APPENDIX A

Issue Summary

The following list represents all comments provided by individuals attending public meetings held by the Idaho Water Resource Board in March through May 1997, Payette River Citizens Group workshops, and written comments. Ten broad categories were identified. Individual comments were organized under the appropriate heading. Repetitious comments were condensed to a single statement. The order of presentation does not indicate significance or importance of the issue. The Payette River Citizens Group reviewed this list when ranking issues, identifying those that they felt should be addressed in the Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan.

PROPOSED STATE PROTECTED RIVER DESIGNATIONS

a) Maintain current state protected river designations contained in the Payette River Reaches Comprehensive State Water Plan.

b) Consider additional reaches of the Payette River and tributaries for state protected river designation. Some suggestions include:

- North Fork Payette - headwaters to Payette Lake
- North Fork Payette River - Payette Lake Outlet to Cascade Reservoir
- Deadwood River - Dam to Julie Creek
- Upper Middle Fork Payette
- South Fork Payette tributaries - Pine Creek and Clear Creek

c) Investigate option of Federal Wild and Scenic designation

WATER ALLOCATION

a) Concerns about affects from implementation of the
J Ditch Project for McCall effluent - What happens to stream water replaced by effluent? Prevent allocation of any increased instream flows.

b) Possibility of exploring adjustments and flexibility to releases and timing from storage projects to meet irrigator water rights and contracts, as well as water quality, flood management, private property owners, fisheries, wildlife, and recreation needs .

c) Quantify federal reserved water rights in the Payette River Basin (Forest Service).

d) Desire minimum stream flow between Upper Payette and Big Payette Lake.

e) Desire summer releases in the North Fork Payette between Payette Lake Outlet and Cascade Reservoir to provide sufficient flows for fishery and recreation.

f) Desire minimum stream flows on Deadwood River below Deadwood Dam-- fall and spring transitional flows, adequate winter flows for fishery maintenance.

g) Desire minimum stream flow at Letha.

h) Concerns about water used for salmon flow augmentation.

i) Concerns about the ponds constructed for stock and recreation use in Round Valley and impacts to downstream users.

j) Black Canyon Irrigation District wastewater use.

k) Water spreading of Black Canyon project water.

WATER STORAGE AND DELIVERY

a) Improve efficiency of water delivery for Payette River System irrigation system.

b) Desire to see more water conservation - reduction in irrigation return flows.
c) Concerns that gains in efficiency and water rental pools may affect instream flows.
d) Implement Cascade irrigation diversion efficiency study.
e) Comprehensive study of irrigation diversions, especially Lower Payette - opportunity to consolidate diversions and/or upgrade them.
f) Need funding for permanent diversion structures.
g) Problem with silt in sluice gates at Black Canyon.
h) Public safety issue for irrigation diversion improvements (Lower Payette/Cascade area).
i) Mud Creek over appropriated with many water rights on wastewater returns.
j) Beaver dams in drainage ditches needing removed.
k) If irrigation districts are to maintain instream flows in tributaries to Cascade Reservoir, must have technical capability/infrastructure to do so.
l) Instream flows below Letha, concerned about zero flows.
m) Would like to see improved diversion measuring, more gages on the Payette River System, improved measuring devices, etc.
n) Concerns that improved irrigation efficiency will result in forfeiture or partial forfeiture of water rights.
o) Need improvements to Letha gage, needs frequent cleaning and calibration.

MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY

a) Infrastructure needed for Emmett to meet water quality standards and growth - funding needed.
b) Emmett needs centralized water systems and tanks in new subdivisions to fight fires.
c) Ola needs water storage for fire protection to lower their insurance rating.
d) Concerns about a secure municipal water supply for Horseshoe Bend - have junior water right requiring purchase of storage water every year. Will they be able to purchase in a low water year?
e) Future water supplies for the Garden Valley area - should they go to a community system?
f) Study explored community well system for Lowman residents -- cost too high, other options for funding or supplying water?
g) City of Donnelly may be asked to provide water to north shore of Cascade Reservoir area, may require additional well.
h) City of McCall still needs to fund Phase 2 of water treatment plant.

WATER QUALITY

a) Need to collect information to identify baseline water quality characteristics for specific reaches.
b) Concerns that land use development in areas with high water table and separate septic systems will adversely impact water quality of wells, groundwater, canals and rivers.
c) Leaking canals may cause rise in the water table and may contribute to potential water quality problems in areas with septic systems.
d) Concerns about density of land use and associated individual septic systems adjacent to rivers (particularly near South Fork Payette and Middle Fork Payette).
e) Concerns that constructing sewage treatment plants to address individual septic system issues will promote development in the floodplain.
f) Concerns that older development does not meet current regulations.
g) Stream bank stabilization needed along lower Squaw Creek and lower reach of the Middle Fork Payette to control erosion.
h) Concerns about oil and dust from roads getting into rivers and streams.
i) Desire to have a Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) to address water quality issues for the Middle Fork Payette.
j) Concerns about quality of ground water used as drinking water -- groundwater high in iron, magnesium and fluoride.

k) Concerns about untreated storm water from highways and roads and community storm water being dumped into ditches and rivers.

l) Water temperature and instream flow concerns for the lower Payette River.

m) Minimum instream flows needed to improve water quality for river reaches in the Payette River Basin .

n) Concerns about grazing and potential water quality impacts.

o) Concerns about State logging practices and streamside protection.

p) Water project on southside Cascade Reservoir currently not supported by locals.

q) Secure Cascade Reservoir 300,000 acre-foot conservation pool.

r) Communities in Lower Payette concerned that Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) Plan will prohibit future discharges from waste treatment plants and may require expensive infrastructure upgrades.

FLOOD MANAGEMENT

a) Concerns about land use development in floodplain and taxpayers potential liability for funding flood damage.

b) Is there still a need for repairs from the 1997 flood?

c) Concerns about responsibility for maintaining levees.

d) Concerns about coordination of levee construction and maintenance.

e) High water table in area causes flooding of basements during spring snow melt.

f) Need to update floodplain mapping in the basin.

g) Ice jamming causes problems in some areas of the basin.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

a) Concerns about land use development and loss of agricultural land.

b) Concerns that urban growth will use more water.

c) Consider agricultural economics when subdividing land -- should not build houses on good agricultural land with good irrigation access.

d) Should Gem Irrigation District be given an exemption to build a hydropower project on the North Fork Payette River?

e) Numerous concerns expressed about construction of Gem Irrigation District's proposed hydropower project on the North Fork Payette River, including:

- diverting 100 cfs from the North Fork
- pipeline maintenance and erosion control, pipe blowouts
- construction material getting into river
- worried about view and aesthetics
- disruption to downstream irrigation needs - 100 cfs will put "hole" in river
- increased temperature through bypass reach
- affects to fisheries
- determining the real benefits to the affected counties -- taxes, employment
- feasibility of the project in the next 10-15 years with energy deregulation

f) Concerns about foreclosing future hydropower options and desire to have no new hydropower development in the basin.

g) Desire to have a geothermal swimming pool in Cascade.

h) Explore possible geothermal greenhouse development.

i) Explore possible aquaculture development.

j) Concern about timber industry paying fair share for road maintenance.

k) Consider Gold Fork Dam study proposal.

l) Investigate possibility of irrigating upstream of Ola.

FISHERIES

a) Change two fish catch limit on Squaw Creek.
b) Actions to preserve native trout, such as bull trout.
c) Improve fisheries in Cascade Reservoir, North Fork Payette River, and South Fork Payette River.
d) Establish minimum instream flows to protect fisheries.
e) Improve riparian areas on the North Fork Payette from Cascade Dam to Cabarton to improve fishery.
f) Alter diversions on the North Fork Payette, Gold Fork and Lake Fork so fish can return to spawn.
g) Improve diversion structures, measurement, fish screening, sediment removal to help fishery.
h) Enhance fishery in Boulder Creek through Donnelly for recreation attraction.
i) Desire minimum stream flow below Upper Payette Lake and Payette Lake.

AGENCY PLANNING AND COORDINATION

a) Concerns about difficulty getting 404 permit for bank stability work on Squaw Creek.
b) Concerns about coordination and duplication of effort between the Board's Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan and the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plans being developed by the Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) for areas in the basin, i.e. Payette Lake, Cascade Reservoir, and Lower Payette.
c) Desire for U.S. Geological Survey to recognize the local naming convention for the main Payette River from the Middle Fork confluence to Banks by changing the name for this reach to the South Fork Payette.

RECREATION

a) River recreationists need to pay fees to help pay for services and facilities.
b) Concerned about Federal fee program being proposed for Payette recreational corridor - Where will the money go?
c) Concerns about traffic density on State Highway 55 and Forest Road 17.
d) Improve public access to rivers and streams.
e) More facilities needed for recreationists in the Garden Valley area such as rest rooms. Who will fund?
f) Control recreation and other development pressures.
g) Maintain the diversity of whitewater opportunities on the Payette River system and its values as a whitewater training area.
h) Concerns about increased use at Sagehen Campground and need for more patrolling.
i) Pressures from over use at Horsethief Reservoir.
j) Safety concern for boaters at municipal and hydropower intakes in Horseshoe Bend.
k) Need to remove tree branches from river's edge for recreation safety in the Middle Fork Payette and South Fork Payette, but do not want to impact aesthetics or fish habitat.
l) Safety improvements to diversions on Lower Payette for boaters.
m) Concerns about impacts to recreation from sedimentation problems at Black Canyon and Cascade reservoirs
n) Concern about volume of outfitted boating use.
o) Impacts of recreation use on water quality.

APPENDIX B

Strategies Considered

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ten issue categories were identified through public meetings, written comment and Payette River Citizens Group workshops. The Payette River Citizens Group prioritized and defined specific issues, problems and concerns, resulting in thirty-five problem statements. At the third Citizens Group workshop, participants broke into smaller groups and identified potential strategies, or actions, recommendations or policies, to address the issues in each category. Additional strategies were suggested in written comment. A master list of all potential strategies was compiled, resulting in more than 350 strategies which follow. These represent alternatives considered for the Payette River Basin Plan.

The Payette River Citizens Group reviewed these strategies and identified those they could support. Those with group support were forwarded to the Board as Payette River Citizens Group recommendations. Not all strategies listed below became recommendations.

PROPOSED STATE PROTECTED RIVER DESIGNATIONS

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) What reaches in the Payette River Basin should be considered for a state protected river designation?*
Note: Current state designations made in 1991 include:

- *North Fork Payette River from Cabarton Bridge to Banks - recreational river;*
- *South Fork Payette River from the Sawtooth National Recreation Area to Banks - recreational river; and*
- *Main Payette River from Banks to Beehive Bend - recreational river.*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Maintain the current state protected river designations as stated in the Payette River Reaches Comprehensive State Water Plan.
2. Eliminate all or some of the current designations.
3. Designate all bull trout focal habitat. Focal habitat is defined as critical areas supporting a mosaic of high quality habitats that sustain a diverse or unusually productive complement of native species.
4. Do not allow dams on any designated reaches.

North Fork Payette River

5. Designate the North Fork Payette from its headwaters to Payette Lake as recommended in the Big Payette Lake Management Plan.
6. Designate the North Fork Payette River - Payette Lake Outlet to Cascade Reservoir.
7. Delete the case by case allowance for hydropower on the North Fork Payette River (Cabarton to Banks).
8. Amend the North Fork Payette River designation from Cabarton to Banks to allow hydro.
9. Designate the North Fork Payette from Cascade Reservoir to the North Fork Payette River headwaters.

10. Designate the North Fork Payette River from headwaters to Payette Lake as a recreational river.

11. Designate the North Fork Payette from Payette Lake outlet to Cascade Reservoir as a recreational river.

12. Do not amend the North Fork Payette designation to allow Gem's hydropower proposal.

13. Designate Lake Fork from headwaters to mouth.

14. Designate the Gold Fork from headwaters to mouth.

South Fork Payette Subbasin

15. Designate the Deadwood River - dam to mouth.

16. Designate the Upper Middle Fork Payette.

17. Designate the following South Fork Payette tributaries - Pine Creek and Clear Creek.

18. Change the South Fork Payette designation (Deadwood River to Danskin) from recreational to natural.

19. Change the South Fork Payette designation (Deadwood River to Danskin) from recreational to no designation.

20. Designate the Deadwood River from the dam to its mouth as a state recreational river.

21. Designate the Middle Fork Payette from headwaters to Lightning Creek as a natural river.

22. Designate the Middle Fork Payette River from Lightning Creek to the confluence as recreational.

23. Designate Pine Creek and Clear Creek as natural.

24. Designate the South Fork Payette River from headwaters to Danskin as natural.

25. Designate the Middle Fork Payette a state recreational river from the headwaters to Tie Creek.

26. Designate the Deadwood River as natural.

27. Designate Middle Fork Payette above Boiling Springs.

Main Payette

28. Designate the Payette from Horseshoe Bend to Black Canyon as recreational, allowing irrigation diversions.

29. Designate Squaw Creek below Sagehen Dam.

WATER ALLOCATION

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) Instream flows are desired in Mud Creek and Lake Fork. The J-Ditch project may replace diversions from these two waterways with effluent from the City of McCall. How can we insure that any additional instream flows resulting from the J Ditch Project are not appropriated?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Allow long-term rental from Little Payette Lake to be delivered to Cascade Reservoir.

2. The Board could file minimum instream flow on J Ditch water.

3. Implement an automated accounting system that will help track storage versus natural flow rights. Require natural flow rights replaced by effluent remain instream to mitigate potential impacts to downstream users on the North Fork Payette River.

4. It was suggested that this issue is already addressed and does not need to be looked at in the Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Realizing that water contracts and existing water rights must first be met, how can additional goals or outcomes be accomplished through adjustments in releases from the storage system? What are the additional specific desired outcomes or goals (water quality, fisheries, recreation)?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Utilize the Payette River Watershed Council as a forum to explore flexibility in timing and releases.

