The Board’s Water Supply Bank; As A Tool to Alleviate Drought Affects

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The Water Supply Bank

A mechanism by which water rights that are not being used can be made available for use by others through the lease and rental process.
What isn’t “the Bank?”

- Not a rental pool
Bank vs. Rental Pools

**Board’s Bank**
- Managed by IDWR for the IWRB
- Throughout Idaho
- Ground and surface water – live/natural flow

**Rental pool**
- Managed by local committee
  - Snake River Basin
  - Boise River Basin
  - Payette River Basin
  - Lemhi River Basin
  - Wood River Basin
- Largely storage water
Bank’s Purpose

- Exchange market
  - marketing of water rights
  - allows for private marketing
- Provides a source of adequate water supplies
- Mechanism to temporarily change/protect water rights
  - alternative to a transfer
  - protect from forfeiture
- Encourages the highest beneficial use of water
- Funding source
  - Board’s financial program

Source: IDAPA 37.02.03.01 and Idaho Code 42-1761
Vocabulary

- Lease – *into* the Bank
- Rent – *from* the Bank

PROTECTION FROM FORFEITURE
Bank Process

- Non-use of a water right
- Application to LEASE
- IDWR review
- Leased water put to work at rental applicant's land
- Bank
- IDWR review

Benefits to Leasing
- Protection from forfeiture
- Can be profitable

Not approvable

- Individual in need of water
- Application to RENT
- Bank
  - 10% Board
  - 90% Lessor
Historical Activity

Water Supply Bank Activity: # of Lease and Rentals

Activity

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900

1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009 2011

# rentals current or pending  # leases current or pending
Historical Activity

Staff

- Historically one full-time agent and one part-time clerical staff
- INCREASES ACTIVITY + LIMITED STAFF = BACKLOG

Water Supply Bank Backlog

- More staff to process applications
- Cost of diverting IDWR staff
2013 Drought
Drought and the Bank

Bank Activity: Drought Year vs. Non-Drought Year

- 2011 Rentals
- 2013 Rentals
Case Study
Processing Rental Applications and Outside Influences

Synopsis

Live flow → Must be delivered thru canal → Lease identified → Delivery entity must agree to deliver

Canal

River

Dried up land under lease

Rental Place of Use
Findings

Processing Rental Applications and Outside Influences

Application question could not be completed by applicants 1 and 2.

B. OWNERSHIP

1. Do you own the land at the proposed point of diversion?  Yes □ No X
   If no, list owner, contact information, and attach a copy of the agreement or other written authority to use the proposed point of diversion.

2. Do you own the land at the proposed place of use?  Yes □ No □
   If no, list owner, contact information, and attach a copy of the agreement or other written authority to use the proposed place of use.
Case Study
Processing Rental Applications and Outside Influences

Discussion

Application 1
Delivery Entity

Application 2
Delivery Entity

Application 3
Delivery Entity
Case Study
Processing Rental Applications and Outside Influences

Conclusion

• Serve the public

• Facilitate discussions
  • existing policies
  • wheeling fees
  • delivery losses

• Application success
  • Understand what the proposal is
  • Who are the players
  • What policies are in place by the 3rd party
The Future

The Future of the Bank

• New water supply bank coordinator position
  • Policy changes on the horizon
  • Streamline processing of applications
  • Create more on-line tools
  • Public outreach
Questions?