Rental Pools in Idaho

Inland Northwest Drought Forum

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Rental Pools

• In certain river basins storage systems were built and reservoir space contracted to various water-using entities

• First “informal” trades between storage spaceholders in 1919

• Rental pools provide a mechanism for storage space holders to make their storage available to others if they don’t use it all in a given year
Rental Pools

• Rental Pools allow temporary transfers of storage water allocations

• State’s goals are to:
  ✓ Encourage highest beneficial use of water
  ✓ Provide water for new and supplemental uses
  ✓ Generate funds to improve water facilities

• Temporary transfers of natural flow and ground water rights are handled through the Idaho Water Supply Bank
Rental Pools

• First known rental of storage water between water users was in 1919 in Upper Snake Basin

• Statutory framework was formalized in 1979 as recommended in 1976 State Water Plan

• Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) is charged with*
  - Creation of new rental pools
  - Appointment of Local Committee for operation
  - Approval of operating procedures
  - Oversight and review of operations

*Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Rental Pool has different relationship due to Fort Hall Water Rights Agreement
Rental Pools

• Payette River Basin
  (Water District 65 and 65-K Rental Pools)

• Boise River Basin
  (Water District 63 Rental Pool)

• Upper Snake River Basin
  (Water District 1 and Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Rental Pools)
Rental Pool Operations

• IWRB appoints local committee to manage the rental pool (water district advisory committee)

• Local committee develops procedures for the operation of their rental pool, which require IWRB approval

• Procedures include pricing structure and other operational requirements
Rental Pool Operations

• Local committees delegate daily management to Watermaster
• Annual Report submitted to IWRB
# Rental Pool Pricing

**Boise (Water District 63)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Price</th>
<th>Amt. to WD63</th>
<th>Amt. to Spaceholder</th>
<th>Amt. to IWRB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$17/AF</td>
<td>$1.30/AF</td>
<td>$14.27/AF</td>
<td>$1.43/AF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Payette (Water District 65)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Price</th>
<th>Amt. to WD65</th>
<th>Amt. to Spaceholder</th>
<th>Amt. to IWRB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Basin</td>
<td>$3.50/AF</td>
<td>$1.30/AF</td>
<td>$2.00/AF</td>
<td>$0.20/AF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-Basin</td>
<td>$17/AF</td>
<td>$1.30/AF</td>
<td>$14.27/AF</td>
<td>$1.43/AF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Rental Pool Pricing

## •Upper Snake (Water District 01)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Price</th>
<th>Amt. to WD01 Admin. Fee</th>
<th>Amt. to Spaceholder</th>
<th>Amt. to IWRB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Basin</td>
<td>Variable based on water supply</td>
<td>$1.05/AF</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>10% of amt. to spaceholder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Basin Private Lease</td>
<td>Negotiated</td>
<td>$1.05/AF</td>
<td>Negotiated</td>
<td>10% of amt. to spaceholder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-Basin Flow Augmentation</td>
<td>$17/AF</td>
<td>$1.05/AF</td>
<td>$14.50/AF</td>
<td>$1.45/AF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of Basin Supplemental Pool (hydro)</td>
<td>Negotiated</td>
<td>$1.80/AF</td>
<td>Negotiated</td>
<td>10% of amt. to spaceholder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rental Pool Pricing

• BOR’s release of “uncontracted” space for downstream flow augmentation must be run through Rental Pools, but only Water District administration fee is assessed

• Price for flow augmentation water set by Nez Perce Water Rights Agreement

• The Water Districts use funds received for administration of Rental Pool and projects for more efficient distribution of water

• The IWRB uses funds received to provide loans state-wide for rehabilitation and improvement of water infrastructure
Rental Pool Use

The use of the three rental pools (Boise, Payette, Upper Snake) averages as shown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rental Pool</th>
<th>Average Annual Rental Pool Use (past 10 years)*</th>
<th>Approximate Basin Storage Volume</th>
<th>Approximate Acres in Basin Irrigated by Surface Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boise</td>
<td>8,898 AF</td>
<td>1 million AF</td>
<td>300,000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payette</td>
<td>67,234 AF</td>
<td>800,000 AF</td>
<td>200,000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Snake</td>
<td>214,953 AF</td>
<td>4 million AF</td>
<td>1,200,000 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Does not include release of BOR uncontracted space
Rental Pool Uses Over the Years

- Reallocate irrigation supplies among users
- Rentals from Upper Snake for hydropower in 1970’s & 80’s – still occur in good water years
- Rentals by BOR for downstream ESA flow augmentation began in early 1990’s
- Rentals from Upper Snake by junior ground water users on Eastern Snake Plain to provide replacement water (mitigation) to senior surface water users began in early 2000’s
- We expect growing M&I uses in Treasure Valley to make use of Boise Rental Pool in future
Future Rental Pools?

- Establishing Rental Pool in Bear River Basin has been promoted by Idaho
- Interstate nature of Bear River and interstate use of water stored in Bear Lake has complicated this issue
Key Take-Away for Rental Pools

• Rental Pools provide flexibility in Idaho’s major storage systems to accommodate changing needs for water, including

  ✓ Reallocating irrigation supplies among users
  ✓ Flow augmentation for downstream endangered species needs
  ✓ Mitigation needs of junior ground-water users
  ✓ Hydropower generation

• Accomplished in a way that provides funds to spaceholders, water districts, and the IWRB to improve water facilities
Questions?