2. Conduct a flow optimization study, examining the entire Payette River storage system, including the advantages of coordinating releases between the Federal and private reservoirs in the system.

3. Coordination of rental pool waters to time release/delivery with periods when flow is needed instream.

4. Make the Payette River Watershed Council a conservancy district. (State legislation is required.)

5. Utilize the Snake River Resource Review decision support system (prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) as a tool to evaluate water release options.

6. Involve the Watershed Advisory Groups in this process.

7. Review existing water rights for need and practicality.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) Where are minimum instream flows in the Payette River Basin desired, and for what purposes?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Desire minimum instream flows in the summer for the North Fork Payette between Payette Lake Outlet and Cascade Reservoir to provide sufficient flows for fishery and recreation, and to provide temperature/dissolved oxygen sanctuary for Cascade Reservoir fishery/water quality.

2. North Fork Payette below Upper Payette Lake for water quality and resident fisheries.

3. North Fork Payette below Cascade Reservoir for recreation and resident fishery.

4. Lake Fork between Little Payette Lake and Cascade Reservoir to provide redband/rainbow spawning and rearing, and to provide temperature/oxygen sanctuary for Cascade Reservoir fisheries.

5. Gold Fork below Gold Fork diversion dam to Cascade Reservoir to provide temperature/dissolved oxygen sanctuary for Cascade Reservoir fishery/water quality.

6. Desire minimum instream flows on Deadwood River below Deadwood Dam-- fall and spring transitional flows and adequate winter flows for fishery maintenance.

7. Main Payette River at Letha - for water quality maintenance.

8. Utilize the Snake River Resource Review decision support system (prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) as a tool to evaluate water release options.

9. Involve the Watershed Advisory Groups in this process.

10. Recommend the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Forest Service conduct instream flow studies on the Deadwood River below the dam. The agencies can approach the Board at a later date, if the study results indicate a minimum streamflow is warranted.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *4) Numerous concerns about the use of water for salmon flow augmentation have been expressed including: the fear that irrigators will not have water in drought years, impacts from drawdown of reservoirs, the inability to acquire contracts for water to meet future needs, and the outcome of a study that is examining the possibility of acquiring additional salmon water. List specific concerns and possible alternatives to address these concerns.*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Shift "salmon" water releases from the Payette Basin to Upper Snake River storage, thereby reducing impacts in the Payette <u>and</u> improving flow and habitat conditions in the Snake River.

2. Identify opportunities elsewhere in the state for salmon flow augmentation, thereby freeing up Payette Basin water for other uses.

3. The State of Idaho should support alternatives to recover salmon and steelhead that do not require flow augmentation (e.g. the "normative river" alternative). Idaho Department of Fish and Game is currently working on such a proposal.

4. In-basin water uses should be satisfied before any water is used for salmon flow augmentation.

5. Support removing the four lower Snake River Dams as an alternative to salmon flow augmentation.

6. Ban all sport and commercial fishing and/or live trapping. Move harbor seals from the mouth of the Columbia River.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *5) How can improved irrigation efficiency and water conservation occur without forfeiture or partial forfeiture of water rights? And is this desirable?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Amend law to allow water right holder to conserve water without losing water right.

2. Amend law to allow transfer or gifting of water rights for instream flows.

3. Allow tax incentive for the value of water left in the stream that would otherwise be diverted for irrigation

4. The Board can establish a Water Supply Bank to allow rental of unused portion of natural flow water rights.

5. Allow a farmer to put the portion of his water right conserved into the State Water Supply Bank for future use or sale.

6. Minimize wasteful water practices, such as creating return flows for downstream users. Keep the water in the natural stream course as much as possible.

7. Analyze efficiency.

WATER STORAGE AND DELIVERY

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can the efficiency of the water delivery system be improved?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Install a gage on the Middle Fork Payette River just upstream of its confluence with the South Fork Payette River.

2. Identify areas where automation can improve water delivery efficiency.

3. Improved diversion measurement.

4. Reduce leakage in canals.

5. Replace flood irrigation with more efficient systems.

6. Audit water rights and acres being irrigated.

7. Install a gage on the South Fork Payette upstream of Banks.

8. Make additional water measurements to further improve the automated accounting system for Water District 65, including measurement of smaller (30 cfs or less) diversions weekly and larger diversions daily. Hire an assistant Watermaster in Water District 65 to improve the ability to measure water on a regular basis.

9. Improve the method for tracking diversions at pumps. This is possible through installation of flow meters or calculation of power consumption coefficients.

10. Investigate the feasibility of revamping the old gage located on the North Fork Payette near Banks highway bridge.

11. Review the water delivery system and determine whether gages are necessary.

12. Identify a funding source for additional gages. Should it be financed through the general fund or should additional user fees be sought such as recreational interests?

13. Improve coordination amongst agencies by locating information generated in a central location.

14. Work with the watermasters.

15. Install automatic control and measuring devices in all major canals.

16. Identify canal leakage and repair.

17. The Board can establish a Water Supply Bank

18. Cost shaping.

19. Develop automated accounting systems for other water districts in the basin to improve water management such as Lake Fork and Boulder Creek.

20. Conduct a flow optimization study to include entire Payette River Basin.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Review irrigation diversion studies prepared for the Lower Payette and Cascade Reservoir areas, and identify opportunities to consolidate diversions and/or upgrade them.*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Identify recommendations in the two studies that have not been implemented and prioritize.
2. Integrate data from Idaho Department of Fish and Game irrigation diversion research project.
3. Should the Board deal with this issue?
4. Complete inventory analysis before making specific recommendations.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) Identify opportunities for additional water storage in the basin for the purposes of municipal water supply, irrigation or flood control.*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Increase storage in Upper Payette Lake.
2. The Idaho Water Resource Board has identified an 80,000 acre-foot Gold Fork Reservoir as a potential storage reservoir in the Idaho State Water Plan. Keep this storage reservoir in the Idaho State Water Plan.
3. Amend State Water plan to protect Gold Fork for municipal supply.
4. Investigate the feasibility of the Fisher Creek Reservoir site.
5. Analyze small as well as large reservoir sites.
6. Investigate increased efficiencies versus building additional storage.
7. Recommend Idaho Department of Water Resources inventory sites and evaluate what is and is not available in the system.
8. Increase the storage capacity of Granite and Upper Payette lakes.
9. Increase storage at Deadwood Reservoir.
10. Does not support dams for additional water supply.
11. Increase the storage capacity of the existing Gold Fork Reservoir.

MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can Emmett acquire the infrastructure or other options for meeting drinking water standards?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Seek a loan or bond through the Idaho Water Resource Board.
2. Charge user fees to generate funds allocated specifically to a water treatment facility.
3. Investigate how similar communities have acquired funding.
4. Raise water rates.
5. Investigate funding options with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, or through community block grants.
6. Recommend the Board actively seek and obtain federal funding to construct these and other projects.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) What options are there for Horseshoe Bend to obtain a secure municipal water supply to meet current demands and plan for future growth?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Purchase water rights with a senior priority date from willing sellers.
2. Construct a reservoir.
3. Obtain a storage contract from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (This would currently require mitigating for salmon flow augmentation).
4. Drill new wells.
5. Investigate the possibility of acquiring wells drilled by the Idaho Transportation Department during realignment of State Highway 55.
6. Condemn senior water rights and compensate owners.
7. Use existing wells and treat water.
8. Purchase storage from one of the private reservoirs in the basin.

9. Get a grant from the Board to investigate the feasibility of various options to acquire a water supply.

10. The Board could establish a Water Supply Bank so that Horseshoe Bend could purchase water.

11. Go to the Idaho Legislature, and the Congressional delegation if necessary, to get the rules/law changed so that municipal water needs are met before any water, stored water in particular, is sent out of the basin.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) Does the Garden Valley area want to consider a community system? And if so, where would the water come from, and how would they fund it?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Construction of pipes to deliver water in the Middle Fork area could be a pricey project.
2. New development in area should pay its own way.
3. A sewage system should be constructed first.
4. Conduct a feasibility study to plan for future growth and improve future management of the water supply.
5. The Board can fund a feasibility study.
6. Construct a single well for a development, instead of a well for each lot, to minimize potential contamination of household water supplies, the groundwater, and interference from neighboring wells, and improve the management of the water supply.
7. A few good wells exist in the area that could form the nucleus of a central system.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *4) How can the City of McCall fund Phase 2 of the water treatment plant?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Seek a loan or bond through the Idaho Water Resource Board.
2. Investigate solutions other communities have pursued.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *5) How can municipalities plan and secure water to satisfy future growth?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. The Idaho Code (42-202) provides that municipalities can appropriate water for reasonably anticipated future needs as determined through comprehensive plans or other supporting data. It would be beneficial for communities in the basin to review current comprehensive land use plans, or during revisions and updates, to examine whether current municipal water supply is adequate to meet projected future growth. If additional water is needed, water applications to meet projected future growth can be filed in advance.
2. Limit growth or spread growth.
3. Municipalities need to be able to purchase water contracts from rental pool.
4. Construct a series of storage reservoirs - look to headwaters.
5. Need more municipal water conservation.
6. Compensate irrigators to conserve water.
7. Purchase senior water rights and put into the Water Supply Bank until needed.
8. Recommend that the municipalities in the basin conduct a long range plan, investigating population projections and water needs, so they can plan accordingly.
9. Purchase storage from one of the private reservoirs.
10. Recommend municipalities implement water conservation measures, and restrict growth if necessary.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *6) Where is the additional water for urban/municipal growth in the basin going to come?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Construction of storage reservoirs.
2. Improved water conservation in the community to supply some of the future water demand.

3. Purchase senior water rights from willing sellers.

4. Promote municipal water conservation.

5. Water rates based on amount of water used (requires installing water meters).

6. Encourage agricultural water conservation.

7. Put a moratorium on growth if a secure and quality water supply is not available.

8. Recommend the Board establish a water supply bank, allowing the purchase and rental of natural water rights from water right holders that may not need all of their water right.

9. As a condition of development, municipalities could require developers to transfer all existing water rights to the city, who would in turn transfer this water into the State Water Supply Bank.

WATER QUALITY

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can septic system and well permitting be improved to reduce the potential of water quality impacts to wells or to ground water.*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Improve coordination between District Health and Idaho Department of Water Resources in the permitting of septic systems and wells.

2. Implement performance-based standards for septic and well siting and design as opposed to prescriptive type standards.

3. Improve permitting efficiency and coordination by providing one place for property owners to obtain permits for wells and septic systems.

4. Coordinate the location of subdivisions with Idaho Department of Water Resources and District Health.

5. Expand sewer districts.

6. Educate property owners, land developers, well drillers, and excavators (drainfields) about the necessity to properly locate wells and drainfields.

7. Require central water systems for developments of a designated density.

8. Combine Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Division of Environmental Quality and District Health.

9. Well drillers should lose license if they locate wells improperly.

10. Idaho Department of Water Resources should require the well driller to acquire a plat from District Health, identifying drainfield and septic tank locations, before giving well permit.

11. Idaho Department of Water Resources should request information on well permit application about drainfield distance from well. This in effect requires the well driller to verify the location of drainfields and septic tanks before getting permission to drill well.

12. Pre-locate wells and drain fields when subdivision is developed

13. Require waste treatment for certain subdivisions of certain densities.

14. Recommend that Planning and Zoning not give variances to bypass recommendations of the District Health or the Idaho Water Resource Board.

15. More community water systems tested for water and fire protection.

16. Consolidate/delegate permitting and oversight responsibilities for domestic systems to one lead agency.

17. Promote the use of sewer systems for developments or communities instead of individual septic tanks for each lot.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Identify river reaches where minimum instream flows would improve water quality.*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. North Fork Payette - below Upper Payette Lake

2. North Fork Payette - below Payette Lake

3. Lake Fork - below Little Payette Lake to Cascade Reservoir

4. Gold Fork River - below Gold Fork diversion dam to Cascade Reservoir
5. Payette River - Banks to Black Canyon
6. Payette River - below Black Canyon to Letha
7. Payette River at Letha
8. Payette River - Letha to Snake River
9. Improve irrigation delivery systems and dedicate the "saved water" to instream flows.
10. Inventory water rights that are no longer used in subdivisions and dedicate conserved water to instream flows.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) Identify options for establishing the Cascade Reservoir 300,000 acre-foot conservation pool.*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. The Idaho Water Resource Board could acquire a minimum stream flow/lake level water right.
2. 300,000 acre-foot is probably inadequate because of increased nutrient loads since 1981. 300,000 acre-foot is for the December - March period <u>only.</u> Determine adequate minimum pool for "non-winter" months.
3. Idaho needs to enforce State constitution and not allow federal agencies to take water.
4. Develop an integrated rule curve for Cascade Reservoir.
5. Recommend the Board purchase the storage needed to establish.
6. Recognize the 300,000 acre-foot in the Idaho State Water Plan as state policy.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *4) How can sediment contributions from roads be mitigated? (Sediment increases streambank erosion (also causing downstream deposition), and therefore increases frequency and number of applications for stream channel alterations.)*

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES:

1. Use silt fences and check dams where needed.
2. Do not allow expansion of State Highway 55 along the Payette and North Fork Payette rivers.
3. Eliminate the sidecasting of debris by railroad into the Payette and North Fork Payette rivers.
4. Limit road building in critical tributaries and drainages.
5. Minimize negative logging and grazing impacts.
6. Protect riparian zones.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *5) How can potential water quality impacts (for example temperature and nutrients) from return flows be minimized?*

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES:

1. Reduce application rates of irrigation water, leaving more water in streams and reducing return flows.
2. Build settling basins on irrigation drains.
3. Salt leaching problem at Idaho Transportation Department's Horseshoe Bend maintenance yard needs to be corrected.

