estimated that the annual DCMI production in 2010 was 0.18 AF per capita (or approximately 160 gallons per person per day), and that the annual "DCMI delivered" was 0.13 AF per capita (or approximately 116 gallons per person per day).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> One acre foot is the volume of water required to cover one acre with one foot of water. One acre foot is equivalent to 325,850 gallons or 43,560 cubic feet (ft<sup>3</sup>).

<sup>6</sup> 2010 report, page 6-2.

<sup>7</sup> 2010 report, page 6-1.

<sup>8</sup> WRIME defines the difference between "water production" and "water delivered" (WRIME, 2010, pg. 2-9) as "unaccounted water," which consists of fire protection, system flushing, water lost to the system, etc.

Summary of 2010 Water Demand Projections <sup>(1)</sup> (AF/Year)			
Year	DCMI	Agricultural <sup>(2)</sup>	Total
2010	228,535	1,487,412	1,715,947
2020	307,210	1,413,773	1,720,983
2030	416,050	1,375,116	1,791,166
2040	564,491	1,171,831	1,736,322
2050	759,797	977,256	1,737,053
2060	962,077	836,760	1,798,837
Net projected change, 2010-2060	733,542	-650,652	82,890
Percentage change, 2010-2060	321%	-44%	5%
Notes: (1) Taken from WRIME (2010), Tables 6-1, 6-2, and 6-3. (2) "Average" moisture conditions.			

Table 1: Summary of WRIME's 2010 projections.

### 3 OVERVIEW OF APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

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This section outlines the approach and methodology used to project future DCMI water use in the Treasure Valley area.

#### 3.1 Scope

These future water-demand projections were prepared as part of an assessment evaluating the viability of increased Boise River water storage. The rationale for focusing on DCMI demand, much of which will be delivered via municipal water systems, was as follows:

1. Much of the projected future Treasure Valley population will live and work in areas served by municipal suppliers. Projecting future DCMI demand is the first step in determining whether or not existing water supplies will be sufficient to support the anticipated population growth, or whether increased surface-water storage is needed.
2. Surface water from the Boise River will require treatment if used for municipal purposes. Municipal entities that supply DCMI water (as opposed to individual domestic or commercial users) are more likely to have the resources to construct surface-water treatment facilities (thereby taking advantage of increased Boise basin storage) and spread the cost of water treatment over many they are made in Caldwell. Users.
3. New Boise River storage would operate under junior-priority water rights that may not be filled every year. Most Treasure Valley municipal water delivery entities have existing wells from which to draw water when surface water is not available. Surface water could be used in years in which it is available to allow groundwater levels stressed by pumping to recover. Thus, DCMI users may be able to take advantage of increased storage in ways that other user groups cannot.
4. Use of new storage water for DCMI purposes may be more cost-effective than providing new storage for other uses (e.g. agricultural use) because the cost can be shared by more users.
5. Future rural domestic water users, while contributing to the overall Treasure Valley DCMI demand, likely will not benefit directly from increased Boise River storage, because the infrastructure required for delivering upper Boise River basin storage water to rural domestic users will probably not be cost-effective.

6. New, large, self-supplied industrial users<sup>9</sup> may seek to take advantage of new Boise River storage, and availability of new storage may influence siting decisions. Siting criteria for new enterprises could include water availability, supply certainty, and other factors. However, while new large industrial users may seek to locate in areas where upper Boise River storage water would be available, they may also seek to locate in areas where groundwater is available, or where existing surface water may be available, such as near the Boise River below Star (Figure 1), where irrigation return flows represent a water supply, or near the Snake River. Current policy decisions may influence future industrial siting decisions, but general projections of water demand for large, self-supplied industrial users are uncertain, and therefore not considered in this analysis.

For these reasons, the projections made as part of this Treasure Valley study were limited to future DCMI water demand, most of which likely will be provided by established municipal water purveyors.

## **3.2 Overview of Approach and Methodology**

Our approach for projecting Treasure Valley water demand consisted of (1) reviewing water-supply characteristics, (2) reviewing historical population growth rates, (3) projecting future population, household, and employment growth, (4) estimating current DCMI water use and developing estimates of current per capita DCMI water use, (5) projecting changes in evapotranspiration as a result of climate change, (6) examining the potential water-demand reductions as a result of water conservation, (7) projecting future indoor<sup>10</sup> and outdoor DCMI water demand, and (8) briefly considering possible sources of supply for the increased DCMI demand. The following subsections provide an overview of this approach; additional detail is provided in subsequent report sections.

### **3.2.1 Review Treasure Valley Water Supply Characteristics**

The first step in this analysis was to review Treasure Valley water-supply characteristics. This step is important because future water use in areas of limited water supply (e.g., portions of the Boise Foothills) will likely be less than in areas of abundant supply. Also, it is important to acknowledge existing, developed surface

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<sup>9</sup> "Self-supplied" industrial users are those that do not receive water from the municipal system but instead pump water from private wells (or divert surface water from private points of diversion).

<sup>10</sup> For the purposes of this report, "indoor water use" describes water used for indoor, potable uses (e.g., culinary, etc.) by residential, commercial, and industrial users.

water supplies that can be used to meet future DCMI irrigation demand (reducing the need for water from new sources).

### **3.2.2 Review Historical Population Growth Rates**

Historical population growth rates provide a basis for projecting future population growth rates. U.S. Census Bureau data were used to compare 10-year Treasure Valley growth rates since 1940.

### **3.2.3 Project Future Population, Number of Households, and Employment**

The Treasure Valley future DCMI water-demand projections were based, in part, on projections of future population and households.<sup>11</sup> Projections of population, households, and employment prepared for the COMPASS (2014) Communities in Motion 2040 transportation plan were extrapolated to the year 2065, and refined based on local knowledge.

COMPASS projects future population, households, and employment as a basis for regional transportation planning.<sup>12</sup> The Communities in Motion transportation plan is used to set priorities for federal and state transportation funding for infrastructure projects in Ada and Canyon counties. Development of the COMPASS projections was overseen by a Demographic Advisory Committee.<sup>13</sup> The committee<sup>14</sup> used several methods and data sets in developing the Communities in Motion 2040 projections, including (1) economic forecasts for the Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area prepared by Woods & Poole,<sup>15</sup> (2) historical trends, (3) ratios (projections based on relationships of population growth in the Treasure Valley with that of the state or country), and (4) comparisons with peer or analogous areas (i.e., comparisons with other urban areas having similar demographic and growth characteristics). Committee members then examined building permit and employment information, subdivision platting activity,

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<sup>11</sup> The term "household" refers to an occupied dwelling unit. The number of households excludes unoccupied homes.

<sup>12</sup> The Communities in Motion 2040 regional transportation plan culminated in the prioritization of 33 transportation corridors and project improvements. In addition to roadway improvements, the corridor improvements include high-capacity transit for State Street (Highway 44) and a route parallel to Interstate 84, as well as multi-modal infrastructure and services throughout the region.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.compassidaho.org/people/dac.htm>.

<sup>14</sup> Committee members include representatives from Ada County, Canyon County, Ada County Highway District, Boise State University, the Idaho Transportation Department, and the cities of Boise, Caldwell, Eagle, Garden City, Kuna, Meridian, Middleton, Nampa, Parma, and Star.

<sup>15</sup> Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., Washington DC.



population forecasts, and other data providing insight about the location, type, and pace of regional growth in preparing population, households, and employment projections. In contrast to previous transportation plans, the Communities in Motion 2040 projections took into account local comprehensive plans and projected densities.

COMPASS developed population, households, and employment projections for each of the 2,062 individual Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) in Ada and Canyon counties. Individual TAZs (Figure 2) range in size from 1.2 acres to approximately 125,500 acres. The TAZs provide a convenient basis for projecting the future water demand in the Treasure Valley on a spatial basis. The number and size of TAZs, which are smaller in areas of high population density, provide a basis for approximate delineations of future water demand in areas with varying water-supply characteristics. The TAZs provide greater resolution of demographic distributions (and therefore water-demand distributions) than ZIP Codes (of which there are fewer, and some of which extend beyond Treasure Valley boundaries), municipal boundaries (which change over time), and municipal water-provider boundaries (for which current populations have not been well defined and which change over time).

The COMPASS projections extend only through the year 2040. John Church (Idaho Economics) extended the projections from 2040 through 2065 by semi-logarithmic extrapolation on a TAZ by TAZ basis. Mr. Church then checked the extrapolated projections using the Idaho Economics Forecasting Model, which was previously used for projecting population, household, and employment for the Rathdrum Prairie water-demand projections (SPF et al., 2010).

Finally, the projections were refined based a review of comprehensive plans and on information from key land-use professionals and developers regarding regional infrastructure planning, land ownership, possible environmental constraints, and anticipated growth and market trends.

### **3.2.4 Estimate current DCMI Water Use**

Estimates of current water use (Section 7) formed the foundation for future water-use projections. Current DCMI water use was estimated with monthly production data collected from primary municipal providers (United Water Idaho, City of Nampa, City of Meridian, City of Caldwell, City of Kuna, City of Garden City, Eagle Water Company, Capitol Water Corporation, and the City of Eagle).

Municipal groundwater pumping (or surface-water diversions) includes water for indoor and outdoor uses, the latter being primarily for irrigation. Indoor use was estimated based on the average use during the months of December, January, and February. It was assumed that indoor use during all 12 months of the year was the same as the December through February average indoor use. Outdoor (mostly irrigation) use was estimated as the difference between total reported production and estimated indoor use.

The indoor per capita use estimates include water used by domestic (including residential, apartment, mobile home, etc.), commercial, industrial, and institutional users. Some DCMI providers track customer type (e.g., residential, commercial, etc.), which is information that theoretically could be used to disaggregate the indoor per capita water-use estimates by user type. However, such customer-class data were unavailable for all but the largest municipal suppliers, and then only in inconsistent forms.

Per capita water-use estimates were made using purveyor-reported production data and purveyor-supplied population estimates. Purveyor-supplied population estimates may not be as accurate as the census data, but the census data are difficult to disaggregate to purveyor boundaries (in part because some of the purveyor boundaries do not follow urban boundaries, overlap in some places, and do not consistently follow TAZ boundaries). Average per capita water use estimates based on data from the larger Treasure Valley providers were then used to estimate water use by small municipal water systems and rural domestic users.

### **3.2.5 Precipitation Deficit and Climate Change**

Precipitation deficit (e.g., net irrigation demand) was estimated for fully-irrigated turf based on weather data in Boise, Nampa, and Caldwell. A review of regional climate-change projections were used to forecast an average increase in precipitation deficit over the next 50 years (see Section 8).

### **3.2.6 Water Conservation**

Substantial reductions in water demand can be achieved through water conservation. Some level of water conservation over current rates likely will occur as a result of recent building code requirements and plumbing-fixture availability. Also, several of the municipal water purveyors in the Treasure Valley have water conservation programs that encourage reduced water use.

Greater levels of water conservation may be achievable, but would be based on policies or pricing structures that have not yet been enacted. Nonetheless, this report presents a scenario that incorporates potential water conservation measures to illustrate potential future savings. Conservation assumptions and results are presented in Section 9.

### **3.2.7 DCMI Water-demand Projections**

Projecting future DCMI water demand (Section 10) consisted of projecting indoor DCMI water demand and DCMI irrigation.<sup>16</sup> Future indoor water demand was

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<sup>16</sup> As used in this report, the term "DCMI irrigation" refers to (1) the urban irrigation demand supplied by municipal potable water systems rather than from non-potable (continued on next page)

projected by TAZ based on (1) estimated current per capita water demand for indoor uses (Section 7) and (2) projected population growth (Section 6). The per capita estimates represent an aggregate of domestic, commercial, industrial, and institutional users. It was assumed that the current ratio of residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional use would remain the same over the next 50 years.

Policies or pricing structures encouraging water conservation could serve to reduce existing per capita water-demand rates over the next 50 years. Possible reductions in per capita water demand as a result of water conservation were incorporated in the indoor water-demand projections (Section 9).

In contrast, future DCMI outdoor water use (primarily irrigation) cannot be projected based on current per capita water-demand rates because irrigated area (and therefore the amount of water needed for irrigation) decreases as population density increases. Furthermore, the future DCMI irrigation demand is influenced, in part, by water availability. For example, water use in areas with available existing surface water will likely be greater than in areas of short supply (e.g., Boise foothills).

Thus, future outdoor water demand was projected based on (1) assumed irrigated area per household, (2) household density, (3) employment density, (4) water availability, (5) estimated irrigation requirements (i.e., precipitation deficit<sup>17</sup>), and assumed irrigation efficiency. Assumptions regarding the irrigated area per household were based, in part, on a survey of irrigated areas of selected subdivisions in the Twin Falls area (SPF, 2007) and professional judgment. The assumed irrigated area per household includes areas for residential or commercial irrigation and irrigation of common areas (e.g., small parks, schools, etc.) irrigated with potable municipal deliveries. Areas with low to moderate household density but high employment density were assumed to have minimal irrigation. New households in areas of low water supply (e.g., Boise foothills or east Ada County) were assumed to have less irrigation than new households in areas with an abundant water supply (e.g., areas with available surface water).

Evapotranspiration will increase over the next 50 years if average growing-season temperatures increase as projected. Thus, the precipitation deficit (net irrigation requirement) used for projecting future outdoor DCMI water demand was increased at

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surface-water and groundwater systems and (2) self-supplied domestic irrigation (defined as an exempt use under Idaho code section 42-111).

<sup>17</sup> *Precipitation deficit* is the difference between potential evapotranspiration and the combined amount of precipitation infiltration and water residing in the zone. In essence, precipitation deficit is the net irrigation water requirement. Monthly precipitation deficit data are compiled by the University of Idaho (<http://www.kimberly.uidaho.edu/ETIdaho/>) for various crop types and based on data collected at various Idaho weather stations.

a uniform basis over the next 50 years based on projections of temperature increase in regional climatic models (Section 7).

### **3.2.8 Identify Possible Sources of Supply**

A portion of future DCMI water demand will be met by existing sources. The final step in this approach (Section 10.4.7) was to briefly consider possible sources of water that could be used to meet future DCMI water demand.

### 3.3 Tables and Figures

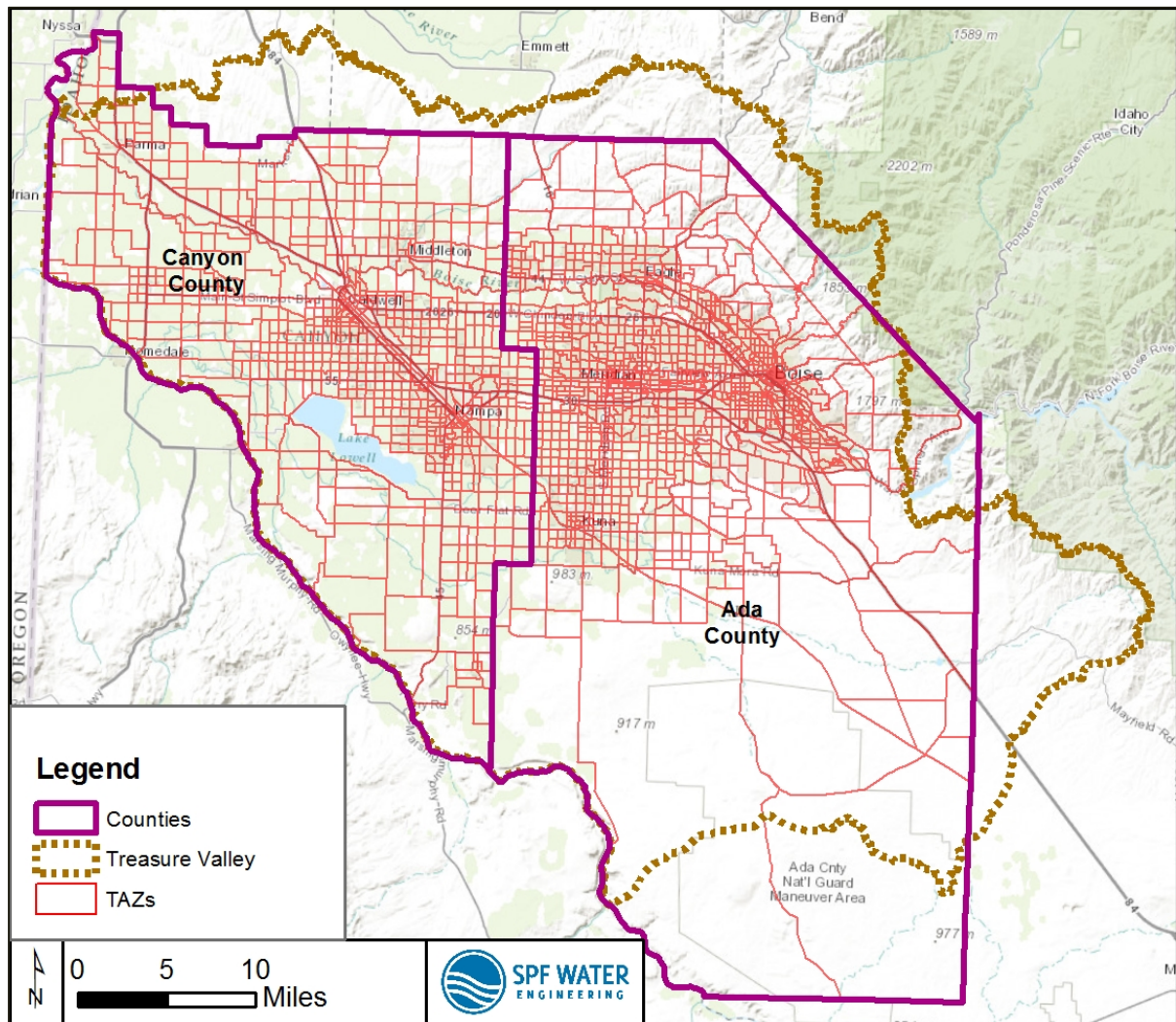


Figure 2. TAZs in Ada and Canyon counties.

## **4 WATER SUPPLY CHARACTERISTICS**

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### **4.1 Introduction**

The Treasure Valley relies on both surface water and groundwater for irrigation and DCMI uses. The Treasure Valley development history has shown that surface water or groundwater availability can influence local future water demand (i.e., population growth has been less in areas with limited water supply than in those areas with abundant water supply).

Although a detailed discussion of Treasure Valley water supply is beyond the scope of this analysis, this section provides a (1) general summary of Treasure Valley water availability and (2) discussion of ways in which local water availability may influence future water demand. Tables and Figures are presented in Section 4.6 beginning on page 23.

### **4.2 Climate and Precipitation**

The Treasure Valley has a temperate and arid to semi-arid climate. Average monthly temperatures range from about 83°F in the summer to 20°F in the winter (Figure 3). Annual precipitation since 1990 has ranged from approximately 7 inches in 2002 to 16.7 inches in 1998 (Figure 4). Most of the precipitation falls during the fall, winter, and spring months (Figure 5).

### **4.3 Surface Water**

Most of the surface water in the Treasure Valley originates in the upper Boise River basin (Figure 6). Runoff from high-elevation areas is stored in three reservoirs – Anderson Ranch Reservoir, Arrowrock Reservoir, and Lucky Peak Reservoir. Water stored in these reservoirs is the primary source of Treasure Valley irrigation water.

Large-scale irrigation using surface water from the Boise River began in the late 1800s, and by the 1930s a large portion of the valley was irrigated with surface water (Figure 7). Water for irrigation is delivered mostly by gravity flow through canals operated by a variety of large and small irrigation companies or districts (Figure 8), referred to hereinafter as “irrigation entities.”

Development of surface-water irrigation continued in the following decades with water from the Payette River. The Black Canyon Irrigation District, developed between the 1920s through 1950s, pumps water from the Payette River to lands in the Boise River drainage west of Star, Idaho. A large portion of the dark-green area north of the Boise River in Figure 7 is land irrigated with surface water from the Payette River. Some surface water is also pumped from the Snake River in southern portions of the Treasure Valley for irrigation.

Average Boise River flows at Lucky Peak Dam, Glenwood Bridge, near Middleton, and Parma (Figure 9) are plotted in Figure 10. Discharges at Lucky Peak Dam reflect winter storage (i.e., low flows), flood releases (high flows in May and early June), and irrigation releases through September. Lower flows at Glenwood Bridge are the result of upstream Boise River diversions. Average flows are lowest in the vicinity of Star, Idaho (Figure 1). Boise River flows typically increase downstream of Star as a result of (1) groundwater discharge to surface channels, (2) irrigation return flows during the irrigation season, and (3) inflows from tributary streams. Thus, while typical Boise River flows above Star are thought to be fully appropriated, flows below Star Bridge are open for appropriation for DCMI uses.

#### **4.4 Groundwater**

Treasure Valley aquifers supply groundwater for irrigation, domestic, municipal, commercial, industrial, institutional, and other purposes. These aquifers are present in a complex series of interbedded, tilted, faulted, and eroded sediments underlying the valley (Petrich and Urban, 2004). Although these sediments extend to depths of over 6,000 feet (Wood and Clemens, 2004), most groundwater in the Treasure Valley is pumped from depths of less than 1,000 feet.

Aquifers are present in both Snake River Group and Idaho Group sediments. Shallow, local flow systems have groundwater residence times ranging from days to tens of years; deep, regional flow systems have groundwater residence times ranging from hundreds to tens of thousands of years (Hutchings and Petrich, 2002; Petrich and Urban, 2004).

Recharge to shallow aquifers occurs as seepage from surface channels (e.g., rivers, canals, and laterals), lakes (e.g., Lake Lowell), and infiltration from precipitation and irrigation water. Discharge occurs primarily to the Boise River, Snake River, drainage ditches, and wells. Discharge from deeper aquifer zones in portions of the valley is limited by interbedded confining layers.

Most of the Treasure Valley groundwater development has occurred since the 1950s. A large portion of the lands south of the Boise River shown with the dark-green color in Figure 7 (i.e., irrigation developed since the late 1930s) represent land irrigated with groundwater.

In combination, by the year 2000 (Figure 11) surface water and groundwater supplies enabled irrigation of approximately half of the Treasure Valley land area (Urban, 2004). Residential and commercial (i.e., urban) uses accounted for approximately 10 percent of the land area in the year 2000. Most of the rust-colored area in Figure 7 that was irrigated in the late 1930s but not in the year 2000 represents urban area. The remaining Treasure Valley land area is primarily non-irrigated rangeland and foothills.

## **4.5 Implications of Water Availability on Future DCMI Water Demand**

Some Treasure Valley agricultural areas are currently irrigated with surface water, and likely will continue to be irrigated with surface water as land is urbanized. Some agricultural areas are currently irrigated with groundwater (groundwater which could be used for DCMI purposes if urbanized). Other areas have groundwater available for appropriation. In other areas, groundwater may be physically available but processing of new water-right applications is constrained. Finally, some areas have a physically-limited supply. These characteristics, outlined in greater detail below, will likely influence future DCMI water demand and strategies for supplying future DCMI water needs.

### **4.5.1 Surface Water Availability for Projected Future DCMI Use**

Idaho requires the use of surface water for irrigation when available: “all applicants proposing to make land-use changes shall be required to use surface water, where reasonably available, as the primary water source for irrigation” (Idaho Code § 67-6537).<sup>18</sup> It was therefore assumed that surface water would be used for all DCMI irrigation in areas with available surface water. The challenge lies in identifying (or at least approximating) the urban land within individual TAZs that is or will be irrigated with surface water.

We are unaware of any current valley-wide land-use data identifying all land irrigated with surface water. Between 1994 and 2000 IDWR digitized and categorized land use; irrigation type (i.e., gravity or sprinkler irrigation) for agricultural land was interpreted based on a 1992 land-use classification developed by the Bureau of Reclamation (Figure 12). Most of land shown as being gravity-irrigated land is irrigated with surface water – the presence of gravity-irrigated land largely coincides with the surface-water delivery entity areas illustrated in Figure 8. However, this gravity-irrigated land-use classification does not cover all surface-water-irrigated land (such as in urban areas, which are shown in gray in Figure 12). Furthermore, land classified as being sprinkler-irrigated may be irrigated with surface water or groundwater, or both.

Alternatively, the Treasure Valley irrigation-entity boundaries (Figure 8) provide an indication of areas where surface water may be available through established

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<sup>18</sup> Under Idaho code section 67-6537, surface water "shall be deemed reasonably available if: (a) a surface water right is, or reasonably can be made, appurtenant to the land; (b) the land is entitled to distribution of surface water from and irrigation District, Canal Company, ditch users Association, or other irrigation delivery entity, and the entity's distribution system is capable of delivering the water to the land; or (c) and irrigation District, Canal Company, or other irrigation delivery entity has sufficient available surface water rights to apportion or allocate to the land and has a distribution system capable of delivering the water to the land."



providers. However, not all of the area within the irrigation-entity boundaries is authorized for irrigation under irrigation-entity water rights; the number of “authorized acres” is less than the number acres included within the entity boundaries.

For this analysis, amount of land with surface-water availability within each TAZ was estimated as follows:

1. The number of acres within each TAZ included within an irrigation entity boundary (i.e., “boundary acres”) was estimated by intersecting the TAZ shapefile with the shapefile containing irrigation-entity boundaries.
2. The number of authorized acres within each TAZ was estimated by multiplying the boundary acres within each TAZ by the percentage of authorized acres to boundary acres for the entire irrigation entity (Table 2 and Table 3).
3. For the projections described in Section 10, the amount of new DCMI irrigation water that could be supplied by existing surface water was estimated based on the ratio of estimated authorized acres per TAZ (as defined above) to total TAZ acres. It was assumed that surface water would not be available for DCMI irrigation purposes in areas served by entities with an inconsistent surface-water supply (e.g., Pleasant Valley Irrigation Company) or by entities delivering only wastewater.

The above-described approach may underestimate the amount of surface water available to meet future DCMI irrigation demand. This is because a portion of the difference between boundary acres and authorized acres is land unsuitable for development (e.g., roadways, riparian areas, wetland, etc.). Future development may favor those areas that are currently being irrigated with surface water, which is not captured by the simple percentage in the above-described approach. However, the only way to more accurately project the amount of future DCMI irrigation that can be met by existing surface water supplies would be to more accurately define the specific locations of acres authorized for surface water use within TAZs, which is outside the scope of this project.

It might also be argued that the simple presence of acres authorized for surface-water irrigation does not mean that surface water can be used to satisfy the *entire* DCMI irrigation demand on those acres. The DCMI irrigation demand may be greater than the rate or volume authorized under the surface-water rights. Urban residents may seek to irrigate before or after seasonal surface-water availability. Access to authorized irrigation water may be blocked or otherwise unavailable. If surface water is perceived as being insufficient, urban residents may choose to use potable municipal water for irrigation purposes, adding to the demand that DCMI water purveyors would be expected to provide.

It was assumed that future demand for indoor, *potable* DCMI uses will not be supplied by existing surface-water supplies, for several reasons. First, although it was assumed that surface water, if available, would be used for DCMI irrigation (see

above) as required by Idaho statute, it was also assumed that irrigation-delivery entities will transfer any surface water not needed for agricultural or residential irrigation to non-irrigated lands within their currently authorized boundaries (in which case the surface water is not available for non-irrigation DCMI uses).

Second, the transfer of surface irrigation water for non-irrigation DCMI uses would require that landowners initiate, request, or at least consent to the removal (on a permanent or temporary basis) of surface-water rights from their lands. Furthermore, irrigation entity would also need to approve such a transfer. So far, such consents and approvals have been rare.

Third, a reduction in irrigable area following the transition from agricultural field to urban setting<sup>19</sup> does not mean that a portion of the previously-delivered surface water automatically becomes available for non-irrigation uses. Irrigation-delivery entities in the Treasure Valley generally have not accounted for impermeable land in determining delivery rates for urban areas to which they deliver surface water for irrigation. Instead, they have continued to deliver water based on pre-development irrigated acreage (i.e., “gross acres”) rather than post-development net irrigated acreage. The rationale for doing so has been that (1) urban turf requires more water than some lower water-use crops (e.g., grains), (2) irrigation seasons may be longer in urban areas (i.e., irrigation may start earlier, and will not cease during previous “harvest” times), and (3) the greater delivery rates for “gross acres” are necessary to meet a more variable urban irrigation demand.

Finally, surface-water storage contracts in the upper Boise River Basin reservoirs typically specify that stored surface water is used for irrigation purposes. While storage can be re-contracted for a different use, the process for doing so is not trivial.<sup>20</sup> Currently, very little water is stored for municipal purposes in the upper Boise River reservoirs.<sup>21</sup> While this may change in the future, it was assumed, for the purposes of this study, that a substantial amount of surface water currently used for agricultural irrigation would not become available to municipal providers for general DCMI uses.

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<sup>19</sup> A reduction in irrigable area results from the presence of rooftops, sidewalks, roadways, and other hardscape surfaces.

<sup>20</sup> Jerry Gregg, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, personal communication, November 6, 2015. Re-contracting federal surface storage may involve NEPA and ESA analyses.

<sup>21</sup> Combined, United Water Idaho (now Suez), Trinity Springs, the J.R. Simplot Company, and Micron Technology, Inc. hold storage contracts for approximately 5,000 AF for municipal and industrial uses.

#### **4.5.2 Groundwater Availability for Projected Future DCMI Use**

Additional groundwater is available for a portion of future DCMI uses in large parts of the Treasure Valley. (Figure 12). A simulated 20 percent across-the-board increase in the Treasure Valley groundwater pumping predicted steady-state water-level declines of less than 10 feet in many areas, suggesting that Treasure Valley aquifers will support additional withdrawals (Petrich, 2004a; Petrich, 2004b).

However, while additional groundwater may be available for appropriation in some areas, some of the groundwater may require treatment for elevated, naturally-occurring arsenic or uranium levels if used for DCMI purposes.<sup>22</sup> Also, even if additional groundwater is physically available, protests to new water-right applications or other administrative constraints could limit new groundwater development.

In contrast, groundwater availability is clearly limited in other portions of the Treasure Valley. For example, portions of the Boise Foothills east of “Consolidated Cases” Study Area (Figure 13) are limited to no more than 7,440 acre feet (AF) by administrative order.<sup>23</sup> Authorization for new groundwater diversions in the Southeast Boise Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) is unlikely without full mitigation. Full mitigation is currently required for all new groundwater diversions in the “Basin 63 Restricted Area” above Lucky Peak Dam, and for all new groundwater diversions from aquifers shallower than 200 feet below ground surface in “Basin 63 Restricted Area” below Lucky Peak Dam.

#### **4.5.3 Water-Demand Assumptions Based on Water Availability**

The following assumptions were made for these DCMI water-demand projections (see Section 10) based on the above-described water-availability characteristics:

1. Where available, surface water will be used for future DCMI irrigation. Availability was determined by applying a ratio of authorized acres to boundary acres for each irrigation entity to individual TAZs.

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<sup>22</sup> Naturally-occurring arsenic and uranium as been identified in various Treasure Valley wells. The presence of elevated arsenic and uranium concentrations, which sometimes can be identified and avoided during the drilling and construction of municipal wells, is not limited to specific areas or individual aquifer zones within the valley. Various treatment strategies can be employed to reduce arsenic and uranium concentrations, although treatment may be expensive.

<sup>23</sup> Final Order Regarding Water Sufficiency in the Matter of Application for Transfer No. 78356 (Shekinah Industries); Application for Transfer 78355 (Orchard Ranch; Application for Permit 63-32499 (Mayfield Townsite); Application for Permit 61-12095 (Nevid-Corder); Application for Permit 61-12096 (Nevid) Application for Permit 63-32703 (Orchard Ranch); Application for Permit 61-12256 (Intermountain Sewer and Water); Application for Permit 63-33344 (Ark Properties-Mayfield Townsite), November 4, 2013.

2. Water demand up to 7,440 AF per year in the “Consolidated Cases” Study Area will be met by groundwater; additional water demand will require water from other sources.
3. Irrigation in the Boise Foothills “ground water-limited” area and the “Consolidated Cases” Study Area (Figure 13) will likely be less than in other parts of the valley because of water-supply limitations.
4. Absent mitigation, additional development of groundwater within the Southeast Boise GWMA is unlikely.

## 4.6 Tables and Figures

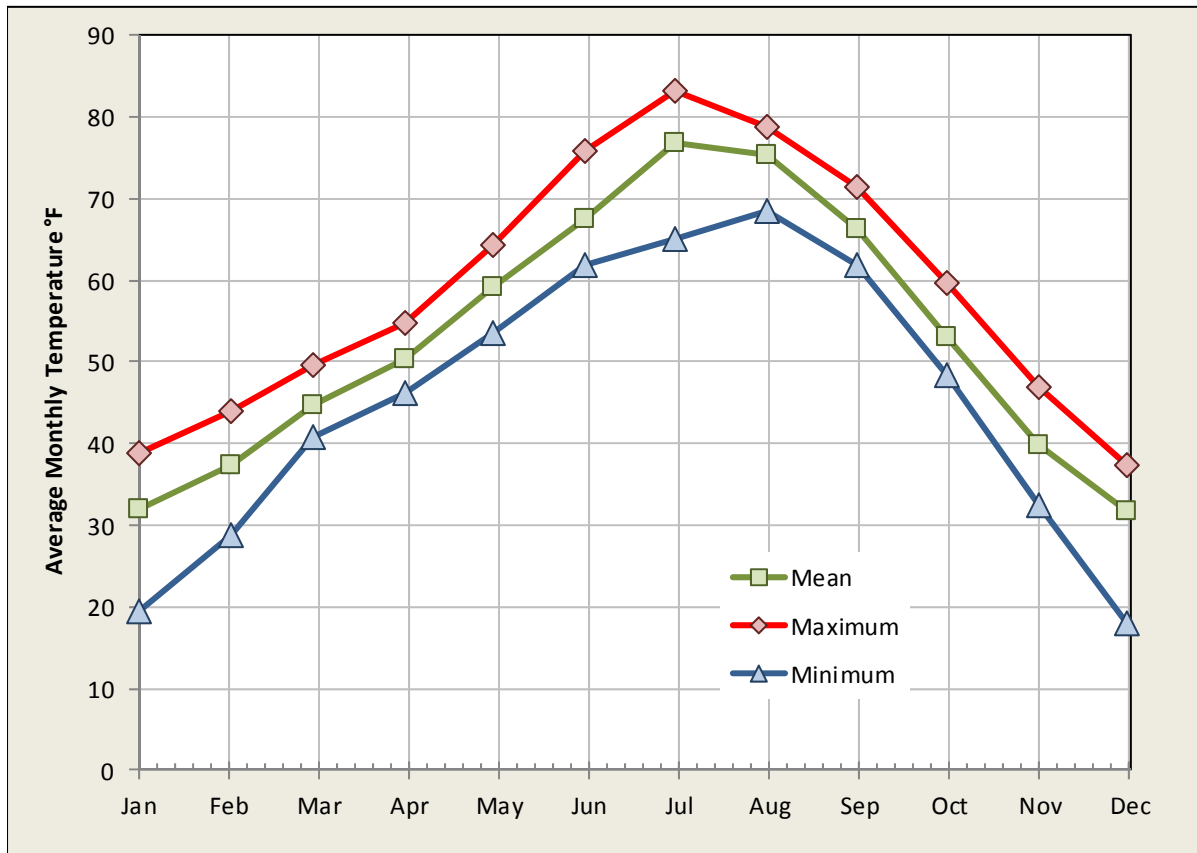


Figure 3. Average monthly temperatures, Boise Airport, 1990-2015.

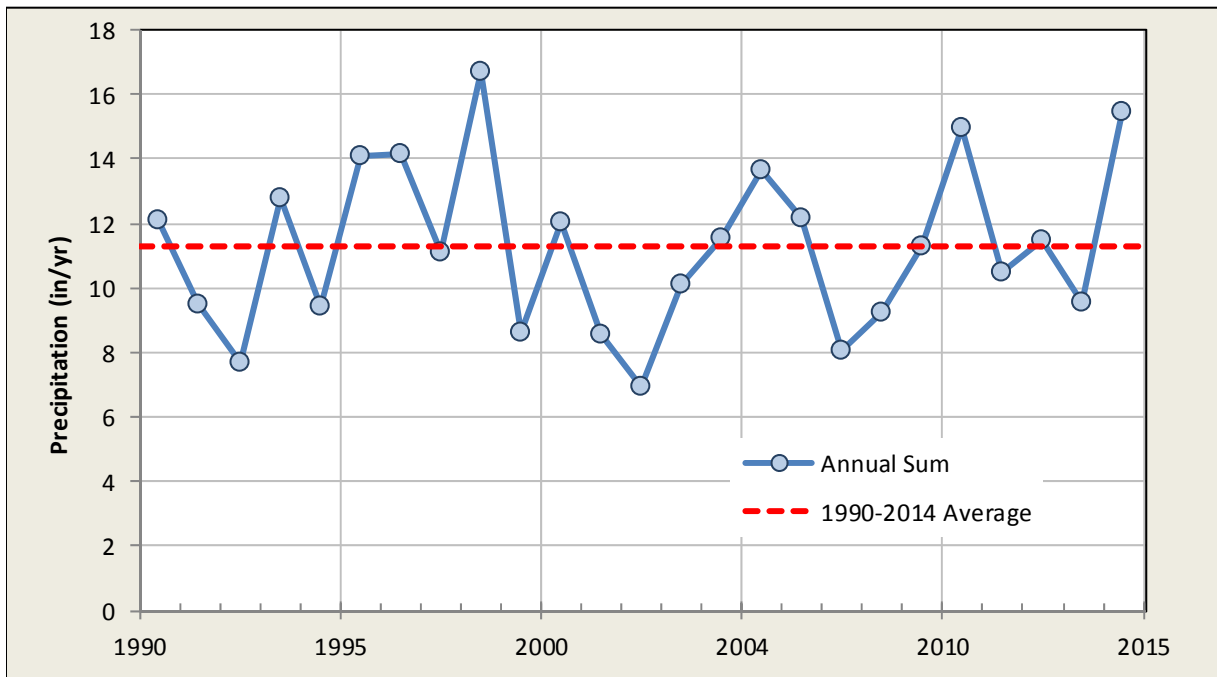


Figure 4. Annual precipitation, Boise Airport, 1990-2014.

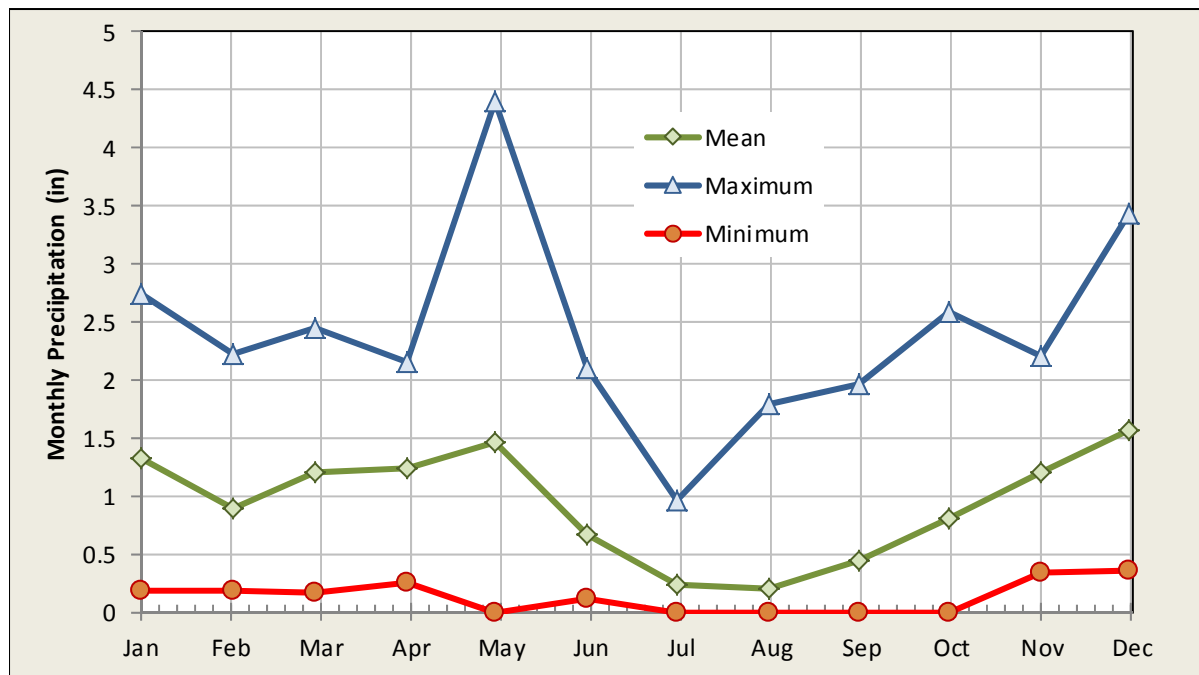


Figure 5. Monthly precipitation, Boise Airport, 1990-2014.

