

CHAPTER V  
GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The problem of groundwater management under the legal code of Idaho has been investigated from the viewpoints of hydrology, engineering, economics and law. Conclusions from each of these specific studies have been presented. Several general conclusions may be presented from the combined study.

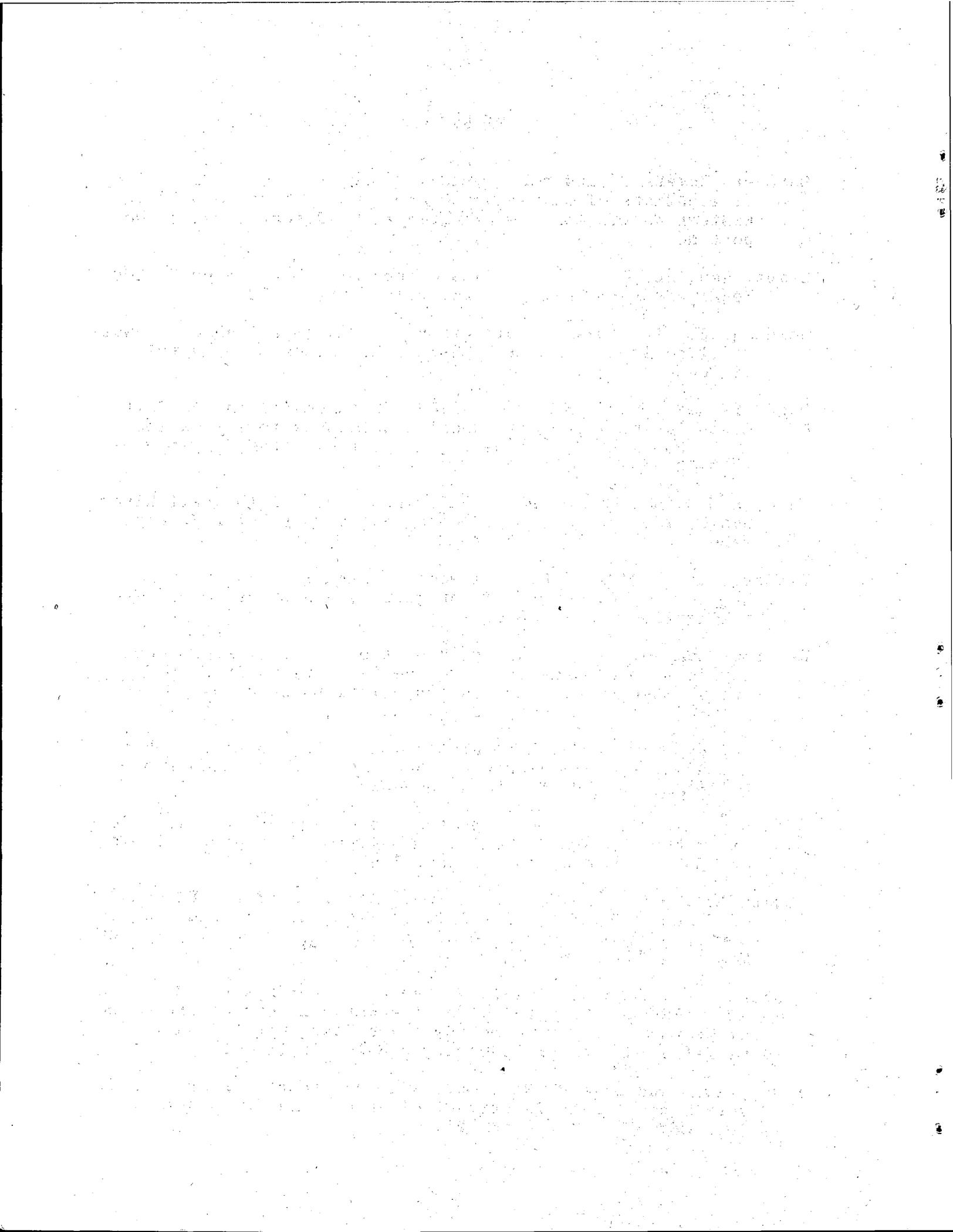
1. The legal guidelines for groundwater management are subject to a wide range of interpretation which in turn may provide a wide range of possible administrative actions. The present lack of judicial interpretation makes it impossible to assess the feasibility of many of the alternatives. However, it is believed that the range of alternatives available under the Idaho Code will allow efficient groundwater management in a wide range of physical situations.