FLOOD MANAGEMENT

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How do we manage land use development in the floodplain and minimize taxpayers' liability for flood damage?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Enactment of House Bill 660aa, addressing floodplain management, gives local jurisdictions authority to adopt floodplain ordinances. Recommend that all communities respond by adopting floodplain ordinances and/or participating in the National Flood Insurance Program which will allow private property owners the opportunity to purchase flood insurance.
2. Recommend local governments apply stricter standards regarding development in the floodplain.

3. Require development in floodplain to maintain the floodway. Give them directions as to what they can and cannot do. Provide procedures. Provide access to do maintenance.

4. Prohibit residential development in the floodplain.

5. Plan and manage in advance for future floods. Stop ignoring the potential for flooding and plan for flood events.

6. Define and map flood zones more accurately.

7. Building in the 100-year floodplain should be accomplished without using fill, so that the ability of the floodplain and floodway to move and carry water are not impacted.

8. Idaho Department of Water Resources can provide technical advice to local planning efforts.

9. When dealing with issues involving floodplain development.

10. Enact state level regulations about floodplain development patterned after the Federal Emergency Management Agency regulations.

11. Do not allow building in the 50-year floodplain.

12. Do not allow building in the 100-year floodplain.

13. Build at your own risk in the 100-year floodplain.

14. Elevate foundations of buildings located in the floodplain.

15. Idaho Department of Water Resources could photograph and review flood events to update floodplain maps. Disseminate this information to appropriate county officials.

16. Remove gravel and silt bars, and other blockages in the river.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Identify any 1997 flood damage needing repair.*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Obtain a list from the Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Soil Conservation Districts, farm service agencies, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Federal Emergency Management Agency of unfunded or uncompleted flood-related projects.

2. Remove gravel and silt bars, and other blockages in the river. Who can remove?

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) How to improve maintenance and management of the levee system along the Payette River from Horseshoe Bend downstream?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Form a committee comprised of representatives from each jurisdiction to study the levees as a complete system, and develop a coordinated plan to manage and maintain the system.

2. Form a Flood Control District.

3. Taxation authority for Flood Control Districts needs to extend to at least those properties within the 100-year floodplain, rather than immediately adjacent to the river, to include all beneficiaries of flood management activities.

4. Recommend each county's Disaster Services Coordinator coordinate with the other jurisdictions along the river to ensure levees are adequately maintained.

5. Individuals should have authority to fix the damage. Allow those already in floodplain to maintain the floodway. Give them directions as to what they can and can not do. Provide procedures. Provide access to do maintenance.

6. Do not allow replacement of broken dikes and levees.

7. Flood management should not focus on using river channelization or other structural stream channel alteration controls as an approach.

8. Identify stream channel protection measures using non-structural flood control methods.

9. Accomplish flood management by protecting stream channel function, fisheries and water quality.

10. Develop a multi-agency Technical Advisory Committee to assist Flood Control Districts in their efforts to manage levees, and not impact other resource values.

11. Improve the levee system inventory, and spatially identify the location of all levees using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *4) How do we update floodplain mapping in the basin to reflect current river channel capacity?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Obtain aerial photography produced during the 1997 flood event, and identify an entity to input this information into a geographic information system so maps can be produced.
2. Develop accurate 100, 50 and 25-year flood maps.
3. Require developers to help pay for new flood mapping.
4. Make all mapping available to potential new owners.
5. Start a state level floodplain mapping program that would be more responsive to the State's needs, patterned after other western states such as Colorado and Montana.
6. Recommend that the Board request the Federal Emergency Management Agency to update floodplain mapping for the Lower Payette.
7. Develop computer modeling to determine what is inundated at various flows.
8. Idaho Department of Water Resources could photograph and review flood events to update floodplain maps. Disseminate this information to appropriate county officials.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) Should Gem Irrigation District be given an exemption to build a hydropower project on the North Fork Payette River? (Why or why not?)*

COMMENTS:

1. Hydro is a renewable clean resource.
2. The project will increase the property tax base for the counties.
3. The project will provide jobs and economic benefits.
4. Hydropower is cleanest and most environmental friendly of electrical production.
5. Not until a market is found and the economics (cost/benefit) are reviewed.
6. No, should not allow exemption. Concerns: senior water right, blasting (changes in bedrock structure), "sold bill of goods" from proponents, insufficient studies, i.e. questions about pipe location–do they really have 10 ft. right-of-way from railroad?
7. The project is only marginally feasible from an economic standpoint.
8. Power would likely go elsewhere under deregulation, because it will be expensive to produce and need to be sold at higher prices than current Idaho Power Company rates.
9. Do not support, because the project would change the character of the river.
10. The project is too incomplete to consider.
11. The project is not economically feasible and not competitive in the current energy market.
12. It is not in the best interests of Idaho residents. It is a private sector project and has no public sector benefits.
13. Decision should be weighted on opinions of residents of Boise and Valley counties.

14. Support is dependent on degree of environmental impact – If can hide intake and power plant, then should be no problem for aesthetics, railroad scenic trip, and river running.

15. Need to determine first whether really need power.

16. Only way to consider exemption is if all concerns mentioned today are completely addressed.

17. Investigate other options to find revenue to maintain and fund Gem Irrigation District infrastructure.

18. Alternative energy sources should be explored before constructing more hydropower in the basin.

19. Gem Irrigation District should first have to insure that the project, including transmission lines, is physically and environmentally feasible. (Include an independent engineer's evaluation to determine this.)

20. Insure that the project, including transmission lines, is economically feasible. This would include an independent financial analysis projecting the impact of deregulation.

21. Best to wait until the next plan update to consider this project, because we will know the consequences of deregulation.

22. Insure that Gem Irrigation District has obtained all the necessary right-of-ways for the project, including from the State of Idaho and Boise Cascade Corporation.

23. Insure that the construction of the project will not interfere with the railroad delivery schedules.

24. Insure that the developer has the financial ability to fix any environmental disaster created by a potential blowout of this high pressure system.

25. Determine Boise and Valley county residents' thoughts.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Are there additional hydropower options in the basin that need to be considered?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Retrofit and upgrade all other sites in Idaho before building new ones.
2. Investigate small hydro - small plants that serve one or two houses and are not on the grid.
3. Use wind and solar power.
4. Research and document areas of potential hydropower development in the Payette River Basin.
5. None feasible on the South Fork Payette.
6. Development at Deadwood Dam not feasible because of access - too costly.
7. Nothing feasible at this point in time (economically).
8. Energy conservation should be explored.
9. Investigate Deadwood Dam, Payette Lake Dam, Gold Fork (if developed for storage), and expanding the capacity of Black Canyon Dam.
10. Investigate the possibility of developing small hydropower options on some of the smaller storage facilities and diversions.

FISHERIES

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can the quality of fisheries in Cascade Reservoir, North Fork Payette, Main Payette, Middle Fork Payette, and South Fork Payette rivers be improved?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Improve diversion structures, measurement, fish screening, and sediment removal.
2. Obtain minimum instream flows for fishery maintenance (See Problem Statement 3).
3. Maintain constant water level in river.
4. Recommend Idaho Department of Fish and Game improve fishing opportunities through entire system (i.e., increased fish plantings).

5. Consider alternative algae management possibilities (e.g. Europe uses"algae eaters").

6. Control shoreline / river bank sediment / nutrient pollution from grazing (e.g. bank erosion) and other sources (homeowner fertilizers, wave actions).

7. Overfishing impacts certain areas (no specific areas mentioned).

8. Improve riparian habitat.

9. Consider utilizing "refrigerator incubators." These are currently used in the Clearwater Basin.

10. Manage for catch and release only, or reduce the daily bag limit.

11. Form a basinwide water users advisory group (Payette River Watershed Council) to work with Water District 65 to help release water efficiently to provide as many uses as possible while meeting primary responsibility to irrigators.

12. Limit road building in forests.

13. Take care of effluent (nutrients) coming off pastures adjacent to rivers and reservoir.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Identify possible modifications or improvements to diversions on the North Fork Payette, Gold Fork and Lake Fork to help improve fish passage and spawning.*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Modify diversions to allow fish passage on Lake Fork and Gold Fork.

2. Install fish screens at diversions on Lake Fork and Gold Fork.

3. Improve water delivery efficiency on the Lake Fork and Gold Fork systems to improve instream flows.

4. Orient diversion openings so that they are parallel to flows on the Lake Fork and Gold Fork, thus minimizing fish diverted into ditches.

5. Position diversion structure overflows where fish can most easily use.

6. Install a fish ladder at Gold Fork Diversion and Browns Pond Dam.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) Identify river reaches where minimum instream flows are needed to protect fisheries.*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. North Fork Payette River - below Upper Payette Lake for rainbow trout and kokanee spawning.

2. North Fork Payette River - below Payette Lake for resident fishery.

3. North Fork Payette River - below Cascade Reservoir for resident fishery.

4. Deadwood River - below Deadwood Dam for winter fishery maintenance.

5. Lower Payette - Black Canyon Dam to Letha.

AGENCY PLANNING AND COORDINATION

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can the permitting process for stream channel alterations be more efficient, particularly during emergency situations?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Allow replacement of flood-damaged structures as they existed pre-flood without new permits.

2. Provide for pre-approval of river reach channel alterations developed as part of a flood repair plan. Work can then be done at owner's convenience and before floods occur.

3. Idaho Department of Water Resources can hold public information meetings in areas susceptible to flooding and identify stream channel protection measures needed before flood season.

4. Promote the use of non-structural stream control measures that do not require a stream channel alteration permit.

5. Reaffirm the Idaho Department of Water Resources minimum standards for stream channel alterations to promote attaining basin plan goals.

6. Adequately fund agencies to review onslaught of applications after flood events.

7. Certify contractors with training in hydrology/river mechanics; only they can perform strategies 1 & 2.

8. Consolidate/delegate permitting responsibilities to one agency, preferably a state agency.

9. Consolidate all stream channel alteration permit functions under the authority of the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

10. Involve the Natural Resources Conservation Service and districts.

11. People as a body should have the power to override authorities to implement activity.

12. Allow repair or replacement of structures to "nearly" as they were.

13. Recommend the Idaho Department of Water Resources train additional staff in advance to help with permitting during emergency situations.

14. Streamline the process for emergency situations. If a structure is lost during a flood, can some steps be skipped?

15. Idaho Department of Water Resources can conduct workshops in advance to educate before the permitting process. Explain why permits are needed; what can and cannot be done; and general river mechanics.

16. Maintain continuity in communication between the Idaho Department of Water Resources and Army Corps of Engineers, having one entity to handle all communication with property owner. Can Idaho Department of Water Resources handle all?

17. Move people out of the floodplain in critical areas: Stop issuing building permits in the floodplain and reduce the number of stream channel alteration permits issued.

18. Idaho Department of Water Resources can issue permits on the spot in emergency situations. The Army Corp of Engineer permits take several days. If the Department cannot take over the permitting process, arrange for team permitting during emergency situations, i.e. the Army Corp of Engineers staff accompanies Department staff in the field and they issue the permits simultaneously.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) How can we ensure that the Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan does not duplicate the efforts of the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) in the Payette River Basin?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. The Board and Division of Environmental Quality will closely coordinate and monitor each other's efforts. The Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan will not address issues outside the Board's authority that will be addressed in Total Maximum Daily Load Plans.

2. The Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan will take actions to implement recommendations made in the Big Payette Lake Management Plan and Implementation Program that are consistent with the Board's authorities.

3. Idaho Department of Water Resources should regularly attend Watershed Advisory Group / Basin Advisory Group meetings and sit on Technical Advisory Committees.

4. The Board and Idaho Division of Environmental Quality will closely coordinate and monitor each other's efforts.

5. Maintain ongoing peer review of the Idaho Water Resource Board's program by the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality.

6. Emphasize that efforts will <u>not</u> be duplicated.

7. Coordinate with the Water District 65 Watermaster.

8. Identify opportunities for the Board to educate the public about how comprehensive state water plans differ from the activities of the Watershed Advisory Groups and Basin Advisory Groups.

9. Combine the Idaho Department of Water Resources and Idaho Division of Environmental Quality as one agency to eliminate duplication and inefficiencies.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) How can we get all agencies to refer to the river reach from the Middle Fork Payette confluence to Banks as the South Fork Payette?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. The Idaho Water Resource Board will complete the necessary paperwork to request a name change with the U.S. Board of Geographic Names. Boise County Coalition will help the Board with this effort, coordinating with local jurisdictions.
2. Disseminate information about name change to the agencies.
3. Use the new name verbally and on paper.
4. Consolidate all agencies, or at least, establish one group using common terminology.

RECREATION

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can impacts to rivers in the basin from recreation activities be reduced? What services and facilities are needed to address these impacts, how do we fund them, and who should provide them? Impacts that need to be addressed include trampling of riparian vegetation, private property trespass, adequate parking and restroom facilities, and additional sites to reduce crowding and provide access to the disabled.*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Funds may be available from the Waterways Improvement Fund administered by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.
2. Tax hydropower development and use the funds for recreation.
3. Mitigation for hydropower projects can involve recreation facilities.
4. Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation should charge a fee for the boats and not per car.
5. Open up area along the highway where the guardrail is to provide more parking sites off the road. Spread out the use.
6. Modify Idaho Code to allow counties to tax river use.
7. Provide more facilities along the river such as garbage drops and restrooms, particularly from Banks downstream.
8. Provide more disabled access.
9. Limit all recreation uses.
10. Limit outfitter use.
11. Charge user fees.
12. Use designated boat access areas only.
13. Recommend boating community educate and police itself as to problems seen by the locals.
14. Charge commercial outfitters additional fees to offset the impact of large groups (i.e., bus and van loads of people and multiple trips per day).
15. Limit outfitters on crowded weekends.
16. Require float boats to be licensed, similar to powerboats.
17. Encourage those with even numbered license plates to boat on Saturday, and odd numbered license plates to boat on Sunday.
18. Shift responsibility for payment of impacts to the users. Assess fines to help finance.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Identify ways to improve traffic management on State Highway 55 and the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Road 17).*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Construct the Indian Valley alignment, routing traffic to the west of State Highway 55.
2. Install a traffic light at the intersection of State Highway 55 and the Banks-Lowman Highway.
3. Provide new north-south road at a different location.
4. Use rail transportation.
5. Close the railroad and use the right-of-way to make two lanes north and two lanes south.
6. Provide more passing lanes and turnouts.
7. Do not widen State Highway 55, because of sediment impacts to the river and Black Canyon.