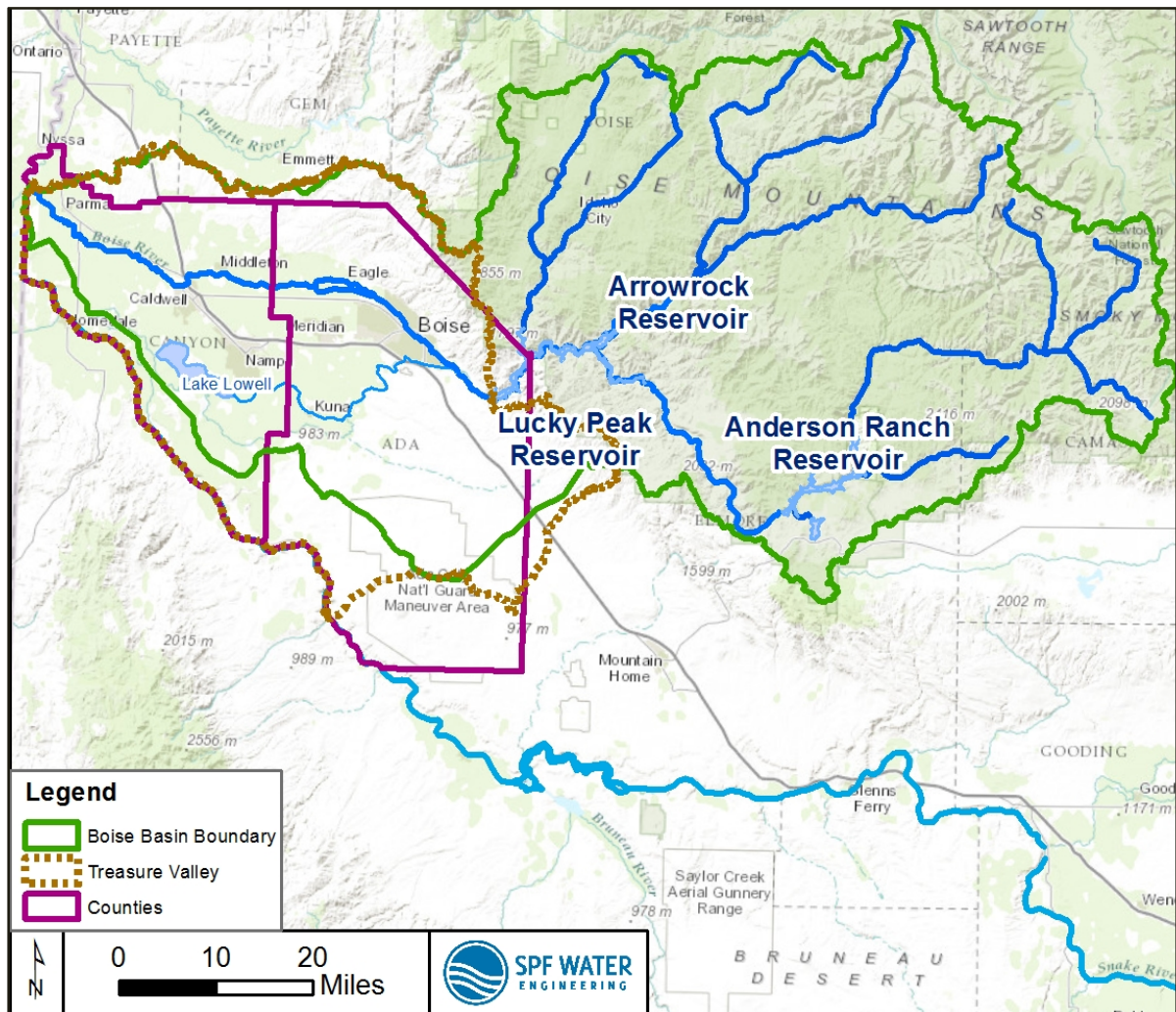
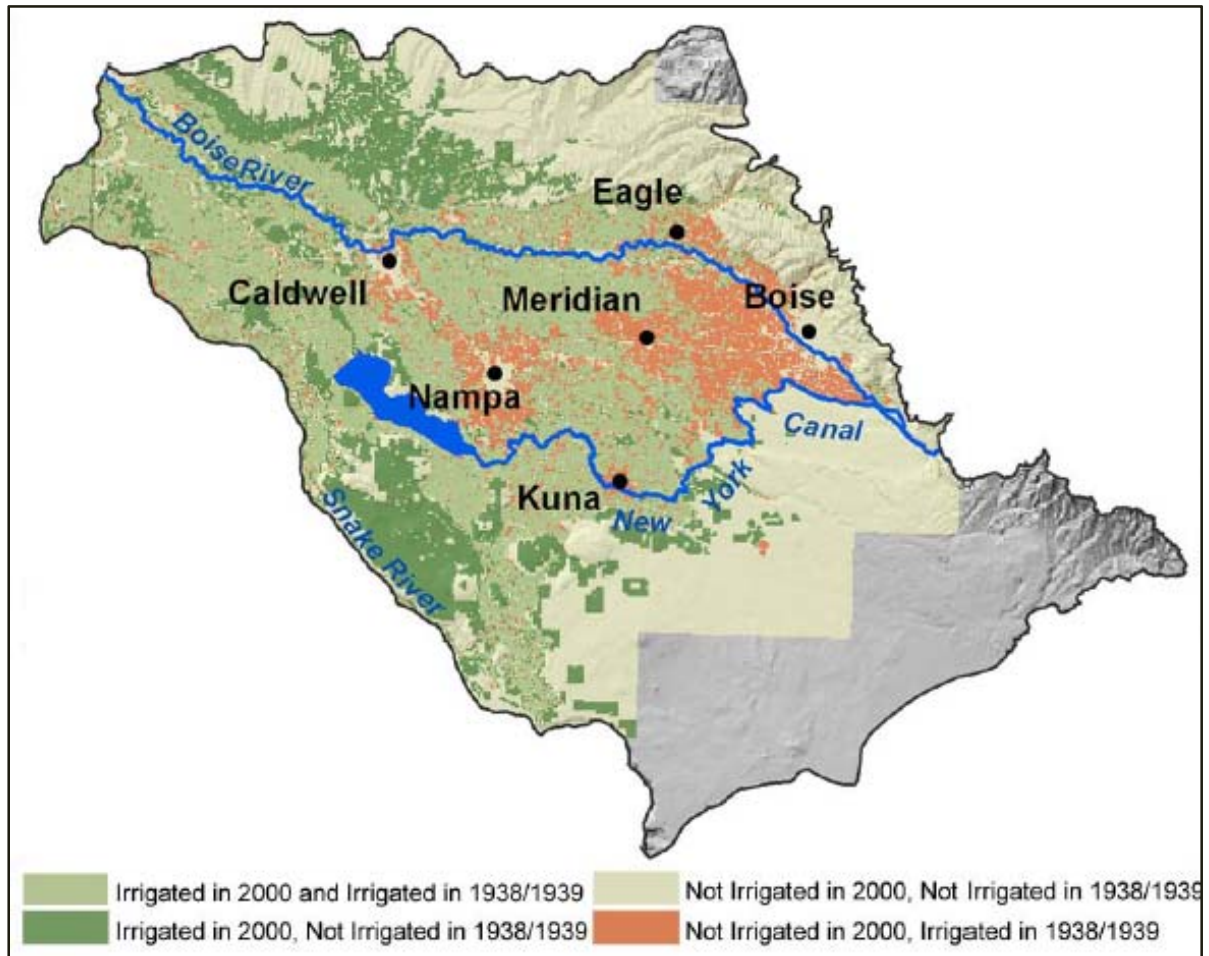


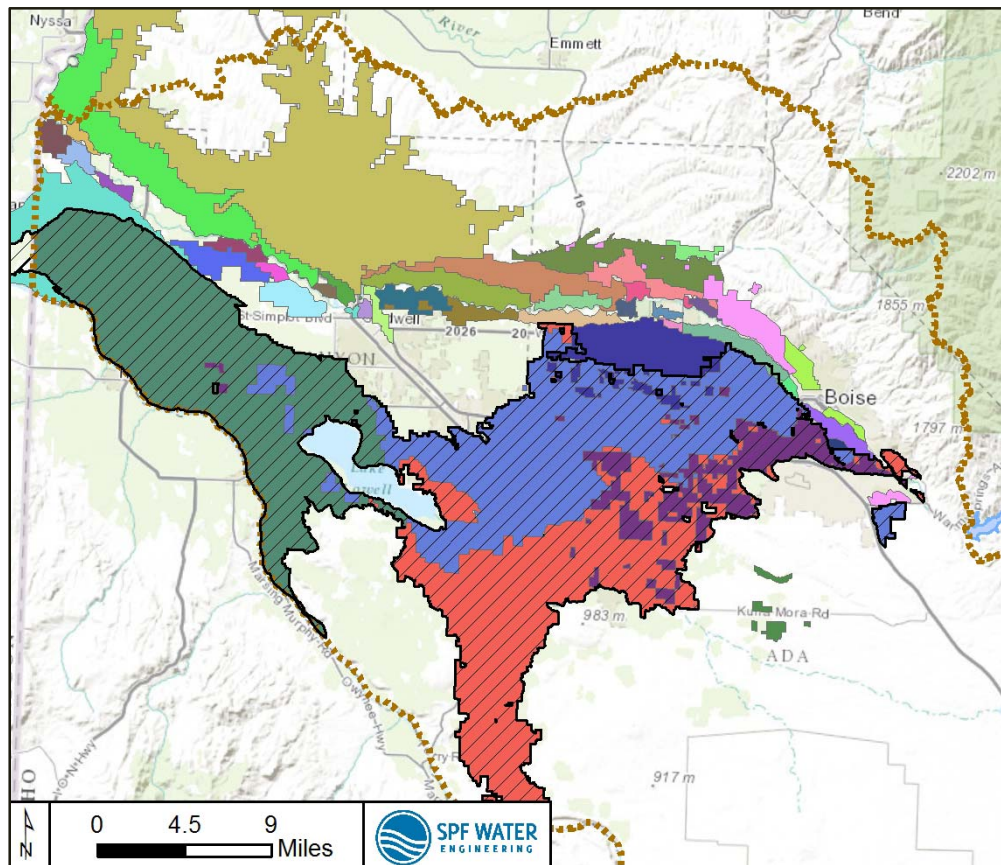
Figure 6. Boise River Watershed.



From Petrich and Urban (2004), based on IDWR data.

Figure 7. Changes in Treasure Valley irrigated lands between 1938-1939 and 2000.





- Legend**
- Treasure Valley
  - BALLENTYNE DITCH CO LTD
  - BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION DIST
  - BOISE CITY CANAL CO
  - BOISE VALLEY IRRIGATION DITCH CO
  - BOISE-KUNA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
  - BOISE PROJECT BOARD OF CONTROL
  - CANYON COUNTY WATER CO LTD
  - CANYON DITCH CO
  - CANYON HILL IRRIGATION DIST
  - CAPITOL VIEW IRRIGATION INC
  - CONSOLIDATED FARMERS CANAL CO LTD
  - EUREKA DITCH CO NO 2
  - EUREKA WATER CO
  - FAIRVIEW ACRES WATER USERS ASSOC INC
  - FARMERS COOPERATIVE DITCH CO
  - FARMERS UNION DITCH CO LTD
  - FRANKLIN DITCH CO
  - GOLDEN GATE IRRIGATION DIST
  - HAAS DITCH CO
  - HART-DAVIS DITCH CO INC
  - ISLAND HIGHLINE DITCH CO
  - LEMHI IRRIGATION DISTRICT
  - LEXINGTON HILLS INC
  - LOWER CENTERPOINT DITCH CO
  - MACE CATLIN DITCH CO
  - MASON CREEK DITCH CO
  - MC CONNEL ISLAND DITCH CO LTD
  - MIDDLETON IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION
  - MIDDLETON MILL DITCH CO
  - NAMPA & MERIDIAN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
  - NEW DRY CREEK DITCH CO
  - NEW UNION DITCH CO LTD
  - NEW YORK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
  - PINCOCK GARNER DITCH ASSN
  - PIONEER DITCH CO LTD
  - PIONEER DIXIE DITCH CO
  - PLEASANT VALLEY IRR CO
  - REXBURG IRRIGATION CO
  - RIVER FLAT DITCH CO
  - RIVERSIDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
  - ROXANA CANAL CO
  - SETTLERS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
  - SIEBENBERG COOPERATIVE DITCH CO LTD
  - SOUTH BOISE MUTUAL IRRIGATION CO LTD
  - SOUTH BOISE WATER CO
  - TETON PIPELINE ASSN INC
  - THURMAN MILL DITCH CO LTD
  - UPPER CENTER POINT DITCH CO
  - WARM SPRINGS DITCH CO
  - WILDER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Figure 8. Treasure Valley irrigation entities.

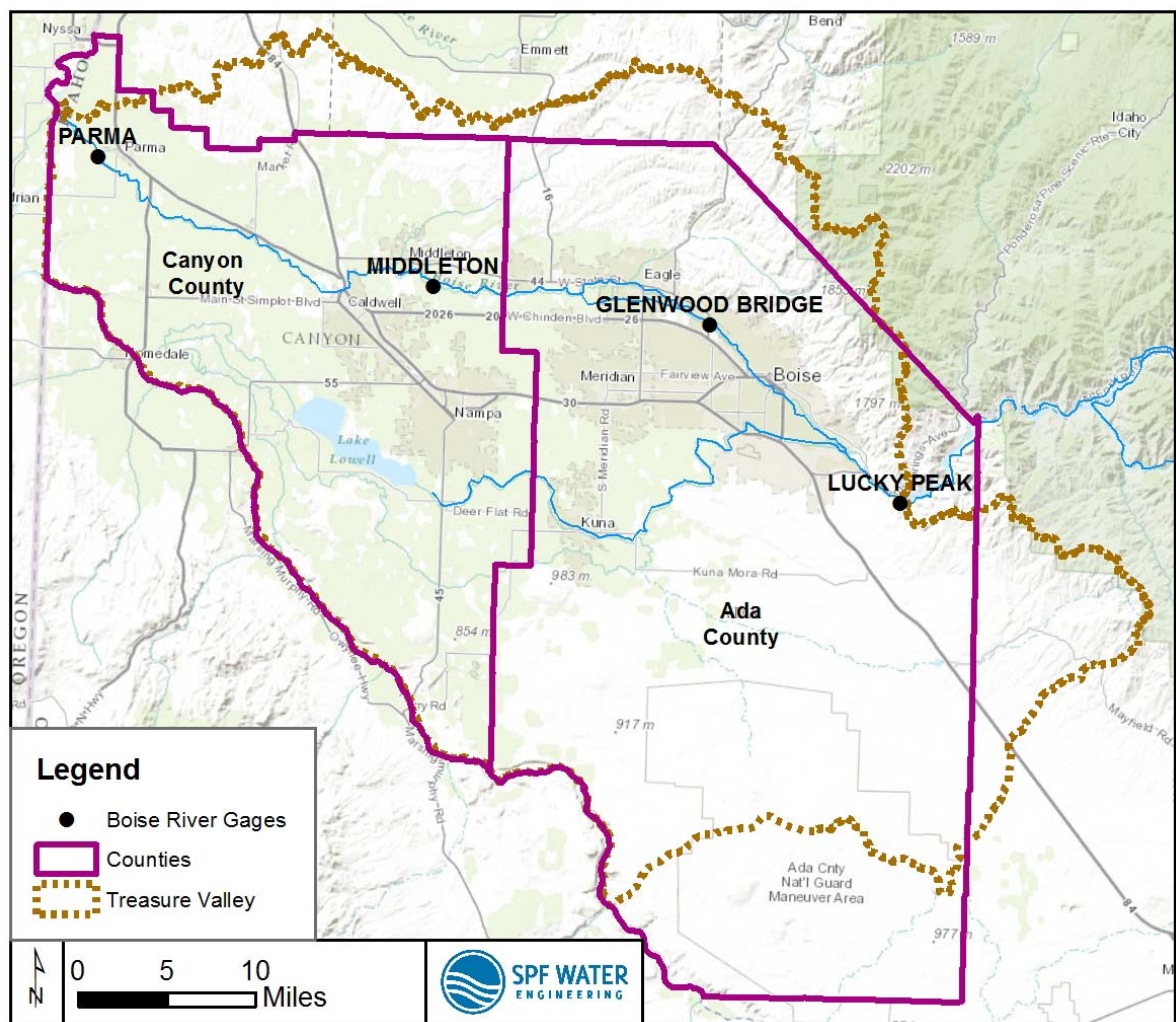


Figure 9. Boise River gaging locations.

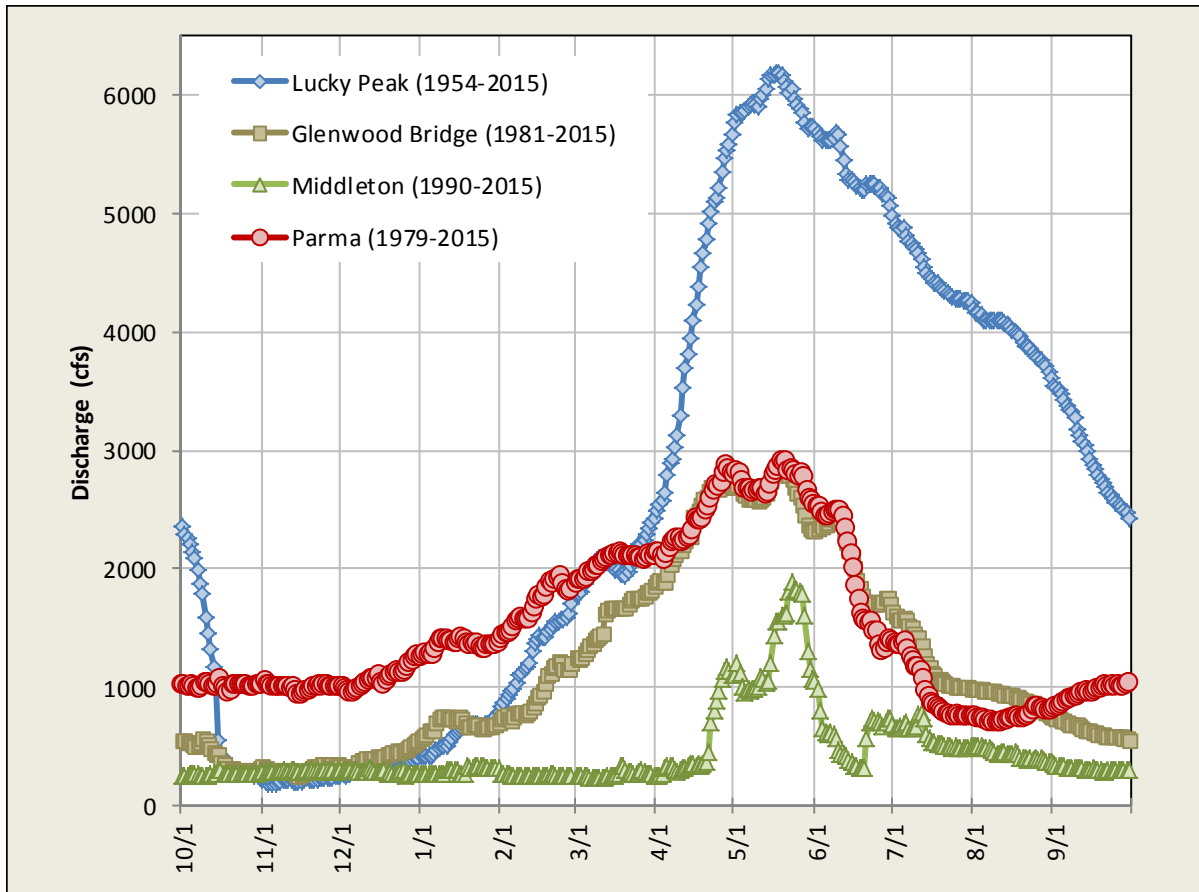
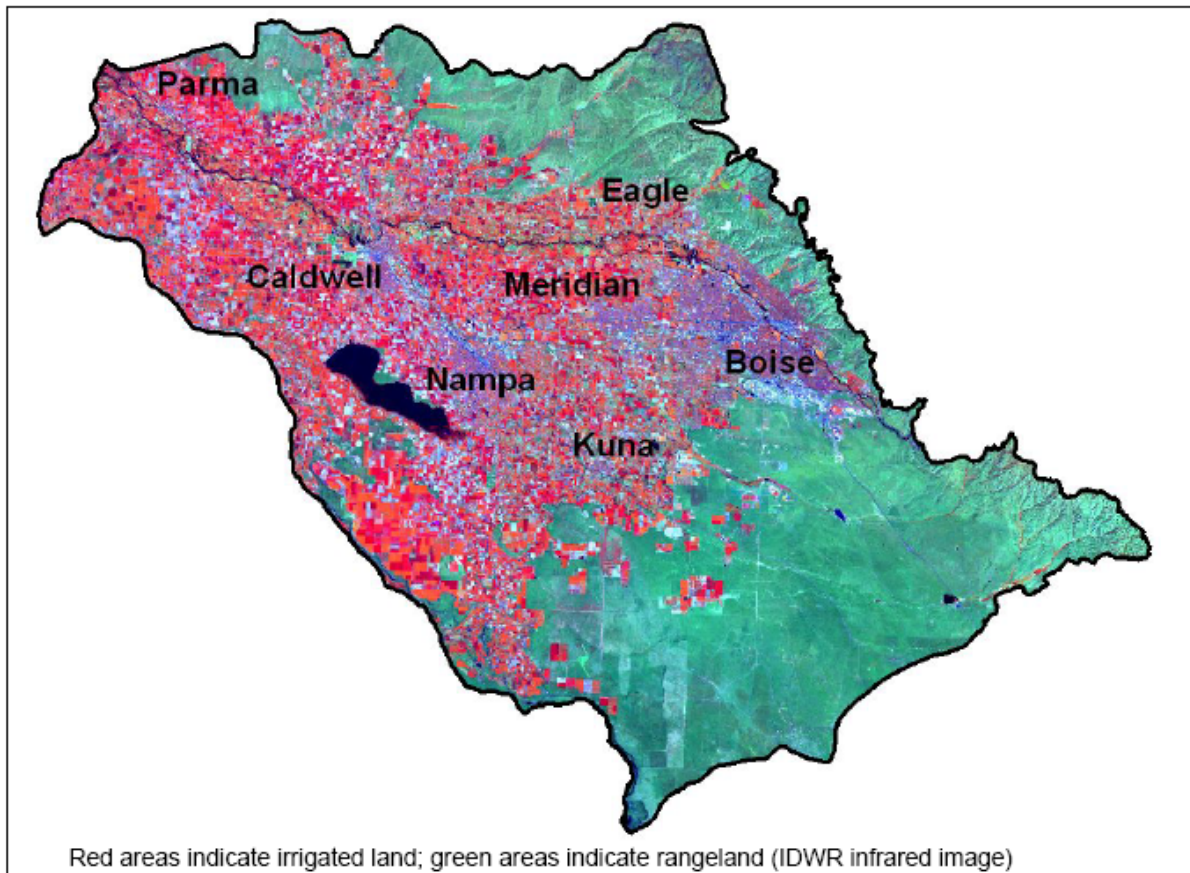


Figure 10. Boise River flows at selected gaging locations, 1980-2015.





From Petrich and Urban (2004).

Figure 11. Treasure Valley irrigated areas.

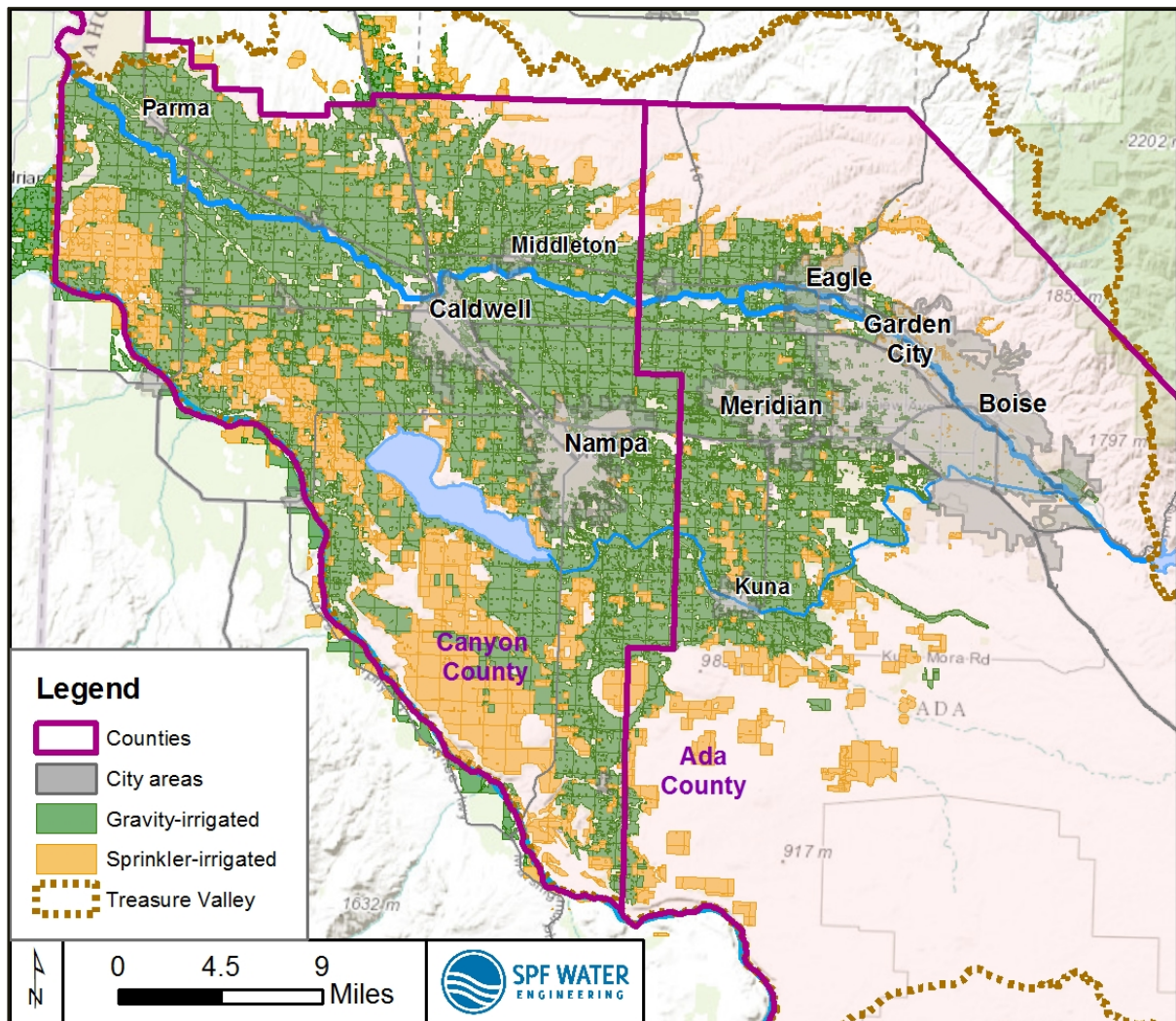


Figure 12. Agricultural irrigation type.

Boundary Acres and Authorized Acres (Part 1)				
Irrigation Entity	Boundary Acres	Authorized Acres	%	Remark
BALLENTYNE DITCH CO	911	737	81%	
BOISE CITY CANAL CO	2,370	1,461	62%	
BOISE KUNA IRRIGATION DISTRICT	69,597	66,335	74%	Percentage based on combined limit (i.e., 66,335/(69,597+19,830))
NEW YORK IRRIGATION DISTRICT	19,830		74%	
BOISE PROJECT BOARD OF CONTROL	243,431.9	167,000	69%	
BOISE VALLEY IRRIGATION DITCH CO	5,850	2,800	48%	
CANYON COUNTY WATER CO LTD	5,392	3,839	71%	
CANYON DITCH CO	949	800	84%	
CAPITOL VIEW IRRIGATION INC	1,169	682	58%	
EUREKA DITCH CO NO 2	3,214	2,990	93%	
EUREKA WATER CO	2,195	1,818	83%	
FAIRVIEW ACRES WATER USERS ASSOC INC	702	402	57%	
FARMERS COOPERATIVE DITCH CO	21,017	15,093	72%	
FARMERS UNION DITCH CO LTD	9,920	8,394	85%	
FRANKLIN DITCH CO	2,930	2,056	70%	
GOLDEN GATE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	467	231	49%	
HAAS DITCH CO	729	561	77%	
HART DAVIS DITCH CO INC	551	336	61%	
ISLAND HIGHLINE DITCH CO	1,126	813	72%	
LOWER CENTERPOINT DITCH CO	1,181	923	78%	
MACE CATLIN DITCH CO	454	231	51%	
MASON CREEK DITCH CO	2,460	1,504	61%	
MC CONNEL ISLAND DITCH CO LTD	1,472	1,234	84%	
MIDDLETON IRRIGATION ASSN	10,448	9,382	90%	
MIDDLETON MILL DITCH CO	10,448	9,383	90%	
NAMPA & MERIDIAN IRRIGATION DISTRICT	77,732	69,495	89%	

Table 2: "Boundary acres" and authorized acres for irrigation entities (Part 1).

Boundary Acres and Authorized Acres (Part 2)				
Irrigation Entity	Boundary Acres	Authorized Acres	%	Remark
NEW DRY CREEK DITCH CO	3,439	2,964	86%	
NEW UNION DITCH CO LTD	816	650	80%	
PIONEER DITCH CO LTD	1,663	1,288	77%	
PIONEER DIXIE DITCH CO	2,727	2,348	86%	
PIONEER IRRIGATION DISTRICT	35,216	34,205	97%	
RIVERSIDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	8,167	6,342	78%	Percentage calculation based on entire district: (10,158 auth acres / 13,082 boundary acres in ID and OR) x 8167.1 boundary acres in Idaho
SETTLERS IRRIGATION DISTRICT	14,069	13,127	93%	
SIEBENBERG COOPERATIVE DITCH CO LTD	637	403	63%	
SOUTH BOISE MUTUAL IRRIGATION CO LTD	680	196	29%	
SOUTH BOISE WATER CO	1,989	871	44%	
THURMAN MILL DITCH CO LTD	2,623	1,774	68%	
UPPER CENTER POINT DITCH CO	625	542	87%	
WARM SPRINGS DITCH CO	510	432	85%	
BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION DIST	55,178	30,839	85%	Percentage calculation based on entire district: (53,200 auth acres / 95,187 boundary acres in ID and OR) x 65,433 boundary acres in Canyon Co
CANYON HILL IRRIGATION DISTRICT	954	See comment	80%	No acres listed in SRBA decree; assume 80%
WILDER IRRIGATION DISTRICT	77,314		69%	69%, based on overall Boise Project average
Note: IDWR shapefiles of Treasure Valley irrigation entities include Gem Irrigation District, Opaline Irrigation District, West Reynolds Irrigation District, and Reynolds Irrigation District as a result of digitizing overlaps, but these entities do not deliver irrigation water to the project area. It was assumed that surface water would not be available for DCMI irrigation in TAZs served by irrigation ntities delivering only wastewater.				

Table 3: Boundary acres and authorized acres for irrigation entities (Part 2).



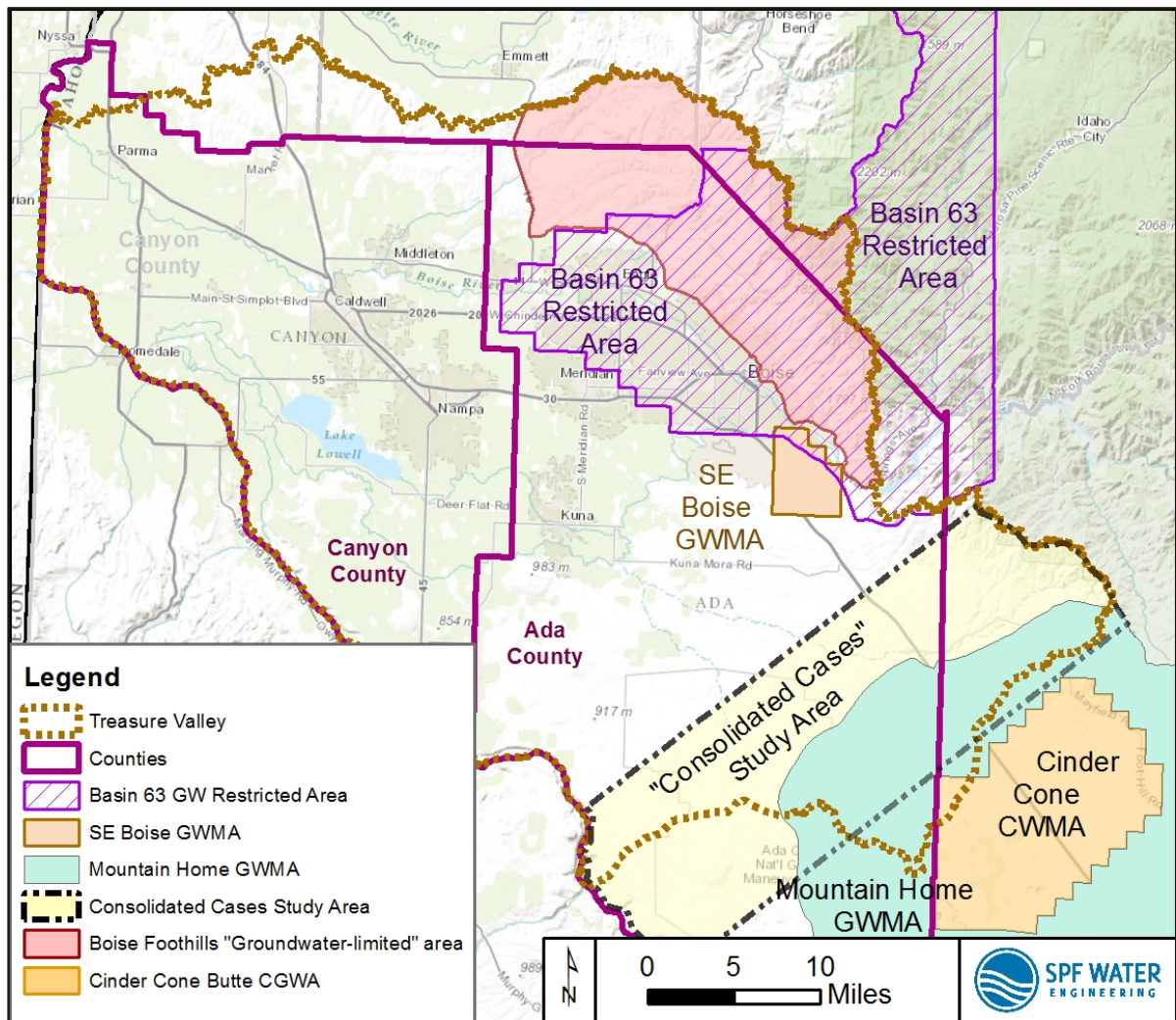


Figure 13. Water-limited areas.



## **5 HISTORICAL POPULATION GROWTH**

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### **5.1 Introduction**

Historical population growth patterns provide insight into future population growth. This section provides a summary of Treasure Valley population growth and growth rates. Tables and Figures are presented beginning on the following page.

### **5.2 Historical Population – An Overview**

Population in the Treasure Valley has grown from approximately 91,000 people in 1940 to approximately 630,000 in 2014 (Table 4 and Figure 14). In 2014, approximately 426,200 people (68 percent of the Treasure Valley population) lived in Ada County; 203,000 (28 percent of the Treasure Valley population) lived in Canyon County.

Overall, Ada County grew almost 750 percent since 1940; Canyon County grew almost 400 percent. Ada County experienced its lowest-growth decade (at a growth rate of about 15 percent over 10 years) between 1960 and 1970 (Table 5). However, Ada County experienced a 46 percent growth rate between 1990 and 2000 and a 54 percent growth rate between 1970 and 1980.

Population growth is not consistent from decade to decade. Canyon County experienced relatively low 10-year growth rates between 1950 and 1970 and between 1980 and 1990 (8 percent growth over 10 years – see Table 5). However, Canyon County has recently experienced higher growth rates (46 percent from 1992 to 2000, and 44 percent between 2000 and 2010).

Since 1940, Ada County has grown an average of approximately 2.9 percent per year; Canyon County has grown an average of 2.2 percent per year. Based on these 10-year data from 1940 through 2010, the average annual population growth rate for both counties (Table 6) ranged from a low of approximately 1.4 percent (1960-1970) to a high of 4.0 percent (1970-1980).

### 5.3 Tables and Figures

Population Summary, 1940-2014									
County/ City	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014
<b>Ada County</b>	50,401	70,649	93,460	112,230	173,125	205,775	300,904	392,365	426,236
Boise	26,130	34,393	34,481	74,990	102,249	125,738	185,787	205,671	216,282
Eagle					2,620	3,327	11,085	19,908	22,502
Garden City		764	1,681	2,368	4,571	6,369	10,624	10,972	11,420
Kuna	443	534	516	593	1,767	1,955	5,382	15,210	16,999
Meridian	1,465	1,810	2,081	2,616	6,658	9,596	34,919	75,092	87,743
Star						648	1,795	5,793	7,295
<b>Canyon County</b>	40,987	53,597	57,662	62,123	83,756	90,076	131,441	188,923	203,143
Caldwell	7,272	10,487	12,230	14,219	17,699	18,400	25,967	46,237	50,224
Greenleaf	0	0	0	0	663	648	862	846	878
Melba	213	203	197	197	276	252	439	513	529
Middleton	477	496	541	739	1,901	1,851	2,978	5,524	6,420
Nampa	12,149	16,185	18,013	20,768	25,112	28,365	51,867	81,557	88,211
Notus	277	313	324	304	437	380	458	531	545
Parma	1,085	1,369	1,295	1,228	1,820	1,597	1,771	1,988	2,066
Wilder	507	555	603	564	1,260	1,232	1,462	1,533	1,597
<b>Ada and Canyon Co (combined)</b>	91,388	124,246	151,122	174,353	256,881	295,851	432,345	581,288	629,379
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov). Data from 2011-2014 were based on mid year estimates.									

Table 4: Population summary, 1940-2014.

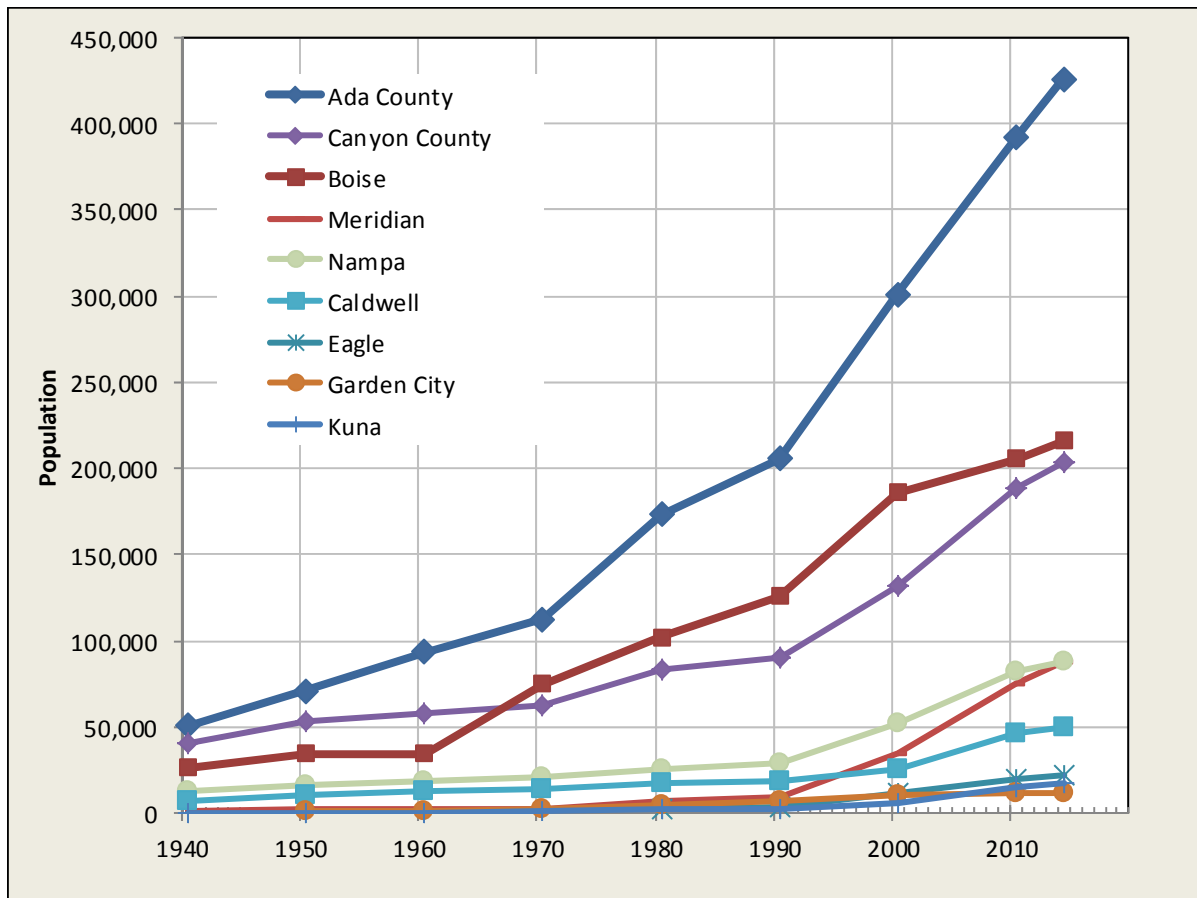


Figure 14. Ada and Canyon counties population, 1940-2014.

Percent Change in Population by Decade*								
County/City	1940-1950	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2014*
<b>Ada County</b>	40%	32%	20%	54%	19%	46%	30%	9%
Boise	32%	0%	117%	36%	23%	48%	11%	5%
Eagle					27%	233%	80%	13%
Garden City		120%	41%	93%	39%	67%	3%	4%
Kuna	21%	-3%	15%	198%	11%	175%	183%	12%
Meridian	24%	15%	26%	155%	44%	264%	115%	17%
Star						177%	223%	26%
<b>Canyon County</b>	31%	8%	8%	35%	8%	46%	44%	8%
Caldwell	44%	17%	16%	24%	4%	41%	78%	9%
Greenleaf					-2%	33%	-2%	4%
Melba	-5%	-3%	0%	40%	-9%	74%	17%	3%
Middleton	4%	9%	37%	157%	-3%	61%	85%	16%
Nampa	33%	11%	15%	21%	13%	83%	57%	8%
Notus	13%	4%	-6%	44%	-13%	21%	16%	3%
Parma	26%	-5%	-5%	48%	-12%	11%	12%	4%
Wilder	9%	9%	-6%	123%	-2%	19%	5%	4%
<b>Ada and Canyon Co (combined)</b>	36%	22%	15%	47%	15%	46%	34%	8%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov). Data from 2011-2014 were based on mid year estimates. * All intervals are 10 years, except for 2010-2014, which is a 5-year interval.								

Table 5: Percent population change by decade, 1940-2014.

