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Rental Pools in Idaho

Treasure Valley CAMP Advisory Committee

Brian Patton, Idaho Department of Water Resources

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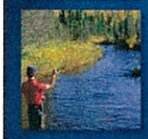

Rental Pools

- Rental pools provide a mechanism for those holding storage water (stored in reservoirs) to make their storage available to others if they don't use all of it in a given year.

- First known rental of storage water was in 1932 in the Upper Snake Basin, although the statutory framework was not put into place until 1979.

- Authorized by Idaho Code 42-1765.

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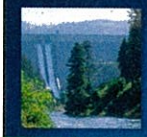
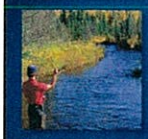

Rental Pools

- Rental pools have been established in the
  - Boise River Basin (Water District 63)
  - Payette River Basin (Water District 65) & Lake Fork (Water District 65-K)
  - Upper Snake River Basin (Water District 1)
- Special purpose rental pools have been established in the Big Wood and Lemhi Rivers.
- Establishing one in the Bear River Basin has been under consideration, but the interstate nature of the river has complicated this issue.

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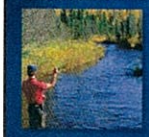

Rental Pools

- Idaho Water Resource Board appoints a local committee to manage the rental pool – has always been the water district advisory committee.
- Local committee develops procedures for the operation of their rental pool, which then must be approved by the Idaho Water Resource Board.
- Procedures include a pricing structure and other operational requirements.

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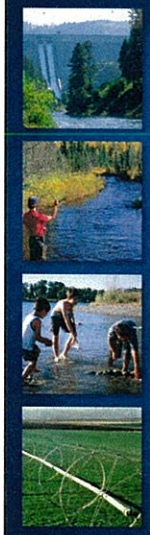

Rental Pools

- In all rental pools:
  - There is an in-basin rental price and an out-of-basin rental price. In the Boise Rental Pool there are the same at $14/AF total cost. The Nez Perce Water Rights Agreement fixed the out-of-basin price at $14/AF for all rental pools and will increase over time.
  - The local water district receives a fee for administration of the water – generally between $0.50 and $1.00/AF.
  - The Water Resource Board receives a fee equal to 10% of the return to the spaceholder – this varies between $0.20/AF to $2.00/AF.
  - The remainder to the lease price goes to the spaceholder.

- The Water Resource Board uses funds received from rental pools to make loans to build, re-build, and improve water infrastructure around the state.

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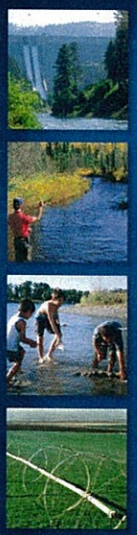

Rental Pool Use

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

Rental Pool	Average Annual Rental Pool Use (past 8 years)*	Basin Storage Volume	Acres in Basin Irrigated by Surface Water
Boise	6,236 AF	1 million AF	300,000 acres
Payette	63,741 AF	800,000 AF	200,000 acres
Upper Snake	129,073 AF	4 million AF	1,200,000 acres

* Exclusive of release of BOR uncontracted space

Use of the Boise Rental Pool appears low compared to the other rental pools despite having rapidly growing DCMI uses.

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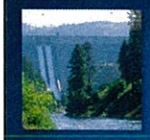
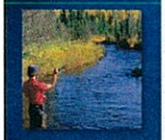

Questions?