8. Install as many good "designated parking only" pull-offs and enforce the same.

9. Use rail or scenic bus trips to reduce traffic.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) How can the diversity of recreation opportunities on the Payette River system be maintained?*

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES:

1. Responsible shared use of recreation resources.
2. Eliminate leases of old roadway right-of-ways on the North Fork Payette by Idaho Transportation Department and Idaho Department of Lands so all recreation users can access them.
3. Improve fisheries management by more intensive stocking from Banks to Smiths Ferry. This will provide more use by tourists and improve the economy.
4. Increase the fish limit on the South Fork.
5. Decrease the fish limit on the North Fork.
6. Forest Service should keep the camp sites open as long as possible -- into hunting season if possible.
7. Provide adequate access to allow recreationists to find what meets their needs.
8. Locate a greenbelt along as much of the Payette River and North Fork Payette River as possible (i.e., the railroad grade from Emmett to Cascade; the greenbelt around Cascade to McCall).
9. Work with county commissions and planning and zoning in the development of comprehensive land use plans, etc. to provide access and opportunities.
10. Control commercial boating use.
11. Promote responsible and cooperative water delivery management working through the Payette River Watershed Council.
12. Manage recreation opportunities by establishing a "Board" with at least half the members representing conservation and recreation interests.

APPENDIX C

Payette River Citizens Group

The Payette River Citizens Group consists of individuals representing various water users in the basin, including irrigators, local government, property owners, fishermen, boaters, ranchers, the timber industry and hydropower. People representing these and other interests were contacted and invited to participate in workshops conducted in April through June 1998. However, membership and participation in the Payette River Citizens Group was open. Any interested citizens could become a member by attending Payette River Citizens Group workshops.

The Citizens Group was formed to advise the Idaho Water Resource Board during the development of a comprehensive state water plan for the Payette River Basin. The Citizens Group informed the Board about local concerns, reviewed information used in the development of the plan, and provided feedback and suggestions for the Board's consideration. During Payette River Citizens Group workshops, the group ranked issues, developed goals, and identified actions and recommendations to submit to the Board.

The following is a list of the Payette River Citizens Group, consisting of all individuals attending at least one Payette River Citizens Group workshop conducted from April through June 1998.

Marilyn Arp - McCall City Council
Fred Bell - Western Whitewater Association
Hank Berntsen - Gem Soil Conservation District
Dick Beyers - Horseshoe Bend City Council
Jack Biddle - Holladay Engineering Co.
Steve Bliss - Northwest Timber Workers Resource Council, Boise County Coalition
Chet Bowers - Idaho Wildlife Federation
Judy Boyle - Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth's Office
Marti Bridges - Idaho Rivers United
Ted Century - Idaho Rivers United
Joan Cochrane - Idaho Rivers United, Horseshoe Bend Citizen
Phil Davis - Valley County Commissioner
Steve Dobson - Chairman, Water District 65
Maryjane Dobson - Irrigator, Water District 65
Jan Donley - Boise County Coalition
George Earll - Western Whitewater Association
Joe Eld - Roseberry Irrigation District
Kyle and Fern Ellis -Round Valley ranchers
Paul Erickson - Consultant for Gem Irrigation District
Steve Ethington - Gem Soil and Water Conservation District
Lois Evans - private citizen
Louis Fausset - South Lake Recreational Water and Sewer District
Jackie Fields - City of McCall
Jack Fisher - Region 3 Idaho Wildlife Council
Randall Fredricks - Cascade Reservoir Association
Mike Fry - Southwest Basin Native Fish Watershed Advisory Council
Kirk Hall - Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council
Marcia Herr - Letha Irrigation and Water Company
Tom Hoppell - City of Emmett
Representative Twila Hornbeck - District 8
Jerry Howard - High Valley citizen
Clyde Hutton - Gem Irrigation District
Linda Jenkins - Boise County Coalition

Warren Jindrich - Idaho Gold Prospectors Assoc.
John Kienitz - Idaho Farm Bureau
Paul and Gretel Kleint - Valley County Soil and Water Conservation District, Boulder Creek Water District
Chuck Knapp - private citizen
Julian Landa - Gem Irrigation District
Mark Limbaugh - Watermaster for Water District 65, Payette River Watershed Council
Al Malmstrom - Idaho Gold Prospectors Association
Mike McDonough - Horseshoe Bend rancher
Jessie Miller - High Valley citizen
Mack Miller - Roseberry Irrigation District
Shawn Miller - Idaho Trout Unlimited
Tuck Miller - flyfisherman
Carl L Myers - Gem Irrigation District
Herald Nokes - Lake Irrigation District
Ed Obermeyer - Enterprise Ditch Company
Dar Olberding - Emmett Irrigation District
Al Palin - Idaho Gold Prospectors Association
Harold Raper - Boise County Commissioner
Bruce Reay - Boise Cascade Corporation
Jayne Reed - Garden Valley citizen
Karl and Sue Siller - Emmett Irrigation District
Perry Silver - private citizen
Joy Sisler - Gill Slough
Joanne Smith - Boise County Coalition
Vaughn Spiker - Ola citizen
Wayne VanCour - Cascade Reservoir Coordinating Council, Payette River Watershed Council
Tracy Walton - Gem County Farm Bureau
John Wasson- Garden Valley citizen
Charles H. Williams - private citizen
Barbara K. Wilson - City of Payette
Ed Wood - Round Valley citizen
Dave Wroblewski - private citizen
Rocky Yoneda - Western Whitewater Association

Agency Representatives

Don Anderson - Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Kim Apperson - Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Rick Brown - Idaho Dept. of Park and Recreation
Tonya Dombrowski - Idaho Division of Environmental Quality
Scott Grunder - Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Dave Hale - Boise National Forest
Marty Jones - Central District Health Department
Mary Lucachick - Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Randy Phelan - Natural Resource Conservation Service
Rick Rieber - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Cindy Robertson - Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Warren Sedlacek - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Tom Turco - Central District Health
Perry Whittaker - Idaho Department of Lands

Summary of Payette River Citizens Group Workshops

The following summarizes activities at the five Payette River Citizens Group workshops that occurred in April through June 1998. Detailed meeting minutes are located in the Idaho Department of Water Resources Planning Bureau files.

Workshop #1 - Thursday, April 2, 1998; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Horseshoe Bend Senior Citizens Center

The meeting began with introductions of those in attendance. Background information about the Payette River Reaches Plan adopted by the Board in 1991 was provided. The regulatory requirements of comprehensive state water plans was reviewed. The planning approach and schedule for the current Payette River Basin Plan was presented. The roles of the Board, Idaho Department of Water Resources and the Payette River Citizens Group in preparing the Payette River Basin Plan was discussed. Ground rules for Payette River Citizens Group workshops were established.

Phil Rassier, Attorney General for the Idaho Department of Water Resources, presented information about Idaho water law. His presentation

included explanation of the following topics: the history and definition of the prior appropriation doctrine; allocation of water in times of shortages; definition of changes to water rights such as enlargement, transfers and expansions; forfeiture of water rights; and the Snake River Basin and Payette River Basin adjudications.

Rick Wells with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation provided an overview of operation of the federal storage system in the Payette River Basin. He described how storage space is allocated in the two federal storage reservoirs - Cascade and Deadwood. He reviewed operation in a typical water year and operation during the recent flood in water year 1997.

Ten categories of issues, concerns and problems identified during public meetings were reviewed. These issues were ranked by citizens at an earlier public information meeting. The top-ranking issues for each category were reviewed by the Citizens Group. Members suggested additional issues they desired to consider. This list comprised the issues the Payette River Citizens Group will address at remaining workshops to identify goals and develop actions and recommendations for the Board's consideration. Three of the ten issue categories (Agency Planning and Coordination, Proposed State Protected Designations, and Flood Management) were discussed in more detail to clarify and define problems.

Workshop #2 - Wednesday, April 29, 1998; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Horseshoe Bend Senior Citizens Center

The majority of the meeting focused on examining and discussing priority issues for the seven remaining categories -- Water Quality, Resource Development, Fisheries, Water Storage and Delivery, Municipal Water Supply, Water Allocation, and Recreation. The discussions allowed Citizens Group members to share their knowledge and clarify the context and scope of the problems identified. General information about the Board's minimum instream flow water right program was provided.

Mark Limbaugh, Watermaster for Water District 65, discussed water district functions. Mark reviewed river operations, storage water delivery and accounting, and rental pool operation.

Workshop #3 - Wednesday, May 27, 1998; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Horseshoe Bend Senior Citizens Center

The third Payette River Citizens Group workshop focused on four areas: the Board's minimum instream flow program; Gem Irrigation District's proposed hydroproject for the North Fork Payette River; draft goals and objectives for the Payette River Basin Plan; and strategies to address priority issues.

Information on two minimum instream flow requests were presented. Legislation directed the Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council to prepare a Big Payette Lake Management Plan. The plan recommends the Board acquire a minimum instream flow on the North Fork Payette River below Upper Payette Lake to protect kokanee spawning and resident trout species. Cindy Robertson of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game presented the results of a technical study supporting the requested minimum instream flow. Idaho Rivers United, with Idaho Department of Fish and Game's support, requested that the Board apply for a minimum instream flow on the North Fork Payette from Payette Lake outlet to Cascade Reservoir backwaters to maintain and protect wildlife habitat, aquatic life, recreational and water quality values.

Clyde Hutton of Gem Irrigation District presented information about a proposed hydropower project on the North Fork Payette River. The proposed project would be located in the Smiths Ferry to Banks reach which is currently designated as

a state recreational river, prohibiting construction of hydropower projects. Gem Irrigation District has requested that the Board amend the designation to allow its project. Questions, concerns and support for the project were documented.

A draft set of objectives and goals were distributed. Objectives guiding the Board in the development of comprehensive state water plans were taken from the Idaho Code. Two pages of draft goals were prepared for the ten issue categories identified by the Citizens Group. These draft goals were developed based on the discussions at the previous Citizens Group workshops, and from review of goals contained in the current Payette River Reaches Comprehensive State Water Plan. The Citizens Group was asked to review the goals and submit any comments, changes or additions, so a second draft could be prepared.

The remainder of the workshop focused on developing strategies. Strategies are actions, recommendations or policies that help to solve an issue or problem. The priority issues were restated as problem statements and presented in a worksheet. Meeting participants were divided into four groups to brainstorm strategies for each of the problem statements. The objective of this exercise was to generate many ideas.

Workshop #4 - Wednesday, June 17, 1998; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Horseshoe Bend Senior Citizens Center

The main agenda items for the fourth Payette River Citizens Group workshop were to receive information about bull trout in the Payette River Basin, review a second draft of goals for the Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan, and evaluate potential strategies.

Scott Grunder of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game discussed bull trout in the Payette River Basin. He briefly described bull trout biology including the life history, reproduction, habitat and distribution. He also discussed the problems and threats to species persistence, and the recovery approach as summarized in Governor Batt's Bull Trout Conservation Plan (1996).

A second draft of goals for the Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan was distributed that reflected the comments and suggestions received from the Payette River Citizens Group. The second draft was discussed and additional suggestions for revision made. Staff from the Idaho Department of Water Resources agreed to prepare a final draft that would reflect these comments.

The Payette River Citizens Group evaluated more than 350 proposed strategies. The Citizens Group reviewed all the strategies, and individually identified those they could not support. Evaluation results were summarized at the end of the meeting, focusing on the strategies which received group support. The Citizens Group reached consent on about 20 percent of the strategies. All issues had strategies with group support, except state protected designations, minimum instream flows, hydropower development in the basin, salmon flow augmentation, and diversion upgrades and consolidation. Those strategies with group agreement will be presented to the Board for inclusion in the Payette River Basin Plan.

The group discussed how to address those strategies lacking Citizens Group agreement. It was decided the next workshop would focus on state protected river designations, minimum instream flows, and the North Fork Payette hydropower project. The Citizens Group would attempt to reach consent on strategies not supported by three or fewer individuals. If time allowed, other issue categories

would be discussed, again focusing on strategies with three or fewer not supporting.

Warren Jindrich of the Idaho Gold Prospectors Association provided some background information to the Citizens Group about recreational dredge mining.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources distributed draft resource evaluations for fish and wildlife, recreation and scenic values in the basin. The document would be discussed at the Payette River Citizens Group workshop scheduled next week.

Workshop #5 - Wednesday, June 24, 1998; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Horseshoe Bend Senior Citizens Center

The main agenda items for the final Payette River Citizens Group workshop included finalizing goals and strategies to submit to the Board. The strategy evaluation results from last week's workshop were reviewed, focusing on the number of strategies that the group found acceptable. A final draft of the goals was reviewed, some changes made, and final goals approved.

Presentation of criteria used to identify outstanding fish and wildlife, recreation, and scenic values for waterways in the basin were presented. Dave Greegor, aquatic biologist with the Idaho Department of Water Resources, described the biological evaluation. The evaluation reviewed available data for aquatic and riparian habitat and species, and the presence of crucial species and habitat. Ellen Berggren, water resources planner with the Department, reviewed recreation and scenic values criteria. The Citizens Group was asked to review the criteria and provide comments.

During the second half of the meeting, the Citizens Group discussed state protected river designations, minimum instream flows, and Gem Irrigation District's hydropower project, attempting to reach consent about recommendations for these items. Several recommendations were agreed to by the group and are documented in the Workshop Summary available from the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Joe Jordan of the Idaho Water Resource Board summarized a letter the Board is sending to Gem Irrigation District, asking for some additional information about the North Fork Payette hydropower project based on public comment and concerns about the project. The letter requests the following information: studies documenting the economic feasibility of the project; information that necessary rights-of-ways can and are being obtained; conceptual design information for the intake and powerhouse; evidence that Gem Irrigation District has the financial resources and is actively pursuing the project; and the current Federal Energy Regulatory Commission status of the project. Idaho Department of Water Resources investigated tax benefits to Boise County from the proposed hydropower project. This information was shared with the Citizens Group.