Average Annual Population Change								
County/City	1940-1950	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2014
<b>Ada County</b>	3.4%	2.8%	1.8%	4.4%	1.7%	3.9%	2.7%	2.1%
Boise	2.8%	0.0%	8.1%	3.1%	2.1%	4.0%	1.0%	1.3%
Eagle					2.4%	12.8%	6.0%	3.1%
Garden City		8.2%	3.5%	6.8%	3.4%	5.2%	0.3%	1.0%
Kuna	1.9%	-0.3%	1.4%	11.5%	1.0%	10.7%	10.9%	2.8%
Meridian	2.1%	1.4%	2.3%	9.8%	3.7%	13.8%	8.0%	4.0%
Star						10.7%	12.4%	5.9%
<b>Canyon County</b>	2.7%	0.7%	0.7%	3.0%	0.7%	3.9%	3.7%	1.8%
Caldwell	3.7%	1.5%	1.5%	2.2%	0.4%	3.5%	5.9%	2.1%
Greenleaf					-0.2%	2.9%	-0.2%	0.9%
Melba	-0.5%	-0.3%	0.0%	3.4%	-0.9%	5.7%	1.6%	0.8%
Middleton	0.4%	0.9%	3.2%	9.9%	-0.3%	4.9%	6.4%	3.8%
Nampa	2.9%	1.1%	1.4%	1.9%	1.2%	6.2%	4.6%	2.0%
Notus	1.2%	0.3%	-0.6%	3.7%	-1.4%	1.9%	1.5%	0.7%
Parma	2.4%	-0.6%	-0.5%	4.0%	-1.3%	1.0%	1.2%	1.0%
Wilder	0.9%	0.8%	-0.7%	8.4%	-0.2%	1.7%	0.5%	1.0%
<b>Ada and Canyon Co (combined)</b>	3.1%	2.0%	1.4%	4.0%	1.4%	3.9%	3.0%	2.0%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov). Data from 2011-2014 were based on mid year estimates.								

Table 6: Average annual population change, 1940-2014.

## **6 POPULATION, HOUSEHOLDS, AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH PROJECTIONS**

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### **6.1 Introduction**

Future Treasure Valley water-demand projections are based, in part, on projected increases in population, households, and employment. The projections were prepared by John Church (Idaho Economics) based on COMPASS projections and with semi-logarithmic extrapolation to the year 2065 (Section 3.2.3). The spatial distribution of population, households, and employment projections was refined based on a review of various comprehensive plans and interviews with local planning officials, conducted by Bob Taunton (Taunton Group).

### **6.2 Projections of Population, Households, and Employment**

Treasure Valley population is expected to increase from approximately 580,200 people in 2010 to over 1.57 million people by the year 2065 (Table 7 and Figure 15). Projected rates (Table 7) are consistent with historical rates (Table 6). Approximately 63 percent of the 1.57 million people in 2065 will reside in Ada County; the balance (approximately 37 percent) will reside in Canyon County.

The number of households is projected to increase from 211,600 in 2010 to 638,700 in 2065 (Table 8 and Figure 16). Employment is projected to increase from approximately 240,500 employees in 2010 to 940,800 employees by the year 2065 (Table 9 and Figure 17).

The average number of people per household in Ada County is projected to decrease from 2.65 in 2010 to 2.43 (Table 10). The average number of people per household in Canyon County is projected to decrease from 2.96 and 2010 to 2.51 in 2065.

The average number of employees per household in Ada County is projected to decrease from 0.78 in 2010 to 0.61 in 2065 (Table 10). The average number of employees per household in Canyon County is projected to decrease from 1.27 in 2010 to 0.86 in 2065.

### **6.3 Density and Spatial Distribution**

The population density, described as the number of people per acre and based on population per TAZ, ranges from zero to approximately 30 people per acre in 2015 to almost 100 people per acre by 2025 in a few TAZs (Figure 18). The maximum household density is projected to increase from approximately 14.6 households per acre in 2015 to approximately 34 households per acre in 2065. The maximum employment density is anticipated to increase from approximately 360 per acre in 2015 to 500 per acre in 2065.

Approximately 51% of the Ada-Canyon county area currently has a household density (Table 11 and Figure 19) of less than 0.01 units per acre (essentially zero). Areas with low household density include rangeland (public and private) and industrial/commercial areas. Approximately 3% of the bi-county area has a residential density greater than 2 households per acre. In 50 years, approximately 10% of the Ada-Canyon County area is projected to have a household density of greater than 2 units per acre. Approximately 29% of the Ada-Canyon county area (Table 11) was deemed as “water-limited” for the purposes of this study (see Figure 13).

The spatial distribution of per-acre population, households, and employment in 2015 and 2065 is illustrated in Figure 20 through Figure 25. Most of the population and household growth is projected to occur in the central portion of the valley (Boise, Meridian, Kuna, Nampa, Caldwell, Eagle, etc.). Most of the employment growth is projected to occur along the I-84 corridor between Boise and Caldwell.

#### **6.4 Factors Influencing Population and Households Distribution**

The COMPASS projections of population, households, and employment were based, in part, on economic models, historical growth rates, local comprehensive plans, and growth rates in other comparable areas. Projections of population, households, and employment were then extended to the year 2065 by semi-logarithmic extrapolation (see Section 3.2.3). However, there are also a number of other factors that have and will continue to influence these projections – and the future spatial distribution of population, households, and employment.<sup>24</sup>

##### **6.4.1 Physical Characteristics**

Physical characteristics such as topography (e.g., Boise foothills) already influence the spatial distribution of projected households and household density. However, changes in floodplain designations along the Boise River or other tributaries could influence future household density in certain TAZs.

##### **6.4.2 Infrastructure Availability**

The availability of water and wastewater infrastructure (e.g., sewer lines, treatment facilities, etc.), availability of transportation access and roadway capacities, and the presence of railroads (i.e., the need for overpass crossings)<sup>25</sup> influence the location

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<sup>24</sup> Much of the text in this section was developed by Bob Taunton, Taunton Consulting.

<sup>25</sup> For example, additional railroad crossings or bridges will be required in Kuna for development south of downtown and in Caldwell. Negotiations involving such crossings and subsequent design and construction can take two decades or more.

and density of future development. Changes in current infrastructure plans will likely change household number and density assumptions used in this report.

The availability of water and wastewater infrastructure depends, in part, on funding. The proposed Spring Valley, Dry Creek Ranch, Mayfield Springs, and Mayfield Townsite developments are planned communities that will likely require privately funded wastewater treatment plants and water infrastructure (although Dry Creek may rely on United Water Idaho). The ability to secure private or public funding for infrastructure improvements by different private or public entities will influence the timing and location of new developments.

#### **6.4.3 Statutory Framework**

Statutes (e.g., Local Land Use Planning Act, or “LLUPA”, Idaho Code § 67-6502) and local codes guide municipal planning and development. Revisions to statute or codes may impact future development through the creation of additional requirements or restrictions, and consequently influence locations and density of future developments.

#### **6.4.4 Planned Communities**

Large-scale planned communities are permitted outside of cities in Ada County<sup>26</sup> on a minimum of 640 acres. Without planned-community zoning, land in Ada County outside of a city Area of Impact (AOI) is designated for agricultural uses, allowing rural residential uses at 1 unit per 40 acres or 1 unit per 10 acres (depending on location).

During the recent 2006 housing-market peak, Ada County was in discussion with 14 proposed planned community sponsors. However, only three entitled or active planned communities remain: Avimor (840 acres), Dry Creek Ranch (1,414 acres), and Cartwright Ranch (730 acres).<sup>27</sup> Additionally, the City of Eagle has approved the 6,000-acre Spring Valley planned community in the Boise foothills and the City of Boise has recognized a 600-acre parcel southwest of the Boise Airport (Syringa Valley) as a possible planned community.

Amendments to the planned community ordinance since 2006 may have reduced interest in future planned communities. Additional changes or amendments in planned community ordinances could influence assumptions regarding the locations of population growth and population density.

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<sup>26</sup> Canyon County does not have a planned community ordinance.

<sup>27</sup> Hidden Springs, another Ada County planned community, began prior to 2006.



#### **6.4.5 Public Land Ownership**

Public land, such as that owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or State of Idaho, likely will continue to see very little (if any) population growth.

#### **6.4.6 Existing Land Ownership**

Existing land uses and ownership, such as large-lot rural subdivisions that block annexation pathways and the extension of utility services, or land with fragmented ownership which is difficult to annex or facilitate utility extensions, will continue to influence higher-density developments that require new municipal infrastructure.

#### **6.4.7 Demographics and Market Preferences**

Demographics and market preferences will influence future growth and development preferences. For example, COMPASS predicts that children and youth under the age of 20 will comprise 20.6 percent of the Treasure Valley population in the year 2040, down from 30.7 percent in 2010. An increasing number of these “Baby Boomers” and “Millennials” currently favor mixed-use, walkable communities rather than auto-oriented single-use suburbs. These preferences, if they continue, will influence future growth and development patterns.

Market preferences may also influence residential construction in the vicinity of the airport or established industries. Recently the City of Boise has conducted noise-impact forecasts for the F-35 that would expand noise impact in southwest Boise and the planned East Columbia Village area. Increased military flights could impact these areas through future development restrictions or buyer resistance. Similarly, established or new industries may create odors and require buffer zones. Examples of such industries might include sugar beet, cheese, or meat processing facilities.

#### **6.4.8 Comprehensive Plans**

COMPASS projections are based, in part, on comprehensive plans prepared for individual cities and counties. These plans typically encompass a 20-year time horizon, although many of the Treasure Valley comprehensive plans far exceed that timeframe. Comprehensive plans do not need to be updated on a regular basis. For example, the City of Boise comprehensive plan was not updated between 1997 and 2011, although it was amended many times during that time. Comprehensive plans are subject to revision and cities can make findings to approve land-use applications that are not consistent with their comprehensive plans. Furthermore, some of the comprehensive plans are not tied directly to the availability of urban services, needed transportation improvements, community facilities, and other constraints. In other words, current projections of development location and densities are subject to change as cities and counties approve developments that are not consistent with the comprehensive plans, or as comprehensive plans evolve over time.

#### **6.4.9 Area-of-Impact Jurisdiction and Planning**

Idaho statute allows cities to establish AOIs surrounding their incorporated boundaries with the agreement of the local county based on a set of criteria. AOIs represent the locations where the cities expect urban growth to occur over a 20-year period through the extension of urban services and annexation (a key intent of this requirement is to minimize sprawl by encouraging cities to grow in a cost-effective manner). Future development and population density will be influenced, in part, by the evolving plans and jurisdictions within AOIs.

Until annexation, a county continues to be the land-use approving jurisdiction. For land use applications within the AOI beyond the municipal boundary, the city's comprehensive plan applies and the county processes those applications based on the city plan.

Many of the cities have established planning areas for their comprehensive plans that far exceed their AOI boundaries, while others have prepared plans for their current AOI or reasonable additions. For example, Kuna uses an expanded planning area approach while Boise follows a more constrained policy. However, comprehensive plans that extend beyond the approved AOI have no force and effect because the county's comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances apply.

#### **6.4.10 Population and Housing Density**

Interviews with city and county planning personnel and a review of comprehensive plans (and implementing ordinances) reveal that most expect future residential densities to average 3 to 4 units per acre (typically 6,000-8,000 square-foot lots) consistent with current development patterns. However, changes in demographic and market preferences plus higher commuting costs as a result of congestion could lead to density shifts to 4 to 6 units per acre (5,000-6,000 square foot lots) to accommodate additional housing demand in key corridors. Harris Ranch in East Boise illustrates this trend. Much of the Harris Ranch community has been built at a density of 6 to 8 units per acre on lot sizes of 5,000 square feet or less and has appealed to empty-nesters and young families. By inference, such a trend would lead to greater water demand in a certain areas for indoor domestic uses and less water demand for residential irrigation.

Future transportation costs will have a strong influence on the location of urban development. Single-family developments on the "urban fringe" may be affordable with current energy prices but could be far less affordable if a rising transportation cost is added.

In existing urban areas close to public transportation, services, and employment – where infill is generally the only development option – household densities could be 8-12 units per acre or higher depending on location. In 2014, COMPASS reports that 42 percent of the total residential permits were multi-family, a spike that is more than double the average from 2001-2007.

New development in the foothills is generally expected to average 1 unit per gross acre or less depending on development constraints, such as slope. Community-level water and wastewater infrastructure will likely lead to clustering of development with smaller lots and higher net densities to reduce infrastructure-development costs. Significant portions of the site would remain as undeveloped, non-irrigated open space. A recent example of foothills development densities is the approval of the planned residential project by Boise Hunter Homes in Harris Ranch. This development includes 173 residential units (8,000-9,000 square-foot lots typical) at 0.84 units per gross acre.

Two variables could influence the spatial distribution of urban development and residential density. First, the presence (or lack thereof) of transportation infrastructure (both roadways and public transportation) could influence the above-described growth patterns. Second, changes in current land-use policies (such as a greater priority placed on the preservation of agricultural land) could similarly influence development patterns and resulting residential housing densities.

## **6.5 Tables and Figures**

(Tables and figures begin on next page)

Population				
Year	Ada County	Canyon County	Total	% Increase
2010	391,800	188,400	580,200	
2015	419,900	204,600	624,500	1.5%
2020	448,300	226,200	674,500	1.6%
2025	493,200	251,600	744,800	2.1%
2030	535,500	273,600	809,100	1.7%
2035	606,100	309,900	916,000	2.6%
2040	674,100	347,000	1,021,200	2.3%
2045	719,500	381,500	1,101,000	1.6%
2050	780,900	415,100	1,196,000	1.7%
2055	847,400	467,800	1,315,300	2.0%
2060	919,700	518,800	1,438,500	1.9%
2065	998,100	574,600	1,572,700	1.9%

Table 7. Treasure Valley population projections, 2015-2065.

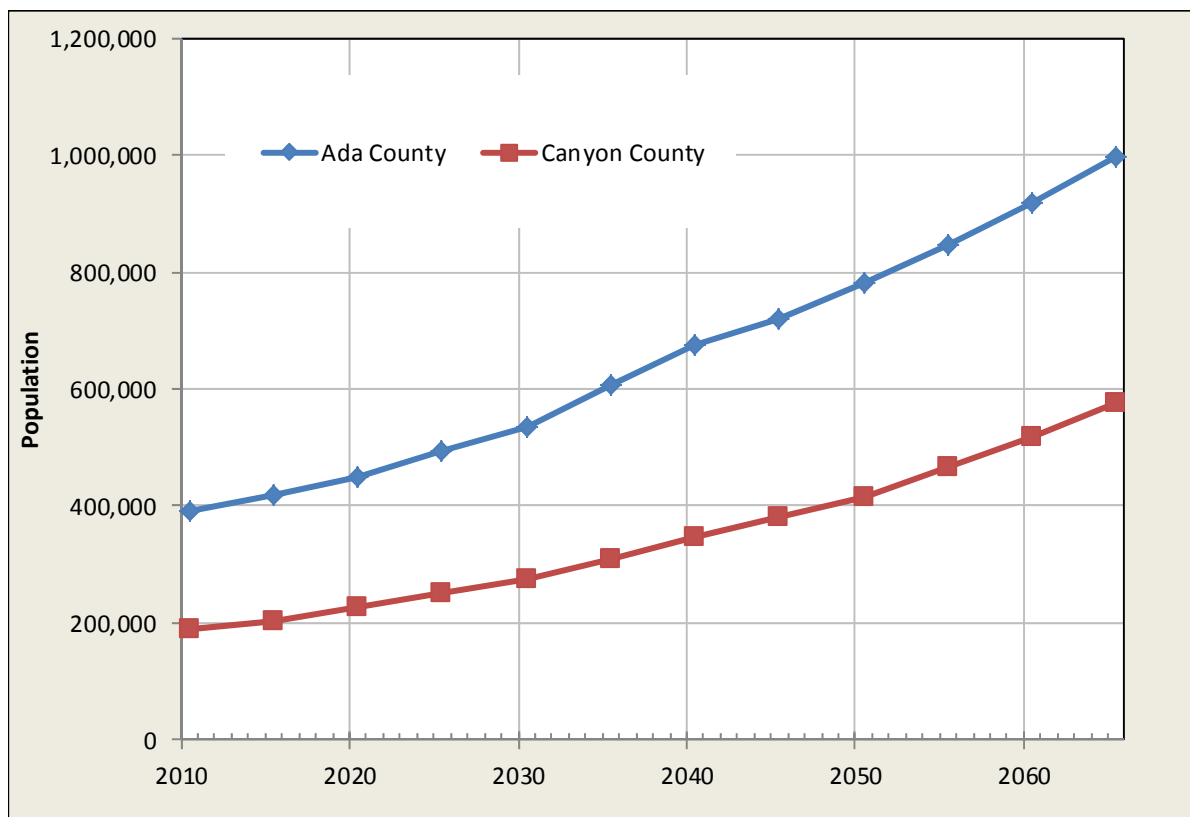


Figure 15. Treasure Valley population projections, 2015-2065.

Households				
Year	Ada County	Canyon County	Total	% Increase
2010	148,100	63,600	211,600	
2015	157,700	69,000	226,600	1.4%
2020	171,000	78,100	249,100	2.0%
2025	188,100	86,900	275,100	2.1%
2030	209,800	97,200	307,000	2.3%
2035	232,200	110,500	342,700	2.3%
2040	260,500	127,400	387,800	2.6%
2045	290,900	144,500	435,300	2.4%
2050	320,800	159,200	480,000	2.1%
2055	347,500	181,700	529,200	2.1%
2060	377,400	203,900	581,300	2.0%
2065	409,900	228,700	638,700	2.0%

Table 8. Treasure Valley household projections, 2015-2065.

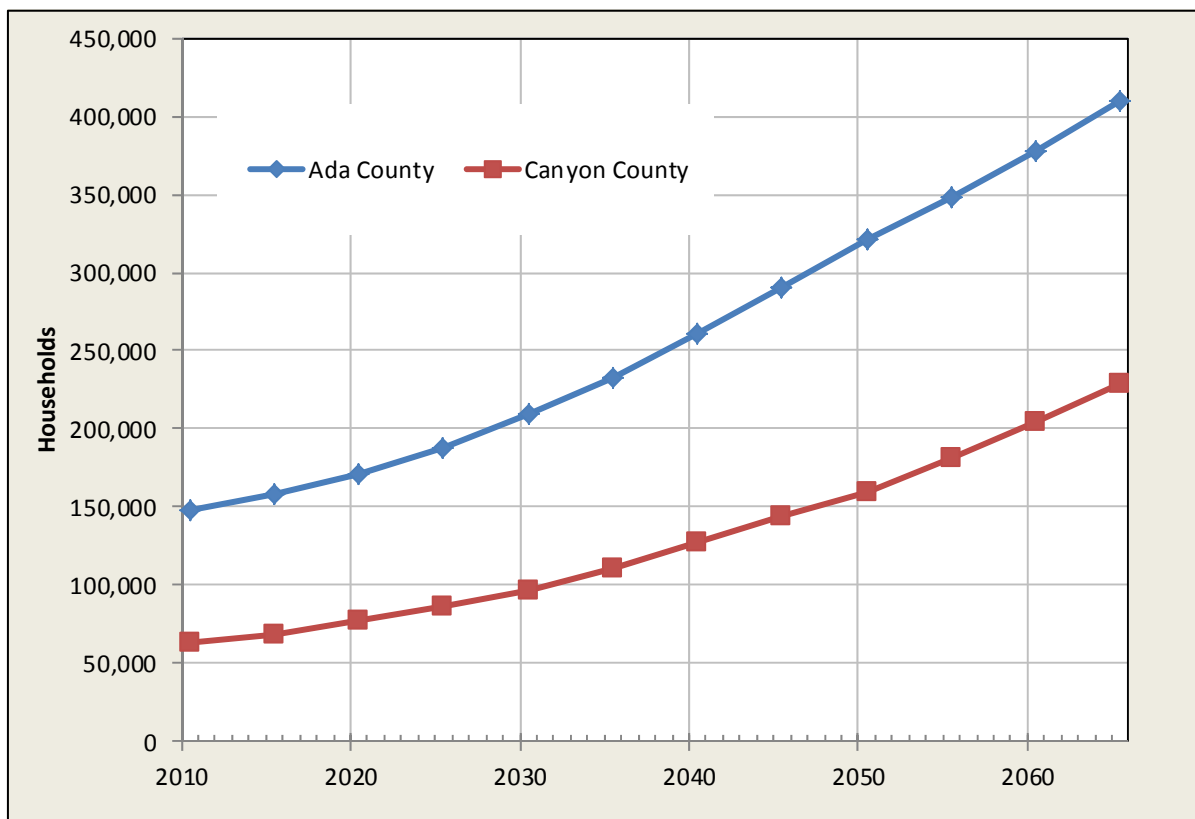


Figure 16. Treasure Valley household projections, 2015-2065.

Employment				
Year	Ada County	Canyon County	Total	% Increase
2010	190,300	50,200	240,500	
2015	208,600	57,200	265,800	2.1%
2020	228,600	65,300	293,900	2.1%
2025	255,200	75,200	330,400	2.5%
2030	284,800	86,200	371,000	2.5%
2035	316,700	98,100	414,800	2.4%
2040	352,100	111,300	463,400	2.3%
2045	394,600	129,400	524,000	2.6%
2050	446,000	152,100	598,100	2.8%
2055	508,200	181,000	689,200	3.0%
2060	583,900	217,700	801,500	3.3%
2065	676,300	264,500	940,800	3.5%

Table 9. Treasure Valley employment projections, 2015-2065.

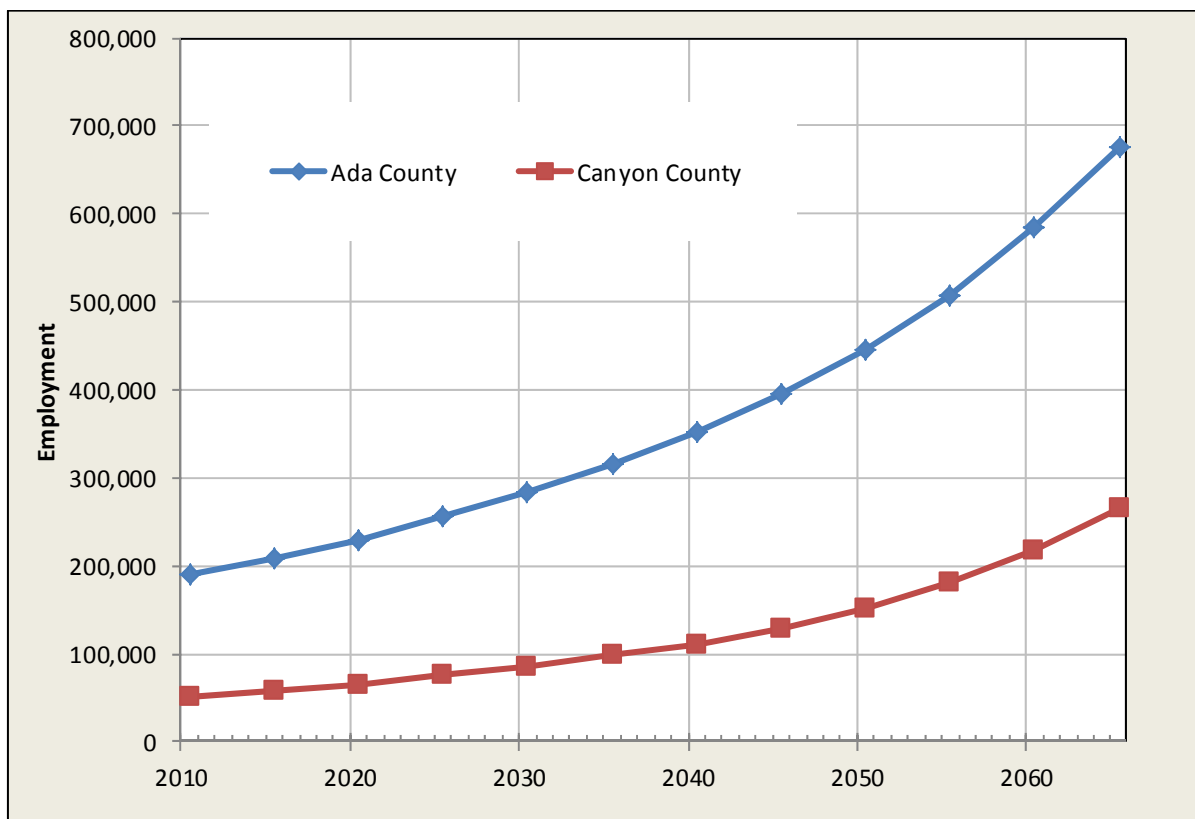


Figure 17. Treasure Valley employment projections, 2015-2065.

Year	People per Household		Employees per Household	
	Ada County	Canyon County	Ada County	Canyon County
2010	2.65	2.96	0.78	1.27
2015	2.66	2.97	0.76	1.21
2020	2.62	2.90	0.75	1.20
2025	2.62	2.89	0.74	1.16
2030	2.55	2.81	0.74	1.13
2035	2.61	2.80	0.73	1.13
2040	2.59	2.72	0.74	1.14
2045	2.47	2.64	0.74	1.12
2050	2.43	2.61	0.72	1.05
2055	2.44	2.58	0.68	1.00
2060	2.44	2.54	0.65	0.94
2065	2.43	2.51	0.61	0.86

Table 10. Projections of people and employees per household, 2015-2065.

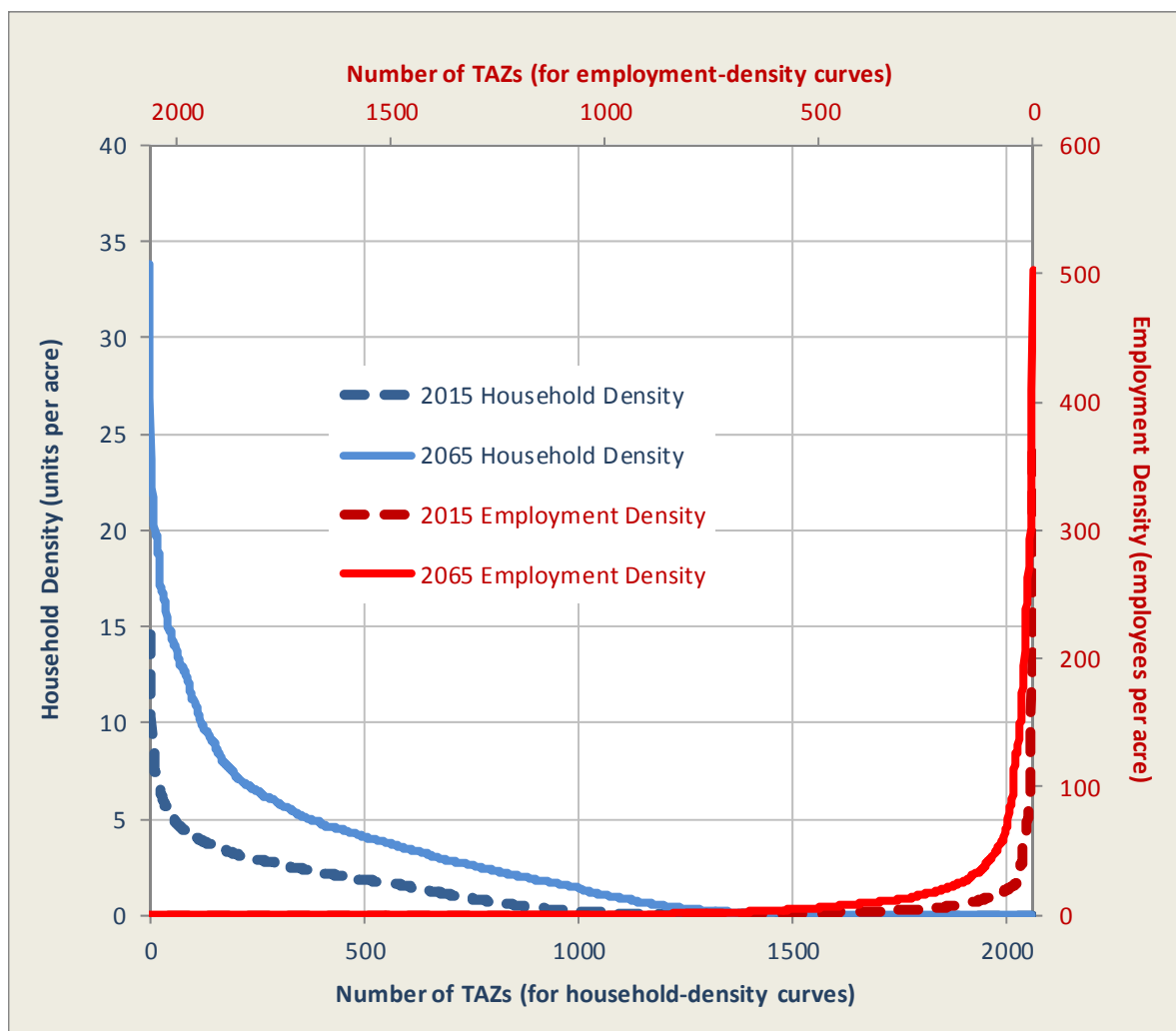


Figure 18. Ranked household and employment density by TAZ, 2015-2065 estimates.



Area by Household Density (Non-Water-Limited)				
Density (units per acre)	2015		2065	
	Area by Density Category (ac)	Percent of Total Area	Area by Density Category (ac)	Percent of Total Area
0 - 0.01	270,000	25%	232,000	22%
0.01 - 1.99	443,000	41%	420,000	39%
2 - 3.99	35,000	3%	52,000	5%
4-5.99	5,000	0%	27,000	3%
6+	1,000	0%	22,000	2%
Total, <i>non</i> - water-limited area	754,000	71%	753,000	71%
Area by Household Density (Water-Limited)				
Density (units per acre)	2015		2065	
	Area by Density Category (ac)	Percent of Total Area	Area by Density Category (ac)	Percent of Total Area
0 - 0.01	278,000	26%	246,000	23%
0.01 - 1.99	36,000	3%	67,000	6%
2 - 3.99	150	0%	1,000	0%
4-5.99	37	0%	140	0%
6+	7	0%	40	0%
Total, water- limited area	314,000	29%	314,000	29%
Total, all areas	1,068,000	100%	1,068,000	100%

Table 11. Area by household density.

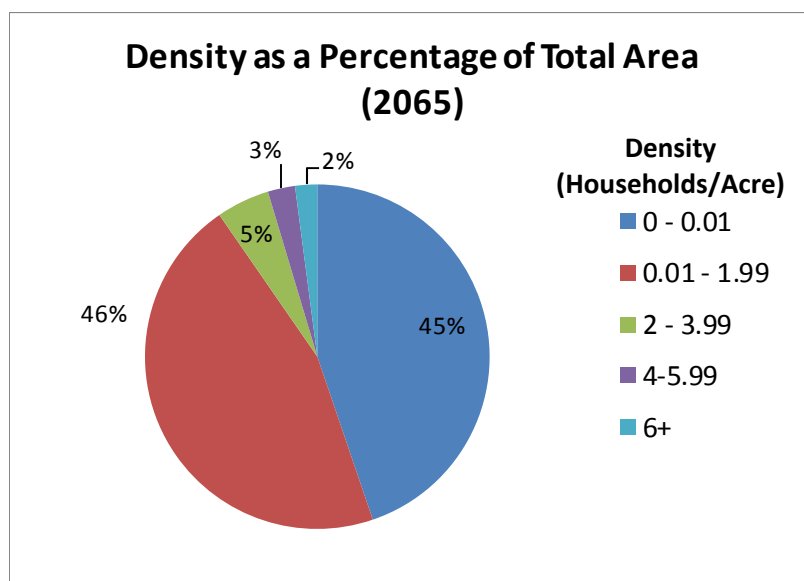
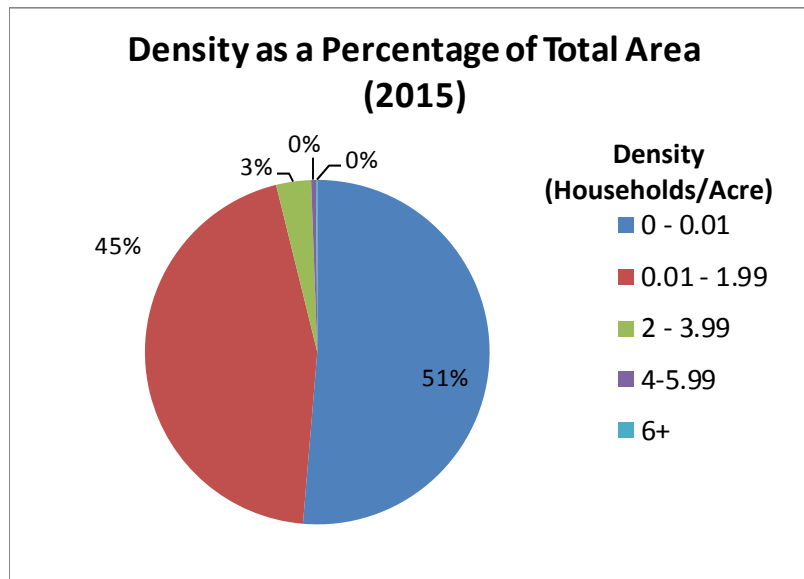


Figure 19. Density as a percentage of total area.

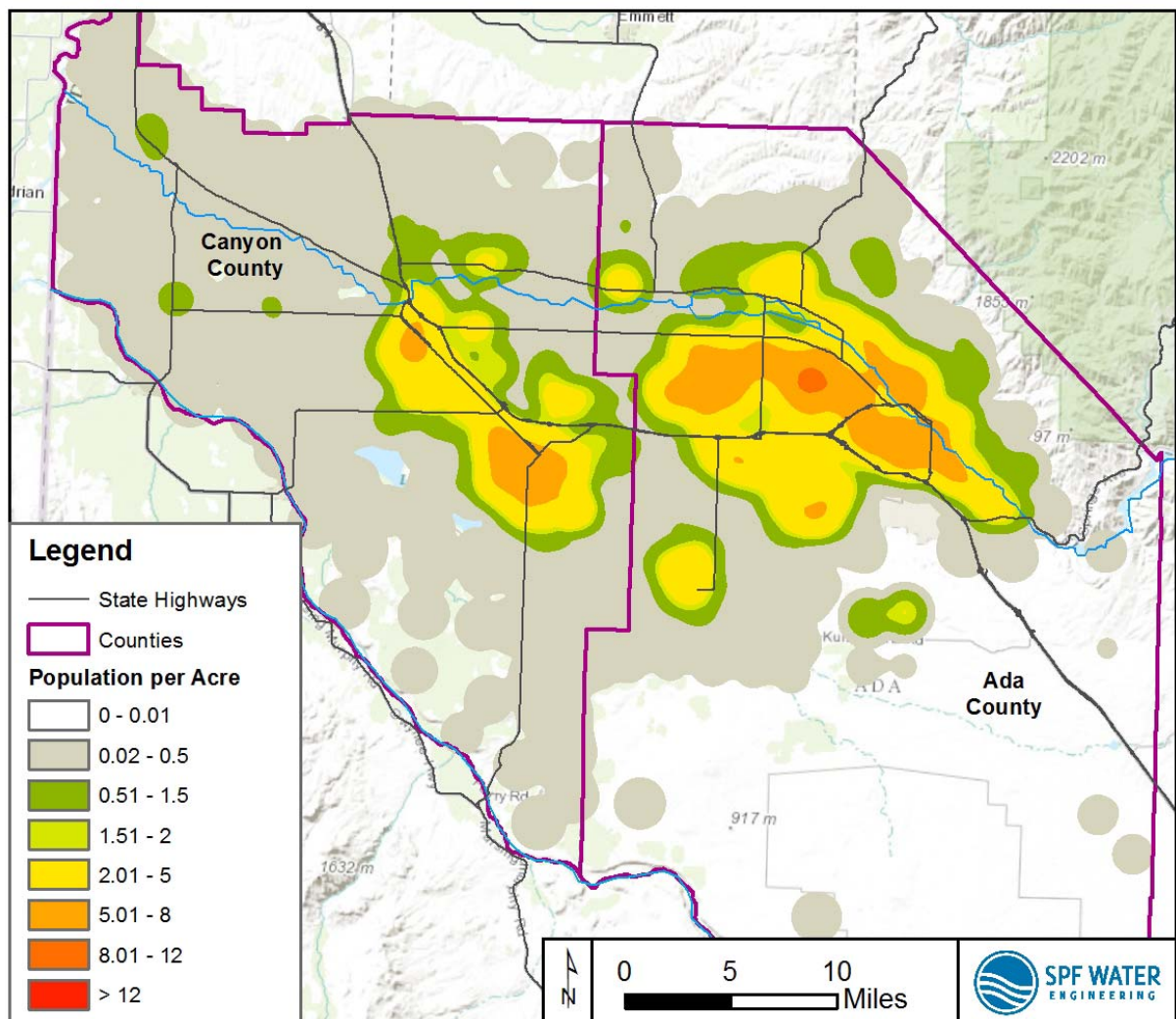
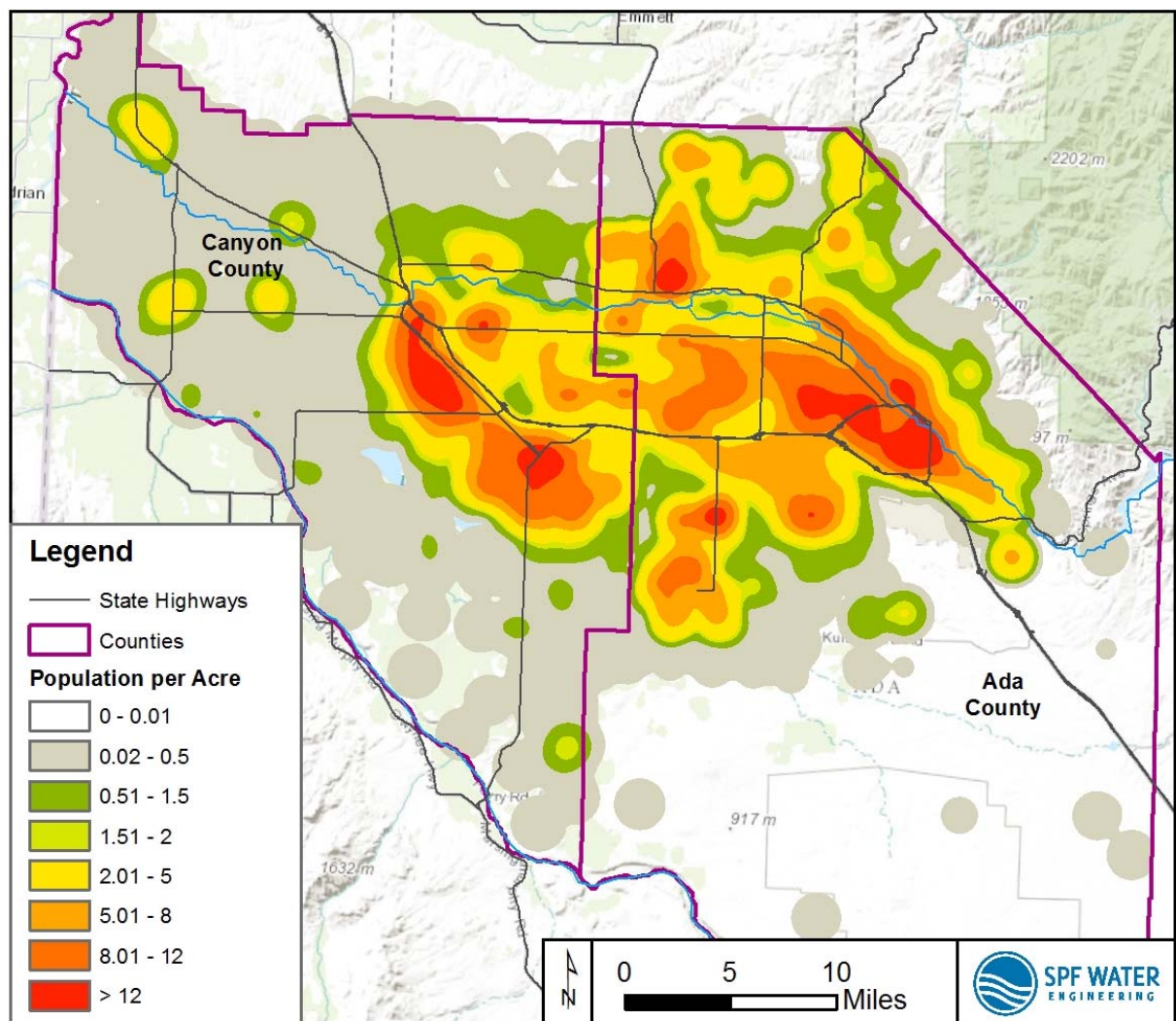


Figure 20. Population distribution, 2015.