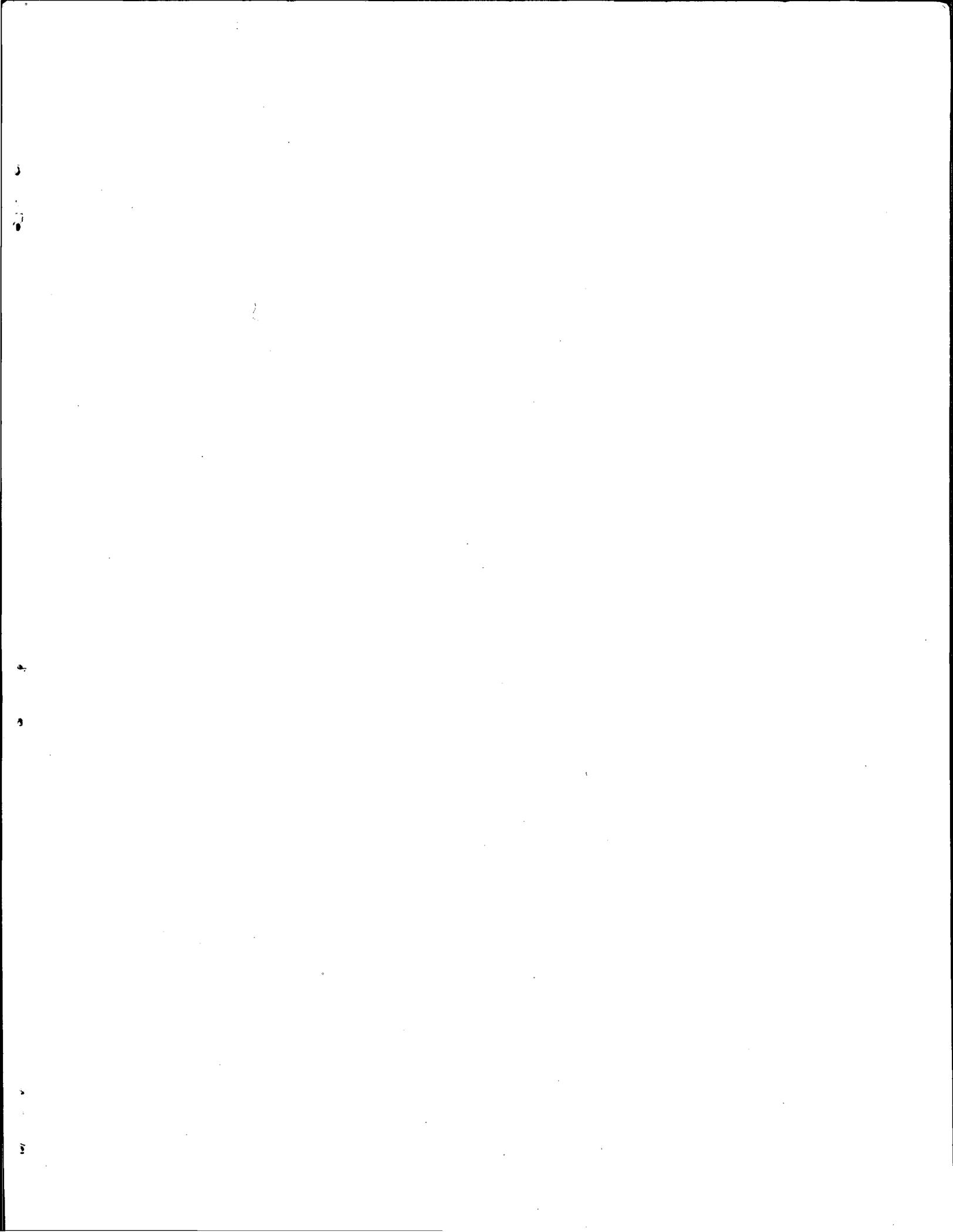
2. The reasonable pumping lift concept is based upon the assumption of a strong cause-effect relationship in a groundwater flow system. It is also based upon the assumption that the depth to pumping water level is a major factor in the economics of water utilization. Neither of these assumptions is necessarily true. The cause-effect relationship of well interference is dependent on hydrologic factors as well as distance between wells and the location of the wells in the basin. The depth to pumping water level and the rate of water level decline are not the most dominant factors in farm economics. The concept of reasonable pumping levels is valuable for resource management only if adequate definitions and techniques of resource administration are utilized.

3. The recharge limit concept is based upon long-term impacts of resource development. The legal and physical definition of the concept of "reasonably anticipated average rate of future natural recharge" is the greatest problem for resource administration.

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