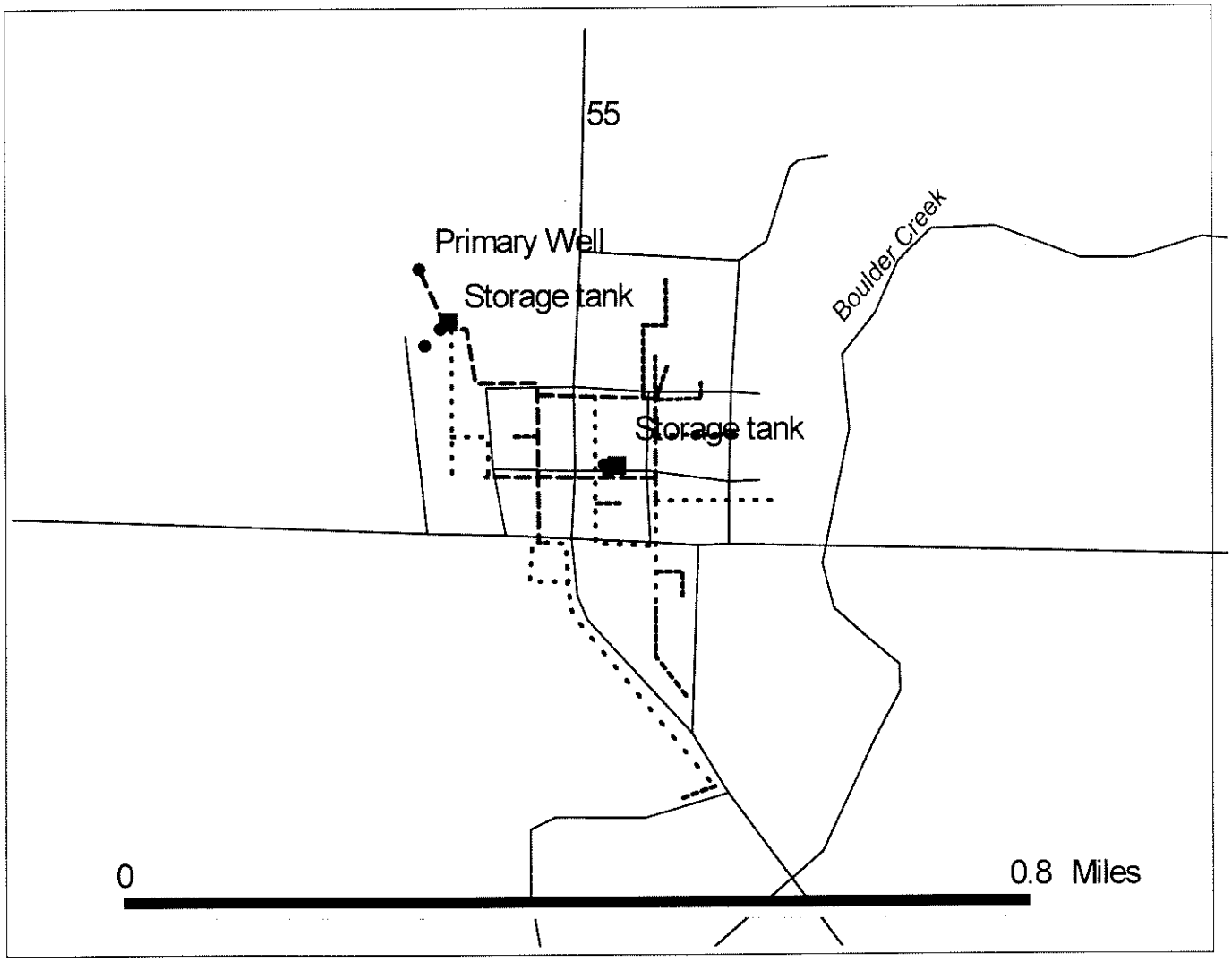
APPENDIX D

Maps of Municipal Water Systems

City of McCall

Current information not available

City of Donnelly



Water Main Legend

2" or less

3"

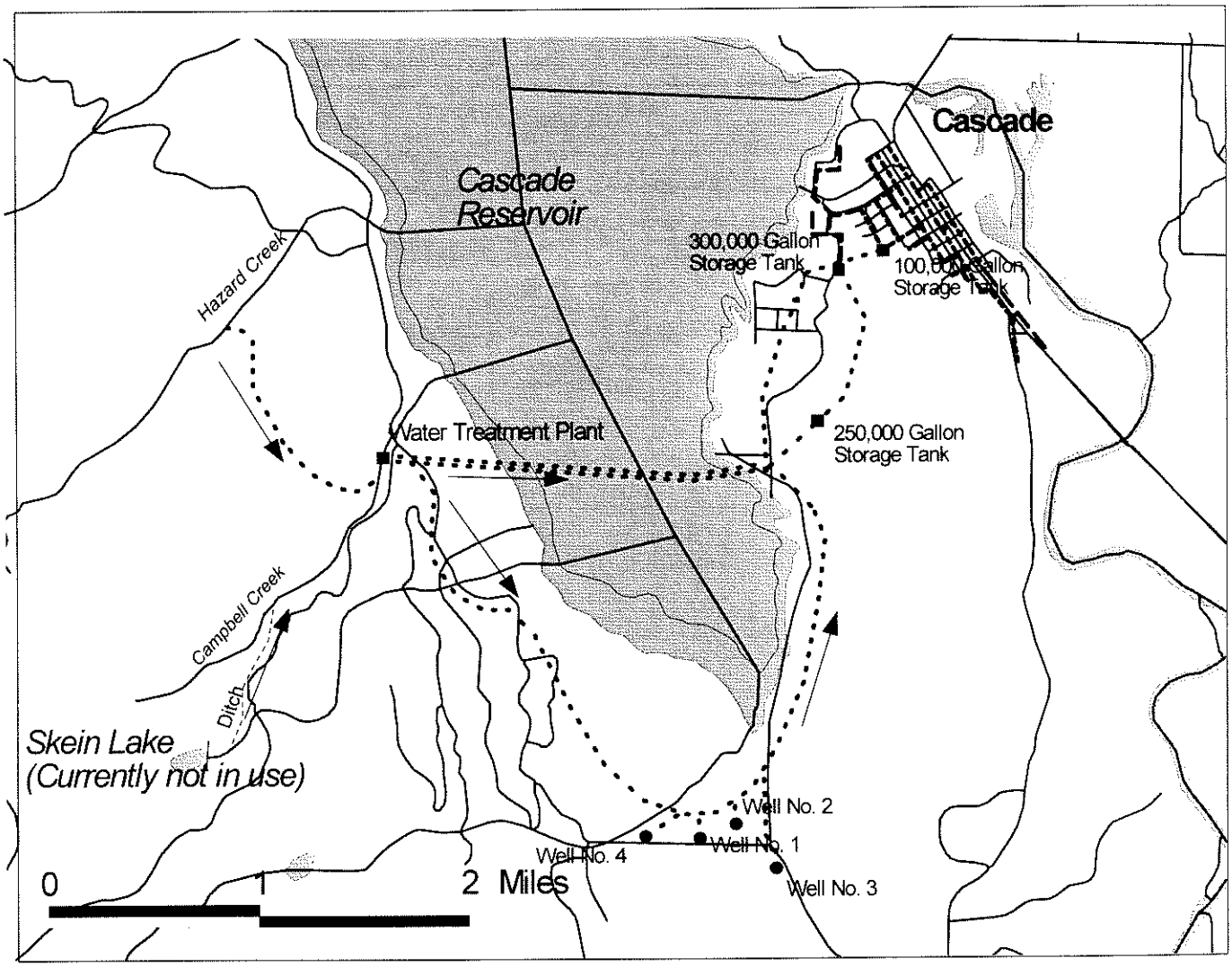
4"

N

W E

S

City of Cascade

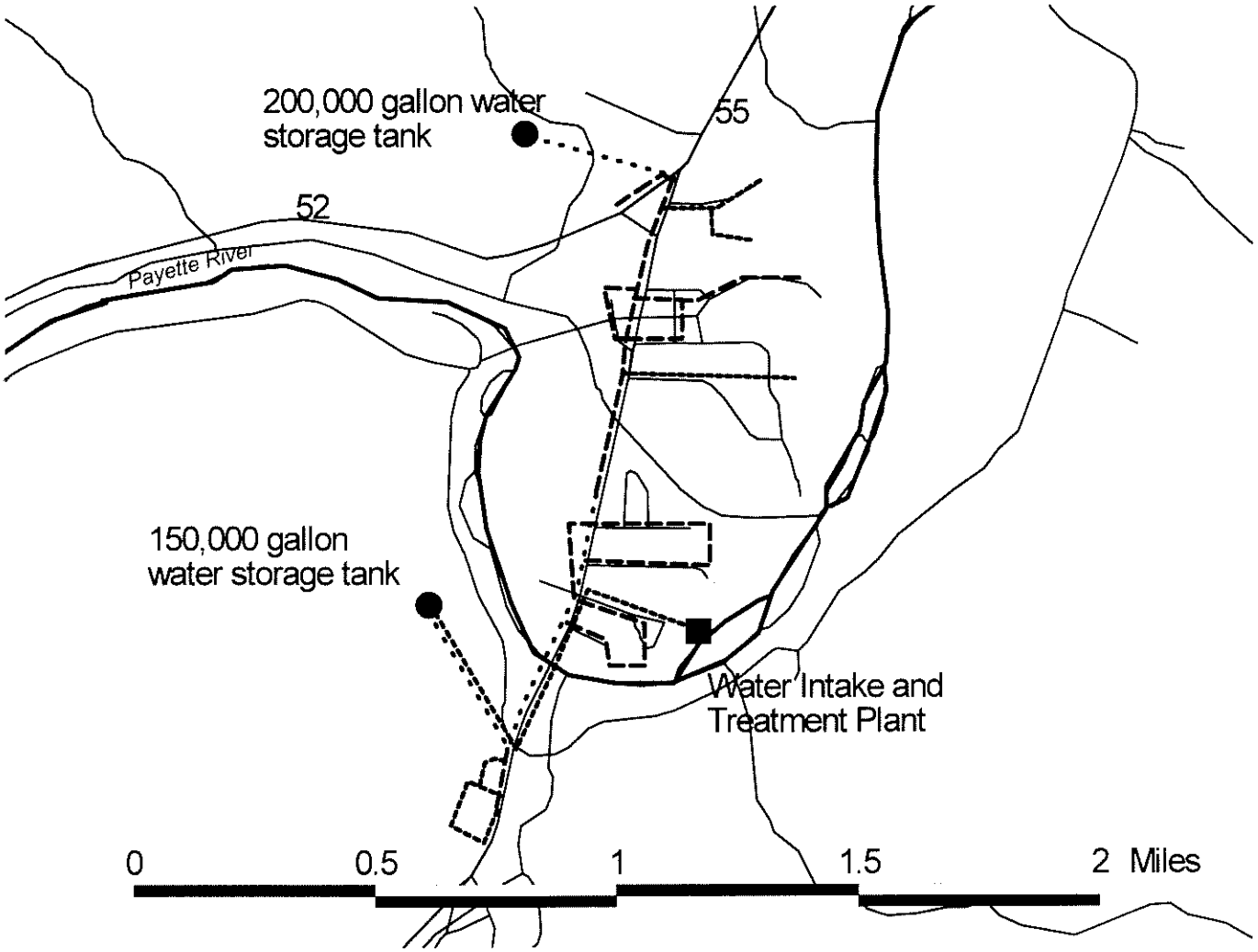


Water Main Legend

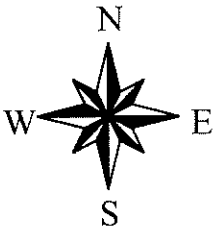
4" or Smaller
6" or Larger
Water Transmission Pipelines