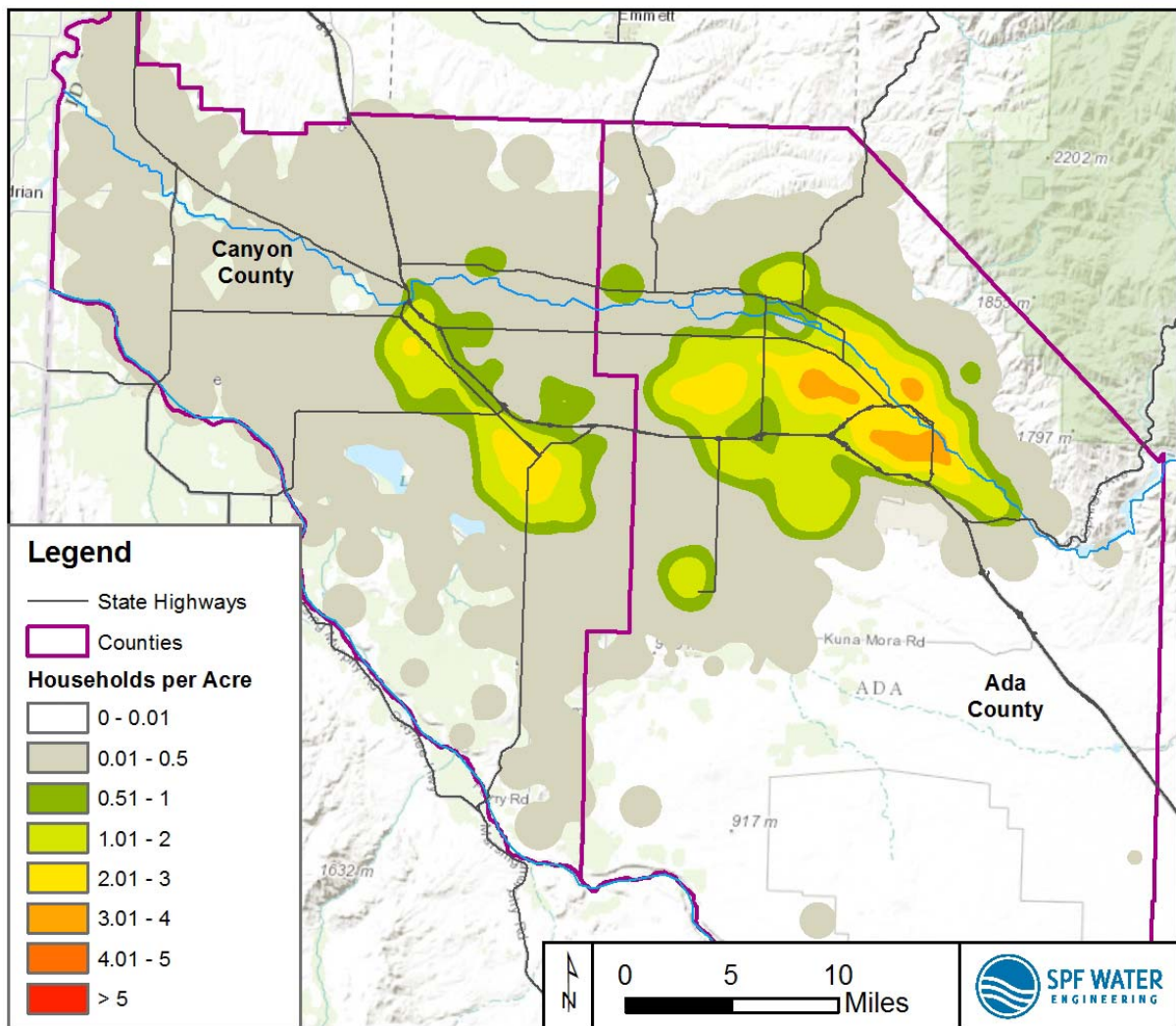


Figure 22. Household distribution, 2015.



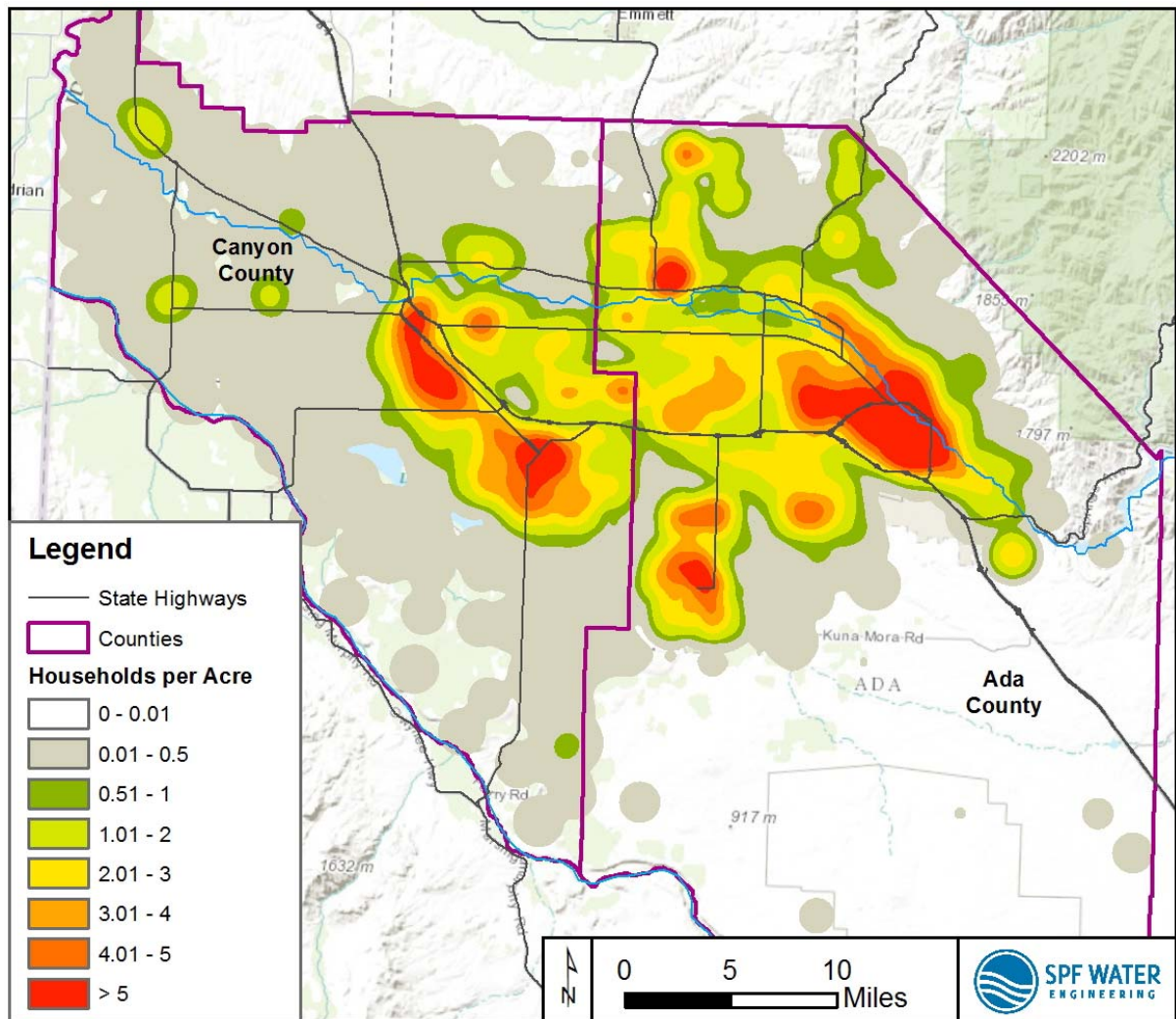


Figure 23. Household distribution, 2065.

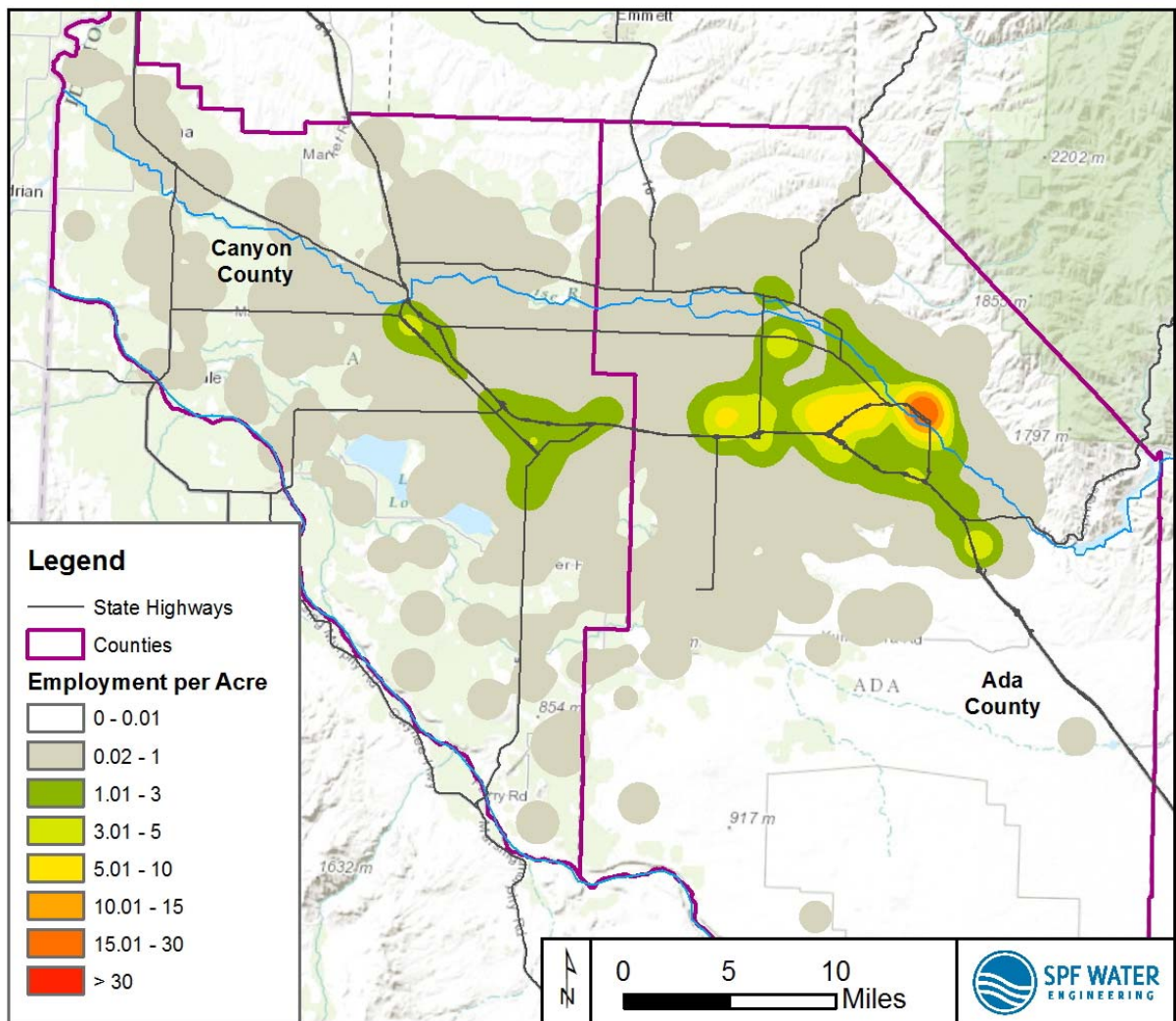


Figure 24. Employment distribution, 2015.

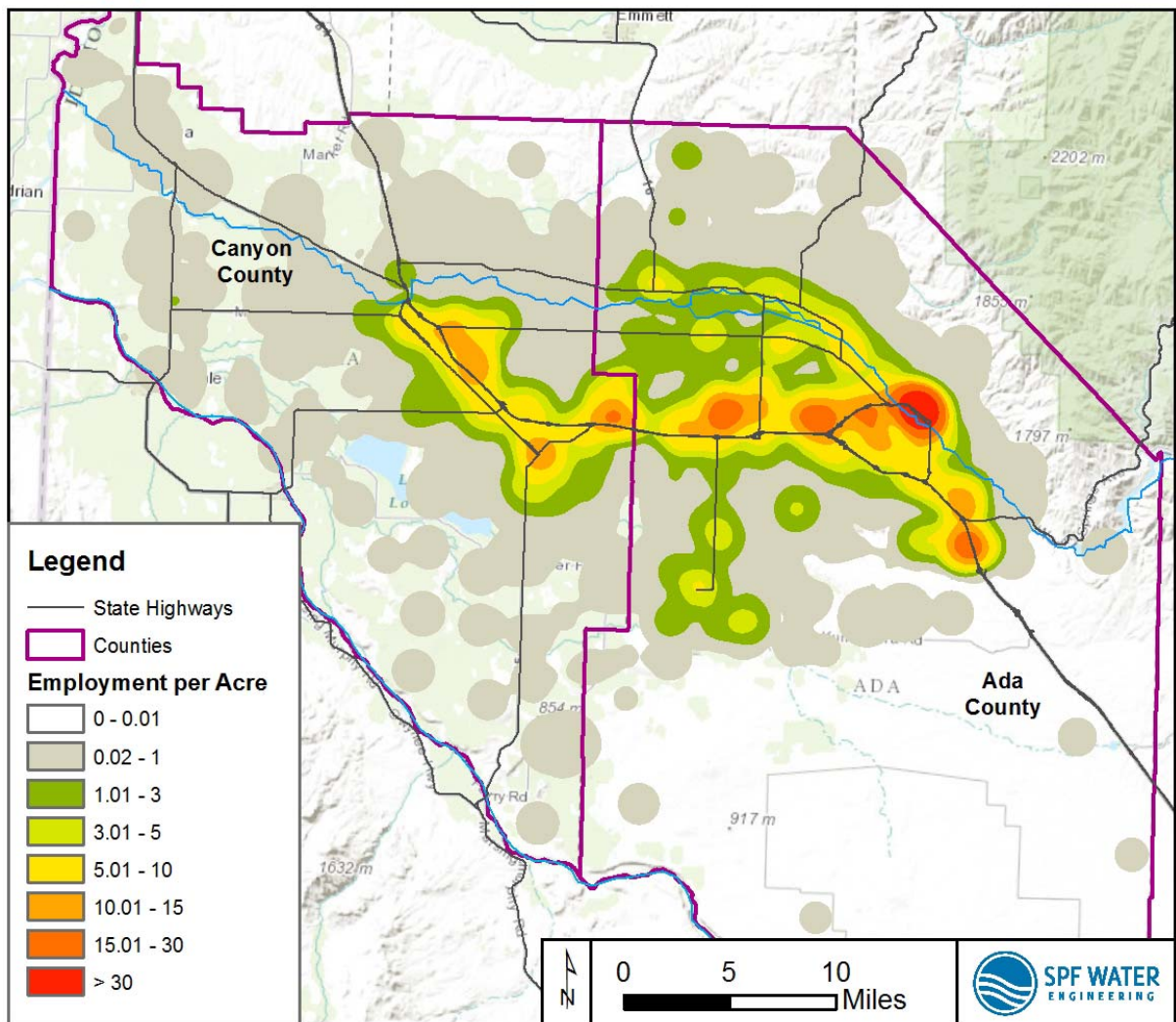


Figure 25. Employment distribution, 2065.



## **7 ESTIMATE OF CURRENT TREASURE VALLEY DCMI WATER USE**

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### **7.1 Introduction**

Future water-demand projections are based, in part, on existing water use rates and patterns. DCMI water-production data from 2010-2014 were used to estimate per capita use. The per capita estimates were then used to estimate water production in non-reporting areas. The 2010-2014 reported production data and estimated production in non-reporting areas were then used to estimate 2015 valley-wide DCMI water use.

### **7.2 Existing Water Production by Primary Providers**

Monthly water-use data for the period between 2010 and 2014 were supplied by United Water Idaho,<sup>28</sup> Capitol Water Corporation,<sup>27</sup> Eagle Water Company,<sup>29</sup> City of Eagle, Garden City, City of Kuna, City of Meridian, City of Caldwell, and the City of Nampa (Figure 26). With some exceptions, these municipal purveyors (referred to hereafter as “reporting entities”) also provided estimates of population served, numbers of connections served (by residential, commercial, and industrial categories), a brief description of current water-conservation efforts, a brief description of alternate irrigation supplies (water provided by non-municipal irrigation entities, ownership of surface water shares, use of reclaimed wastewater), and estimates of “unaccounted” water.

The following sections summarize 2010-2014 production data by the reporting entities. Compiled water-use data for each purveyor are provided in Appendix A.

### **7.3 Recent Water Production**

Average aggregate monthly water production by the reporting entities was approximately 85,700 AF/year between 2010 and 2014 (Table 13). United Water Idaho, which produced an average annual volume of 44,800 AF during this time, accounts for approximately half of the production. Production by most of the reporting entities exhibited a slight upward trend between 2010 and 2014 (Figure 27 and Figure 28).

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<sup>28</sup> United Water Idaho and capital Water Corporation or public utilities providing municipal water service within the City of Boise under franchise agreements.

<sup>29</sup> Eagle Water Company provides municipal supply within portions of the City of Eagle.

Production data from all of the reporting entities except the City of Eagle<sup>30</sup> reflects substantially higher demand during the irrigation season (Figure 29 and Figure 30). Aggregate monthly production by the reporting entities ranged from approximately 4,000 AF in February to over 16,300 AF in July.

#### **7.4 Summary of Other Reporting-Entity Information**

Primary Treasure Valley DCMI water purveyors generally classify users into two categories: residential and commercial. Residential customers make up approximately 90 percent of the total reporting entities' total accounts. Commercial accounts can include multi-family residences, businesses, city properties, schools, and irrigation accounts. Nampa's 2014 Water Master Plan notes that residential water consumption accounts for 83.5 percent of winter consumption and 71.3 percent of summer consumption.

Surface water is used for irrigation purposes within the service boundaries of most Treasure Valley DCMI providers. Surface water may be provided to individuals or homeowner associations through separate pressurized- or gravity-delivery systems. By example, surface water is used by 60 to 80 percent of the DCMI customers in Meridian, Kuna, and Caldwell.

Reclaimed wastewater is (or will be) used by Meridian and Kuna to provide irrigation for crops, parks, and landscaping through separate, non-potable, irrigation delivery systems. Reclaimed wastewater is not a substantial source (by volume) of irrigation supply at this time, although greater use of reclaimed wastewater is likely in the future.

"Unaccounted" water is municipal water that is produced (i.e., pumped from aquifers or diverted from the Boise River) but not delivered to customers. Unaccounted water includes water that was lost by flushing, line breaks, distribution-system leaks, and fire-hydrant use. Municipal providers reported unaccounted water ranging from 0 to 13 percent of production. The average reported unaccounted water was approximately 8 percent. The City of Meridian reported a very low percentage of unaccounted water (0 percent) for 2014, which it attributes to the newer construction and maintenance of their system. The City of Nampa reported the largest percentage of unaccounted water with a range of 10 to 13 percent.

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<sup>30</sup> The City of Eagle's service area has a separate non-potable pressurized irrigation system supplied by surface water.

## 7.5 Per Capita Water Use

The key municipal providers (i.e., reporting entities) for which data are presented in Table 13, Figure 29, and Figure 30 served an estimated 495,800 people<sup>31</sup> in 2014 (Table 14). The 2015 rural population (and population residing in areas served by non-reporting municipal providers) is approximately 63,900 people.<sup>32</sup> The reporting entities served approximately 89 percent of the estimated 559,700 Treasure Valley residents (based on provider population estimates) between 2010 and 2014 (Table 14).

Annual per capita water use estimates (Table 15 and Figure 31) ranged from 80 gallons per day (gpd) per person (City of Eagle) to 278 gpd per person (Capital Water Corporation).<sup>33</sup> The average population-weighted per capita water use<sup>34</sup> among residents and businesses served by the reporting entities was 158 gpd per person. Per capita indoor use (Table 15 and Figure 32) ranged from approximately 57 gpd per person (City of Kuna) to 122 gpd per person (Capitol Water Corporation). The average population-weighted per capita water use for indoor purposes (based on an average of December, January, and February use) is approximately 80 gpd (Table 15 and Figure 32).

These per capita water-use rates are roughly equivalent to annual use of approximately 435 gpd per household<sup>35</sup> or 220 gpd per household<sup>36</sup> for indoor uses,

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<sup>31</sup> The reported population served by key municipal providers may be low. The estimated 2015 population is approximately 624,500 people (see Section 7), of which 63,900 live in TAZs not supplied by the reporting entities. While not all people living within areas supplied by the reporting entities receive water from the reporting entities, the current population estimates suggest that the population served by the reporting entities might range from approximately 496,000 people to approximately 561,000 people.

<sup>32</sup> Based on estimated 2015 population by TAZ (Section 6).

<sup>33</sup> Capitol Water Corporation does not meter use; customers pay a flat rate for water. Lack of meters likely contributes to high Capitol Water per capita use that is higher than that of the other reporting entities.

<sup>34</sup> The population-weighted per capita water use is the aggregate production by all DCMI providers divided by the aggregate population served by the DCMI providers.

<sup>35</sup> Calculation for total use per household: (624,500 people / 226,600 households) x 158 gpd/person = 435 gpd/household

<sup>36</sup> Calculation for indoor use per household: (624,500 people / 226,600 households) x 80 gpd/person = 220 gpd/household

based on an estimated 2015 population of 624,500 people (Table 7) residing in 226,600 households (Table 8).

The 158 gpd/person valley-wide DCMI rate is consistent with per capita use in other western U.S. counties (Table 16 and Figure 33). These counties, most of which have populations ranging from approximately 100,000 to 2.5 million people have per capita DCMI water-use rates ranging from 33 to 238 gpd/person for indoor and outdoor uses. The arithmetic average of approximately 130 gpd/person is less than the average 158 gpd/person population-weighted Treasure Valley DCMI rate. Differences in DCMI water-use rates between Treasure Valley counties and other western U.S. counties likely reflect differences in water availability, irrigation patterns, levels of conservation, and differences in data collection and compilation.

The Treasure Valley per capita DCMI use estimates described above are based on (1) total system production and (2) reporting-entity estimates of population served. Low production numbers (such as would be the case if production from all wells were not reported) would yield low per capita estimates. Furthermore, incorrect estimates of population served would yield incorrect per capita estimates.

Per capita use estimates do not reflect irrigation water provided by surface-water delivery entities. Surface water is delivered for irrigation in most of the reporting entities' service areas. Inclusion of surface-water deliveries for urban irrigation would increase the Treasure Valley per capita estimates substantially.

The above-described estimates of per capita Treasure Valley use are based on aggregate production for domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial (if served by a municipal provider) uses. There are insufficient provider data for estimating per capita use by use sector (e.g., single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, etc.) on a valley-wide basis.

## **7.6 Estimate of DCMI Water Use Outside of Areas Served by Primary Providers**

The per capita water-use estimates developed in the previous section were used to estimate current water use in areas not served by the reporting entities. This was done by multiplying the average, population-weighted, per capita water use estimates by the estimated 2015 population estimates for all TAZs not served by the reporting entities.<sup>37</sup> Based on this approach, DCMI water use outside of areas served by

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<sup>37</sup> This method may result in lower-than-actual estimates of irrigation use by self-supplied domestic users (i.e., domestic users pumping water from private private, domestic wells) because the self-supplied domestic users do not have the same cost incentive that may constrain water use by municipal residents. However, self-supplied domestic use is a small portion of the overall Treasure Valley use.

primary municipal providers was approximately 11,400 AF in 2015 (Table 15). This additional DCMI use includes (1) homes and businesses with individual domestic wells, (2) smaller municipal providers, and (3) rural subdivisions with central water systems.

## **7.7 Estimate of 2015 Treasure Valley Water Use**

The population, household numbers, employment, and water-demand projections begin with the base year of 2015 to maintain even 5-year intervals through the year 2065. The 2010-2014 Treasure Valley water use was estimated to be approximately 99,000 AF in 2015 (Table 15), based on (1) 2010-2014 average water-use data provided by primary DCMI providers, (2) per capita water-use estimates derived from the data provided by primary DCMI providers, and (3) provider-supplied population estimates (Table 14). However, if the same per capita water-use estimates are applied to the entire 2015 estimated Treasure Valley population (Table 7) by TAZ (as opposed to using supplier-provided population estimates), the total 2015 DCMI water use (excluding irrigation water provided by non-DCMI entities) would be approximately 110,200 AF. This volume (110,200 AF) was used as the 2015 baseline DCMI demand for subsequent water-demand projections (see Section 10).

The spatial distribution of estimated 2015 total DCMI water use (Figure 34) is, not surprisingly, concentrated within the service areas of the largest DCMI suppliers. The DCMI indoor and outdoor use is concentrated in the urban areas of Boise, Nampa, and Caldwell (Figure 35 and Figure 36).

## 7.8 Tables and Figures

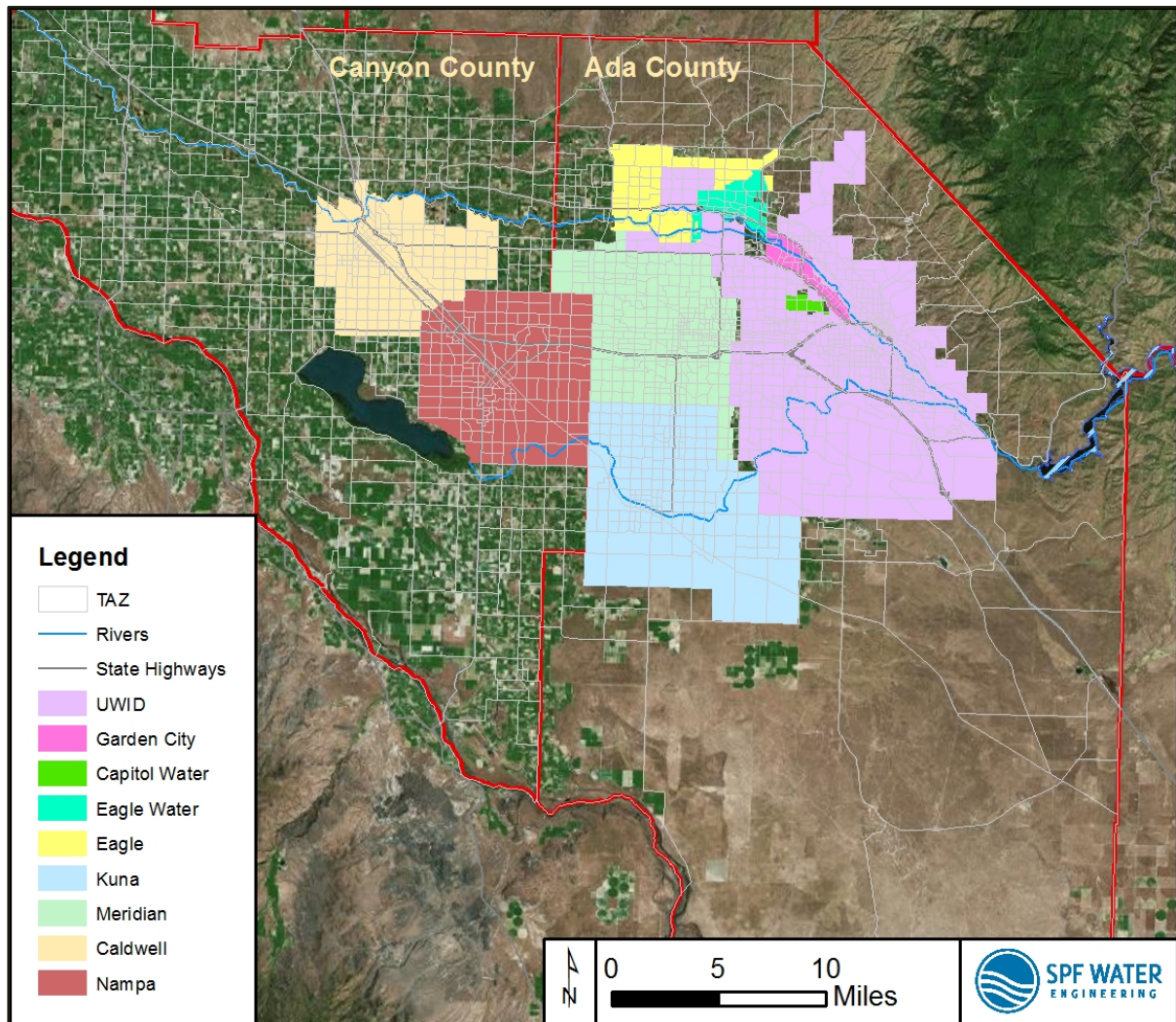


Figure 26. Primary Treasure Valley water providers.

Annual Production Water Production, 2010-2014 (AF)						
City	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Annual Average
United Water	42,900	41,500	45,500	47,200	46,700	44,800
City of Nampa	16,100	18,700	18,900	16,700	20,600	18,200
City of Garden City	7,300	7,300	9,800	10,200	10,200	9,000
City of Meridian	5,300	5,100	5,600	5,800	-	5,400
City of Caldwell	3,300	2,700	3,000	3,300	3,400	3,100
Capitol Water Corporation	-	-	2,000	2,600	2,400	2,300
Eagle Water Company	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,300	2,300
City of Kuna	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,500	2,100
City of Eagle	400	400	400	400	-	400
Total	79,500	79,900	89,600	90,800	88,100	87,600
Note: blank cells indicate years for which data were incomplete or not provided.						

Table 12: Annual production by primary DCMI water providers, 2010-2014.

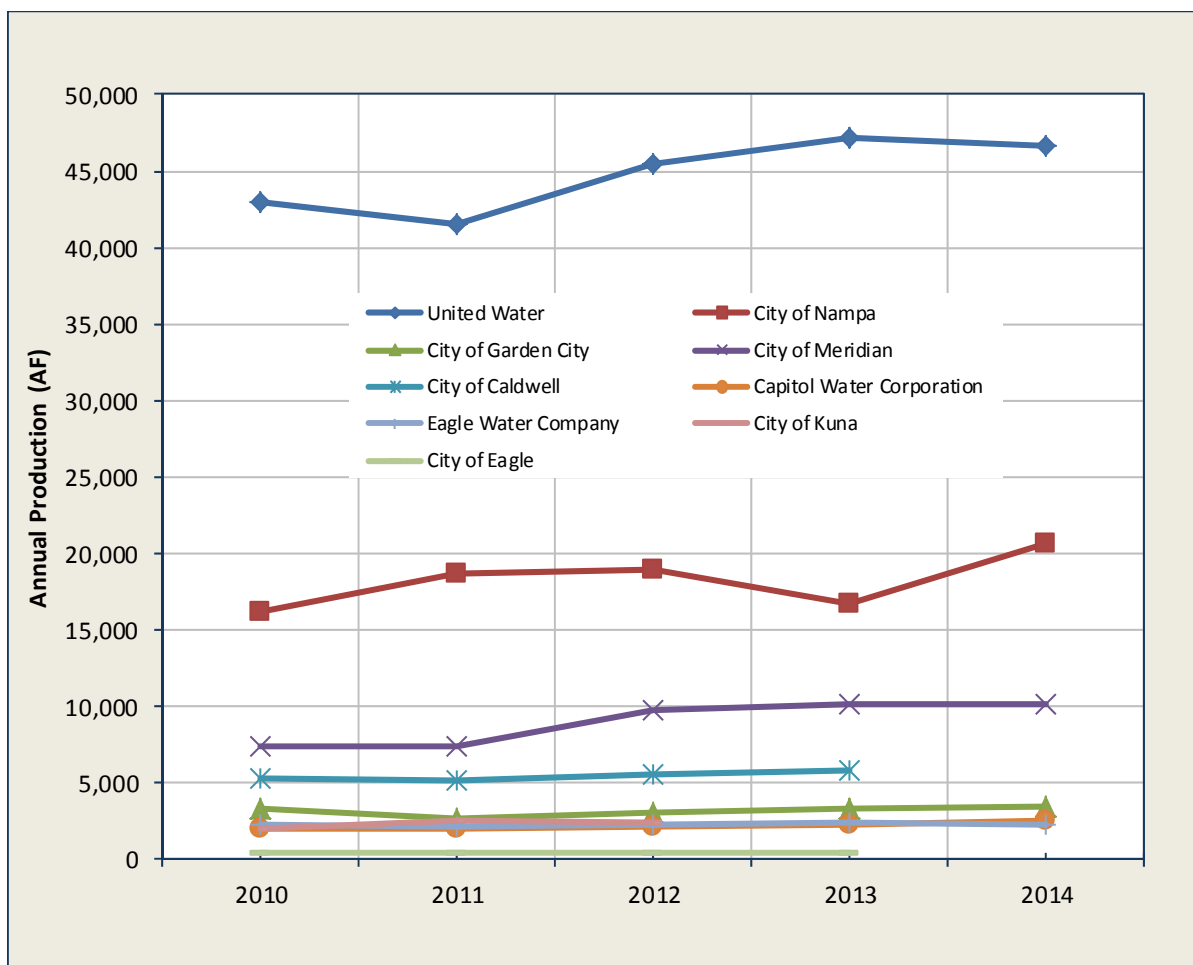


Figure 27. Annual production by primary DCMI water providers, 2010-2014.



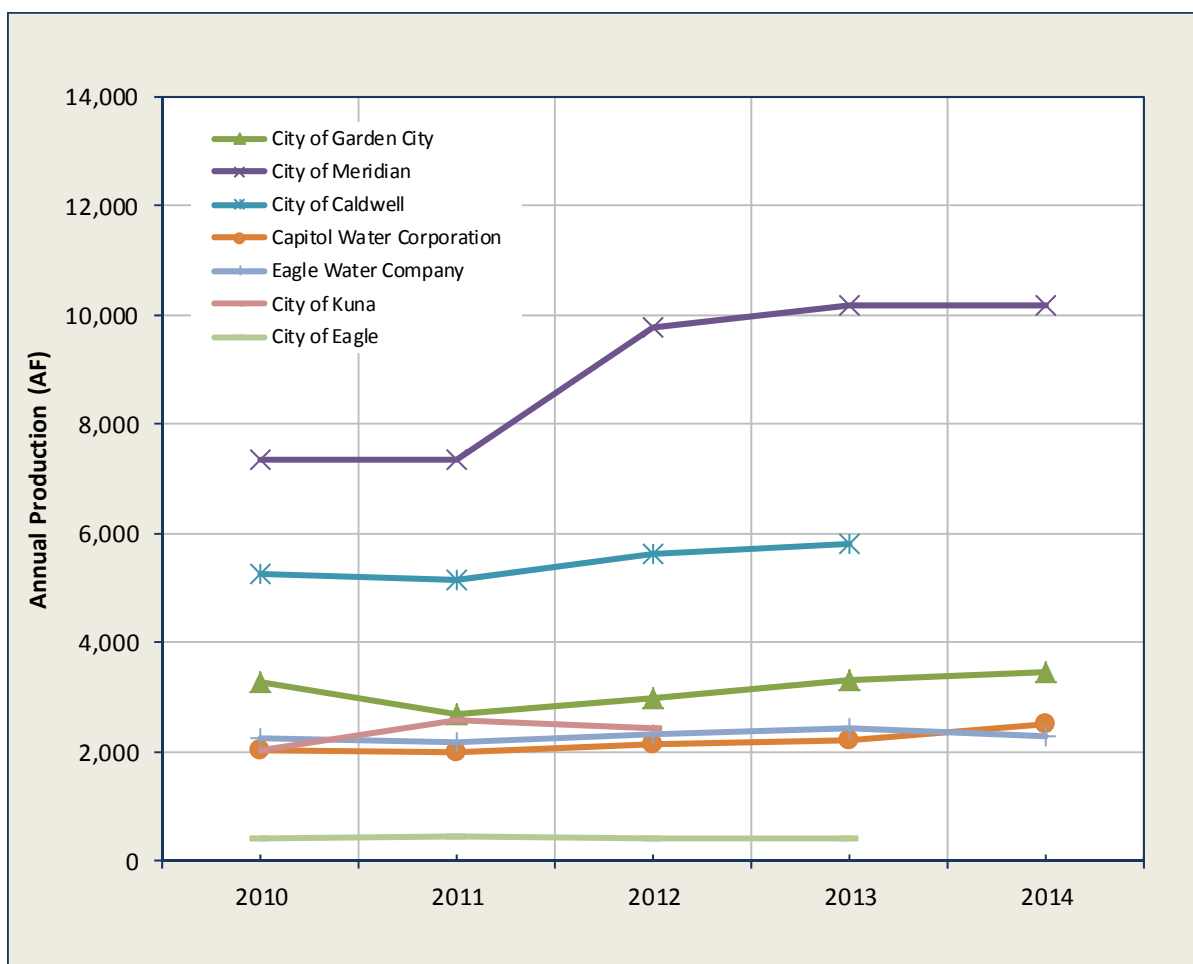


Figure 28. Annual production by smaller DCMI water providers, 2010-2014.

Average Monthly Water Production, 2010-2014 (AF/yr)										
Month	United Water	City of Nampa	City of Garden City	City of Meridian	City of Caldwell	Capitol Water Corporation	Eagle Water Company	City of Kuna	City of Eagle	Total
Jan	1,960	620	180	520	320	60	80	80	30	3,800
Feb	1,760	540	120	480	300	110	70	80	30	3,500
Mar	1,970	580	130	500	350	110	80	100	30	3,800
Apr	2,640	1,450	180	620	410	130	140	200	40	5,800
May	4,220	2,020	300	800	530	240	240	250	40	8,600
Jun	5,460	2,240	390	980	610	370	310	280	40	10,700
Jul	7,360	2,970	530	1,270	750	420	410	410	40	14,100
Aug	7,060	2,820	490	1,210	680	460	380	370	40	13,500
Sep	5,330	2,720	380	970	540	280	290	240	40	10,800
Oct	3,150	1,070	200	700	390	130	150	130	30	5,900
Nov	1,890	600	120	450	310	90	90	100	30	3,700
Dec	1,950	550	110	470	330	100	80	100	30	3,700
Total	44,800	18,200	3,100	9,000	5,500	2,500	2,300	2,300	400	88,000
Notes: 1. Values may not sum as a result of rounding. 2. Annual total based on monthly average may differ from reported annual production because of differences in reporting timeframe.										

Table 13: Average monthly water production by primary DCMI water providers.

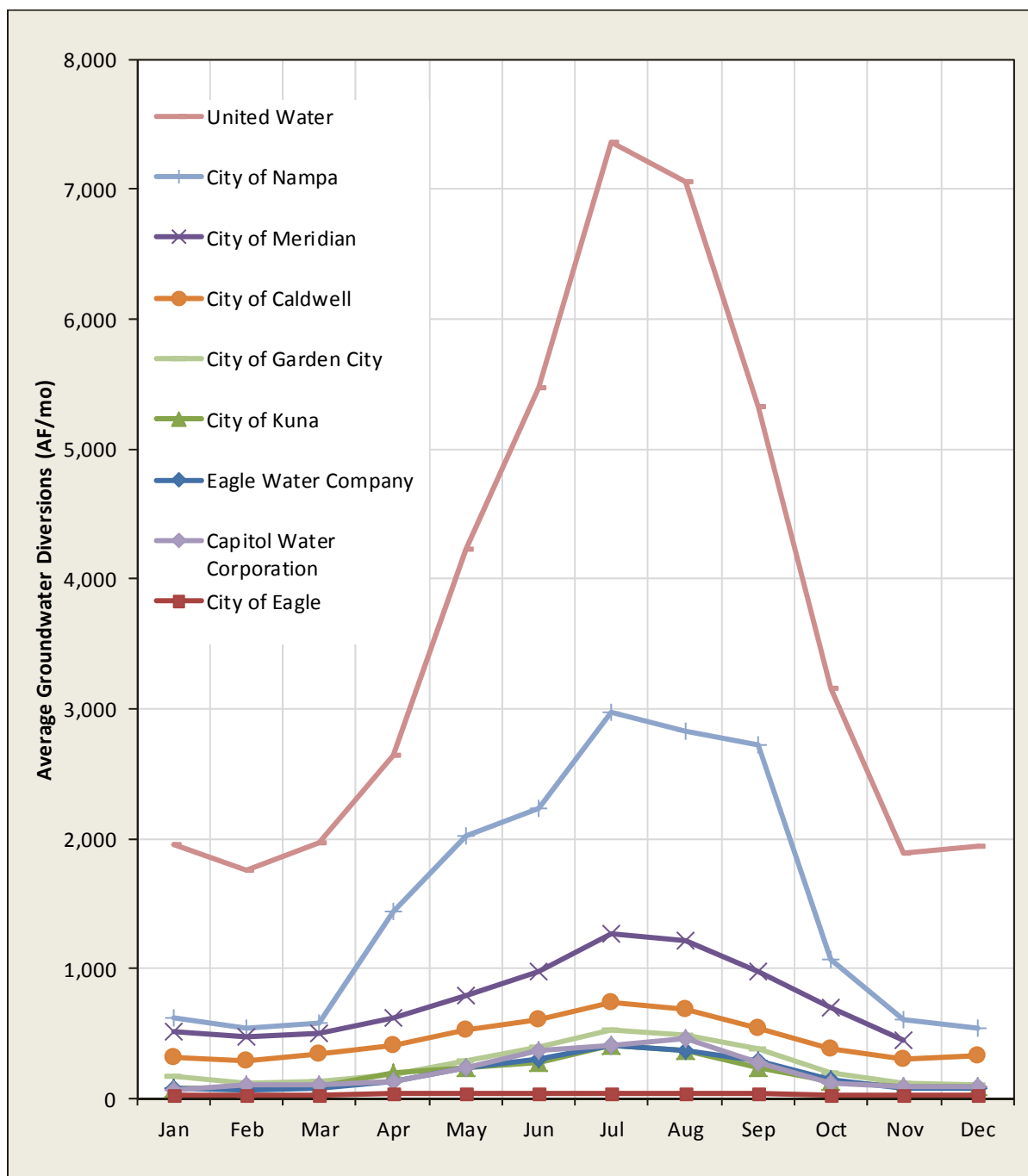


Figure 29. Average monthly water production, 2010-2014.

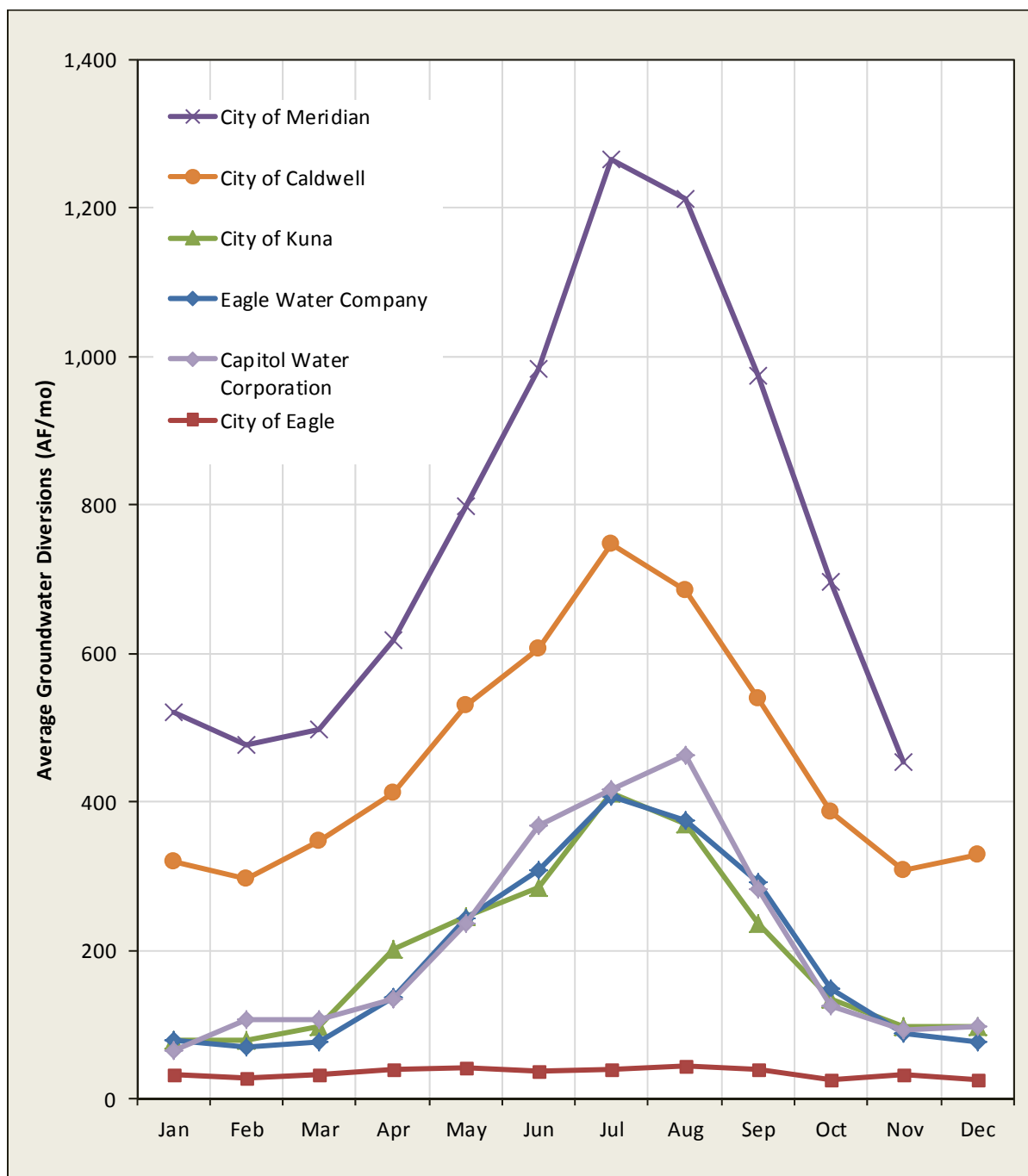


Figure 30. Average monthly production, smaller DCMI providers, 2010-2014.

<b>Population Served by Key Municipal Providers</b>	
<b>Ada and/or Canyon County Water System</b>	<b>Estimated 2014 population<sup>(1)</sup></b>
United Water Idaho	227,000
City of Nampa <sup>(2)</sup>	86,000
City of Meridian	80,000
City of Caldwell	51,691
City of Kuna	16,000
City of Garden City	12,500
Eagle Water Company	10,000
Capitol Water Corporation <sup>(3)</sup>	8,000
City of Eagle	4,615
Total population reported by primary municipal providers (i.e., reporting entities)	495,800
Other municipals <sup>(4)</sup>	20,600
Rural <sup>(4)</sup>	43,300
Estimated 2015 total Ada and Canyon County population <sup>(5)</sup>	559,700
Approximate percentage of 2015 population served by above-listed municipal providers	89%
(1) Unless otherwise noted, data were supplied by provider. (2) Estimate from City of Nampa 2014 Water System Master Plan (3) Reported population: 7,500 - 8,500 (4) Based on J. Church data (5) This number is lower than the 2015 estimated 2015 "baseline" population because the primary providers appear to be underreporting "populations served."	

Table 14. Population served by key municipal providers.

Summary of Average Annual Production and Per-Capita Water Use <sup>(1)</sup>							
City	Average Annual Diversion (AF)	Population Served	Estimated Average Indoor Use <sup>2</sup> (AF)	Estimated Average Irrigation Use (AF)	Per-Capita Water Use		
					Annual (gpd) <sup>(3)</sup>	Indoor (gpd) <sup>(2)</sup>	Irrigation (gpd)
United Water	44,800	227,000	22,700	22,100	176	90	87
City of Nampa	18,200	86,000	6,900	11,300	193	72	118
City of Meridian	9,000	80,000	5,900	3,100	100	66	35
City of Caldwell <sup>(4)</sup>	5,400	51,700	3,800	1,700	95	66	30
City of Garden City	3,100	12,500	1,600	1,600	224	119	112
City of Kuna <sup>(5)</sup>	2,300	16,000	1,000	1,300	130	57	74
Eagle Water Co.	2,300	10,000	900	1,400	205	81	125
Capitol Wtr Corp. <sup>(6)</sup>	2,100	8,000	1,100	1,400	278	122	158
City of Eagle <sup>(7)</sup>	400	4,600	300	100	80	67	15
Other Municipals <sup>(8)</sup>	3,700	20,600	1,900	1,800	182	81	
Rural <sup>(8)</sup>	7,700	43,300	3,900	3,800	182	81	
Total	99,000	559,700	50,000	49,600			
Maximum <sup>(9)</sup>					278	122	158
Minimum <sup>(9)</sup>					80	57	15
Population-weighted average <sup>(9)</sup>					158	80	79
Notes: (1) Unless otherwise noted, averaging period is 2010 to 2014 (2) Based on average diversions December- February (3) Based on average annual diversions (4) City of Caldwell averages are based on water production from 2012 to 2013 (5) City of Kuna averages are based on water production from 2012 to 2014 (6) Capitol Water averages are based on water production from 2014 (7) City of Eagle averages are based on water production from 2010 to 2013 (8) Based on population data from John Church and per capita averages (9) Excludes "other municipals" and "rural"							

Table 15. Summary of average annual production and per-capita water use.

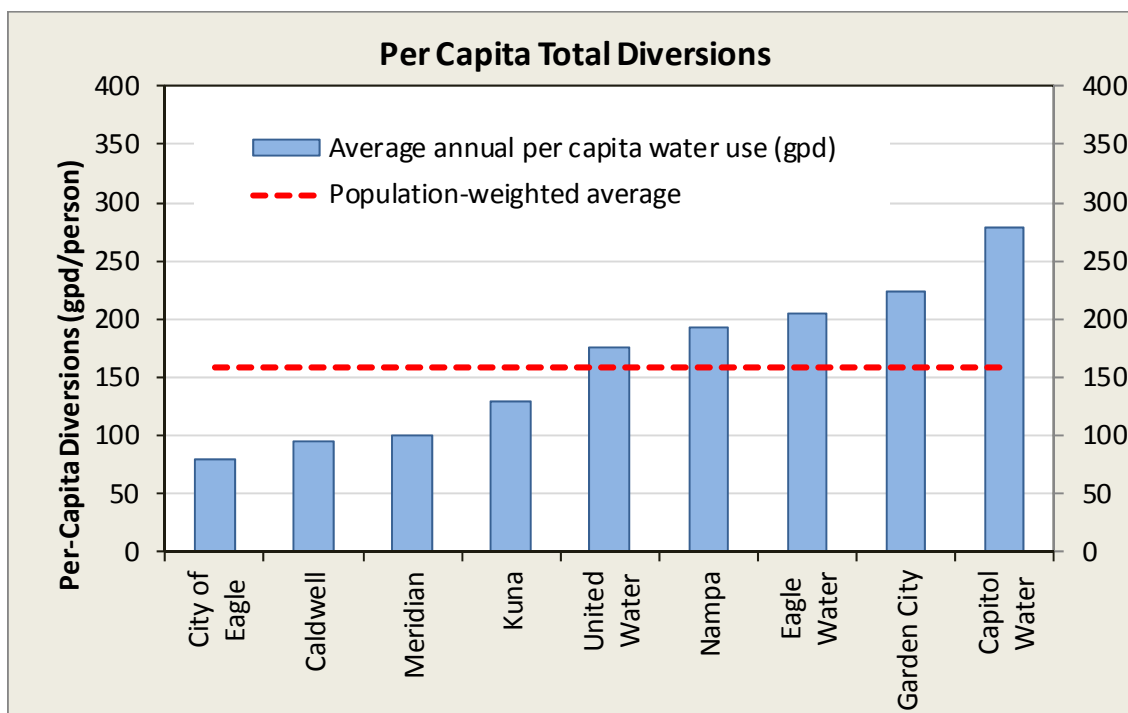


Figure 31. Average per capita diversions (total), 2010-2014.

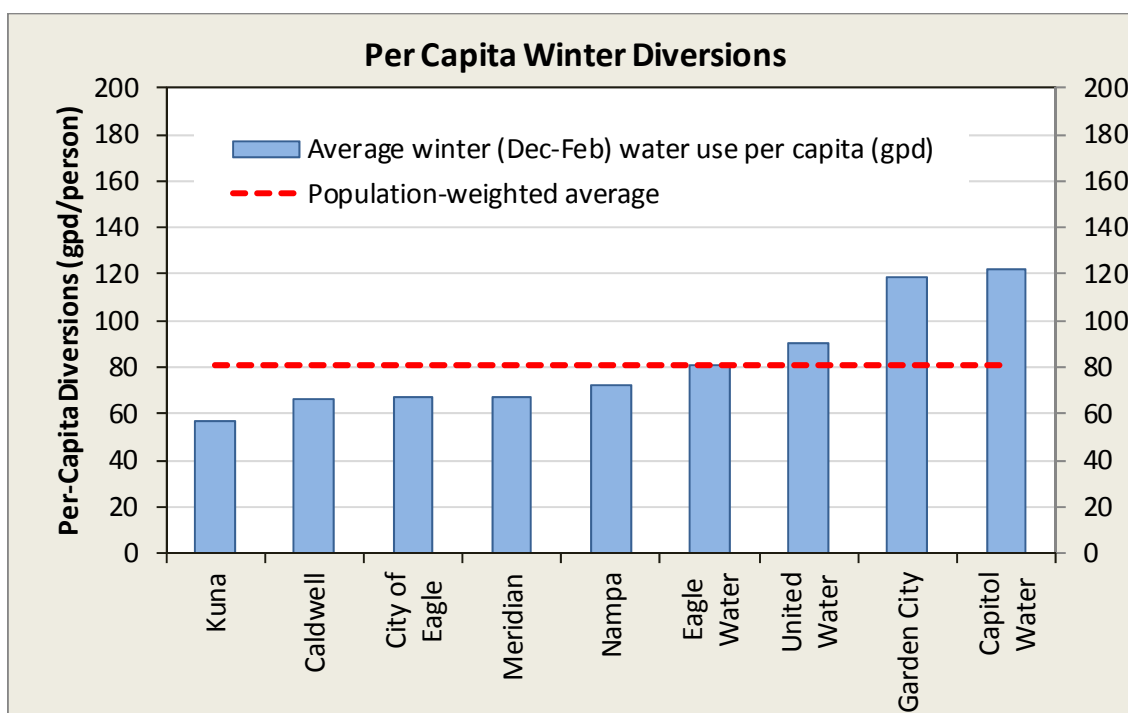


Figure 32. Average per capita diversions (winter only), 2010-2014.

Per Capita Use, Selected Counties in Western US <sup>(1)</sup>							
County	State	Domestic Use <sup>(2)</sup> (gpd/person)	Population	County	State	Domestic Use <sup>(2)</sup> (gpd/person)	Population
Pima	AZ	123	980,263	Weld	CO	97	252,825
Yavapai	AZ	105	211,033	Ada	ID	141	392,365
Butte	CA	155	220,000	Canyon	ID	97	188,923
Fresno	CA	159	930,450	Elmore	ID	149	27,038
Kern	CA	171	839,631	Bonneville	ID	238	104,234
Merced	CA	180	255,793	Lewis and Clark	MT	97	63,395
Placer	CA	151	348,432	Yellowstone	MT	105	147,972
Riverside	CA	159	2,189,641	Clark	NV	126	1,951,269
Sacramento	CA	141	1,418,788	Washoe	NV	142	421,407
San Bernardino	CA	130	2,035,210	Bernalillo	NM	79	662,564
San Joaquin	CA	117	685,306	Dona Ana	NM	106	209,233
Stanislaus	CA	153	514,453	Santa Fe	NM	58	144,170
Tulare	CA	134	442,179	Jackson	OR	185	203,206
Yolo	CA	134	200,849	El Paso	TX	76	800,647
Adams	CO	83	441,603	Lubbock	TX	89	278,831
Arapahoe	CO	211	572,003	Davis	UT	191	306,479
Boulder	CO	116	294,567	Salt Lake	UT	143	1,029,655
Denver	CO	97	600,158	Utah	UT	153	516,564
Douglas	CO	83	285,465	Weber	UT	198	231,236
El Paso	CO	111	622,263	Spokane	WA	185	471,221
Jefferson	CO	98	534,543	Yakima	WA	121	243,231
Larimer	CO	33	299,630				
Notes (1) Source: <a href="http://water.usgs.gov/watuse/data/2010/index.html">http://water.usgs.gov/watuse/data/2010/index.html</a> . (2) Domestic use includes both indoor and outdoor (e.g., irrigation) uses met by DCMI water system.							

Table 16. Summary of per-capita water use in selected U.S. counties.



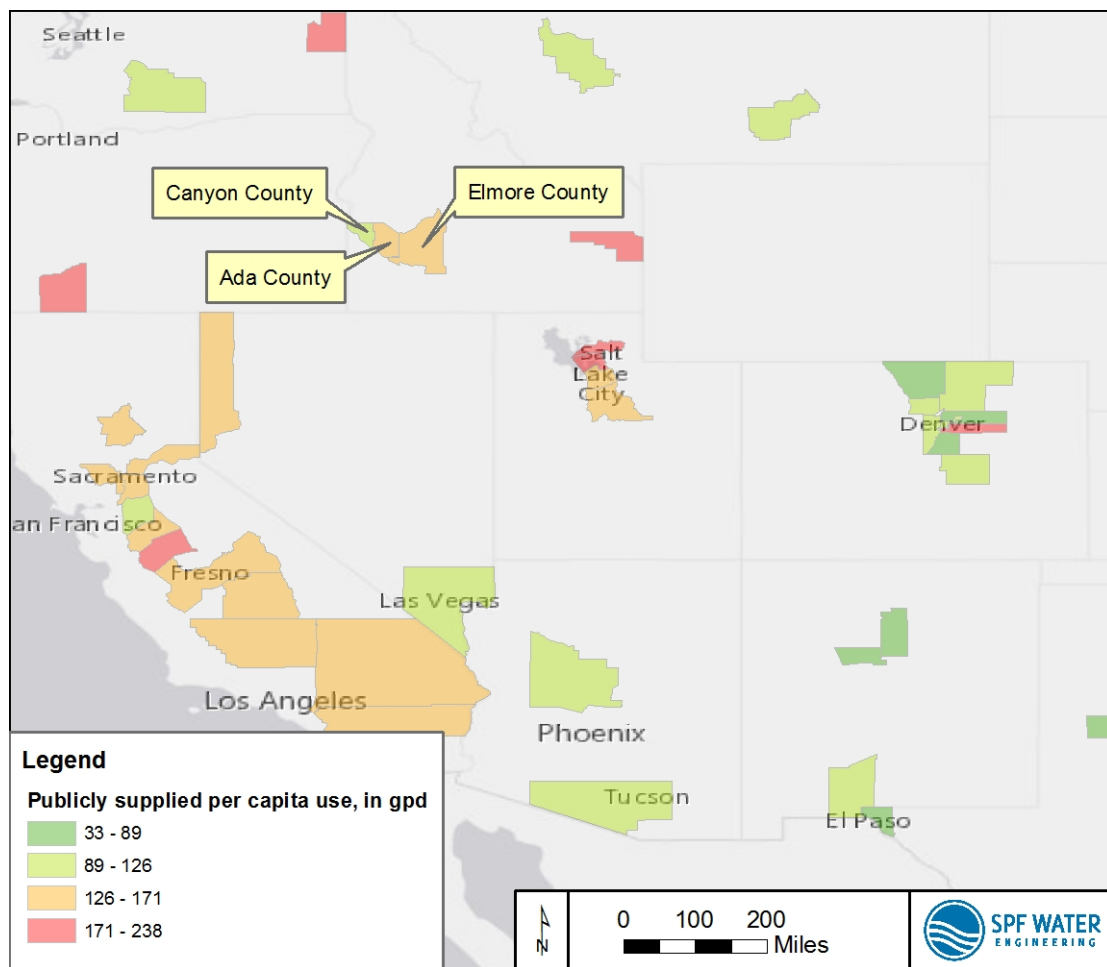


Figure 33. Per capita DCMI water use in selected western counties.

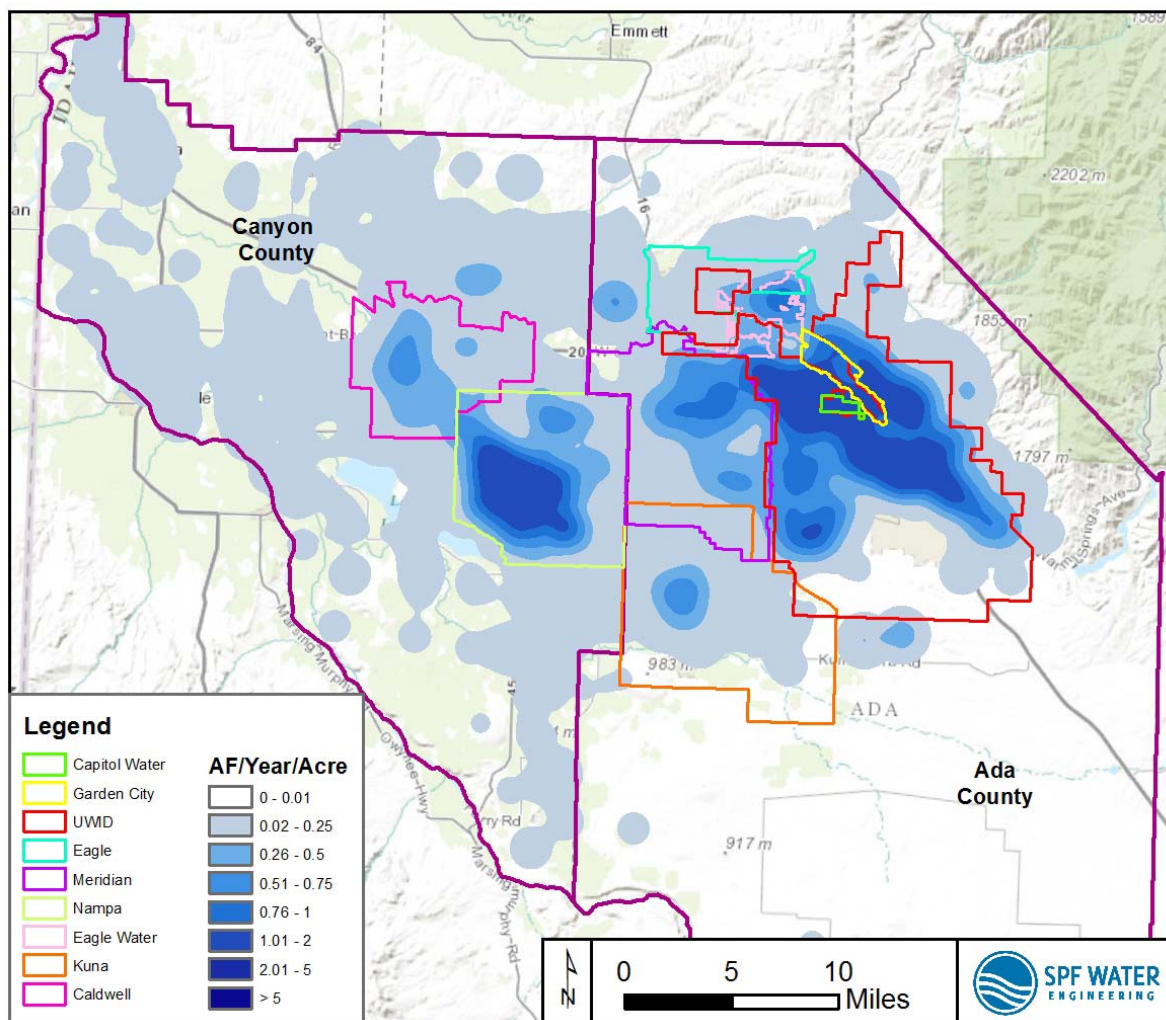


Figure 34. Distribution of 2015 total DCMI water use and provider areas.

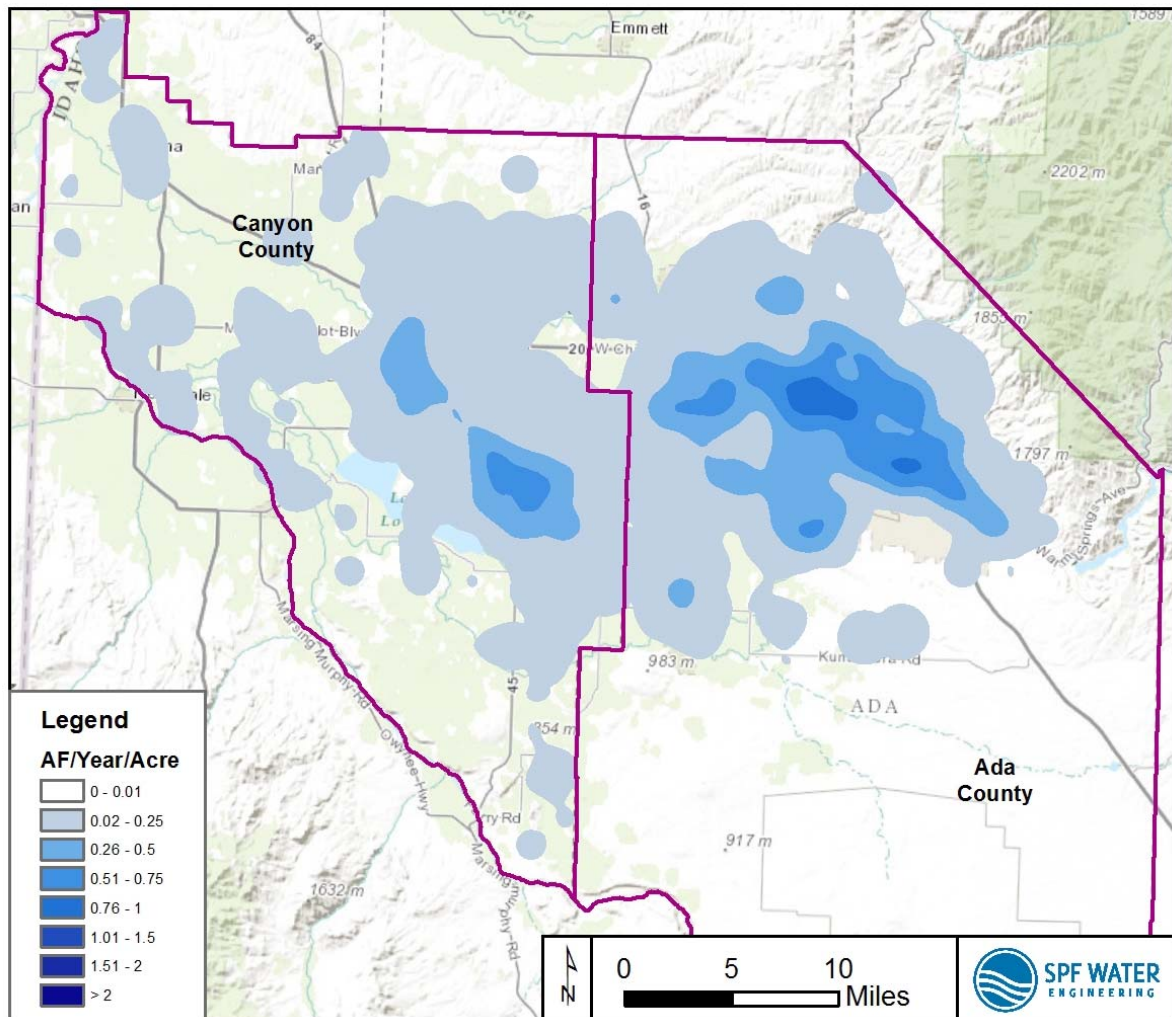


Figure 35. Distribution of 2015 indoor water use.

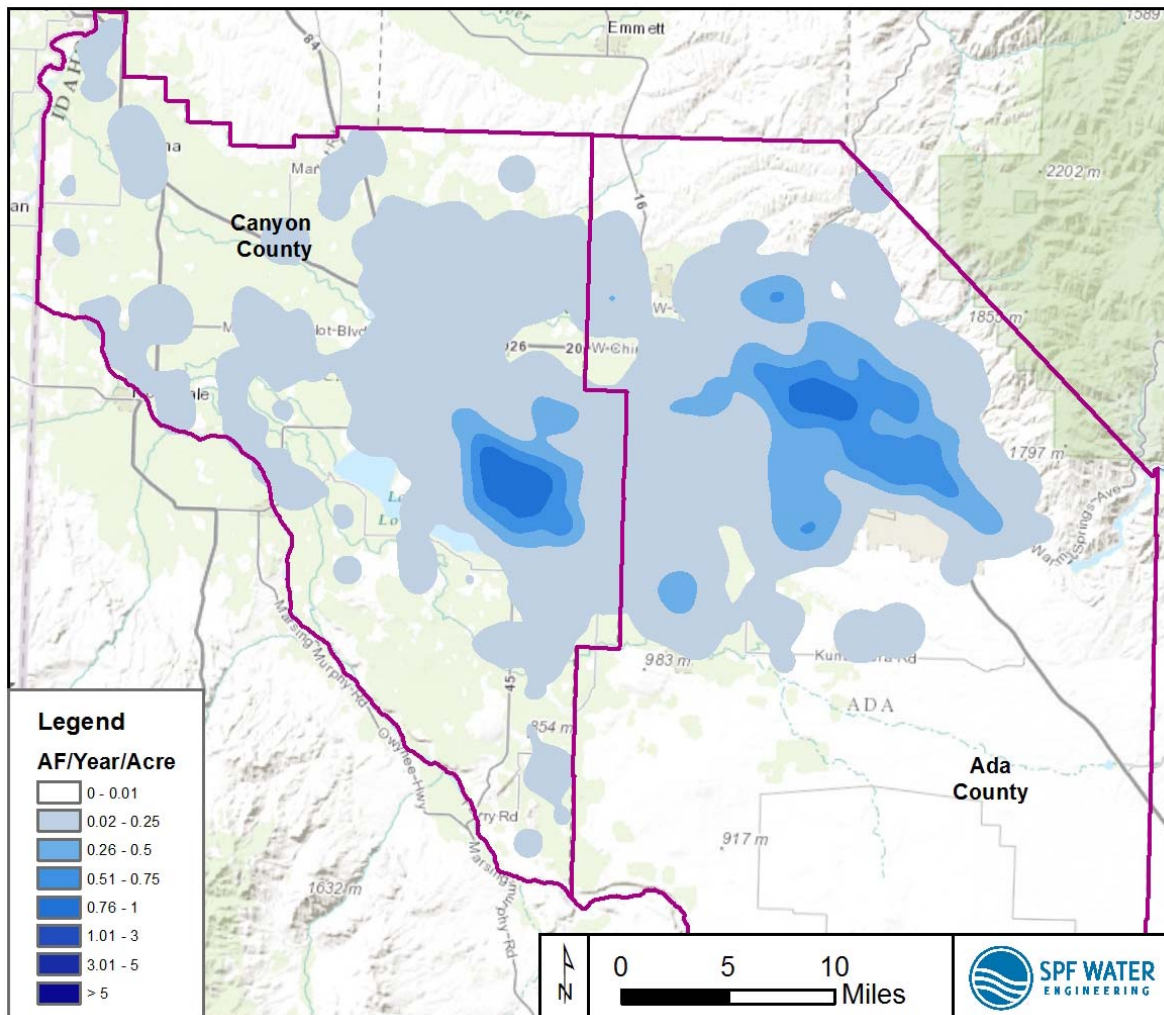


Figure 36. Distribution of 2015 DCMI irrigation water use.

## **8 PRECIPITATION DEFICIT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

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### **8.1 Introduction**

Projected increases in irrigation-season temperatures will likely lead to increases in evapotranspiration, which would lead to increases in irrigation demand. This section presents precipitation-deficit estimates based on historical data and describes an assumption regarding future precipitation deficit based on climate-warming trends.

### **8.2 Precipitation Deficit Based on Historical Data**

The mean growing-season precipitation deficit for fully-irrigated turf, based on historical weather data in Boise, Caldwell, and Nampa, is 3.2, 3.7, and 3.3 feet per year, respectively (Table 17), or an average of 3.4 feet per year. These values are similar to the precipitation deficit for alfalfa (Table 17).

### **8.3 Climate Change Projections**

The Northwest region is characterized by a highly diverse climate with large spatial variations caused by the interactions of large-scale atmospheric circulation with mountains (Kunkel et al., 2013). The north-south mountain range orientations contribute to more precipitation in the west and block precipitation in the interior. This results in a large precipitation and climate difference between the western and eastern portions of the northwest region.

In the recent U.S. National Climate Assessment (Kunkel et al., 2013), climate model simulations were used to analyze two different greenhouse gas emission scenarios (high “A2” and low “B1” emissions). Fifteen models were used in the analysis of these two scenarios and the results were summarized into a down-scaled data set. The scenarios reportedly incorporate much of the range of potential future human impacts on the climate system. The A2 scenario describes a continuously growing global population resulting in the continuous rise in emissions from approximately 40 gigatons (Gt) per year in 2000 to approximately 140 Gt per year by 2100. The B1 scenario describes emissions that peak in mid-century and decline thereafter with the introduction of clean and resource-efficient technologies. This causes emissions to rise from 40 Gt in 2000 to a maximum of approximately 50 Gt per year by midcentury and then falling to less than 30 Gt per year by 2100.

Temperatures in the Northwest have generally been above the 1901-1960 average for the last 25 years (Kunkel et al., 2013). Temperature-increase trends have ranged from +0.10°F to +0.20°F per decade. Annual precipitation has shown high variability since 1976; there has been a significantly greater amount of precipitation in the past 35 years on a regional basis.



Fluctuations in regional climate are influenced by the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) phenomena. In their warm phases, ENSO and PDO increase the chances for a warmer-than-average Pacific Northwest winter and spring and decrease the odds for a wetter-than-average winter. The opposite tendencies are true for cool phase ENSO (La Niña) and PDO (Dalton et al., 2013).

The National Climate Assessment provides projections for the periods of 2021-2050, 2041-2070, and 2070-2099, with changes calculated with respect to a historical climate reference period from 1971-1999, 1971-2000, or 1980-2000. “Multi-model mean” maps were used to summarize results from various model simulations. The multi-model mean maps are based on the average of all models at a grid point; separate models are weighted equally. This approach is thought to be superior to any single model in reproducing present day climate.

The multi-model mean projections (Figure 37) indicate an increase in average temperature in all three time periods (i.e., 2021-2050, 2041-2070, and 2070-2099). The 15-model averages consistently show the greatest of temperature increases in southern Idaho. Color with hatching in Figure 37 indicates that more than 50 percent of the models show a statistically significant increase in temperature.

An average annual temperature increase of 2.9°F to 10.9°F is projected by 2070 to 2099 compared to the period between 1970 and 1999 (Table 18), with the largest increases projected to occur in the summer. The temperature-increase ranges (Table 18) were based on the maximum and minimums from scenarios A2 and B1 in the model simulations. The average temperature between scenarios was determined for use in water-demand calculations by averaging the multi-model mean temperatures for southwest Idaho.

The same multi-model mean method was used by Kunkel et al. to summarize precipitation projections. The annual mean precipitation simulations project an annual increase in precipitation for all periods and scenarios in the Northwest. However, summer precipitation is projected to decrease throughout the Northwest (Figure 38) by as much as 30 percent by the end of the century.

A lower increase in precipitation is projected for southern Idaho than in northern portions of the Northwest. However, there is a large statistical variability in precipitation among the 15 climate models over most of the region. Almost all models project increases at high latitudes and decreases in low latitudes, but vary about the projections in middle latitudes. The models are consistent in projecting a decrease in summer precipitation. In Figure 38, the areas with hatching represent areas where over 50 percent of the models agree with the significant change in precipitation; widespread model consistency does not occur until 2070-2099.

In summary, climate projections indicate that the Northwest will experience temperature increases in both cool and warm seasons (P.W. Mote and E. P. Salathé

Jr, 2010). Regional climate models project decreases in summer precipitation and increases in fall and winter precipitation.

#### **8.4 Climate Variability and Potential Impacts on Water Demand**

Changes in precipitation and air temperature have already affected hydrology and water resources in the Northwest. In many watersheds (except those with little snow), as snow accumulation diminishes, spring peak flows shift earlier, winter flow increases, and late-summer flow decreases (Dalton et al., 2013). Streamflow magnitude and timing, temperatures, and water quality changes are anticipated with climate change. Snow-dominant watersheds are projected to shift towards mixed rain-snow conditions and rain-snow watersheds are projected to trend towards a mix of rain-snow and rain-dominant (Dalton et al., 2013). These hydrologic changes will impact reservoir systems, irrigated agriculture, municipal drinking water infrastructure, aquatic systems, and water dependent recreation.

Reservoirs in the Northwest rely heavily on the ability of snowpack to act as additional water storage. The amount of snow that collects in the mountains is sensitive to both precipitation and temperature. Earlier snow melt and peak flow means that more water will run off when it is not needed for human and agriculture uses (Dalton et al., 2013).

Flood risk may increase in some basins as the early snow melt results in the greater runoff, or different runoff timing. Reservoir operation systems are designed based on historical seasonal timing of snowmelt runoff. The continuing challenge for reservoir operators will be to balance competing goals (storing as much water as possible for irrigation and maintaining sufficient space to capture flood waters during early runoff) in the context of greater precipitation and runoff- timing variability. A shift in the timing of peak flows by several weeks to a month earlier in the year could result in an earlier release of water from reservoirs to create space for flood control and this could cause lower reservoir levels when the reservoir is unable to refill during late spring and summer.

Agricultural water demands could increase as climate warming leads to a longer growing season. Higher temperatures and altered precipitation patterns throughout the 21st century may benefit some cropping systems, but challenge others (Dalton et al., 2013). Vulnerabilities differ among agricultural sectors, cropping systems, and location. Projected future precipitation decreases and higher temperatures during the summer months are likely to increase irrigation demand in the Northwest. Insufficient reservoir fill could exacerbate problems associated with increased water demand as a result of higher summer temperatures.

## 8.5 Increased Precipitation Deficit

Projected temperature increases will lead to greater evapotranspiration rates, and combined with projected decreases in summer precipitation, result in greater precipitation deficits (i.e., irrigation requirements). There is uncertainty in the magnitude of projected increases in summer temperatures and precipitation. However, the range of projected temperature increases suggests that an evapotranspiration increase ranging from approximately 5 to 20 percent per year in 50 years is possible (see also Appendix B). For the purposes of this analysis, it was assumed that the precipitation deficit would increase 10 percent by the year 2065. Specifically, it was assumed that the average valley-wide precipitation deficit for turf (based on the estimates listed in Table 17) would increase from an average of 3.4 feet per year in 2010 to 3.7 feet per year by the year 2065 (Table 19).

Increasing precipitation deficit may lead to an irrigation demand in excess of current irrigation volumes. The current standard Treasure Valley field headgate diversion volume is 4.5 feet per acre for irrigation between March 1 and November 15 (Young, 1999). These values are based, in part, on consumptive irrigation requirements estimated by Allen and Brockway (1983). This maximum diversion volume of 4.5 feet per acre may be reflected in water right licenses or decrees, and has been used for evaluating future resource impacts.

However, the projected 3.7 feet per year precipitation deficit by the year 2065, combined with an irrigation efficiency of 70 percent, would require a field headgate diversion of 5.3 feet per acre, which exceeds the current field headgate volume of 4.5 feet per acre. Thus, increased precipitation deficit could require less consumptive turf or improved irrigation efficiency to stay within authorized diversion volumes. Alternatively, IDWR may at some point reassess (and increase) standard diversion volumes, allowing water users to apply for additional water rights to meet increased irrigation requirements.

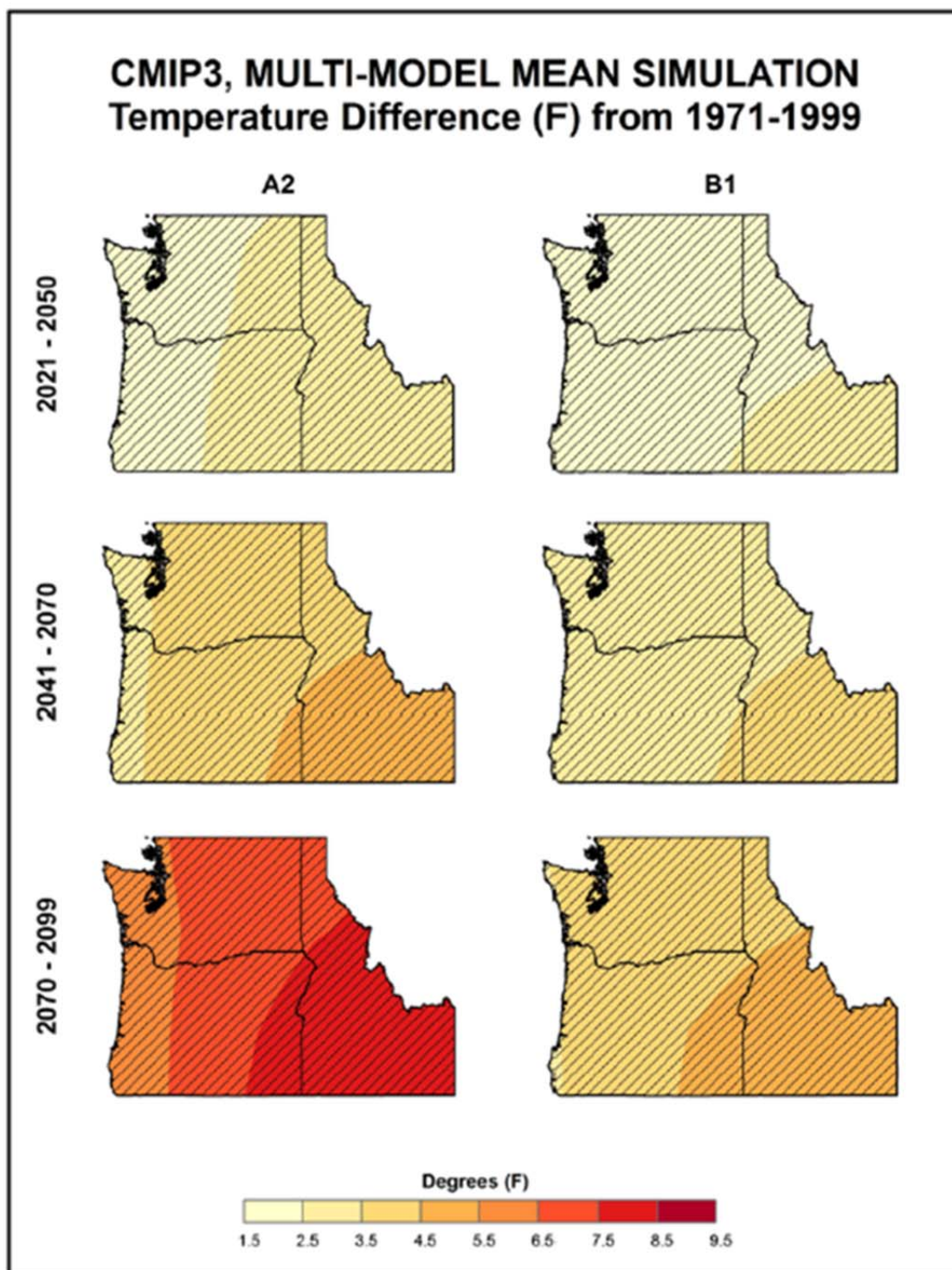
In practice, not all urban ground is irrigated with the amount of water needed for fully-irrigated turf. Some forms of landscaping may require less water than fully-irrigated turf. Drought-tolerant fescues may require less water than other forms of turf grass, and some irrigated urban turf is under-watered, because of inefficient irrigation applications, cost of potable water for irrigation, or other reasons. Thus, average water requirements for DCMI irrigation may be less than 4.5 to 5.3 feet per acre contemplated above.



## 8.6 Tables and Figures

Station & Crop		Growing Season Precipitation Deficit		
		Mean (ft/yr)	Standard Deviation (ft/vr)	20% Exceedance (ft/vr)
Boise WSFO Airport (NWS--101022) <sup>(1)</sup>				
	Alfalfa (frequent cuttings)	3.14	0.3	3.4
	Turf lawns (irrigated)	3.23	0.3	3.4
Caldwell <sup>(3)</sup>				
	Alfalfa (frequent cuttings)	3.6	0.3	3.8
	Turf lawns (irrigated)	3.7	0.3	3.9
Nampa (AgriMet -- NMPI) <sup>(4)</sup>				
	Alfalfa (frequent cuttings)	3.3	0.3	3.5
	Turf lawns (irrigated)	3.3	0.4	3.7
<p>(1) <a href="http://data.kimberly.uidaho.edu/ETIdaho/stninfo.py?station=101022">http://data.kimberly.uidaho.edu/ETIdaho/stninfo.py?station=101022</a>; statistics based on 30 years between 1979 and 2010.</p> <p>(2) USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, see report</p> <p>(3) From <a href="http://data.kimberly.uidaho.edu/ETIdaho/stninfo.py?station=101380">http://data.kimberly.uidaho.edu/ETIdaho/stninfo.py?station=101380</a>; statistics based on 30 years between 1961 and 1996.</p> <p>(4) From <a href="http://data.kimberly.uidaho.edu/ETIdaho/stninfo.py?station=8">http://data.kimberly.uidaho.edu/ETIdaho/stninfo.py?station=8</a>, statistics based on 30 years between 1997 and 2011.</p>				

Table 17. Growing season precipitation deficit.