N
W
E
S

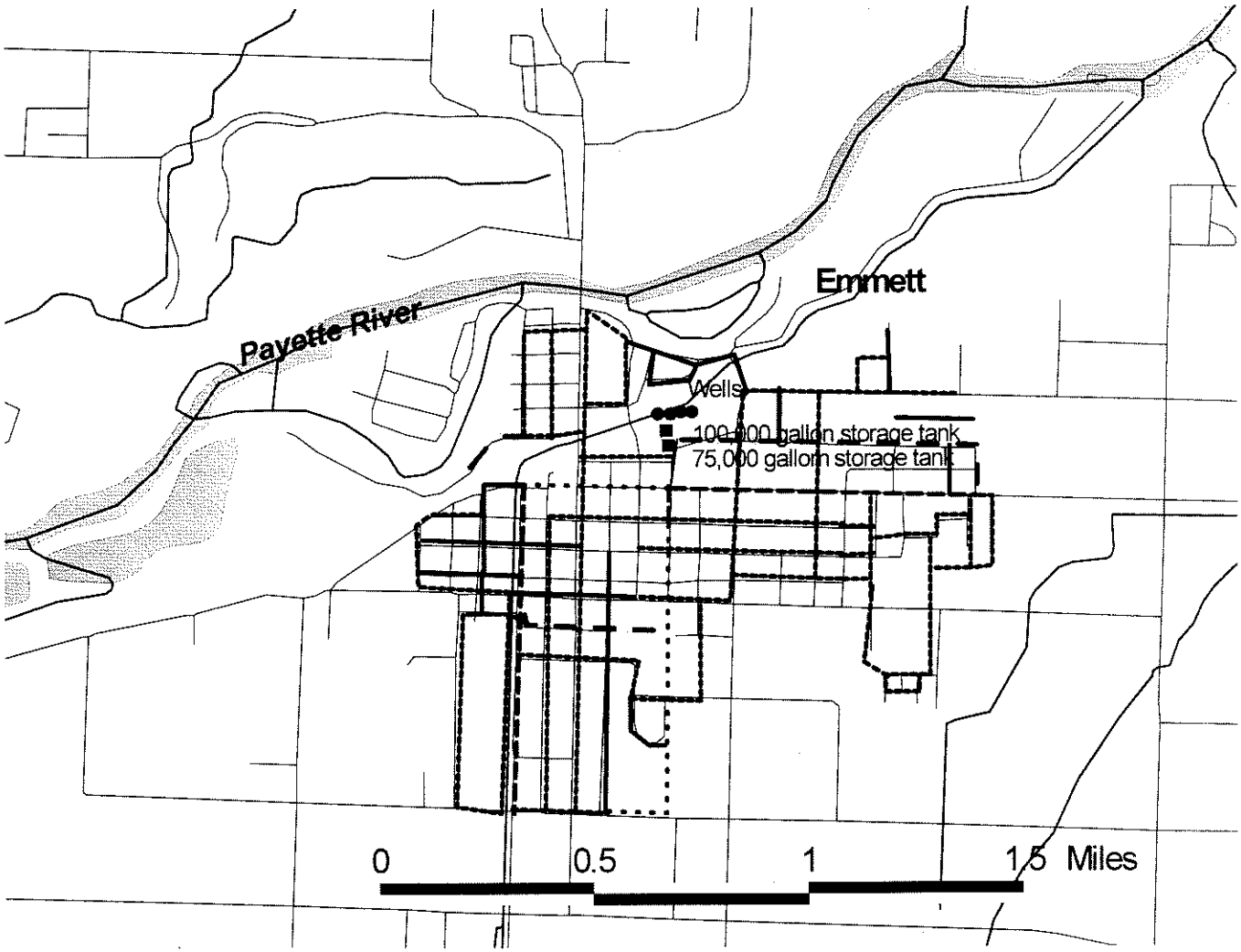
City of Horseshoe Bend



Water Main Legend



City of Emmett

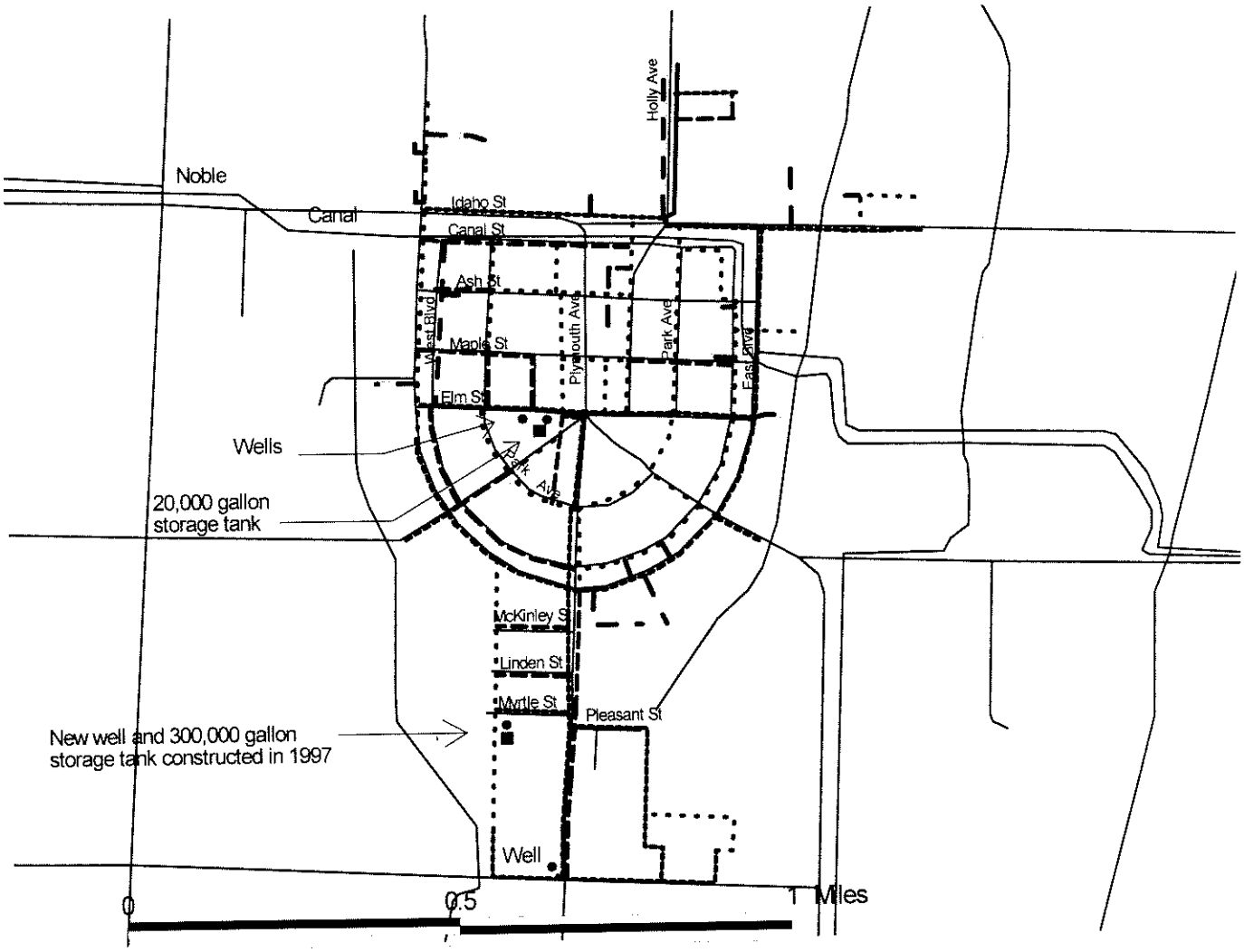


Water Main Legend

- 4"
- 6"
- 8"
- 10"
- 12"

N
W E
S

City of New Plymouth

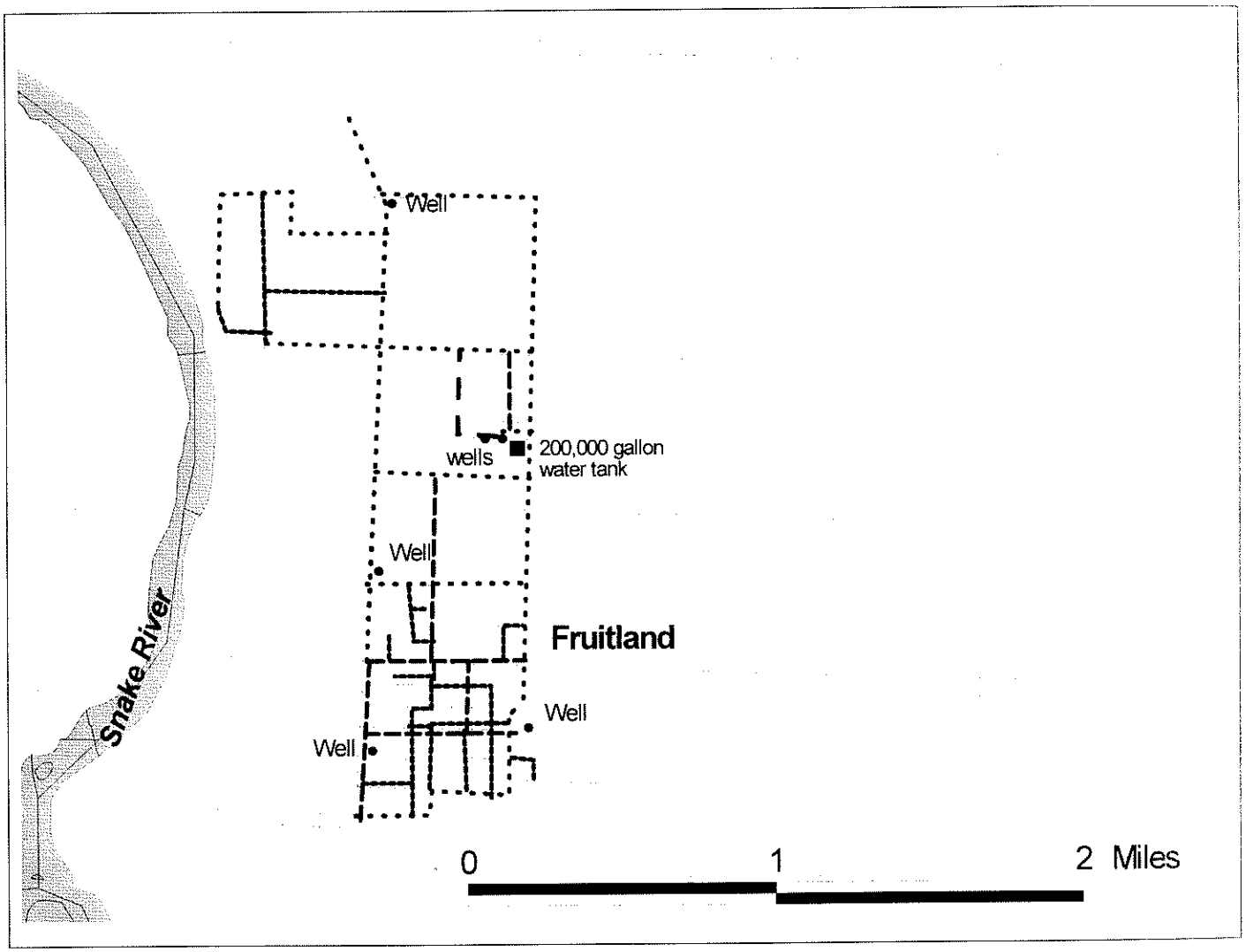


Water Main Legend

- 10" Lines
- 8" Lines
- 6" Lines
- 4" Lines
- 2" or Less

N
W E
S

City of Fruitland

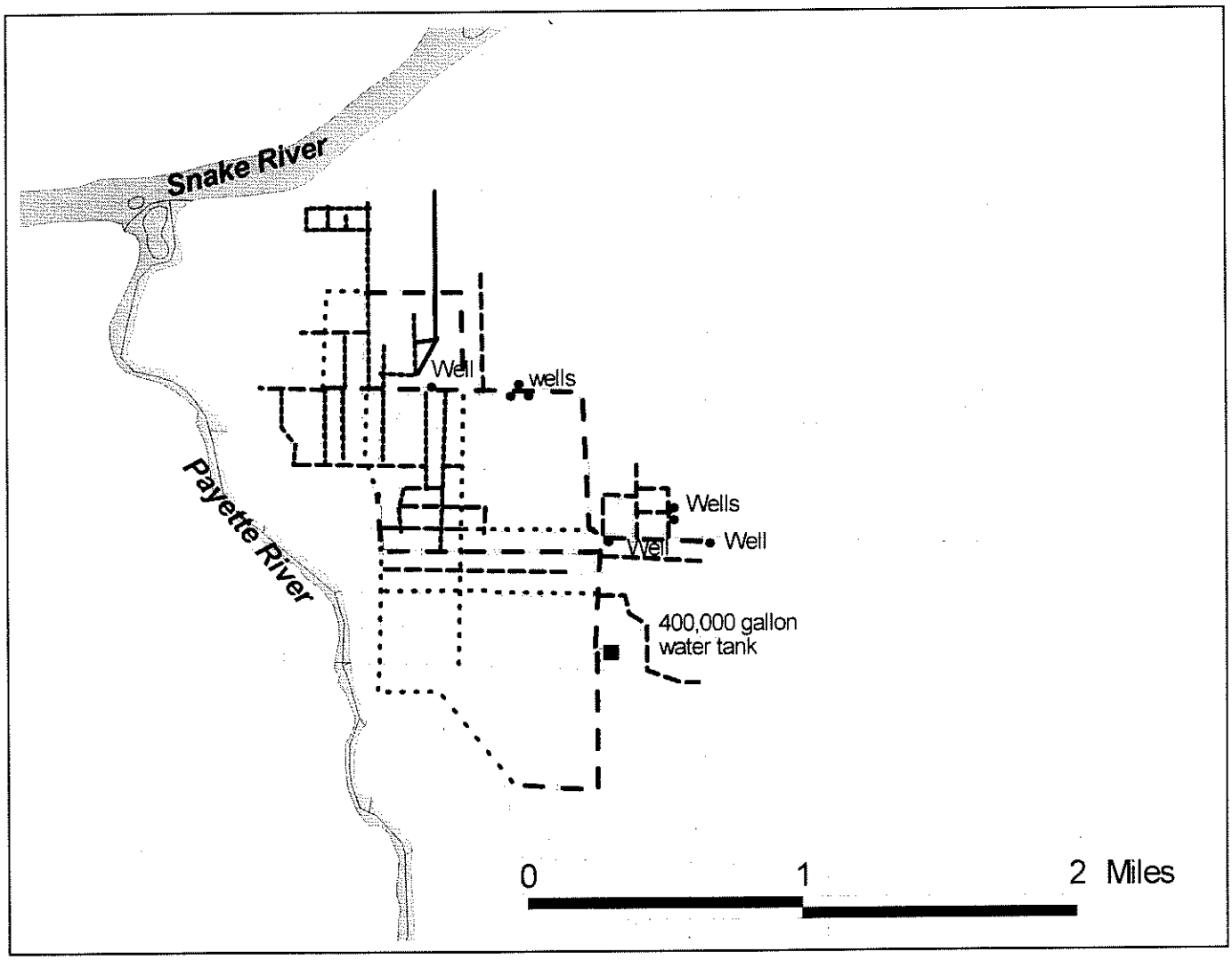


Water Main Legend

4"
6"
8"
12"

N
W
E
S

City of Payette



Water Main Legend

- 4"
- 6"
- 8"
- 9"
- 10"

N
W E
S

APPENDIX E

Letter to Gem Irrigation District from the Idaho Water Resource Board Requesting Additional Information

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Clarence Parr
Chairman
Heyburn

Joseph L. Jordan
Vice Chairman
Fruitvale

J. David Erickson
Secretary
Buhl

Erval Rainey
Sandpoint

Jerry R. Rigby
Rexburg

Robert Graham
Bonners Ferry

Terry T. Uhling
Boise

L. Claude Storer
Idaho Falls

June 24, 1998

Clyde Hutton
Gem Irrigation District
Post Office Box 78
Homedale, Idaho 83628

Dear Mr. Hutton:

The Idaho Water Resource Board is currently revising the Payette River Reaches Comprehensive State Water Plan to incorporate the Payette River Basin. During this process Gem Irrigation District has requested that we consider amending the recreational designation on the North Fork Payette River to allow a hydropower project. Our staff has reviewed the draft application and other documents prepared by Gem, and board member Terry Uhling was present at the recent Payette River Citizens Group workshop on May 27, 1998 when the project was discussed.