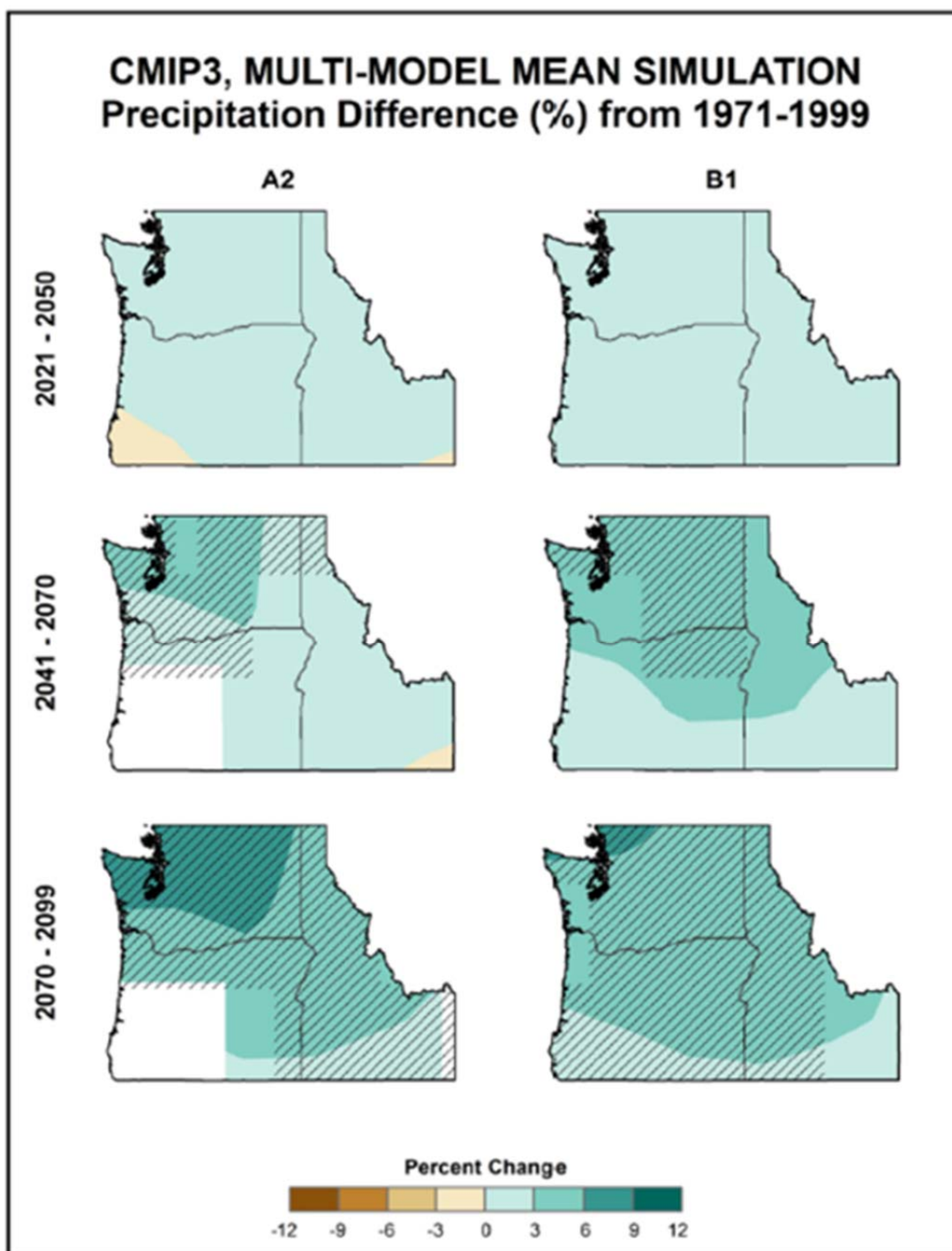


From Kunkel et al. (2013).

Figure 37: Multi-Model Mean Temperature Simulations.

Projected Average Temperature and Precipitation Changes in the Pacific Northwest		
Period	Temperature Change (F°)	Precipitation Change (%)
2021-2050	+2.5 (+1.1 to +3.6)	+1.5 (-5 to +8)
2041-2070	+4.0 (+1.9 to +6.1)	+3.0 (-5 to +11)
2070-2099	+6.5 (+2.9 to +10.9)	+5.0 (-7 to +20)
Source: Interpreted from maps presented in Kunkel et al., 2013.		

Table 18: Average and range of projected temperature and precipitation changes.



From Kunkel et al. (2013).

Figure 38: Multi-Model Mean Precipitation Simulations

Projected Precipitation Deficit		
Year	Precipitation Deficit for Irrigated Turf based on Historic Data (ft/yr)	Precipitation Deficit for Turf with Increasing ET <sup>(1)</sup> (ft/yr)
2010	3.40	3.40
2015	3.40	3.43
2020		3.46
2025		3.50
2030		3.53
2035		3.56
2040		3.59
2045		3.62
2050		3.65
2055		3.68
2060		3.71
2065		3.74
(1) Based on a possible evapotranspiration increase over the next 50 years - see text.		

Table 19. Projected precipitation deficit, 2015-2065.

## **9 ASSESSMENT OF WATER CONSERVATION**

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### **9.1 Introduction**

Several of the future DCMI water-demand projections (Section 10) illustrate potential reduced water demand as a result of water conservation. This section provides the basis for water conservation assumptions used in the water-demand projections.

### **9.2 Water Conservation**

Water conservation measures take many forms, such as public education; installation of low-water-use fixtures, appliances, and landscaping; and pricing structures that discourage excessive water use. A list of conservation measures is provided in Appendix C and IDWR's Draft Water Conservation Measures and Guidelines for Preparing Water Conservation Plans document (IDWR, 2006).

The Federal Energy Policy Act (FEPA) of 1992 established national maximum allowable water-flow rates for toilets, urinals, showerheads, and faucets. Although there are no current applicable federal water-flow rates for washing machines and dishwashers, these appliances have also become more water efficient.

Table 20 illustrates water-use reductions with various water-efficient in-home plumbing fixtures (based in part on Vickers, 2001). Highly aggressive water conservation measures could result in a 50 percent reduction in water use compared to baseline conditions with non-water-conserving fixtures.

The baseline conditions described in Table 20 yielded an average in-home use of 190 gallons per day. The per-household baseline Treasure Valley indoor use was estimated to be 220 gpd.<sup>38</sup> The Treasure Valley baseline estimate is higher than that listed in Table 20 likely because the Treasure Valley estimate includes not only residential in-home use but also commercial, institutional, and industrial uses (see Section 7). This value also includes “unaccounted” water that is diverted from groundwater or surface water sources but is not delivered to municipal users.

### **9.3 Current Conservation Efforts**

Some of the reporting DCMI delivery entities have active water-conservation programs. United Water Idaho has the most aggressive water-conservation program, which includes the following:

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<sup>38</sup> This value is based on a population-weighted average current water use of 80 gpd per person winter use (Table 15) multiplied by 2.76 people per household. The average current number of people per household was calculated by dividing an estimated 2015 population of 624,500 people (Table 7) by the estimated number of 2015 households (Table 8).

- Water-efficient demonstration gardens at the Idaho Botanical Garden, the Idaho Statehouse, and United Water Idaho's main office.
- Free conservation devices (hose timers, hose nozzles, and rain sensors) for customers.
- Free water-efficient landscaping classes.
- Water conservation education through television commercials and in newspaper spots during the irrigation season.
- Customer education through United Water's Water Conservation Guide<sup>39</sup>, partnerships with US EPA Water Sense program and Idaho Rivers United, and outreach through Boise State University's STEM program and presentations for local schools.

Conservation efforts by reporting entities are mainly focused on metering customers and educating patrons via brochures and newsletters. Several reporting entities have not enacted conservation measures but are planning to expand their conservation efforts as operating budgets allow.

Finally, many Treasure Valley residents and businesses have implemented water-conservation measures. Some of these conservation measures likely reflect personal commitments to efficient water use, responses to pricing structures, or both.

## 9.4 Water Conservation Assumptions for Indoor Water-Demand Projections

Present water-use rates are not likely representative of future water-use rates. Increasing use of fixtures and appliances and higher water costs will prompt voluntary conservation measures, thereby reducing future per capita water use. It will take some time for these influences to work their way through existing housing stock, but the reductions will almost certainly be reflected in regional water demand over the 50-year planning horizon.

Future indoor water demand was projected for a baseline (no conservation) condition, a moderate water-conservation level, and a more aggressive water-conservation level. The baseline scenario was calculated by multiplying the projected population per TAZ by the per capita water-use rates calculated in Section 7.4 (see also Section 10.2). For the moderate conservation scenario, it was assumed that new construction between 2015 and 2065 would become increasingly efficient, so that indoor water use in new construction by the year 2065 would require 20 percent less water use per unit

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<sup>39</sup><https://www.unitedwater.com/eBooks/Idaho%202014%20%20Conservation%20Guide%20Final/finaluwidconservationguide2014.html#p=8>

than in 2015. This equates to a 0.4 percent efficiency increase in new construction per year. The more aggressive indoor water conservation assumption was that water use in both new and existing housing stock would be 30 percent more efficient in the year 2065 compared to 2015. This is equivalent to a 0.6 percent efficiency increase in existing building stock and new construction per year.

The existing indoor per capita water-use estimates (Section 7) include water used in residential, commercial, general municipal, and industrial settings. It was assumed for the purposes of these water-conservation projections that the percentage reductions in water use described above apply to all DCMI water-user groups.

Water conservation levels are difficult to predict because they are based, in part, on policy decisions that have not yet been, or may not be, made. Thus, the above-described scenarios are presented for illustrative purposes only. Water conservation by the year 2065 could be greater or less than these scenarios suggest.

## **9.5 Water Conservation Assumptions for DCMI Irrigation**

Future DCMI irrigation efficiency will depend on water availability, price, local irrigation restrictions,<sup>40</sup> and other factors. The source of irrigation water will likely continue to influence efficiency: DCMI users of surface water or unmetered groundwater generally have less of a price incentive to irrigate efficiently than users of metered municipal drinking water. Outdoor water conservation in response to price or other incentives could take the form of drought-tolerant landscaping (i.e., xeriscape), improved irrigation efficiency, or reductions in irrigated area (Appendix C). Many communities with limited water supplies have developed water conservation plans and strategies to achieve more aggressive conservation goals.

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<sup>40</sup> For example, some communities or subdivisions may have restrictions on the extent of landscaping, landscape types, irrigation efficiencies, and irrigation time periods.



### 9.5.1 Tables and Figures

Conservation Rate, Indoor Domestic Use						
Level of Conservation →	None		Intermediate		Aggressive	
Component	Flow rate	Water use (gpd/unit)	Flow rate	Water use (gpd/unit)	Flow rate	Water use (gpd/unit)
Toilets	4.00 gpf <sup>1</sup>	47.3	1.60 gpf <sup>1</sup>	18.9	1.28 gpf <sup>2</sup>	15.1
Showerheads	3.25 gpm <sup>1</sup>	26.6	2.50 gpm <sup>1</sup>	20.9	2.00 gpm <sup>3</sup>	16.4
Faucets	2.88 gpm <sup>1</sup>	35.7	2.00 gpm <sup>1</sup>	31.9	1.50 gpm <sup>1</sup>	18.8
Washing Machines	51 gpl <sup>1</sup>	43.7	27 gpl <sup>1</sup>	23.1	13 gpl <sup>4</sup>	19.3
Dishwashers	12 gpl <sup>1</sup>	2.7	7.0 gpl <sup>1</sup>	1.6	4.25 gpl <sup>5</sup>	1
Baths	N/A	3.3	N/A	3.3	N/A	3.3
Leaks	N/A	26.3	N/A	9.3	N/A	3.3
Other Domestic	N/A	4.4	N/A	4.4	N/A	4.4
<b>Total (Daily Average)</b>		<b>190</b>		<b>113</b>		<b>82</b>
gpf = gallons per flush gpm = gallons per minute gpl = gallons per load						
References: <sup>1</sup> Vickers (2001) <sup>2</sup> EPA WaterSense tank-type high efficiency toilet specification (June 2, 2014) <sup>3</sup> EPA WaterSense Specification for showerheads (March 4, 2010). <sup>4</sup> Energy Star Specification as of March 7, 2015 <sup>5</sup> Energy Star Specification as of January 20, 2012						
Assumptions: 1. Data corresponding to the number of toilet flushes/person/day, minutes/person/day, faucet use, etc., used in calculating water use (gpd/household) are based on Vickers, 2001. 2. The number of baths, showers, and other domestic uses remain the same for each scenario. 3. Leaks will always be present in potable water systems, although technology will assist to decrease leakage (decreased leakage is assumed for the moderate and more aggressive conservation scenarios).						

Table 20. Potential per-unit residential domestic (indoor) water conservation.

## 10 TREASURE VALLEY WATER-DEMAND PROJECTIONS

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### 10.1 Introduction

The following sections summarize 2015-2065 DCMI indoor water-use projections, DCMI irrigation projections, and combined indoor and outdoor projections. Supporting tables and figures are presented in Section 10.5 beginning on page 100.

### 10.2 Scenarios

The future water-demand projections are presented in the form of 4 scenarios (Table 21). The scenarios are based on (1) common assumptions regarding the irrigated area per household and (2) different assumed levels of conservation or consumptive use.

A primary common assumption is that irrigated area for new households is influenced by density and water availability (see Section 3.2.7). It was assumed that, on average, the total irrigated area in non-water-limited portions of the valley (Figure 13) would be 0.3 acres for household densities from 0 to 2 units per acre, 0.45 acres for household densities from 2 to 4 units per acre, 0.35 acres for 4 to 6 units per acre, and 0.16 acres in areas with a density greater than 6 units per acre (Table 22).<sup>41</sup> In contrast, the assumed irrigated area per household in water-limited areas<sup>42</sup> would be no more than 0.15 irrigated acres per acre (Table 22). In each of these cases, residential irrigation was assumed to be zero if a TAZ had more than 25 employees per acre (the number of TAZs with more than 25 employees is shown in Figure 18).

The first scenario (i.e., baseline scenario – and Table 21) is built on the assumption of no future conservation over 2015 rates. A moderate level of water conservation was assumed in Scenario 2, consisting of (1) a 20 percent reduction in indoor use in new construction over the next 50 years (i.e., per-unit water demand would be 20 percent less in 50 years than in 2015) and (2) a 10 percent reduction over 2015 rates in outdoor use in existing and new construction. Scenario 3 illustrates an assumed 30 percent across-the-board reduction in indoor and outdoor use over 2015 rates.

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<sup>41</sup> It may at first appear counterintuitive that the total irrigated area in low-density neighborhoods (e.g., 0 to 2 units per acre) is less than that in neighborhoods with higher densities (e.g., 2 to 4 units per acre or 4 to 6 units per acre). The reason is this: although *irrigable* area in low-density neighborhoods (e.g., 0 to 2 units per acre) is greater than in denser neighborhoods, it was assumed that most residents living in these low-density neighborhoods would not irrigate the entire irrigable area with potable, municipal-supplied drinking water.

<sup>42</sup> A TAZ was defined as being water-limited if 50 percent or more of the area is in a water-limited zone as indicated in Figure 13.

The assumed irrigated areas described above include not only the irrigated area for each new household but also the irrigated (and non-irrigated) areas for non-residential users (e.g., schools, businesses, etc.), as long as the water for irrigation is supplied by a DCMI provider.

Inherent to these first three scenarios was the assumption that either (1) 75 percent of the assumed irrigable area is fully irrigated or (2) 100 percent of the assumed irrigable area is fully irrigated but with 75 percent of the water needed for fully-irrigated turf. These assumptions reflect the fact that some of the landscaping currently used in the Treasure Valley (and that likely will continue to be used) requires less water than fully-irrigated turf. Furthermore, not all landscaping consists of turf: landscaping rocks, areas with certain shrubs, trees, etc. may not be irrigated, or may be irrigated with volumes less than required for fully-irrigated turf. For the sake of comparison, Scenario 4 is based on the same assumptions as those in Scenario 2, except it was assumed that 100 percent of the irrigable DCMI area described in Table 22 would be fully irrigated with 100 percent of the water needed for irrigated turf.

It is anticipated that a portion of new DCMI irrigation demand will be met by existing surface-water supplies. The percentage of new demand met by existing supply (calculated based on the percentage of surface-water-irrigated land within a TAZ) remains the same in each scenario (see Section 4.5.1).

### 10.3 Treasure Valley Water-Demand Projections

The 2065 Treasure Valley DCMI water demand projected in the 4 scenarios described above ranged from approximately 450,000 AF to 708,000 AF (Table 23). These amounts do not account for surface water supplied by non-DCMI providers that is currently (as of 2015) being used to irrigate areas served by DCMI water providers.

A primary objective for the Treasure Valley water-demand forecast was to project the amount of *additional* water (i.e., water that is not available from currently-developed surface-water supplies) needed to meet DCMI water demand over the next 50 years (this “additional” water demand is referred to hereinafter as “net DCMI” demand.) The net DCMI demand was calculated by subtracting estimates of currently-developed surface water that is currently used for agricultural irrigation from the projected DCMI total water demand.

The projected 2065 net DCMI demand ranges from approximately 219,000 AF to 298,000 AF (Table 23 and Figure 39). The *increase* from 2015 DCMI demand ranges from approximately 109,000 AF to 188,000 AF, depending on consumptive-use and conservation assumptions. The spatial distribution of 2065 net indoor, net irrigation, and net total DCMI water demand is illustrated in Figure 41 through Figure 43.

The largest component of future demand in each of the four scenarios is irrigation (Figure 40). The difference between irrigating 75 percent and 100 percent of irrigable urban land (or supplying 75 percent of the irrigation requirement for fully irrigated turf

on all irrigated urban land) can be seen in Scenarios 2 and 4 (Table 23 and Figure 40). The difference between current irrigation rates and 10 percent and 30 percent reductions in per-acre irrigation (through drought-tolerant landscaping, improved efficiency, etc.) can be seen in the projected differences between Scenario 1, 2, and 3 (Table 23 and Figure 40).

## **10.4 Discussion**

### **10.4.1 Assumptions**

The preceding projections are based on numerous assumptions regarding (1) growth rates in employment, population, and households; (2) demographics and market preferences regarding home size, location, etc.; (3) future landscaping norms and irrigation patterns; (4) the future availability of surface-water and groundwater; (5) the effect of climate change on irrigation requirements; (6) the future availability and market penetration of efficient plumbing fixtures; and (7) policies and incentives regarding water conservation, which will be driven, in part by the availability and cost of delivered water.

There is uncertainty in each of these assumptions and the projections based on these assumptions. However, despite the uncertainty, the projections are instructive in that they frame the magnitude of additional water volumes that will be needed to supply the projected increases in population growth.

### **10.4.2 Projected Per Capita Use**

The projected per capita demand for indoor use (Table 28) in the year 2065 ranges from 54 gpd per person (Scenario 3) to 77 gpd per person (Scenario 1). The 77 gpd per person for Scenario 1 is similar to the current population-weighted rate of 80 gpd per person (Section 7.5 Table 15).<sup>43</sup> The lower per capita demand for indoor use in Scenarios 2 through 4 reflects reduced consumption as a result of conservation.

The projected 2065 per capita water demand for irrigation in excess of that which can be provided by existing developed surface water ranges from 70 gpd per person (Scenario 3 – see Table 28) to 101 gpd per person (Scenario 4). Current per capita irrigation use (Table 15, page 72) ranges from approximately 15 gpd per person (City of Eagle) to 158 gpd per person (Capitol Water Corporation), with a valley-wide population-weighted average of 78 gpd per person. Residents served by municipal providers with lower per capita irrigation use (e.g., City of Eagle, City of Meridian, etc.)

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<sup>43</sup> The 77 gpd/person 2065 rate differs from the valley-wide, population-weighted rate of 80 gpd/person 2015 as a result of population growth within DCMI service providers with varying per capita rates.

have access to surface water, which reduces the DCMI irrigation deliveries in these cities. In contrast, several of the providers show higher per capita irrigation use: City of Nampa (118 gpd per person), City of Garden City (112 gpd per person), Eagle Water Company (125 gpd per person), and Capitol Water Corporation (158<sup>44</sup> gpd per person). Less or no surface-water availability in these communities almost certainly contributes to a higher per capita irrigation rates. Regardless, the projected 2065 per capita irrigation rates (Table 28) fall within the range of current estimates based on Treasure Valley DCMI provider data.

Projected per capita demand for combined indoor and outdoor use in the year 2065 ranges from 124 gpd/person (Scenario 3) to 169 gpd/person (Scenario 4). The 2065 Scenario 2 per capita rate (152 gpd/person) is similar to the current 158 gpd/person valley-wide rate.

#### **10.4.3 Spatial Distribution of Projected Water Demand**

Not surprisingly, the net indoor demand (Figure 41) is concentrated in population centers (see projected population and household distribution in Figure 21 and Figure 23, respectively). The net DCMI irrigation (Figure 42) also appears to be concentrated in relatively dense population centers. At first glance, this could be misinterpreted because the greatest increase in DCMI irrigation occurs in medium-density areas (Table 22), as opposed to the densest urban areas. However, there are substantial increases in DCMI irrigation demand in areas surrounding population centers that are not captured in Figure 42 because the plot shows only the net DCMI irrigation (i.e., it excludes DCMI irrigation with currently-developed surface water supplies). Similarly, the net DCMI water demand shown in Figure 43 also excludes DCMI irrigation demand met by currently developed surface water or groundwater resources.

A modest portion of the projected water demand falls within areas of limited water supply (Figure 44). A greater portion of the projected water demand falls within the Basin 63 Ground Water Restricted Area in which groundwater from aquifers less than 200 feet deep are considered to be fully appropriated.

#### **10.4.4 Most Likely Scenario**

Of the 4 scenarios described above, Scenario 2 is arguably more probable than the other scenarios, for three reasons:

1. Some level of future conservation (as opposed to the no-conservation assumption in Scenario 1) is probable as building codes require more efficient fixtures and retail stores offer more efficient fixtures than in years past.

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<sup>44</sup> Lack of individual meters in the Capitol Water Corporation service area likely also contributes to elevated per capita use estimates.

Similarly, the cost of water for DCMI uses will likely rise in the future to develop increased supplies, which could result in at least some per capita decreases in DCMI irrigation use. While greater levels of conservation may be possible (such as those assumed in Scenario 3), greater levels of conservation will likely coincide with substantial cost increases or will require policy changes, neither of which are apparent at this time.

2. In contrast to Scenario 4, Scenario 2 reflects partial irrigation of irrigable urban ground (inherent to Scenario 2 is the assumption that 75 percent of irrigable ground is irrigated with an amount of water appropriate for irrigated turf, or that 100 percent of irrigable ground is fully irrigated at 75 percent of the amount needed to satisfy the irrigation demand for fully irrigated turf). Anecdotally, current DCMI irrigation patterns in the Treasure Valley are consistent with this assumption. Although the Scenario 4 assumptions are plausible, the Scenario 2 conservation assumptions seem more reasonable.
3. Another semi-quantitative test of reasonableness is that of future per capita use. Some increase in valley-wide per capita irrigation rates would be expected if an increasing amount of future development occurs in areas that do not have access to surface water, or if surface-water supplies become constrained. Nonetheless, a valley-wide DCMI per capita irrigation rate of 101 gpd per person (the outcome under Scenario 4 – see Table 28) represents a substantial increase over the current per capita rate, and therefore seems unreasonable. In contrast, the projected per capita DCMI irrigation amounts (70 gpd per person to 91 gpd per person in Scenarios 1, 2, and 3) are more consistent with current per capita DCMI irrigation rates – see Table 15.

#### **10.4.5 Factors Influencing Future DCMI Water Demand**

Numerous factors could cause the net Treasure Valley DCMI water demand in the year 2065 to be greater or less than that which is projected in Scenario 2 (or Scenarios 1, 3, and 4, for that matter):

1. Population and numbers of households are greater or less than those which are projected in Section 6;
2. The average irrigated area per new household is greater or less than that which is projected in Table 22 (one reason that the irrigated area per new household would be greater or less than that which is projected is if the housing densities described in Section 6 are greater or less than those projected);
3. The availability of surface water becomes constrained (e.g., insufficient surface-water supply following consecutive drought years could result in early shut-offs, at which time some DCMI surface-water users might switch to potable DCMI water for irrigation);

4. Surface water is not as available as assumed because of delivery-system constraints;
5. Higher than projected summer temperatures could result in greater demand (because of higher irrigation demand) than the average-year projections presented here;
6. Conservation assumptions are not realized;
7. Substantial increases in the cost of water (possibly as a result of limited supply) could reduce future water demand;
8. The 2015 per capita indoor and irrigation rates are different than those estimated as a result of errors in reported production or estimates of population served by individual providers;

#### **10.4.6 Comparison With Previous Estimates**

Cook et al. (2001) estimated that the total DCMI demand would increase from approximately 103,000 AF/year in 1997-1998 to approximately 179,000 AF/year by the year 2025 (Section 2.1). Excluding surface water used for DCMI irrigation in 2015, we project (Table 24 through Table 27) that the 2025 water demand will range from 122,000 AF to 129,000 AF (depending on scenario; the Scenario 2 projection is 127,000 AF in 2025). The Cook et al. projections included self-supplied commercial and industrial use, which our projections did not, and which may account for some of the differences in projected 2025 DCMI water demand.

WRIME (2010) projected a DCMI demand of 962,000 AF/year by the year 2060 (Table 1). This amount includes all surface water use for DCMI irrigation and self-supplied DCMI use.<sup>45</sup> By comparison, we projected (Table 24 through Table 27) a total DCMI demand (excluding surface water use as of 2015 but including the use of existing surface water for DCMI irrigation between 2015 and 2060) ranging from 414,000 AF to 629,000 AF, depending on scenario. The actual amount that would be provided by municipal purveyors (i.e., excluding deliveries from existing surface water supplies) ranges from 206,000 AF (Scenario 3) to 271,000 AF (Scenario 4).

If WRIME's projections were realized, the total per capita water use (indoor and irrigation) would be approximately 597 gpd/person.<sup>46</sup> This is substantially higher than the current per capita use estimates for areas with less or no current surface-water use (Table 15). It is also substantially higher than WRIME's estimate of current per

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<sup>45</sup> These SPF projections do not include self-supplied commercial and industrial demand.

<sup>46</sup> 962,000 AF/year multiplied by 325,850 gal/AF divided by a 2060 projected population of 1,438,500 people in 2060 (Table 7) divided by 365 days/year.

capita use (Section 2.2). Thus, even with WRIME's inclusion of self-supplied commercial and industrial demand, WRIME's 962,000-AF/year DCMI demand projection and associated per capita rate appears unreasonably high.

#### **10.4.7 Future Sources of Supply**

Options for supplying the net DCMI demand could include (1) diversions from the Boise River (through increased surface-water storage, use of flood flows for aquifer storage and recovery, or direct diversions from the Boise River below Star, Idaho), (2) additional development of Treasure Valley groundwater, (3) new diversions from the Snake River, or (4) reuse of treated municipal effluent.

The DCMI water-demand increase projected in Scenario 2 (158,000 AF – see Table 23) is roughly 80% of the estimated 198,000 AF<sup>47</sup> of groundwater that were withdrawn from Treasure Valley aquifers in 1996 (Urban, 2004; Urban and Petrich, 1998). It is not clear that Treasure Valley aquifers will be able to fully support the increased diversions needed to meet DCMI demand by the year 2065.

Treasure Valley aquifers will almost certainly support some additional groundwater development. TVHP model (Petrich, 2004a) simulations of withdrawing an additional 39,000 acre-feet (Petrich, 2004b) requested in over 450 then-unprocessed applications for new water rights suggested that Treasure Valley groundwater levels would reach new equilibriums, with local declines mostly ranging from zero to less than 20 feet, depending on valley location, actual amount of withdrawals, and depth of extraction. The least declines were predicted for the uppermost model layer (i.e., the uppermost 200 feet of aquifer). These results suggest that Treasure Valley aquifers can support at least some of the projected demand increase.

However, groundwater availability is not uniform throughout the Treasure Valley. Furthermore, water quality constraints (elevated concentrations of naturally occurring arsenic or uranium) may constrain groundwater development in some areas.<sup>48</sup> Also, regulatory constraints (e.g., inability to obtain water rights, or prolonged protests to new water-right applications) may limit groundwater development in some areas.

Surface water may be available for new appropriations from the Boise River during spring runoff. However, new diversions of “flood flows” would only be available for a

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<sup>47</sup> The estimate of water withdrawals in 1996 obviously does not include groundwater development in the approximately 20 years since 1996.

<sup>48</sup> Naturally-occurring arsenic or uranium has been encountered in numerous Treasure Valley wells. The presence of these constituents is very site-specific, and is not consistently associated with specific areas or aquifer zones within the valley. Often, screened intervals for wells can be designed to avoid elevated arsenic or uranium concentrations. Treatment options are available for these constituents if necessary, although treatment can substantially increase the cost of delivered water.



short period of time during the year, and would be unavailable during low-water years. Use of flood flows for dependable DCMI use would require storage in upstream Boise River reservoirs or an effective Treasure Valley aquifer storage and recovery strategy.

Surface water from existing agricultural irrigation may become more available for DCMI uses in the future. More efficient surface-water delivery systems, irrigation ponds to meet urban peak irrigation demands, and system controls could free up water for DCMI or other uses. In such a scenario, surface-water deliveries in urban areas might be made on a net irrigated-area basis, not gross-acre basis (see Section 4.5.1). However, such a scenario would require (1) market incentives to cover the costs of delivery-system improvements and operations and (2) changes in existing Boise River basin storage contracts (again, see Section 4.5.1). Thus, while it was assumed for this analysis that there would be minimal availability of surface water for future DCMI indoor uses, this could change in the future as the demand for DCMI water increases.

Additional water supplies may be developed from the Snake River or lower Boise River (i.e., below Star, Idaho – see Figure 1). Boise River hydrographs suggest availability of surface water as the Boise River gains from groundwater discharge and surface-water return flows (Figure 10). Permits for new diversions from the Snake River are likely available for DCMI uses during most times of the year. The primary constraint for Snake River diversions (and lower Boise River diversions) is that of the 4,750-cfs minimum streamflow established under water right No. 3-6 by the Idaho Water Resource Board in 1976. Water from the Snake River or lower Boise River may not be available for diversion during times that the minimum Snake River flow at the Weiser gage is less than the established minimum.

Reuse of treated effluent can reduce the need to develop new supplies to meet future demand. Treated wastewater can be (and is currently) used for irrigation of parks and other public common areas. Future treatment methods may enable the use of treated effluent for residential irrigation. Discharge of treated effluent directly or indirectly to the Boise River increases Boise River flows that may be diverted (especially below Star, Idaho) for future DCMI (or other irrigation) needs.

## 10.5 Tables and Figures

Scenario Descriptions				
Scenario →	1	2	3	4
Primary Assumptions	<b>Partial Irrigation</b> (assume that either 75% of irrigable area is fully irrigated or 100% of irrigable land is irrigated with 75% of the water needed for fully-irrigated turf)			<b>Full Irrigation</b> (assume 100% of DCMI land is irrigated with 100% of the water needed for turf)
	<b>No Conservation (Baseline)</b>	<b>Moderate Conservation</b>	<b>More Aggressive Conservation</b>	<b>Moderate Conservation</b>
	No conservation beyond that which has already been achieved	20% reduction in indoor use in new construction  10% reduction in outdoor use in existing and new construction	30% reduction in indoor use in existing and new construction  30% reduction in outdoor use in existing and new construction	Full water use (see text)  20% reduction in indoor use in new construction  10% reduction in outdoor use in existing and new construction

Table 21. Scenario matrix.

Assumed DCMI Irrigated Area (Non-Water-Limited Areas)			
Density (units per acre)	Assumed Irrigated Area per Household (ac/unit)	Assumed Irrigated Area per Household (ft <sup>2</sup> /unit)	Total Irrigated Area per Acre (ac)
0	—	—	—
0 - 1.99	0.15	6,530	0.30
2 - 3.99	0.15	6,530	0.45
4-5.99	0.07	3,050	0.35
6+	0.02	870	0.16

Assumed DCMI Irrigated Area (Water-Limited Areas)			
Density (units per acre)	Assumed Irrigated Area per Household (ac/unit)	Assumed Irrigated Area per Household (ft <sup>2</sup> /unit)	Total Irrigated Area per Acre (ac)
0	—	—	—
0 - 1.99	0.075	3,270	0.15
2 - 3.99	0.05	2,180	0.15
4-5.99	0.03	1,310	0.15
6+	0.015	650	0.12

Table 22. Assumed per-unit DCMI irrigated area for new households constructed between 2015 and 2065.

Water Demand Projections, 2015-2065 (AF/yr)									
Scenario →		1		2		3		4	
		Partial Irrigation, <sup>(1)</sup> No Conservation		Partial Irrigation, <sup>(1)</sup> Moderate Conservation		Partial Irrigation, <sup>(1)</sup> More Aggressive Conservation		Full Irrigation, <sup>(2)</sup> Moderate Conservation	
	2015 <sup>(3)</sup>	2065	Increase, 2015- 2065	2065	Increase, 2015- 2065	2065	Increase, 2015- 2065	2065	Increase, 2015- 2065
Total indoor	55,700	136,500	80,800	120,400	64,600	95,600	39,800	120,400	64,600
Total irrig. <sup>(3)</sup>	54,500	506,900	452,400	456,200	401,700	354,800	300,300	587,400	532,900
Total	110,200	643,400	533,100	576,500	466,300	450,400	340,100	707,800	597,500
Net DCMI indoor <sup>(4)</sup>	55,700	136,500	80,800	120,400	64,600	95,600	39,800	120,400	64,600
Net DCMI irrig. <sup>(4)</sup>	54,500	159,500	105,000	147,500	93,000	123,700	69,100	178,000	123,500
Net DCMI Total <sup>(4)</sup>	110,200	296,000	185,700	267,900	157,600	219,200	109,000	298,300	188,100
Notes: 1. "Partial irrigation" refers to urban areas in which a portion of the irrigable land is not irrigated or is irrigated with a water volume that is less than that which is required for fully-irrigated turf (see text). 2. "Full irrigation" refers to urban land that is irrigated with an amount needed for fully irrigated turf. 3. The irrigation volume in 2015 does not include surface water delivered by non-DCMI water-delivery entities (e.g., irrigation districts or canal companies). In contrast, the 2065 "total" irrigation volumes <i>does</i> include urban land that will be irrigated with surface water provided by non-DCMI entities. 4. The "Net DCMI" volumes do not include future demand that will be supplied by currently-developed supplies (surface water or groundwater). These indoor, irrigation, and total demand volumes therefore represent a better comparison with the total estimated 2015 DCMI demand.									

Table 23. Water-demand projections, 2015-2065.

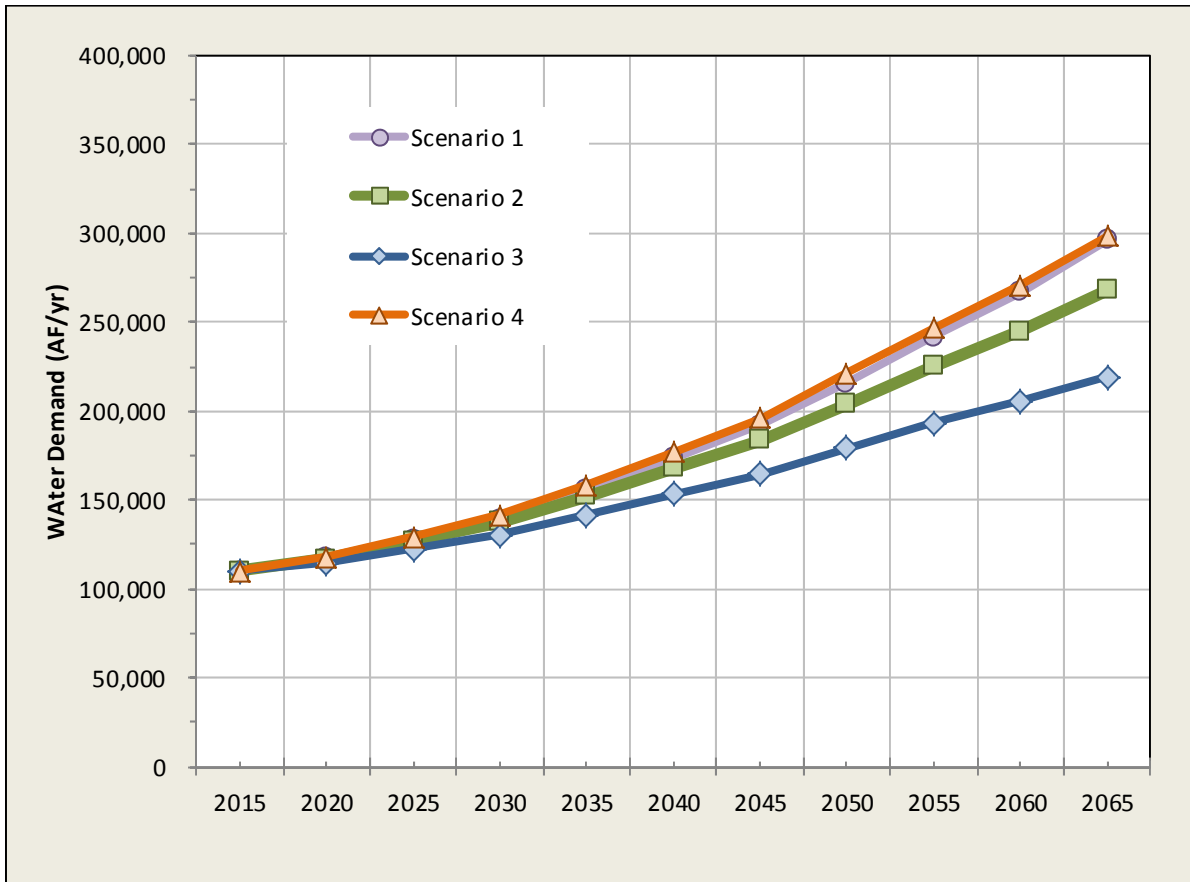


Figure 39. DCMI water-demand projections.

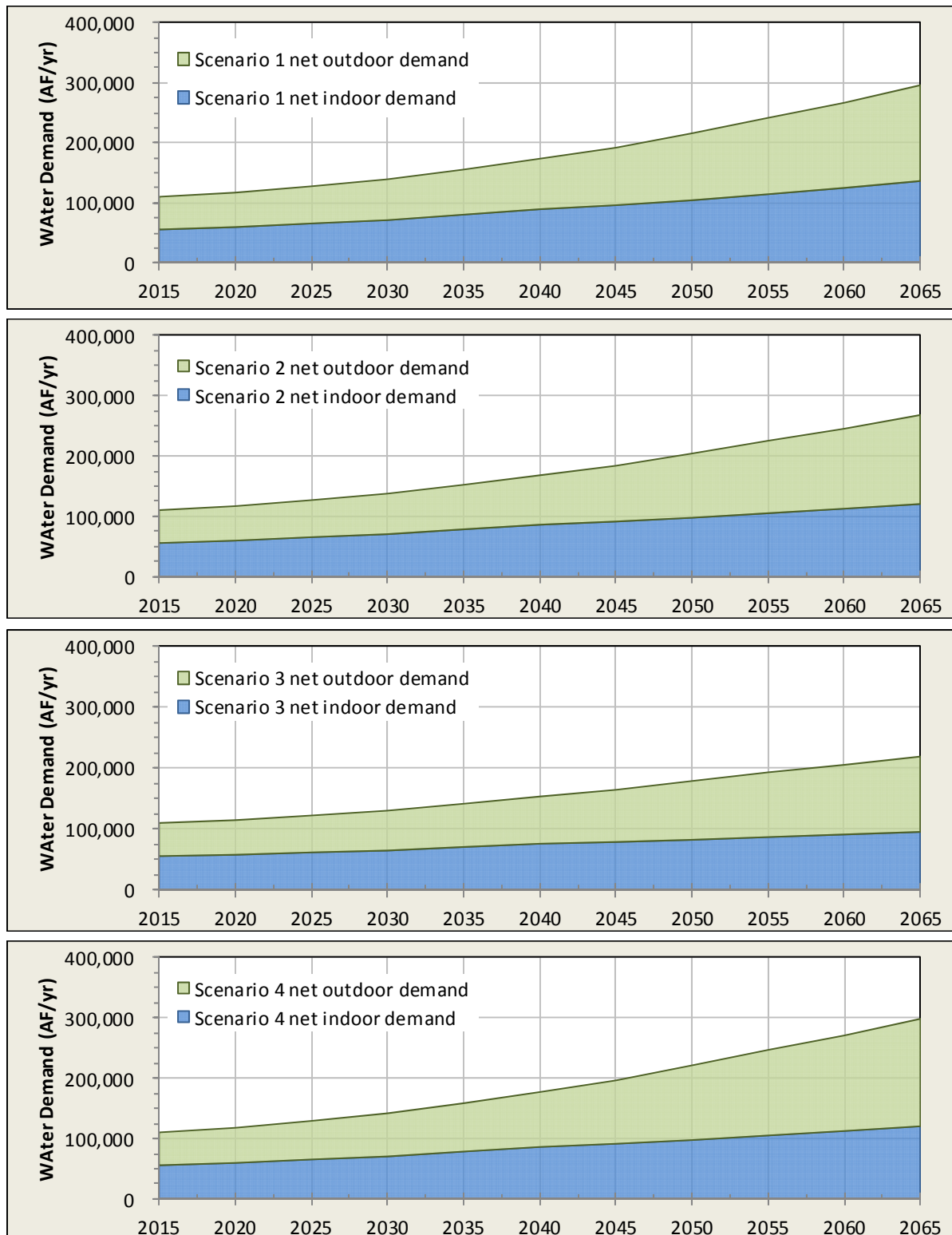


Figure 40. DCMI water-demand projections, Scenarios 1-4.

Scenario 1					
Year	Indoor Demand	Irrigation Demand	New Irrigation Demand Met by Existing Supply	Net Irrigation Demand	Combined Net Indoor and Irrigation Demand
2015	55,700	54,500	0	54,500	110,200
2020	59,800	75,500	18,200	57,400	117,100
2025	65,800	97,700	35,800	61,900	127,700
2030	71,300	129,300	61,200	68,100	139,400
2035	80,400	168,300	93,200	75,100	155,600
2040	89,500	219,200	135,100	84,100	173,600
2045	96,200	271,700	176,000	95,700	192,000
2050	104,400	330,900	219,300	111,600	216,000
2055	114,500	389,300	262,100	127,200	241,700
2060	125,100	442,600	300,800	141,800	266,800
2065	136,500	506,900	347,400	159,500	296,000

Table 24. Scenario 1 water-demand projections, 2015-2065.

Scenario 2					
Year	Indoor Demand	Irrigation Demand	New Irrigation Demand Met by Existing Supply	Net Irrigation Demand	Combined Net Indoor and Irrigation Demand
2015	55,700	54,500	0	54,500	110,200
2020	59,700	74,800	17,600	57,200	116,900
2025	65,400	95,700	34,200	61,500	126,900
2030	70,400	125,400	58,200	67,200	137,600
2035	78,500	161,600	87,900	73,700	152,200
2040	86,100	208,300	126,300	81,900	168,000
2045	91,400	255,400	163,100	92,400	183,800
2050	97,600	307,700	201,100	106,600	204,200
2055	105,100	358,100	237,900	120,200	225,300
2060	112,600	402,700	270,100	132,600	245,200
2065	120,400	456,200	308,600	147,500	267,900

Table 25. Scenario 2 water-demand projections, 2015-2065.



Scenario 3					
Year	Indoor Demand	Irrigation Demand	New Irrigation Demand Met by Existing Supply	Net Irrigation Demand	Combined Net Indoor and Irrigation Demand
2015	55,700	54,500	0	54,500	110,200
2020	58,000	73,200	16,400	56,800	114,800
2025	61,800	91,800	31,200	60,600	122,400
2030	64,900	117,700	52,100	65,600	130,400
2035	70,800	148,100	77,200	70,900	141,700
2040	76,100	186,300	108,800	77,500	153,600
2045	78,900	222,800	137,100	85,700	164,600
2050	82,500	261,400	164,800	96,600	179,000
2055	87,100	295,800	189,600	106,300	193,300
2060	91,300	323,100	208,800	114,300	205,600
2065	95,600	354,800	231,100	123,700	219,200

Table 26. Scenario 3 water-demand projections, 2015-2065.

Scenario 4					
Year	Indoor Demand	Irrigation Demand	New Irrigation Demand Met by Existing Supply	Net Irrigation Demand	Combined Net Indoor and Irrigation Demand
2015	55,700	54,500	0	54,500	110,200
2020	59,700	81,400	23,400	58,100	117,800
2025	65,400	109,300	45,500	63,800	129,200
2030	70,400	148,800	77,300	71,500	141,800
2035	78,500	196,700	116,700	80,100	158,500
2040	86,100	258,600	167,700	91,000	177,100
2045	91,400	321,200	216,300	104,800	196,200
2050	97,600	390,500	266,800	123,700	221,200
2055	105,100	457,300	315,600	141,700	246,900
2060	112,600	516,500	358,300	158,200	270,800
2065	120,400	587,400	409,400	178,000	298,300

Table 27. Scenario 4 water-demand projections, 2015-2065.

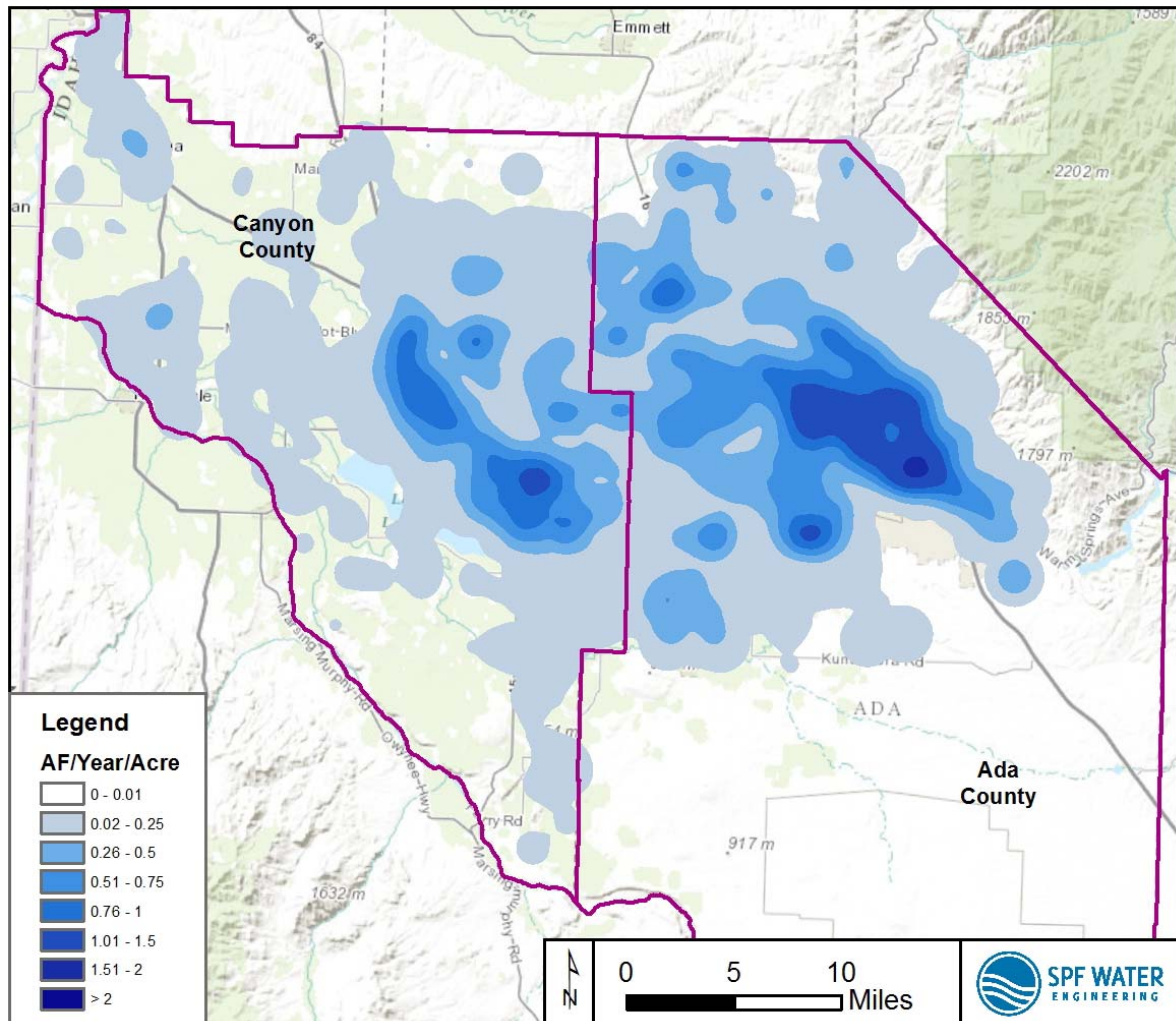


Figure 41. Spatial distribution of 2065 DCMI net indoor water demand, Scenario 2.

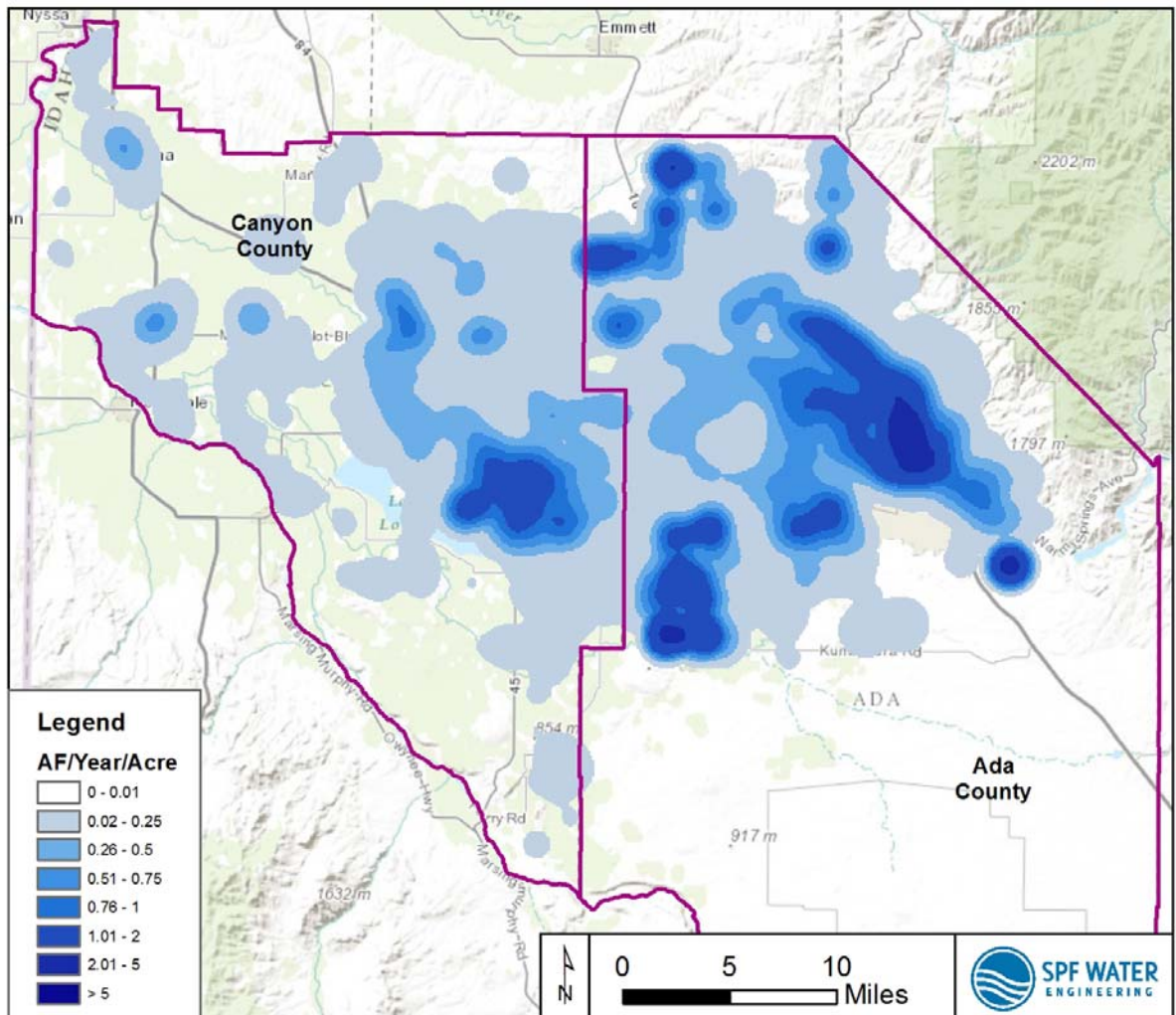


Figure 42. Spatial distribution of 2065 DCMI net outdoor water demand, Scenario 2.

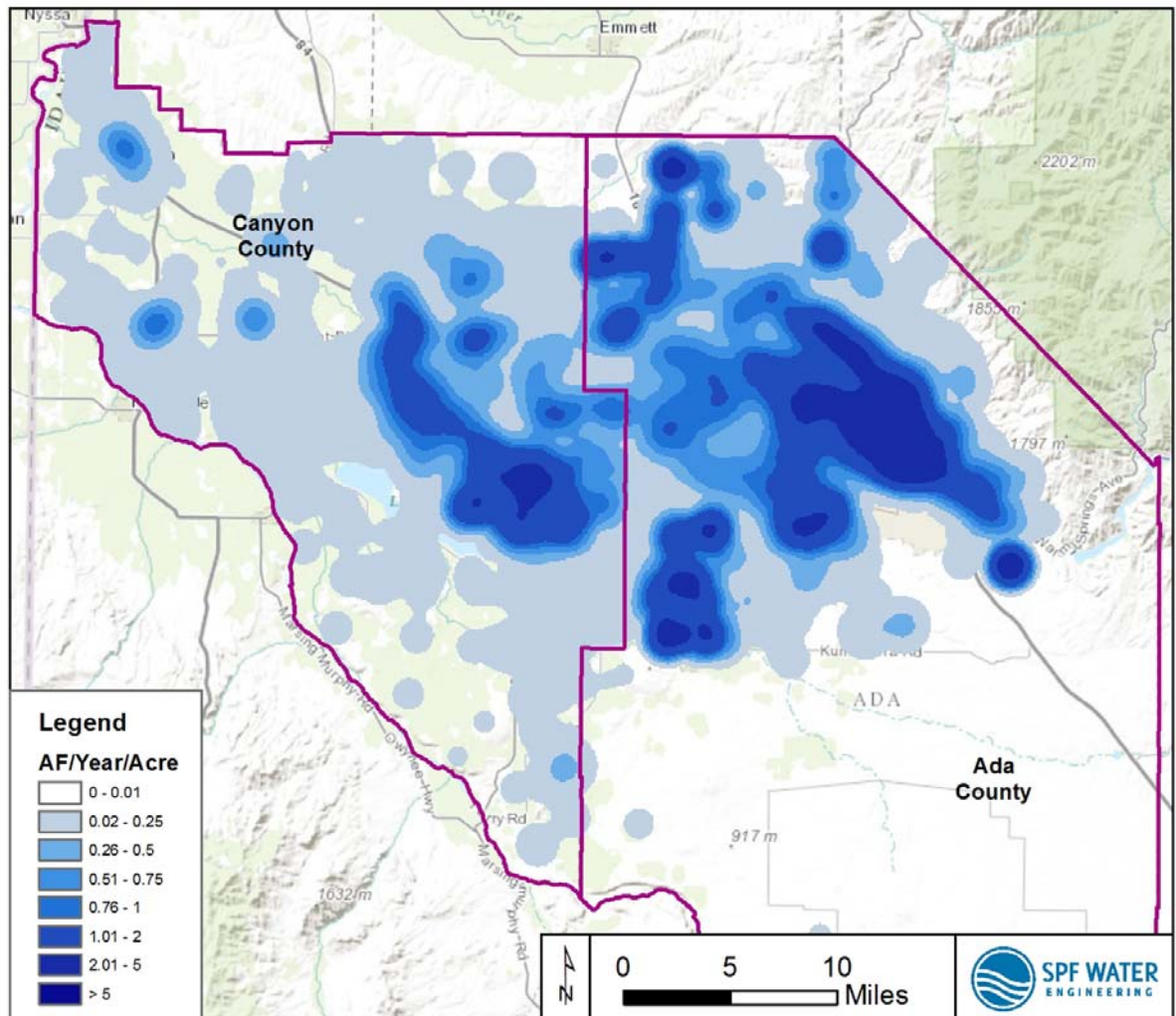


Figure 43. Spatial distribution of 2065 DCMI net total water demand, Scenario 2.



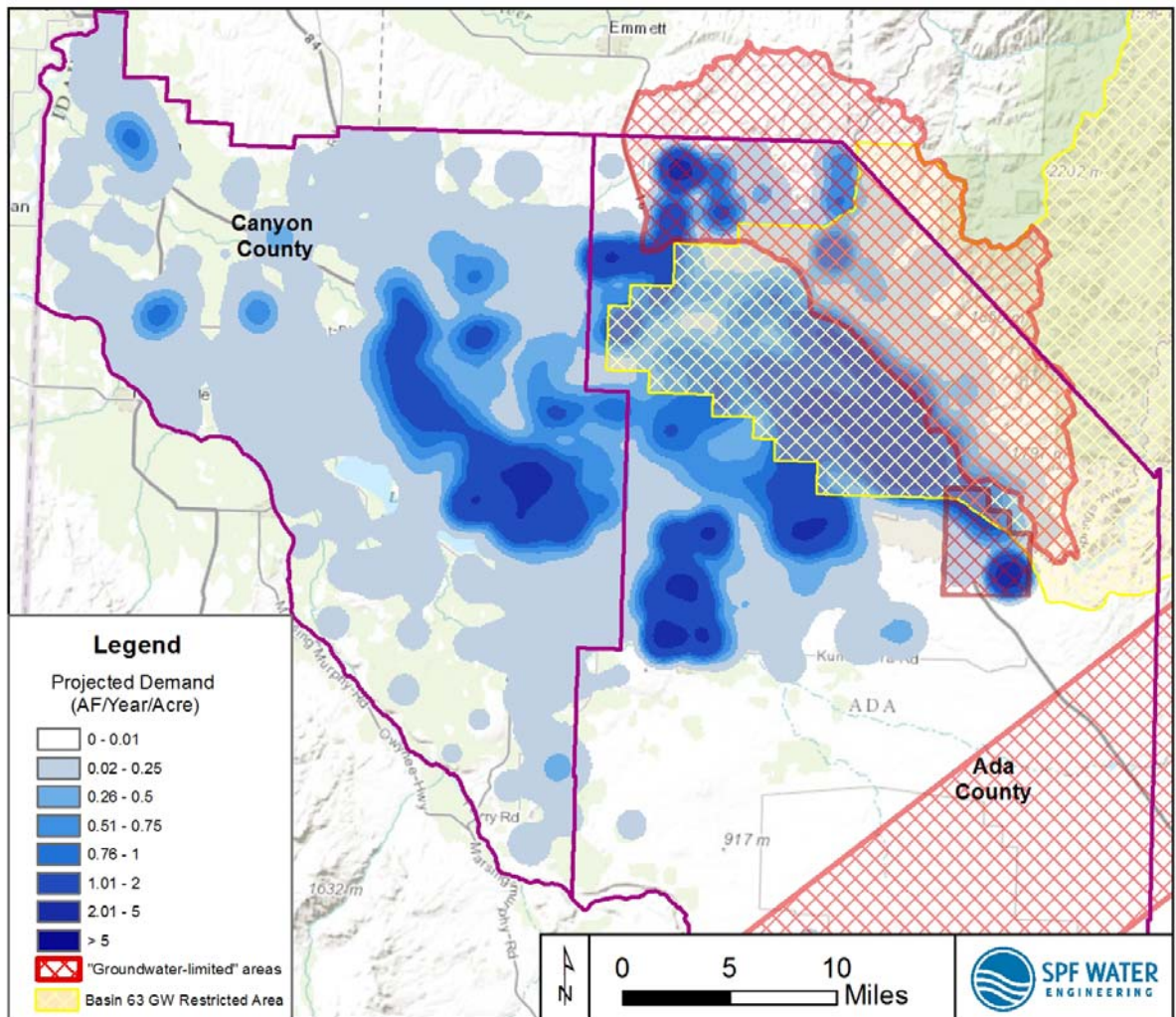


Figure 44. Spatial distribution of 2065 DCMI net total water demand (Scenario 2) and “water-limited” areas.

Comparison of Per Capita Demand Rates										
Scenario →			1		2		3		4	
			Partial Irrigation, No Conservation		Partial Irrigation, Moderate Conservation		Partial Irrigation, More Aggressive Conservation		Full Irrigation, Moderate Conservation	
	2015 (AF/yr)	Per Cap <sup>(1)</sup> (gpd)	2065 (AF/yr)	Per Cap <sup>(2)</sup> (gpd)	2065 (AF/yr)	Per Cap <sup>(2)</sup> (gpd)	2065 (AF/yr)	Per Cap <sup>(2)</sup> (gpd)	2065 (AF/yr)	Per Cap <sup>(2)</sup> (gpd)
Net DCMI indoor <sup>(3)</sup>	55,700	<b>80</b>	136,500	<b>77</b>	120,400	<b>68</b>	95,600	<b>54</b>	120,400	<b>68</b>
Net DCMI irrig. <sup>(3)</sup>	54,500	<b>78</b>	159,500	<b>91</b>	147,500	<b>84</b>	123,700	<b>70</b>	178,000	<b>101</b>
Net DCMI Total <sup>(3)</sup>	110,200	<b>158</b>	296,000	<b>168</b>	267,900	<b>152</b>	219,200	<b>124</b>	298,300	<b>169</b>
Notes 1. Estimated 2015 population: 625,000. 2. Estimated 2065 population: 1,573,000. 3. "Net DCMI" volumes do not include future demand that will be supplied by currently-developed surface water).										

Table 28. Comparison per capita demand rates, 2015-2065.

## **12 MOUNTAIN HOME PLATEAU DCMI WATER-DEMAND PROJECTIONS**

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### **12.1 Introduction**

This section (1) summarizes of DCMI water use by the City of Mountain Home and Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) and (2) provides initial projections of future DCMI water demand. An analysis of MHAFB future system capacity requirements was recently provided in a separate analysis (Landsberg and Scanlan, 2015). Tables and figures are provided in Section 12.4.

The City of Mountain Home and the MHAFB are part of the Mountain Home Plateau, which is the eastern portion of the western Snake River Plain between the Danskin Mountains and the Snake River (Figure 46). The Mountain Home Plateau also includes the City of Glenns Ferry (at the eastern edge of the plateau). However, water-demand projections were not made for the City of Glenns Ferry (nor were current water-use data collected) because (1) the City of Glenns Ferry diverts water for municipal uses from the Snake River and (2) population is expected to decrease over the next 50 years (obviating the need for reducing water supply).

### **12.2 Historical Population Growth**

The Elmore County population grew from approximately 5,500 people in 1940 to 26,100 in 2014 (Table 29 and Figure 46). The City of Mountain Home grew from approximately 1,200 people in 1940 to 13,800 people in 2014. The City of Glenns Ferry had approximately the same population in 2014 (1,240 people) as it did in 1940 (1,290 people).

In the 1940s and 1950s Elmore County (and in particular, the City of Mountain Home) experienced substantial population gains (Table 30), and did so again between 1990 and 2010. However, since 2010 the county and the cities of Mountain Home and Glenns Ferry have seen small decreases in population.

### **12.3 Existing Water Production**

#### **12.3.1 City of Mountain Home**

The City of Mountain Home's water system consists of 8 active wells and a distribution system that serves approximately 14,500 residents. The water system has 5,455 total connections. Of these, 4,501 are single-family residential connections, 400 are multi-family connections, 529 are commercial connections (337 businesses, 31 churches, 50 city-property connections, 7 daycare centers, 26 schools, 19 trailer courts, 55 sprinkler systems, 4 services outside city), and 25 are industrial connections (construction). Almost all of the connections are metered (except a few remaining city park connections and mobile home parks).



From 2010 to 2014, Mountain Home's annual groundwater diversions (Table 31) averaged 4,723 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 4,396 AF (2011) to a high of 4,915 AF (2012). Monthly diversions ranged from a low of approximately 98 AF per month during winter to approximately 1,008 AF per month during the summer (Table 32 and Figure 47). According to the 2011 Water Master Plan, completed by Keller & Associates, the percentage of unaccounted water is trending downward from about 17 percent in 2009. As the city continues to meter more connections, fix leaks, and replace old lines, the unaccounted water percentage is expected to decline further.

The city holds 55 shares of Mountain Home Irrigation District's water which is diverted for irrigation of the Desert Canyon Golf Course. The effluent from the city's lagoon system is used (along with water from a deep well) to irrigate 350 acres of a nearby farm.

For the past 4 years, the City of Mountain Home has distributed voluntary water conservation notices asking for alternate-day watering during peak summer months.

### **12.3.2 Mountain Home Air Force Base**

The MHAFB's water system consists of seven active wells and a distribution system that serves approximately 6,500 residents. There are an additional 2,500 off-site employees that utilize the water system. The water system has 1,187 total connections. Metering is used to track water delivery to "billable facilities," such as Burger King, the school, bank, housing, etc. Housing currently has historically been metered as a whole, but meters are currently being installed on individual housing units.

From 2010 to 2014, MHAFB's annual groundwater diversions (Table 33) averaged 1,630 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 1,440 AF (2011) to a high of 1,850 AF (2013). Monthly diversions (Table 34 and Figure 47) ranged from a low of approximately 33 AF per month during the winter to almost 300 AF per month during the summer. Unaccounted water ranges from 10 to 15 percent and is attributed primarily to flushing and fire protection.

All wastewater goes to a federally owned treatment facility on the base. The effluent is treated and used to irrigate the wastewater treatment plant grounds (1.34 acres, turf grass) and the base golf course (100.8 acres). The wastewater permit only allows the base to apply approximately 76 MG of treated effluent per year. As a back-up, the base maintains a wastewater NPDES permit, under which wastewater is discharged to a permitted outfall (Outfall 001, AKA McCalley Dam).

MHAFB's energy program has proposed several xeriscape projects to reduce irrigation demands. One project has been funded so far, which will lead to 40 acres being converted to xeriscape; additional water-conservation projects are being pursued.

### **12.3.3 Per Capita Water Use**

The City of Mountain Home and MHAFFB per capita winter, indoor water use was estimated to be 85 and 62 gpd per person, respectively (Table 38). The total (i.e., indoor and irrigation) annual per capita water use was estimated to be 291 and 224 gpd per person, respectively. These values are based on an assumed 2014 population of 14,500 in the City of Mountain Home and 6,500 served by the MHAFFB.<sup>49</sup>

### **12.3.4 Projected Population**

Population projections Elmore County, the City of Mountain Home, MHAFFB, and the City of Glenns Ferry were prepared by John Church (Idaho Economics) using an econometric model originally developed for the Idaho Power Company. The model forecasts population, households (occupied housing units, rather than total dwelling units), and employment. The model has been used to forecast population, households, and employment in each of Idaho's counties.

It was projected that the MHAFFB would experience modest increases in population and households over the next 50 years (Table 35 and Table 36), but that the population in Elmore County, City of Mountain Home, and Glenns Ferry would see modest declines. However, any substantial expansions in MHAFFB activities would likely lead to increases in City of Mountain Home population, households, and employment.

### **12.3.5 Water Demand Projections**

Absent increased economic activity at the MHAFFB or in the City of Mountain Home, the DCMI water demand is projected to decrease over the next 50 years (Table 39 through Table 41). Expansion of the MHAFFB would lead to increased DCMI water demand. Similarly, additional water availability in the Cinder Cone Butte Critical Ground Water Area or Mountain Home Ground Water Management Area could lead to increased agricultural or industrial activity that could result in increased DCMI demand.

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<sup>49</sup> These estimates of population served were provided by the City of Mountain Home and the MHAFFB.

## 12.4 Tables and Figures

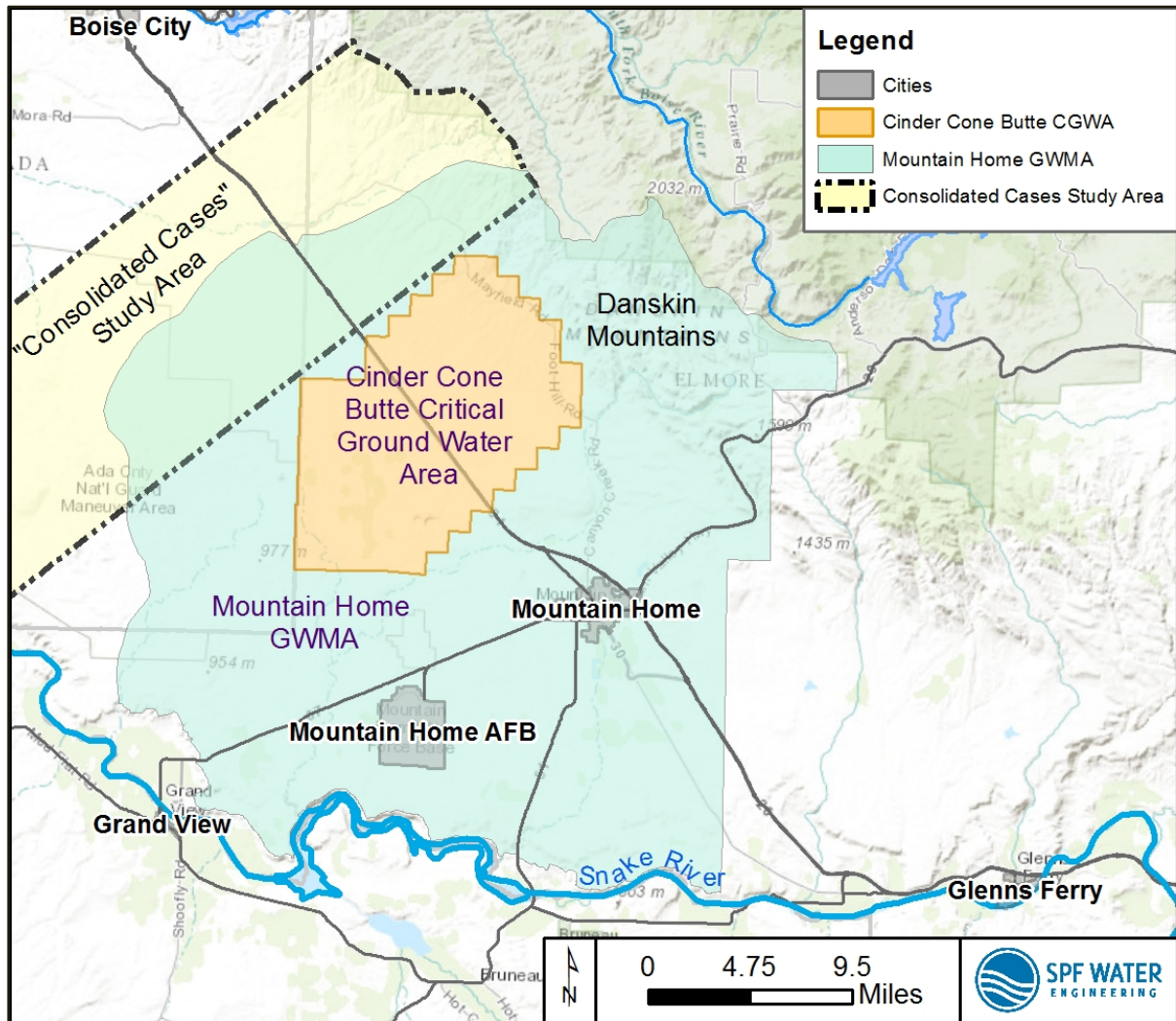


Figure 45. Mountain Home Plateau area.

Population Summary, 1940-2014									
County/ City	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014
<b>Elmore County</b>	5,520	6,690	16,700	17,500	21,600	21,300	29,100	27,100	26,100
Glenns Ferry	1,290	1,520	1,370	1,390	1,370	1,300	1,610	1,320	1,240
Mountain Home	1,190	1,890	5,980	6,450	7,540	7,910	11,100	14,200	13,800
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov). Data from 2011-2014 were based on mid year estimates.									

Table 29. Elmore County population summary, 1940-2014.

Percent Change in Population by Decade*								
County/City	1940-1950	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2014*
<b>Elmore County</b>	21%	150%	5%	23%	-1%	37%	-7%	-4%
Glenns Ferry	17%	-9%	1%	-1%	-5%	24%	-18%	-6%
Mountain Home	58%	217%	8%	17%	5%	41%	27%	-3%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov). 2011-2014 data based on mid-year estimates. * All intervals are 10 years, except for 2010-2014, which is a 5-year interval.								

Table 30. Elmore County percentage change in population.

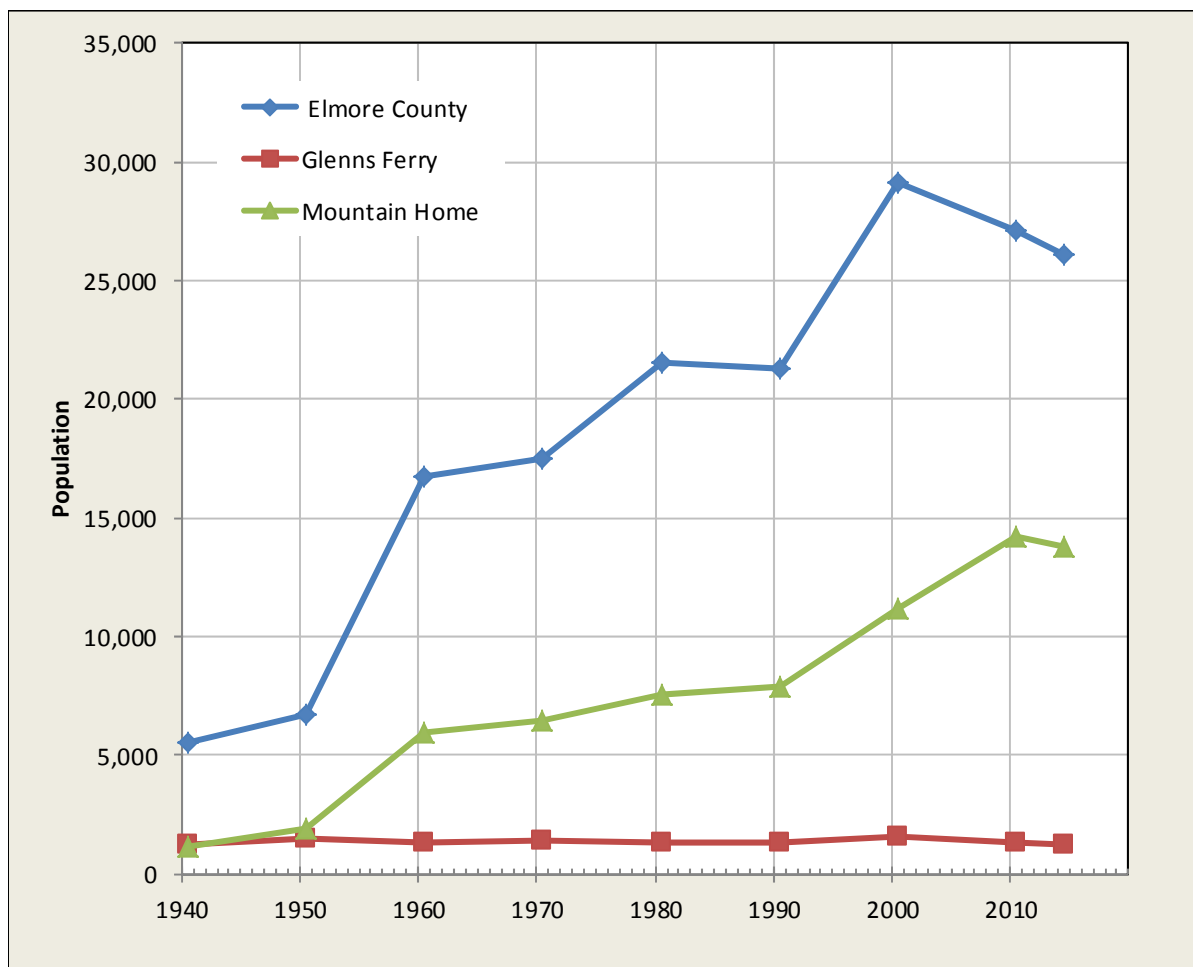


Figure 46. Historical population growth, Elmore County, 1940-2014.

City of Mountain Home Annual Diversions, 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	1,470,420	4,513
2011	1,432,282	4,396
2012	1,601,438	4,915
2013	1,591,580	4,884
2014	1,599,460	4,909
Average	1,539,036	4,723
Maximum	1,601,438	4,915
Minimum	1,432,282	4,396

Table 31. City of Mountain Home annual groundwater production, 2010-2014.

Average Monthly City of Mountain Home Water Production 2010-2014						
2010- 2014	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	39,344	121	137	114	3	117
Feb	34,753	107	118	98	0	107
Mar	40,948	126	142	109	8	117
Apr	72,701	223	312	142	106	117
May	163,298	501	626	355	384	117
Jun	214,811	659	780	512	542	117
Jul	293,208	900	974	821	782	117
Aug	293,595	901	1,008	809	784	117
Sep	215,530	661	721	627	544	117
Oct	92,710	285	334	239	167	117
Nov	40,914	126	162	111	8	117
Dec	37,225	114	124	105	0	114
Total	1,539,036	4,723			3,327	1,396
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.						

Table 32. City of Mountain Home monthly groundwater production, 2010-2014.

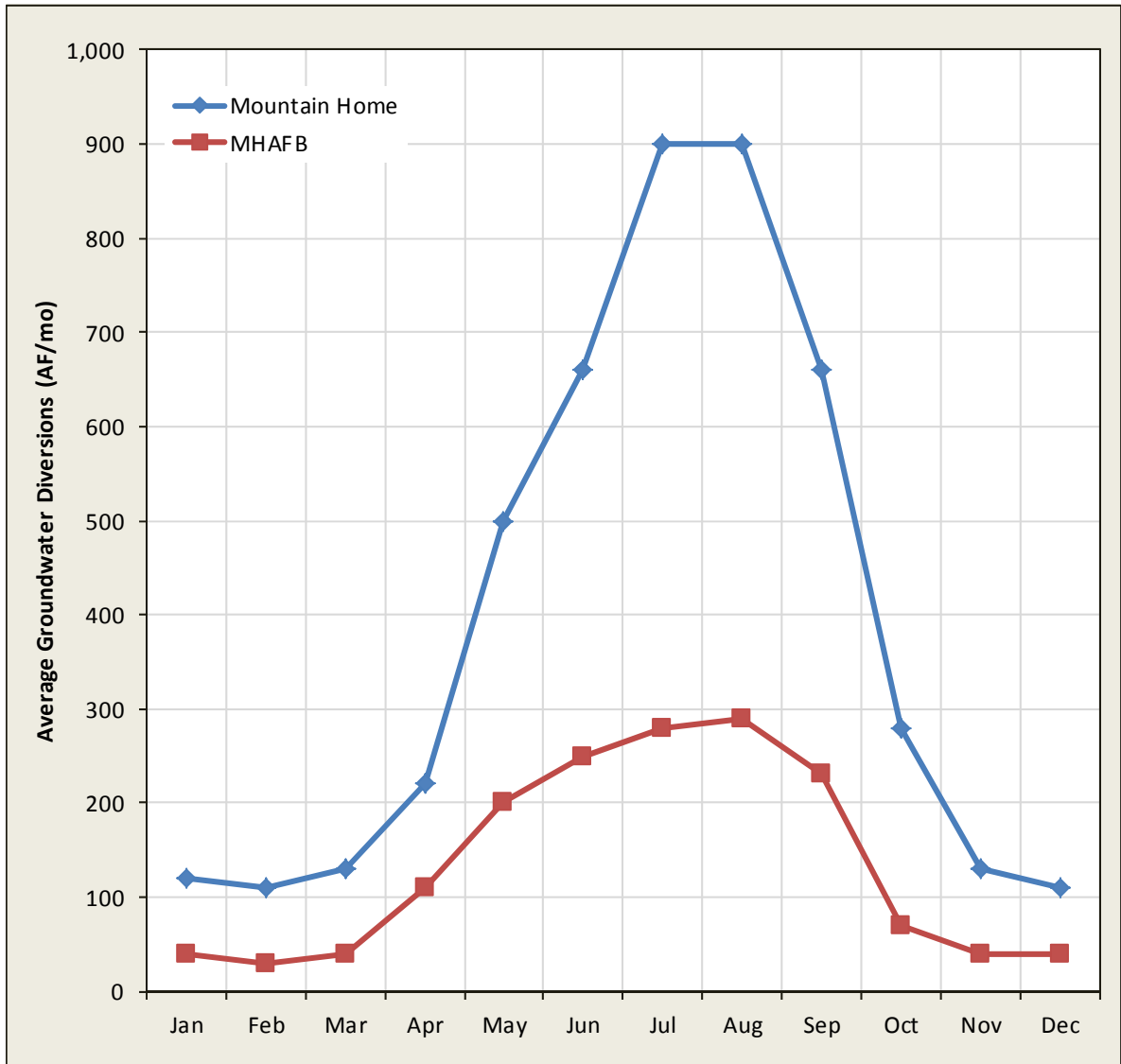


Figure 47. Average monthly DCMI water diversions.

MHAFB Annual Diversions, 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	543,418	1,668
2011	518,200	1,590
2012	527,232	1,618
2013	469,918	1,442
2014	603,552	1,852
Average	532,464	1,634
Maximum	603,552	1,852
Minimum	469,918	1,442

Table 33. MHAFB annual groundwater production, 2010-2014.

Average Monthly MHAFB Water Production, 2010-2014						
2010-2014	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	13,441	41	47	35	4	37
Feb	10,774	33	42	26	0	33
Mar	12,692	39	49	35	2	37
Apr	36,412	112	144	69	75	37
May	64,134	197	259	139	160	37
Jun	82,846	254	319	210	217	37
Jul	92,474	284	341	105	247	37
Aug	94,949	291	386	191	254	37
Sep	75,957	233	264	181	196	37
Oct	23,621	72	104	44	35	37
Nov	13,005	40	46	28	3	37
Dec	12,159	37	44	28	0	37
Total	532,464	1,634			1,192	442
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.						

Table 34. MHAFB monthly groundwater production, 2010-2014.



Population						
Year	Glenn's Ferry	Mountain Home	MHAFB	Rural	Total Elmore County	% Increase
2010	1,320	14,210	3,240	8,300	27,060	
2015	1,260	14,340	3,140	7,100	25,840	-1.1%
2020	1,240	14,480	2,990	6,700	25,410	-0.4%
2025	1,200	14,390	3,120	5,890	24,590	-0.8%
2030	1,150	13,810	3,230	5,420	23,600	-1.0%
2035	1,130	13,630	3,380	5,150	23,300	-0.3%
2040	1,110	13,380	3,380	5,000	22,870	-0.5%
2045	1,110	13,350	3,450	4,910	22,820	-0.1%
2050	1,110	13,320	3,470	4,870	22,770	-0.1%
2055	1,110	13,290	3,490	4,840	22,720	-0.1%
2060	1,100	13,260	3,500	4,800	22,670	-0.1%
2065	1,090	13,100	3,530	4,680	22,400	-0.3%

Table 35. Elmore County population projections, 2010-2014.