The Board needs additional information to decide whether it is in the public interest to amend the current state recreational river designation on the North Fork Payette River. The Board would like you to provide the following information:

1) How much does Gem need to receive per kilowatt-hour to make this project economically feasible? Has Gem conducted the necessary studies to determine economic and financial feasibility, as well as constructability. If so, we would like copies.

2) Documentation that the necessary rights-of-way and water rights may be obtained, and are being successfully pursued.

3) Several concerns were expressed about how the project will affect aesthetics. Engineering drawings in our files show the proposed location of the pipeline, intake and power house, but do not provide information about the design of the powerhouse and intake. Has conceptual design of these structures been completed?

4) Provide evidence that Gem is actively pursuing this project, and that it is not speculative in nature. This includes support that they have sufficient financial resources to complete this project. A letter from Carl Myers dated January 1996 stated that Gem would submit a development application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission soon. Please advise us as to the current status of the FERC application.

The Board would like to make a decision on this issue during the formulation of the Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan. We intend to have a draft plan available for public review by September 1998. Therefore, we need to receive this information from you by August 15, or sooner if possible.

Please contact John Beal (327-7992), if you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Joe Jordan, Vice Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

Terry Uhling
Idaho Water Resource Board

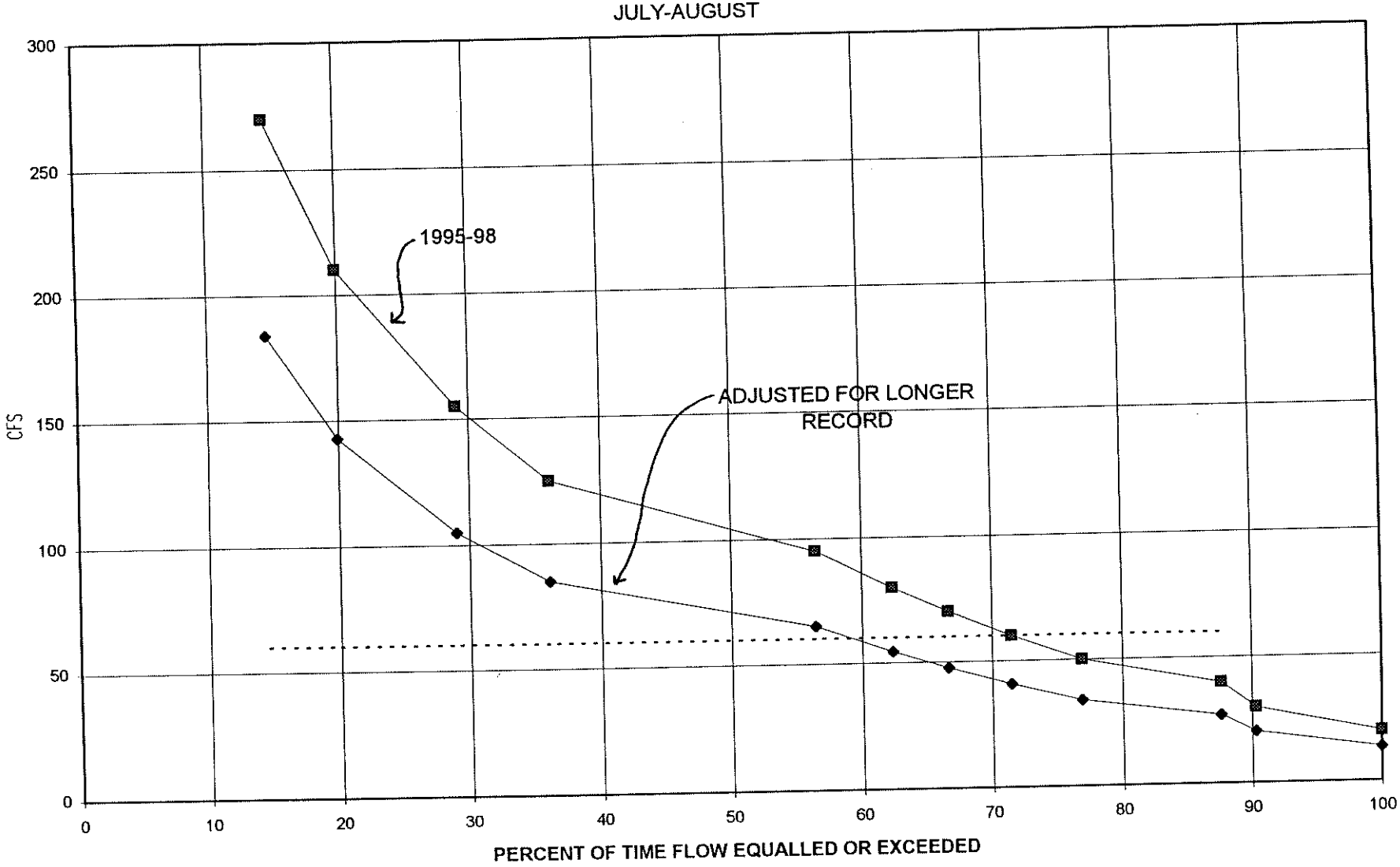
1301 North Orchard Street, Boise, ID 83706 Tel: (208) 327-7900 Fax: (208) 327-7866

APPENDIX F

Minimum Stream Flow Exceedance Probabilities

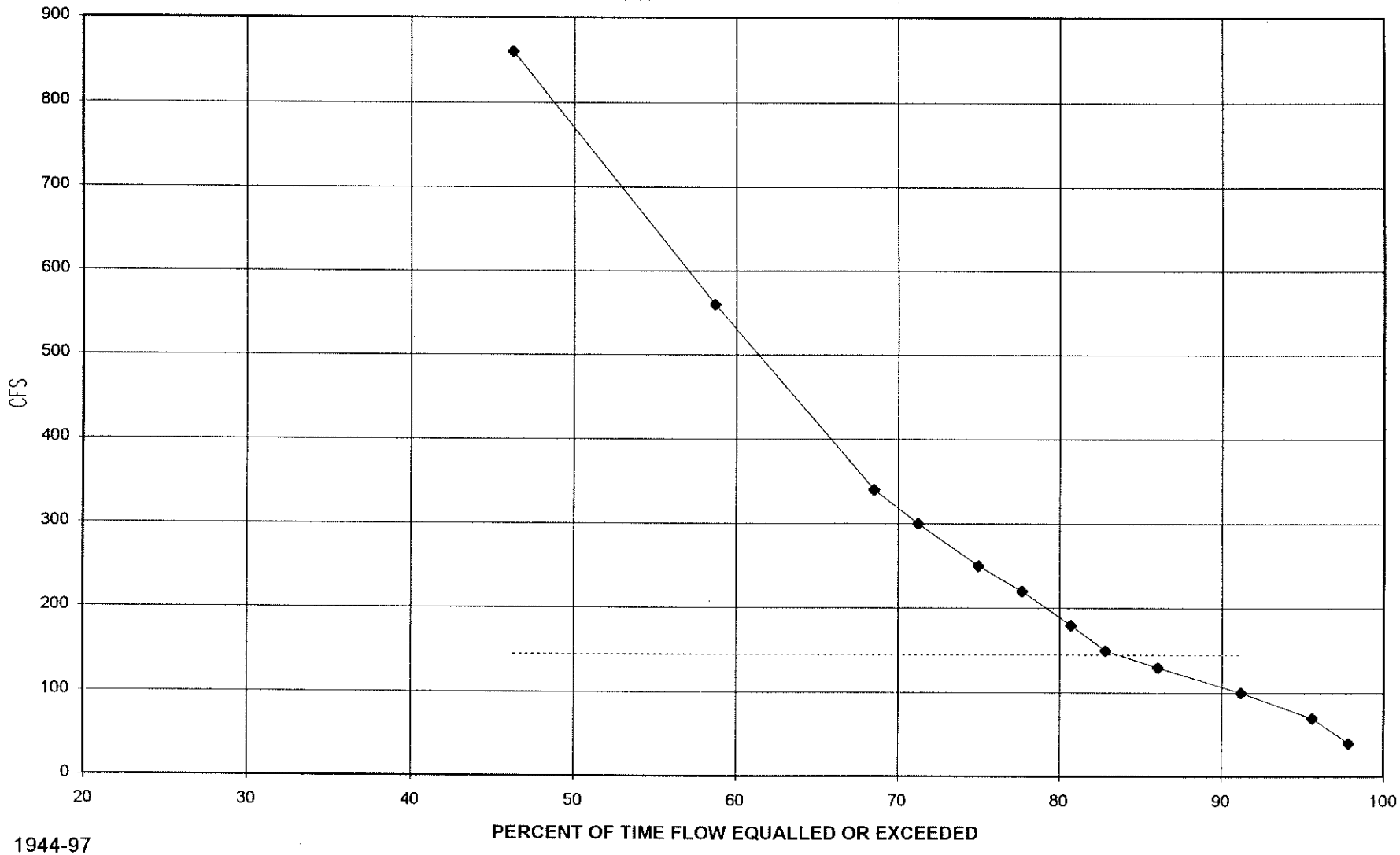
FLOW DURATIONS NORTH FORK PAYETTE RIVER BL FISHER CREEK

JULY-AUGUST



FLOW DURATION NORTH FORK PAYETTE RIVER AT MC CALL

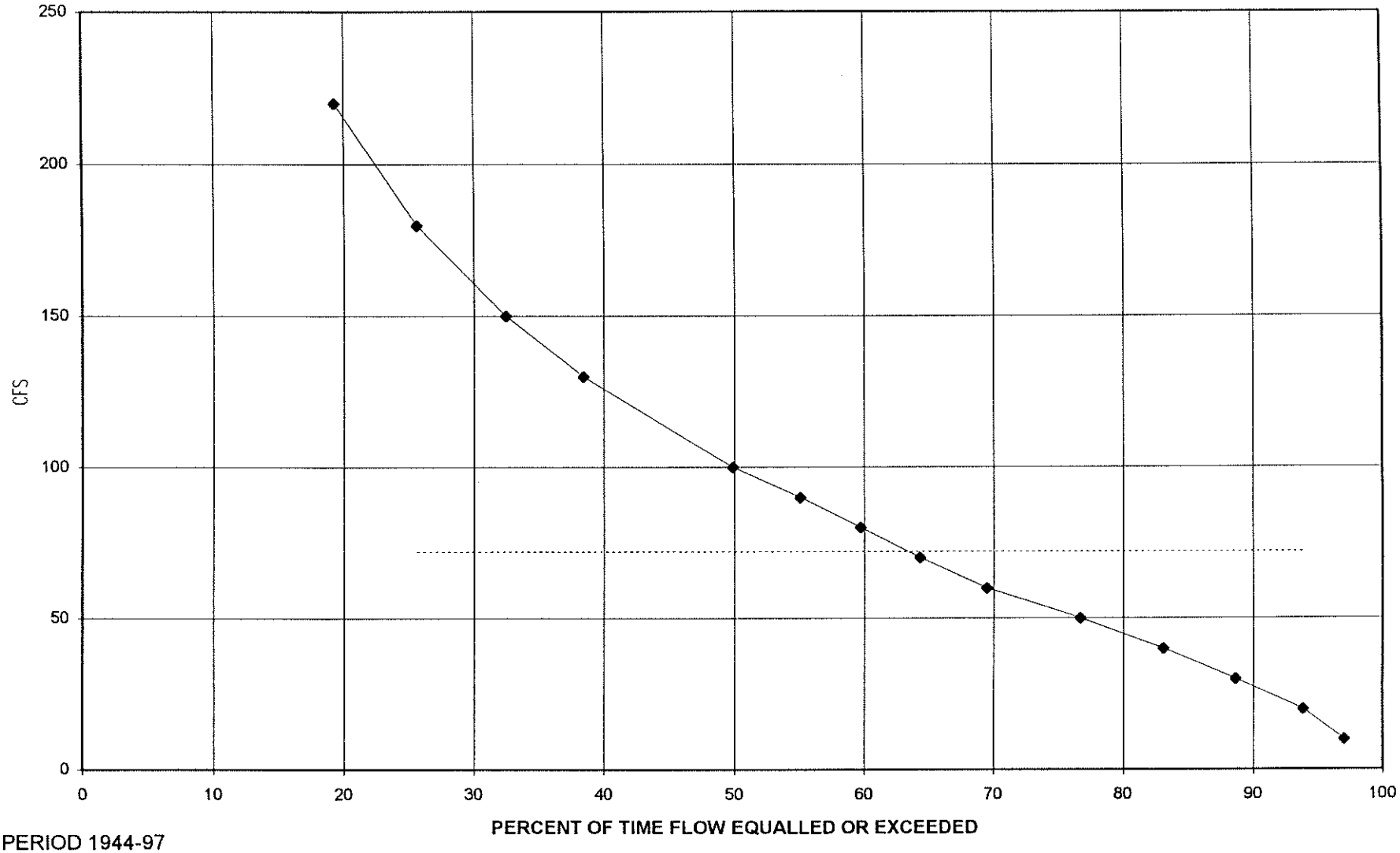
APRIL-JUNE



1944-97

FLOW DURATION NORTH FORK PAYETTE RIVER AT MC CALL

JULY-MARCH



PERIOD 1944-97

APPENDIX G

Recommendations Made by the Payette River Citizens Group

The recommendations that follow were generated during Payette River Citizens Group workshops conducted in May and June 1998. Issue discussion led to identification of the problem statements listed under each issue category. The Citizens Group identified a number of strategies for each of the problem statements. The recommendations listed below contains the recommendations the Payette River Citizens Group consented to in addressing the problem statements. Issues where the Citizens Group was not able to reach consent are indicated.