Households						
Year	Glenn's Ferry	Mountain Home	MHAFB	Rural	Total Elmore County	% Increase
2010	570	5,720	870	2,990	10,140	
2015	540	5,760	840	2,520	9,660	-1.2%
2020	540	5,920	800	2,420	9,680	0.1%
2025	530	5,950	840	2,160	9,470	-0.5%
2030	520	5,830	880	2,060	9,280	-0.5%
2035	520	5,880	930	2,040	9,370	0.2%
2040	530	5,950	930	2,070	9,480	0.3%
2045	520	5,900	950	2,020	9,400	-0.2%
2050	520	5,850	960	1,990	9,320	-0.2%
2055	520	5,810	960	1,960	9,250	-0.2%
2060	510	5,770	970	1,930	9,180	-0.2%
2065	510	5,720	980	1,900	9,110	-0.2%

Table 36. Elmore County household projections, 2010-2014.

Employment		
Year	Elmore County	% Increase
2010	6,390	
2015	6,290	-0.4%
2020	6,270	-0.1%
2025	5,970	-1.2%
2030	5,600	-1.5%
2035	5,390	-0.9%
2040	5,220	-0.8%
2045	5,170	-0.2%
2050	5,120	-0.2%
2055	5,070	-0.2%
2060	5,020	-0.2%
2065	4,970	-0.2%

Table 37. Elmore County employment projections, 2010-2014.

Per Capita Water Use		
Entity	Average annual per capita water use (gpd)	Average winter water use (Dec-Feb) per capita (gpd)
MHAFB	224	62
Mountain Home	291	85
Average	258	74

Table 38. Elmore County per capita DCMI water use.

Indoor Demand Projection (AF)			
Year	Mountain Home	MHAFB	Total
2010	1,360	230	1,590
2015	1,370	220	1,590
2020	1,380	210	1,590
2025	1,370	220	1,590
2030	1,320	220	1,540
2035	1,300	240	1,540
2040	1,280	240	1,520
2045	1,280	240	1,520
2050	1,270	240	1,510
2055	1,270	240	1,510
2060	1,270	240	1,510
2065	1,250	250	1,500

Table 39. Initial Elmore County DCMi indoor water-demand projection, 2010-2065.

DCMI Projection (AF)			
Year	Mountain Home	MHAFB	Total
2010	4,630	810	5,440
2015	4,170	700	4,870
2020	4,210	670	4,880
2025	4,180	700	4,880
2030	4,010	720	4,730
2035	3,960	760	4,720
2040	3,890	760	4,650
2045	3,880	770	4,650
2050	3,870	780	4,650
2055	3,870	780	4,650
2060	3,860	790	4,650
2065	3,810	790	4,600

Table 40. Initial Elmore County DCMi total water-demand projection, 2010-2065.

DCMI Irrigation Demand Projection (AF)			
Year	Mountain Home	MHAFB	Total
2010	3,270	590	3,860
2015	2,800	490	3,290
2020	2,830	460	3,290
2025	2,810	480	3,290
2030	2,700	500	3,200
2035	2,660	520	3,180
2040	2,610	520	3,130
2045	2,610	530	3,140
2050	2,600	540	3,140
2055	2,600	540	3,140
2060	2,590	540	3,130
2065	2,560	550	3,110

Table 41. Initial Elmore County DCMI irrigation water-demand projection, 2010-2065.

## 13 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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The primary conclusion from this analysis is that the net DCMI water demand<sup>50</sup> could increase from 110,000 AF/year in 2015 to between 219,000 and 298,000 AF/year by the year 2065. This represents an increase in DCMI demand of between 109,000 and 188,000 AF/year. Specific conclusions include the following:

### Population and Employment

1. The Treasure Valley population grew from approximately 91,000 people in 1940 to approximately 630,000 people in 2014.
2. Average annual Treasure Valley population growth (based on 10-year data increments) averaged approximately 2.9 percent per year, ranging from 1.4 percent (1960-1970) to a high of 4.0 percent (1970-1980).
3. The Treasure Valley population is expected to increase to approximately 1.57 million people by the year 2065, of which about 63 percent will reside in Ada County and 37 percent in Canyon County.
4. The number of households is expected to increase from approximately 211,600 in 2010 to 638,700 in the year 2065.
5. Interviews with city and county planning personnel suggest that most future residential densities will average 3-4 households per acre, although changes in demographic and market preferences, higher commuting costs, and traffic congestion could lead average densities in new residential developments of 4-6 households per acre.
6. Population "capture" by adjacent counties (i.e., people that work in Ada and Canyon counties but choose to live in Gem County, Elmore County, Owyhee County, etc.) could reduce future DCMI water demand in Ada County and Canyon County.

### Existing Water Use

7. 2010 to 2014 DCMI water-production data were supplied by United Water Idaho, Capitol Water Corporation, Eagle Water Company, City of Eagle, Garden City, City of Kuna, City of Meridian, City of Caldwell, and the City of Nampa.
8. Current per capita water use by residents served by these reporting entities ranges from approximately 80 to 278 gallons per day (gpd) per person. This

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<sup>50</sup> The "net DCMI water demand" is the demand that will not be met by surface water and groundwater supplies already in use for agricultural irrigation.

range is consistent with the range and water use among other counties in the western U.S.

9. The valley-wide, population-weighted average indoor and outdoor DCMI use is approximately 80 gpd per person and 79 gpd per person, respectively. The relatively low per capita irrigation rate reflects the fact that some DCMI irrigation occurs with surface water (which is not included in these per capita estimates).
10. The valley-wide average per capita rate for DCMI use (158 gpd/person) is somewhat greater than the 130 gpd/person arithmetic average among other counties reviewed for this analysis. Differences in DCMI water-use rates between Treasure Valley counties and other western U.S. counties likely reflect differences water availability, irrigation patterns, levels of conservation, and/or differences in data collection and compilation.

### **Precipitation Deficit and Climate Change**

11. The average growing-season precipitation deficit for fully-irrigated turf, based on historical weather data in Boise, Caldwell, and Nampa, is about 3.4 feet per year.
12. Average temperatures by the year 2065 could increase by approximately 1.9°F to 6.1°F. Summary evapotranspiration could increase by approximately 5 to 20 percent as a result of such temperature increases. A 10 percent increase in evapotranspiration rates was assumed for these Treasure Valley future water-demand projections.

### **Water Conservation Potential**

13. Substantial water-demand reductions are possible through conservation. These Treasure Valley DCMI water-demand projections included reduction in water use (compared to 2015 rates) of 10 to 30 percent, depending on the scenario. These levels of conservation would result from the use of water-efficient fixtures and plumbing, drought-tolerant landscaping, responses to possible future water-cost increases, etc. More detailed conservation planning may be necessary to achieve higher conservation goals.

### **Most Likely Scenario**

14. All of the projections have inherent uncertainty. However, given current water-use patterns, Scenario 2 (a DCMI water-demand increase of approximately 158,000 AF by the year 2065, excluding demand met by currently-developed surface water) is arguably more probable than the other scenarios. This scenario would represent a 50-year growth in water demand (approximately 240%) consistent with the projected growth in population (approximately 250%). It would result in an overall per capita use rate (152

gpd/person in the year 2065) that is slightly less than the 2015 rate (158 gpd/person).

### **Sources of Supply**

15. Options for supplying the net DCMI demand could include (1) diversions from the Boise River (through increased surface-water storage, use of flood flows for aquifer storage and recovery strategy, or direct diversions from the Boise River below Star, Idaho), (2) additional development of Treasure Valley groundwater, (3) new diversions from the Snake River, or (4) reuse of treated municipal effluent.
16. Treasure Valley aquifers can likely supply a portion of the increased future demand. However, it is also likely that the additional use of surface water (from the Boise River or Snake River) will be needed to meet the future DCMI demand.
17. The projection of future DCMI demand is influenced by the amount and location of agricultural acres that are actually receiving surface water for irrigation. Developing an updated map that identifies lands currently receiving surface water could be used to refine DCMI water-demand projections.
18. Surface water from existing agricultural irrigation could become more available for DCMI uses in the future. However, this would likely require (1) market incentives to cover the costs of delivery-system improvements and operations and (2) changes in existing Boise River basin storage contracts.

### **Mountain Home Plateau DCMI Projections**

19. The Elmore County population is projected to decrease from approximately 27,000 people in 2010 to 22,400 people in 2065.
20. Absent increased economic activity at the MHAFB or in the City of Mountain Home, the DCMI water demand is projected to decrease over the next 50 years.
21. Expansion of the MHAFB or development of other economic activity in the Mountain Home area could lead to population increases with associated increases in future DCMI water demand.

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## **APPENDIX A:**

### **TREASURE VALLEY DCMI WATER-PRODUCTION DATA**

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This appendix summarizes 2010-2014 DCMI water production data from the following service providers: United Water Idaho, City of Nampa, City of Garden City, City of Meridian, City of Caldwell, Capitol Water Corporation, Eagle Water Company, City of Kuna, City of Eagle, City of Mountain Home, and Mountain Home Air Force Base. Well by well production data are provided in electronic form.

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# 1. UNITED WATER IDAHO (UWID)

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## 1.1. Water Use<sup>1</sup>

UWID's water system consists of 82 active wells, 2 surface-water treatment facilities, and a distribution system that serves approximately 227,000 residents. The water system had 86,719 total connections (at the time that data were provided for this project). Of these, 78,026 are residential connections and 8,644 are commercial connections.<sup>2</sup>

The UWID delivery system has multiple service levels. Interties between service levels allow water from one service level to support demand in one or more adjacent surface levels.

From 2010 to 2014, UWID's annual system production (Table 1) averaged 44,760 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 41,539 AF (2011) to a high of 47,187 AF (2013). Monthly diversions have ranged from a low of approximately 1,660 AF per month during the winter to approximately 7,559 AF per month during the summer (Table 2).

UWID treats water from the Boise River at its Marden Lane and Columbia Water Treatment Plant facilities. The Marden Lane Plant produced an average of approximately 9,300 AF/year between 2010 and 2014. The Columbia Water Treatment Plant, which was constructed more recently, produced an average of approximately 3,700 AF/year from 2012 through 2014. Combined, surface water (approximately 13,000 AF/year) represents approximately 31 percent of UWID's annual production.

"Unaccounted" water is the difference between total production and aggregate delivery to end-users. Unaccounted water can include system leaks, fire hydrant flushing, etc. The 12 month rolling average (as of February 2015) for unaccounted water was reported to be 3.28 percent, or approximately 1,496 AF/year (487 MGY).

UWID supports ongoing water conservation programs. UWID contributed to water-efficient demonstration gardens at the Idaho Botanical Garden and the Idaho Statehouse. The company also has a demonstration garden at their main office. UWID offers free conservation devices (hose timer, hose nozzle and rain sensor) for customers and free water-efficient landscaping classes. During the irrigation season, the company promotes conservation through television commercials and in

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<sup>1</sup> United Water Idaho water and population data provided by Roger Dittus, March 31, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Commercial connections include multi-family housing such as apartments (John Church, personal communication, 10/2/2015)

newspaper spots. Water conservation is also promoted through customer education efforts including: UWID's Water Conservation Guide, partnerships with US EPA Water Sense program and Idaho Rivers United, and outreach through Boise State University's STEM program and presentations for local schools.

United Water Idaho Annual Diversions, 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	13,993,957	42,946
2011	13,535,552	41,539
2012	14,816,914	45,472
2013	15,375,820	47,187
2014	15,203,339	46,657
Average	14,585,117	44,760
Maximum	15,375,820	47,187
Minimum	13,535,552	41,539

Table 1. UWID annual groundwater production, 2010-2014.

Average Monthly United Water Idaho Water Production, 2010-2014						
2010-2014	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	637,431	1,956	2,063	1,843	66	1,890
Feb	575,120	1,765	1,862	1,660	0	1,765
Mar	643,363	1,974	2,114	1,824	84	1,890
Apr	859,857	2,639	3,124	2,062	749	1,890
May	1,376,011	4,223	5,409	3,145	2,333	1,890
Jun	1,780,721	5,465	6,221	4,579	3,575	1,890
Jul	2,397,016	7,356	7,559	7,040	5,466	1,890
Aug	2,299,301	7,056	7,350	6,838	5,166	1,890
Sep	1,736,725	5,330	5,703	5,024	3,440	1,890
Oct	1,027,605	3,154	3,327	2,897	1,263	1,890
Nov	616,813	1,893	2,020	1,690	3	1,890
Dec	635,155	1,949	2,086	1,839	59	1,890
Total	14,585,117	44,760	48,837	40,440	22,204	22,557
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.						

Table 2. UWID monthly groundwater production, 2010-2014.

## 2. CITY OF NAMPA

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### 2.1. Water Use<sup>3</sup>

The City of Nampa's water system consists of 13 active municipal wells, 45 irrigation wells, and a distribution system that serves approximately 86,000 residents. Residential demands account for 71.3 percent of summer demand and 83.5 percent of winter demand. Commercial use accounts for 20.9 percent and 16.1 percent of summer and winter demand, respectively.

All potable water uses are metered by the city. However, there are several unmetered irrigation services within the city. According to the city, "three of the larger unmetered users include the Ridgecrest Golf Course, Harmony Heights, and Happy Valley Estates. The Ridgecrest Golf Course uses up to 200 gpm of water during the shoulder seasons before and after surface water irrigation is available."

From 2010 to 2014, Nampa's annual groundwater diversions for its potable water system (Table 3) averaged 7,954 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 7,658 AF (2011) to a high of 8,278 AF (2013). Monthly diversions ranged from a low of approximately 520 AF per month during the winter to approximately 901 AF per month during the summer (Table 4).

From 2010 to 2014, Nampa's annual irrigation diversions (Table 5) averaged 10,242 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 8,386 AF (2010) to a high of 12,456 AF (2014). These wells are operated from April through October each year. Monthly diversions ranged from 179 AF per month in October to approximately 3,304 AF per month in September (Table 6).

Combined potable- and irrigation-system withdrawals averaged approximately 18,200 AF/year, ranging from 16,044 to 20,734 AF (Table 7). Aggregate monthly diversions (Table 8) ranged from 543 AF (February) to 2973 AF (July).

Between 2009 and 2012, unaccounted water reportedly varied between 10 and 13 percent of the total volume produced.

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<sup>3</sup> City of Nampa water and population data provided by Daniel Badger, March 12, 2015.

City of Nampa Municipal Annual Diversions (Potable System) 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	2,520,341	7,735
2011	2,495,473	7,658
2012	2,599,567	7,978
2013	2,697,233	8,278
2014	2,646,597	8,122
Average	2,591,842	7,954
Maximum	2,697,233	8,278
Minimum	2,495,473	7,658

Table 3. City of Nampa (Municipal) annual groundwater production, 2010-2014.

Average Monthly City of Nampa Water Production (Potable System) 2010-2014						
2010-2014	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	203,269	624	745	588	52	572
Feb	177,085	543	582	520	0	543
Mar	188,998	580	602	548	8	572
Apr	198,831	610	666	539	38	572
May	237,900	730	744	690	158	572
Jun	240,071	737	828	686	165	572
Jul	253,956	779	901	528	207	572
Aug	261,005	801	880	763	229	572
Sep	235,520	723	789	677	151	572
Oct	219,557	674	724	631	102	572
Nov	196,730	604	645	573	32	572
Dec	178,922	549	591	525	0	549
Total	2,591,842	7,954			1,140	6,814
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.						

Table 4. City of Nampa (Municipal) monthly groundwater production, 2010-2014.



City of Nampa Irrigation Annual Diversions (Non-Potable Irrigation System) 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	2,732,506	8,386
2011	3,586,174	11,006
2012	3,563,599	10,936
2013	3,387,338	8,428
2014	4,058,786	12,456
Average	3,465,680	10,242
Maximum	4,058,786	12,456
Minimum	2,732,506	8,386

Table 5. City of Nampa (Municipal) monthly groundwater production, 2010-2014.

Average Monthly City of Nampa Water Production (Non-Potable Irrigation System), 2010-2014				
2010-2014	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)
Jan	0	0	0	0
Feb	0	0	0	0
Mar	0	0	0	0
Apr	274,434	837	884	746
May	471,334	1,293	1,954	772
Jun	511,347	1,501	2,108	1,171
Jul	753,997	2,194	2,667	1,798
Aug	667,091	2,021	2,457	1,820
Sep	682,533	1,995	3,304	1,374
Oct	104,945	401	489	179
Nov	0	0	0	0
Dec	0	0	0	0
Total	3,465,680	10,242		
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.				

Table 6. City of Nampa (Municipal) monthly groundwater production, 2010-2014.

City of Nampa Municipal Annual Diversions (Combined Potable and Irrigation System) 2010-2014			
Year	Annual Potable Volume (AF)	Annual Non- Potable Volume (AF)	Total (AF)
2010	7,735	8,386	16,120
2011	7,658	11,006	18,664
2012	7,978	10,936	18,914
2013	8,278	8,428	16,706
2014	8,122	12,456	20,578
Average	7,954	10,242	18,197
Maximum	8,278	12,456	20,734
Minimum	7,658	8,386	16,044

Table 7. City of Nampa (Municipal) monthly groundwater production, 2010-2014.

Average Monthly City of Nampa Water Production (Combined Potable and Irrigation System) 2010-2014					
2010-2014	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	624	745	592	0	572
Feb	543	582	533	0	572
Mar	580	602	548	0	572
Apr	1,447	1,550	1,364	875	572
May	2,023	2,697	1,461	1,451	572
Jun	2,238	2,936	1,870	1,666	572
Jul	2,973	3,568	2,642	2,401	572
Aug	2,822	3,263	2,583	2,250	572
Sep	2,718	4,093	2,078	2,146	572
Oct	1,075	1,161	849	503	572
Nov	604	612	586	32	572
Dec	549	591	525	0	572
Total	18,197			11,323	6,865
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.					

Table 8. City of Nampa (Municipal) monthly groundwater production, 2010-2014.

### 3. CITY OF GARDEN CITY

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#### 3.1. Water Use<sup>4</sup>

Garden City's water system consists of eight active wells and a distribution system that serves approximately 12,500 residents. The water system has 4,600 total metered connections.

From 2010 to 2014, Garden City's annual groundwater diversions (Table 9) averaged 3,135 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 2,674 AF (2011) to a high of 3,450 AF (2014). Monthly diversions have ranged from a low of approximately 68 AF per month during the winter to a high of approximately 579 AF per month during the summer (Table 10). There are multiple irrigation ditches that supply non-potable water in Garden City.

City of Garden City Annual Diversions, 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	1,062,310	3,260
2011	871,338	2,674
2012	973,550	2,988
2013	1,076,791	3,305
2014	1,124,027	3,450
Average	1,021,603	3,135
Maximum	1,124,027	3,450
Minimum	871,338	2,674

Table 9. City of Garden City (Municipal) annual groundwater production, 2010-2014.

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<sup>4</sup> City of Garden City water and population data provided by Chas Heaton, April 7, 2015.

Average Monthly City of Garden City Water Production, 2010-2014						
2010-2014	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	57,951	178	273	107	41	136
Feb	39,561	121	154	102	0	121
Mar	43,488	133	168	109	0	133
Apr	59,017	181	223	133	45	136
May	96,713	297	353	224	160	136
Jun	128,178	393	460	308	257	136
Jul	172,612	530	579	484	393	136
Aug	159,360	489	543	384	353	136
Sep	125,176	384	397	354	248	136
Oct	65,943	202	232	172	66	136
Nov	37,758	116	127	106	0	116
Dec	35,846	110	131	68	0	110
Total	1,021,603	3,135	3,640	2,550	1,563	1,572
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.						

Table 10. City of Garden City monthly groundwater production, 2010-2014.

## 4. CITY OF MERIDIAN

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### 4.1. Water Use<sup>5</sup>

The City of Meridian's water system consists of 20 active wells and a distribution system that serves approximately 80,000 residents. The water system has 28,855 total connections. Of these, 26,798 are single-family residential connections and 1,535 are commercial or multi-family connections. There are also 522 sprinkler connections.

From 2010 to 2014, Meridian's annual groundwater diversions (Table 5) averaged 8,961 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 7,333 AF (2010) to a high of 10,180 AF (2014). Monthly diversions ranged from a low of approximately 284 AF per month during the winter to approximately 1,457 AF per month during the summer (Table 12). Unaccounted water was reported as 0 percent in 2014 and 3.5 percent in 2013.

Over 80 percent of Meridian water customers use surface water supply for irrigation. Most surface water for irrigation is provided by Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District and Settlers Irrigation District. Other irrigation entities provide surface water to south Meridian as well.

Meridian's wastewater treatment plant discharges treated water into Fivemile Creek, about 50 feet downstream of the confluence with Ninemile Creek. The wastewater treatment plant has the capability to provide Class A reclaimed water to landscape areas during part of the year.

The city adopted a 2011 Water Conservation Plan which includes current and future actions. Water conservation actions include water leak monitoring, irrigation audits, metering all customers, encouraging surface-water irrigation, and support of building codes for water-efficient fixture regulation.

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<sup>5</sup> City of Meridian water and population data provided by Jacy Jones, March 12, 2015.

City of Meridian Annual Diversions, 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	2,389,313	7,333
2011	2,392,298	7,342
2012	3,185,881	9,777
2013	3,315,576	10,175
2014	3,317,204	10,180
Average	2,920,054	8,961
Maximum	3,317,204	10,180
Minimum	2,389,313	7,333

Table 11. City of Meridian annual groundwater production, 2010-2014.

Average Monthly City of Meridian Water Production, 2010-2014						
2010-2014	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	169,322.92	520	611	374	31	489
Feb	155,332.06	477	630	366	0	477
Mar	162,037.08	497	573	435	9	489
Apr	200,930.12	617	819	444	128	489
May	259,761.82	797	1,035	543	308	489
Jun	320,620.53	984	1,226	762	495	489
Jul	412,382.93	1,266	1,457	989	777	489
Aug	394,746.34	1,211	1,341	1,115	723	489
Sep	317,223.22	974	1,173	771	485	489
Oct	226,660.94	696	832	529	207	489
Nov	147,918.77	454	558	329	0	454
Dec	153,117.49	470	642	284	0	470
Total	2,920,054	8,961			3,162	5,799
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.						

Table 12. City of Meridian monthly groundwater production, 2010-2014.

## 5. CITY OF CALDWELL

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### 5.1. Water Use<sup>6</sup>

The City of Caldwell's water system consists of 12 active wells and a distribution system that serves approximately 51,691 residents. The system has 15,222 connections. Of these, 1,100 are commercial connections and 14,122 are residential connections. Municipal water deliveries to these connections are metered.

From 2010 to September 2014, Caldwell's annual groundwater diversions<sup>7</sup> (Table 13) averaged 5,449 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 5,137 AF in 2011 to a high of 5,791 AF in 2013. Monthly diversions range from a low of approximately 284 AF per month during the winter to a high of approximately 785 AF per month during the summer (Table 14). Caldwell reported that approximately 8 percent of total pumping was considered unaccounted water in 2014.

The City of Caldwell provides surface water to 8,733 customers for pressure irrigation. There are six other irrigation entities that provide water to other service areas: Pioneer Irrigation District, Golden Gate Irrigation District, Canyon Hill Irrigation District, Nampa- Meridian Irrigation District, Boise Board of Control, and Caldwell Irrigation Lateral District.

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<sup>6</sup> City of Caldwell water and population data provided by Gary Shoemaker, March 10, 2015.

<sup>7</sup> 2014 data is excluded from annual totals as data was only provided through September 2014.



City of Caldwell Annual Diversions, 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	1,715,421	5,264
2011	1,673,847	5,137
2012	1,826,376	5,605
2013	1,886,884	5,791
2014	-	-
Average	1,775,632	5,449
Maximum	1,886,884	5,791
Minimum	1,673,847	5,137

Table 13. City of Caldwell annual groundwater production 2010-2013.

Average Monthly City of Caldwell Water Production, 2010-2014						
2010-2014	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	103,975	319	342	295	4	315
Feb	96,717	297	311	284	0	297
Mar	112,975	347	360	325	32	315
Apr	134,484	413	449	370	98	315
May	172,502	529	610	460	215	315
Jun	197,252	605	672	520	291	315
Jul	243,344	747	785	694	432	315
Aug	223,170	685	725	652	370	315
Sep	175,573	539	560	519	224	315
Oct	125,687	386	399	368	71	315
Nov	100,534	309	333	299	0	309
Dec	106,938	328	380	307	13	315
Total	1,793,148	5,503			1,751	3,752
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.						

Table 14. City of Caldwell monthly groundwater production 2010- 2013.

## 6. CAPITOL WATER CORPORATION

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### 6.1. Water Use<sup>8</sup>

Capitol Water Corporation's delivery system consists of five municipal wells and a distribution system that serves approximately 8,000 residents. The system has 2,890 connections of which 2,608 are residential connections and 282 are commercial connections (which include 21 commercial fire protection connections). Commercial connections are metered; residential connections are not metered.

From 2010 to 2014, Capitol Water Corporation's annual groundwater diversions (Table 7) averaged 2,201 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 1,968 AF in 2011 to a high of 2,493 AF in 2014 (Table 15). Monthly diversion data<sup>9</sup> ranged from a low of approximately 65 AF per month during the winter to a high of approximately 462 AF per month during the summer (Table 16).

Capitol Water uses an alternate day irrigation schedule and has no intentions of future growth because UWID surrounds the entire water system.

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<sup>8</sup> Capitol Water Corporation's water and population data provided by Bob Price, April 15, 2015.

<sup>9</sup> Monthly data per well provided for 2014 only.

Capitol Water Corporation Annual Diversions, 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	663,614	2,037
2011	641,316	1,968
2012	695,768	2,135
2013	719,456	2,208
2014	812,219	2,493
Average	680,039	2,087
Maximum	719,456	2,208
Minimum	641,316	1,968

Table 15. Capitol Water Corporation annual groundwater diversions, 2010 - 2014.

Average Monthly Capitol Water Corporation Water Production, 2014						
2014	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	21,044	65	-	-	0	65
Feb	34,942	107	-	-	17	90
Mar	34,418	106	-	-	16	90
Apr	43,983	135	-	-	45	90
May	76,858	236	-	-	146	90
Jun	119,577	367	-	-	277	90
Jul	135,660	416	-	-	326	90
Aug	150,578	462	-	-	372	90
Sep	92,019	282	-	-	192	90
Oct	40,806	125	-	-	35	90
Nov	30,333	93	-	-	3	90
Dec	32,001	98	-	-	8	90
Total	812,219	2,493	-	-	1,438	1,055
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.						

Table 16. Capitol Water Corporation monthly groundwater diversions, 2014.

## 7. EAGLE WATER COMPANY

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### 7.1. Water Use<sup>10</sup>

The Eagle Water Company's water system consists of six active wells and a distribution system that serves approximately 10,000 residents. The water system has 3,550 total connections. Of these, 3,075 are residential connections and 475 are commercial or multi-family connections. There are an additional 112 landscape irrigation accounts.

From 2010 to 2014, Eagle Water Company's annual groundwater diversions (Table 17) averaged 2,295 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 2,186 AF (2011) to a high of 2,441 AF (2013). Monthly diversions ranged from a low of approximately 66 AF per month during the winter to approximately 381 AF per month during the summer (Table 18). Unaccounted water is reported to be from 10 to 15 percent and is mainly attributed to flushing and fire protection.

Eagle Water Company Annual Diversions, 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	731,159	2,244
2011	712,336	2,186
2012	753,619	2,313
2013	795,401	2,441
2014	746,024	2,289
Average	747,708	2,295
Maximum	795,401	2,441
Minimum	712,336	2,186

Table 17. Eagle Water Company annual groundwater production, 2010-2014.

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<sup>10</sup> Eagle Water Company water and population data provided by Robert DeShazo, March 11, 2015.

Average Monthly Eagle Water Company Production, 2014						
2010-2014	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	25,505	78	83	73	4	74
Feb	22,487	69	73	66	0	69
Mar	25,263	78	86	71	3	74
Apr	44,775	137	220	96	63	74
May	78,048	240	324	190	165	74
Jun	100,397	308	348	262	234	74
Jul	132,620	407	444	381	333	74
Aug	122,206	375	407	335	301	74
Sep	95,015	292	331	256	217	74
Oct	48,219	148	175	123	73	74
Nov	28,345	87	133	71	12	74
Dec	24,829	76	81	72	2	74
Total	747,708	2,295	—	—	1,406	888
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.						

Table 18. Eagle Water Company monthly groundwater production, 2010-2014.

## 8. CITY OF KUNA

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### 8.1. Water Use<sup>11</sup>

The City of Kuna's water system consists of eight wells and a distribution system that serves approximately 16,000 residents. The water system has 5,706 total metered connections.

From 2012 to 2014, Kuna's annual groundwater diversions (Table 19) averaged 2,331 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 2,003 AF (2012) to a high of 2,555 AF (2013). The city's monthly diversions between 2012 and 2014 ranged from a low of approximately 27 AF per month in the winter to a high of approximately 495 AF in the summer (Table 20). Kuna reported approximately 9 percent unaccounted water in 2014.

Surface water from the Boise-Kuna Irrigation District, New York Irrigation District, and Nampa-Meridian Irrigation District is used for irrigation within the city's municipal distribution area. Kuna uses reclaimed wastewater to irrigate a 406 acre farm.

City of Kuna Annual Diversions, 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	-	-
2011	-	-
2012	652,659	2,003
2013	832,643	2,555
2014	793,124	2,434
Average	759,475	2,331
Maximum	832,643	2,555
Minimum	652,659	2,003

Table 19. City of Kuna annual groundwater production, 2012- 2014.

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<sup>11</sup> City of Kuna water and population data provided by Debbie Crosley, March 10, 2015.

Average Monthly City of Kuna Water Production, 2010-2014						
2010-2014	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	25,509	78	108	27	0	78
Feb	25,387	78	95	46	0	78
Mar	31,454	97	102	89	12	84
Apr	65,377	201	225	172	116	84
May	79,837	245	297	173	161	84
Jun	92,774	285	324	229	200	84
Jul	134,188	412	495	344	327	84
Aug	120,872	371	429	336	287	84
Sep	77,117	237	280	188	152	84
Oct	43,455	133	148	116	49	84
Nov	31,971	98	102	96	14	84
Dec	31,535	97	123	67	12	84
Total	759,475	2,331			1,331	999
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.						

Table 20. City of Kuna monthly groundwater production, 2012- 2014.

## 9. THE CITY OF EAGLE

### 9.1. Water Use<sup>12</sup>

The City of Eagle's water system consists of four wells and a distribution system that serves approximately 12,500 residents. The water system has 1,709 total metered connections. Of these, 1,688 are residential connections and 21 are commercial (schools and irrigation) connections.

From 2010 to 2013, Eagle's annual groundwater diversions (Table 21) averaged 415 acre-feet (AF), ranging from a low of 391 AF (2012) to a high of 434 AF (2011). The city's monthly diversions from 2010 and 2013 ranged from approximately 11 AF in winter months to 64 AF in summer (Table 22). The data provided noted many issues with SCADA data collection; these issues could result in inaccuracies in annual and monthly data.

<sup>12</sup> City of Eagle water and population data provided by Kellie Rekow, March 12, 2015.

There are several irrigation companies which provide irrigation to subdivisions through homeowners associations. In the past several years the City of Eagle has done high amounts of flushing and they believe the majority of the unaccounted water is directly linked to it. They reported an estimate of 12 percent unaccounted water, but believe it is declining as flushing is not needed as often.

City of Eagle Annual Diversions, 2010-2014		
Year	Annual Volume (gal x 1,000)	Annual Volume (AF)
2010	134,099	412
2011	141,517	434
2012	127,561	391
2013	137,986	423
2014		-
Average	135,291	415
Maximum	141,517	434
Minimum	127,561	391

Table 21. City of Eagle annual groundwater production, 2012- 2013.



Average Monthly City of Eagle Water Production, 2010-2014						
2010-2013	Average (gals x1000)	Average (AF)	Maximum (AF)	Minimum (AF)	Average Estimated Irrigation Use (AF)	Average Estimated Domestic Use (AF)
Jan	10,406	32	41	25	3	29
Feb	9,041	28	41	12	0	28
Mar	10,380	32	36	29	3	29
Apr	12,739	39	51	23	11	29
May	13,688	42	63	31	13	29
Jun	11,848	36	39	33	8	29
Jul	12,698	39	44	32	10	29
Aug	14,512	45	48	41	16	29
Sep	12,913	40	64	30	11	29
Oct	8,335	26	32	11	0	26
Nov	10,282	32	38	26	3	29
Dec	8,451	26	33	21	0	26
Total	135,291	415			79	336
* Domestic use is represented by average water use in December through February.						

Table 22. City of Eagle monthly groundwater production, 2012- 2013.

## APPENDIX B:

### INCREASED EVAPOTRANSPIRATION AS A RESULT OF CLIMATE CHANGE<sup>1</sup>

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The increasing temperatures in the Northwest may result in an increase in evapotranspiration, although there is uncertainty in how much the increase in temperature will affect crop evapotranspiration and future estimates of irrigation demands.

Monthly potential evapotranspiration (PET) for Idaho Climate Division 1 was estimated from mean monthly temperature for this climate division using the Hamon equation (Hamon, 1961). Monthly Hamon PET (PET<sub>Hamon</sub>) was estimated using the equation:

$$PET_{Hamon} = 0.165 d L W_t \quad (1)$$

Where  $PET_{Hamon}$  is the PET in millimeters (mm) per month;  $d$  is the number of days in a month,  $L$  is the mean monthly hours of daylight in multiples of 12 hours, and  $W_t$  is the saturated water vapor density (g/m<sup>3</sup>) calculated by:

$$W_t = 4.95 \exp(0.062T) \quad (2)$$

Where  $T$  is the monthly mean temperature in degrees Celsius.  
(McCabe and Wolock, 2002)

The monthly variation of PET (Hamon, 1961) is given in Figure 1. Mean monthly temperatures were then increased by 1°C and the Hamon PET was recalculated. The results from this analysis are summarized in Table 1.

Based on this analysis, the percentage PET change was estimated to be 6.4 percent for every 1°C increase in mean temperature.

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<sup>1</sup> This section, reprinted from SPF et al. (2010), was used as the basis for assumptions regarding increased evapotranspiration for these Treasure Valley future DCMI water-demand projections.

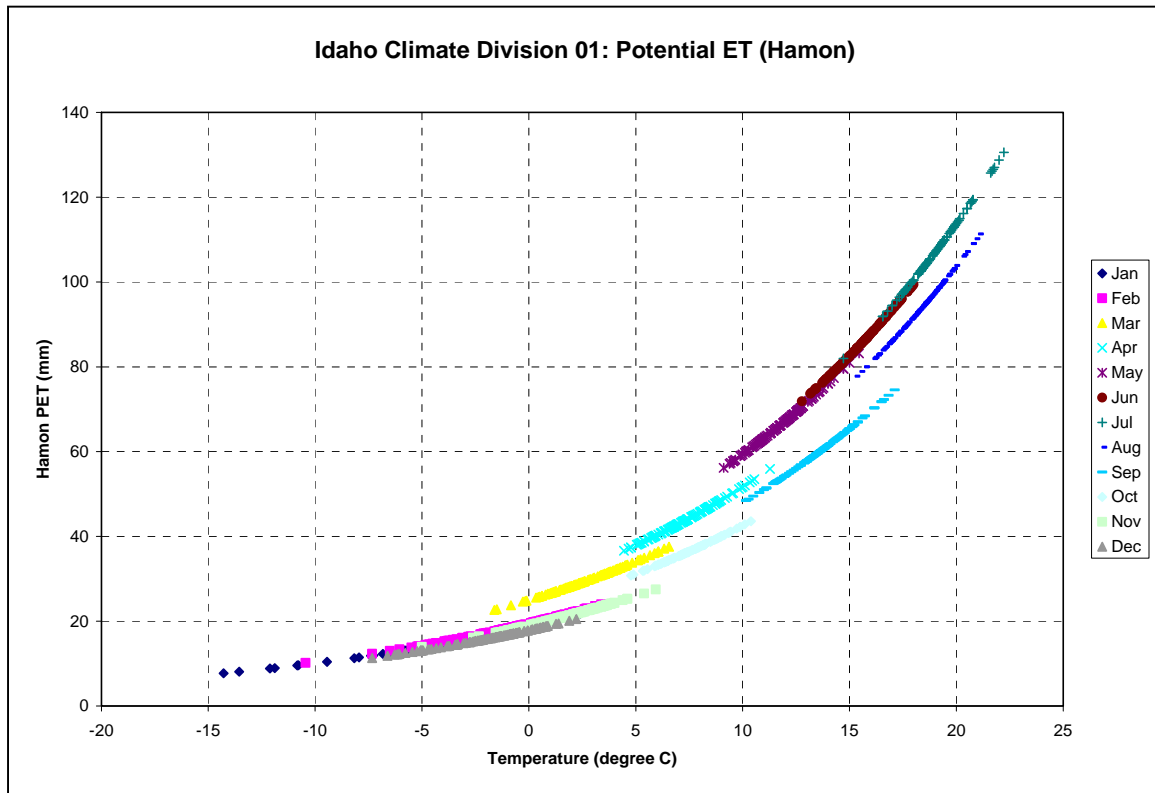


Figure 1. Monthly variation of potential evapotranspiration (Hamon, 1961) with mean monthly temperature.

Month	Hammon PET (mm)	
	<i>Historical</i>	<i>With +1 degree C</i>
Jan	15.57	16.56
Feb	18.58	19.77
Mar	29.93	31.85
Apr	44.14	46.96
May	66.76	71.03
Jun	85.10	90.55
Jul	107.09	113.94
Aug	93.47	99.45
Sep	59.88	63.71
Oct	36.67	39.02
Nov	21.08	22.43
Dec	16.00	17.02

Table 1. Monthly PET (Hamon) – historical and with 1°C increase in temperature.

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## **APPENDIX C:**

### **WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES**

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#### **1.1. Potential Water Conservation Measures and Programs**

The following list of potential water conservation measures and programs was completed by evaluating existing measures and programs in the area, reviewing the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Draft Water Conservation Measures and Guidelines for Preparing Water Conservation Plans document (IDWR, 2006), and familiarity with water-conservation measures in other areas:

1. Water Efficient Fixtures/Appliances and Incentives
  - a. Retrofit kits
  - b. Indoor retrofitting at water provider facilities
  - c. Rebates and incentives -- residential and non-residential
  - d. Promotion of new technologies
2. Landscape Efficiency
  - a. Promotion of landscape efficiency
  - b. Landscape planning and renovation
  - c. Selective irrigation sub-metering
  - d. Irrigation management
  - e. Turf/high water use landscaping buy-back/incentive program
  - f. Xeric or drought-tolerant landscaping and demonstration gardens at provider facilities
  - g. Certification program/classes for landscape/irrigation professionals
  - h. Outdoor water conservation kits
  - i. Rain sensor incentive
  - j. Evaluation of landscape and irrigation plans for new/re-development
3. Water-Use Audits
  - a. Audits of large-volume users
  - b. Landscape and irrigation audits
  - c. Indoor water audits for residential customers
4. Industrial and Commercial Efficiency
  - a. Commercial and industrial water conservation education and support
  - b. Low-flow commercial pre-rinse spray washers

5. Education/Information Distribution
  - a. Public education
  - b. Youth and teacher education
  - c. Workshops
  - d. Water conservation webpage
  - e. Conservation information available for customers
6. Encouraging Water Conservation through Water Rate Structures and Billing
  - a. Inverted, tiered water rate schedule
  - b. Cost-of-service accounting
  - c. User charges
  - d. Metered rates
  - e. Cost analysis
  - f. No promotional rates
  - g. Understandable and informational water bill
  - h. Peer-user information (e.g., average use by neighbors) printed on water bill
  - i. Water bill inserts
7. Regulations/Ordinances
  - a. Water use standards and regulations
  - b. Requirements for new developments
8. Other Water Management Activities
  - a. Water conservation officer staff position
  - b. Customer service
  - c. Advisory committee
9. Water Reuse/Recycling
  - a. Industrial and commercial applications; large-volume water users
  - b. Treatment facility water conservation/efficiency opportunities
10. Universal Metering
  - a. Source-water metering
  - b. Surface-connection metering
  - c. Meter public use water
  - d. Fixed-interval meter reading
  - e. Meter-extra seat analysis
  - f. Test, calibrate, repair, and replace meters
11. Water Accounting and Loss Control
  - a. System maintenance, leak detection, and repair program
  - b. Analysis of "unaccounted" water

- c. Water system audit
- d. Automated sensors/telemetry
- 12. Pressure Management
  - a. System-wide pressure regulation
  - b. Selective use of pressure-reducing valves
- 13. On-Farm Water Use and Irrigation Districts
  - a. On-farm water efficiency improvements
  - b. Irrigation district operations (e.g., improved metering, peer water use reporting, etc.).

This list of potential conservation measures may not be appropriate for all water providers in the Treasure Valley Aquifer area, as each of the providers operate under unique conditions. However, this list of water conservation measures and programs can be used as a guide for discussion among the water providers in determining which programs might be most appropriate. Also, the above outline does not represent an exhaustive list of water conservation options available. Additional user measures<sup>1</sup>, such as replacing turf with xeric or drought-tolerant landscaping, or running washing machines only with a full load, could offer substantial water savings.

## 2. REFERENCES

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IDWR, 2006. Water Conservation Measures and Guidelines for Preparing Water Conservation Plans, Prepared by the Idaho Department of Water Resources, available in draft form (February 2006) from [https://www.idwr.idaho.gov/files/ground\\_water\\_mgmt/200602-Draft-Conservation-Plan.pdf](https://www.idwr.idaho.gov/files/ground_water_mgmt/200602-Draft-Conservation-Plan.pdf).

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<sup>1</sup> User measures are sometimes referred to as non-structural measures (e.g., using the washing machine only with a full load) as opposed to structural measures (a low water-use washing machine).