PROPOSED STATE PROTECTED RIVER DESIGNATIONS

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) What reaches in the Payette River Basin should be considered for a state protected river designation? Current state designations made in 1991 include:*

- *North Fork Payette River from Cabarton Bridge to Banks - recreational river;*
- *South Fork Payette River from the Sawtooth National Recreation Area to Banks - recreational river; and*
- *Main Payette River from Banks to Beehive Bend - recreational river.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Maintain the current state protected river designations as stated in the Payette River Reaches Comprehensive State Water Plan. *(Note: The Citizens Group can live with maintaining the current designation and prohibitions with the exception of the hydropower prohibition. Some would like to see the hydropower prohibition removed, others would like it to remain.)*

2. Designate the North Fork Payette from its headwaters to Payette Lake as a recreational river. This designation is not intended to restrict Lake Reservoir Company's current and future operations at Upper Payette Lake. (*Note: The Payette River Citizens Group can live with this designation, because the local government and citizens have worked out and support this recommendation which is contained in the Big Payette Lake Management Plan.*)

WATER ALLOCATION

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) Instream flows are desired in Mud Creek and Lake Fork. The J-Ditch project may replace diversions from these two waterways with effluent from the City of McCall. How can we insure that any additional instream flows resulting from the J Ditch Project are not appropriated?*

Consent not reached.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Realizing that water contracts and existing water rights must first be met, how can additional goals or outcomes be accomplished through adjustments in releases from the storage system? What are the additional specific*

desired outcomes or goals (water quality, fisheries, recreation)?

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Involve the Watershed Advisory Groups in this process.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *4) Numerous concerns about the use of water for salmon flow augmentation have been expressed. How do we address them?*

Consent not reached.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *5) How can improved irrigation efficiency and water conservation occur without forfeiture or partial forfeiture of water rights? And is this desirable?*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Amend law to allow water right holder to conserve water without losing water right
2. Allow a farmer to put the portion of his water right conserved into the State Water Supply Bank for future use or sale.

WATER STORAGE AND DELIVERY

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can the efficiency of the water delivery system be improved?*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Review the water delivery system and determine where additional gages are necessary.
2. Identify a funding source for additional gages. Should it be financed through the general fund or should additional user fees be sought such as recreational interests?

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Review irrigation diversion studies prepared for the Lower Payette and Cascade Reservoir areas, and identify opportunities to consolidate diversions and/or upgrade them.*

Consent not reached.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: 3) Identify opportunities for additional water storage in the basin for the purposes of municipal water supply, irrigation or flood control.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Idaho Water Resource Board has identified an 80,000 acre-foot Gold Fork Reservoir as a potential storage reservoir in the Idaho State Water Plan. Keep this storage reservoir in the Idaho State Water Plan.

2. Analyze small as well as large reservoir sites.

3. Recommend Idaho Department of Water Resources inventory sites and evaluate what quantity of water is available in the system.

MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can Emmett acquire the infrastructure or other options for meeting drinking water standards?*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Seek a loan or bond through the Idaho Water Resource Board.

2. Charge user fees to generate funds allocated specifically to a water treatment facility.

3. Recommend the Board actively seek and obtain Federal funding to construct these and other projects.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) What options are there for Horseshoe Bend to obtain a secure municipal water supply to meet current demands and plan for future growth?*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Purchase water rights with a senior priority date from willing sellers.

2. Drill new wells.

3. Use existing wells and treat water.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) Does the Garden Valley area want to consider a community system? And if so, where would the water come from, and how would they fund it?*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. New development in area should pay its own way.

2. A sewage system should be constructed first.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *4) How can the City of McCall fund Phase 2 of the water treatment plant?*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Seek a loan or bond through the Idaho Water Resource Board.

2. Investigate solutions other communities have pursued.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *5) How can municipalities plan and secure water to satisfy future growth?*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Senate Bill 1535 provides that municipalities can appropriate water for reasonably anticipated future needs as determined through comprehensive plans or other supporting data. It would be beneficial for communities in the basin to review current comprehensive land use plans, or during revisions and updates, to examine whether current municipal water supply is adequate to meet projected future growth. If additional water is needed, water applications to meet projected future growth can be filed in advance.

2. Recommend that the municipalities in the basin prepare a long range plan, investigating population projections and water needs, so they can plan accordingly.

3. Municipalities need to be able to purchase water contracts from rental pool.

4. Construct a series of storage reservoirs - look to headwaters.

5. Need more municipal water conservation.

6. Compensate irrigators to conserve water.

7. Purchase storage from one of the private reservoirs.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *6) Where is the additional water for urban/municipal growth in the basin going to come?*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Construction of storage reservoirs.
2. Improved water conservation in the community to supply some of the future water demand.
3. Promote municipal water conservation.
4. Base water rates on the amount of water used - requires installing water meters.
5. Recommend the Board establish a water supply bank, allowing the purchase and rental of natural water rights from water right holders that may not need all of their water right.

WATER QUALITY

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can septic system and well permitting be improved to reduce the potential of water quality impacts to wells and ground water.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Improve coordination between District Health and Idaho Department of Water Resources in the permitting of septic systems and wells.
2. Require waste treatment for subdivisions of certain densities.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) Identify options for establishing the Cascade Reservoir 300,000 acre-foot conservation pool.*

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Idaho needs to enforce the State constitution and not allow federal agencies to take water.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *4) How can sediment contributions from roads be mitigated?*
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Use silt fences and check dams where needed.
2. Protect riparian zones.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *5) How can potential water quality impacts (for example temperature and nutrients) from return flows be minimized?*
RECOMMENDATION:

1. Salt leaching problem at Idaho Transportation Department's Horseshoe Bend maintenance yard needs to be corrected.

FLOOD MANAGEMENT

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How do we manage land use development in the floodplain and minimize taxpayers' liability for flood damage?*
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Enactment of House Bill 660aa, addressing floodplain management, gives local jurisdictions authority to adopt floodplain ordinances. Recommend that all communities respond by adopting floodplain ordinances and/or participating in the National Flood Insurance Program which will allow private property owners the opportunity to purchase flood insurance.
2. Recommend local governments apply stricter standards regarding development in the floodplain.
3. Define and map flood zones more accurately.
4. Encourage local planning and zoning to manage land use development in the floodplain to minimize taxpayers' liability for flood damage.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Identify any 1997 flood damage needing repair.*
RECOMMENDATION:

1. Obtain a list from the Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Soil Conservation Districts, farm service agencies, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Federal Emergency Management Agency of unfunded or uncompleted flood-related projects.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) How to improve maintenance and management of the levee system along the Payette River from Horseshoe Bend downstream?*
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Form a committee comprised of representatives from each jurisdiction to study the levees as a complete system, and develop a coordinated plan to manage and maintain the system.
2. Recommend each county's Disaster Services Coordinator coordinate with the other jurisdictions along the river to ensure levees are adequately maintained.
3. Improve the levee system inventory, and spatially identify the location of all levees using Global Positioning System technology.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *4) How do we update floodplain mapping in the basin to reflect current river channel capacity?*
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Obtain aerial photography produced during the 1997 flood event, and identify an entity to input this information into a geographic information system so maps can be produced.
2. Develop accurate 100, 50 and 25-year flood maps.
3. Develop computer modeling to determine what is inundated at various flows.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) Should Gem Irrigation District be given an exemption to build a hydropower project on the North Fork Payette River?*

RECOMMENDATIONS:
Before amending the Payette Plan to allow the North Fork Payette hydropower project:

1. The hydropower project must be consistent with the Resource Development goals; and

2. Gem Irrigation District must provide satisfactory answers to questions raised by the Idaho Water Resource Board in the June 24, 1998 letter to Gem.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Are there additional hydropower options in the basin that need to be considered?*

Consent not reached.

FISHERIES

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can the quality of fisheries in the basin be improved?*
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Improve diversion structures, measurement, fish screening, and sediment removal.
2. Consider alternative algae management possibilities (e.g. Europe uses"algae eaters").
3. Manage for the sustainability and improvement of the bull trout fishery in the Payette River Basin.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Identify possible modifications or improvements to diversions on the North Fork Payette, Gold Fork and Lake Fork to help improve fish passage and spawning.*
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Orient diversion openings so that they are parallel to flows on the Lake Fork and Gold Fork, thus minimizing fish diverted into ditches.
2. Position diversion structure overflows where fish can most easily use.

AGENCY PLANNING AND COORDINATION

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can the permitting process for stream channel alterations be more efficient, particularly during emergency situations?*
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Idaho Department of Water Resources can hold public information meetings in areas susceptible to flooding and identify stream channel protection measures needed before flood season.
2. Adequately fund agencies to review onslaught of applications after flood events.
3. Consolidate all stream channel alteration permit functions under the authority of the Idaho Department of Water Resources.
4. Streamline the process for emergency situations. If a structure is lost during a flood, can some steps be skipped?
5. Involve the Soil Conservation Districts in stream channel alteration permitting.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) How can we ensure that the Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan does not duplicate the efforts of the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) in the Payette River Basin?*
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Board and Division of Environmental Quality will closely coordinate and monitor each other's efforts. The Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan will not address issues outside the Board's authority that will be addressed in Total Maximum Daily Load Plans.
2. The Payette River Basin Comprehensive State Water Plan will take actions to implement recommendations made in the Big Payette Lake Management Plan and Implementation Program that are consistent with the Board's authorities.

3. Idaho Department of Water Resources should regularly attend Watershed Advisory Group / Basin Advisory Group meetings and sit on Technical Advisory Committees.

4. Emphasize that efforts will not be duplicated.

5. Coordinate with the Water District 65 Watermaster.

6. Identify opportunities for the Board to educate the public about how comprehensive state water plans differ from the activities of the Watershed Advisory Groups and Basin Advisory Groups.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) How can we get all agencies to refer to the river reach from the Middle Fork Payette confluence to Banks as the South Fork Payette?*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Idaho Water Resource Board will complete the necessary paperwork to request a name change with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Boise County Coalition will help the Board with this effort, coordinating with local jurisdictions.

2. Disseminate information about name change to the agencies.

RECREATION

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *1) How can impacts to rivers in the basin from recreation activities be reduced? What services and facilities are needed to address these impacts, how do we fund them, and who should provide them? Impacts that need to be addressed include trampling of riparian vegetation, private property trespass, adequate parking and restroom facilities, and additional sites to reduce crowding and provide access to the disabled.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation should charge a fee for the boats and not per car.

2. Spread out the use.

3. Recommend boating community educate and police itself as to problems seen by the locals.

4. Require float boats to be licensed, similar to powerboats.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Identify ways to improve traffic management on State Highway 55 and the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Road 17).*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Provide more passing lanes and turnouts.

2. Install as many good "designated parking only" pull-offs and enforce the same.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) How can the diversity of recreation opportunities on the Payette River system be maintained?*

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Work with county commissions, and planning and zoning in the development of comprehensive land use plans, etc. to provide access and opportunities.

MINIMUM INSTREAM FLOWS

Water Quality: PROBLEM STATEMENT: *2) Identify river reaches where minimum instream flows would improve water quality.*

Fisheries: PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) Identify river reaches where minimum instream flows are needed to protect fisheries.*

Water Allocation: PROBLEM STATEMENT: *3) Where are minimum instream flows in the Payette River Basin desired, and for what purposes?*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recommend the Idaho Water Resource Board obtain minimum instream flows on the North Fork Payette River:

- below Upper Payette Lake for fisheries
- below Payette Lake for water quality, fisheries and recreation.

2. Recommend instream flow technical studies or analyses be conducted to determine if minimum instream flows are warranted for the following river reaches:

- Lake Fork: Little Payette Lake to Cascade Reservoir for water quality and fisheries
- Gold Fork River: Gold Fork diversion dam to Cascade Reservoir for water quality and fisheries
- Payette River:

  Banks to Black Canyon for water quality
  Black Canyon to Letha for water quality
  Letha to Snake River for water quality.

APPENDIX H

Summary of Background History and Other Considerations for Recreational Mining

Some background about the regulations pertaining to recreational mining are presented, with a focus on history in the Payette River Basin.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1971 the Idaho Legislature enacted the Stream Channel Protection Act, requiring permits for most stream channel alterations. A permit is obtained by filing an application with the Idaho Department of Water Resources which is reviewed by several federal and state agencies to minimize negative environmental impacts.

In 1980 the Department streamlined the process by developing a "One Stop Permit" for recreational suction mining. The One Stop Permit is a pre-approved stream channel alteration permit obtained from the Department by completing an abbreviated application and paying a $10 filing fee. This procedure allows an applicant to receive a permit at the time he submits the application, a process similar to obtaining a hunting or fishing license. By comparison, the Stream Channel Alteration Permit entails completing a detailed application, a $30 filing fee, and a longer agency review period. The One Stop Permit only authorizes use of suction dredges with nozzle diameter 5 inches or less, and equipment rated at 15 horsepower or less on waterways listed as open in an attachment to the permit.

Immediate issuance of the One Stop Permit is possible, because the agency review required for stream channel alterations takes place annually as part of a pre-review requested by the Department. This review allows agencies to guide the One Stop Permit conditions, including identifying waters open under the permit, the period of year operation can occur, and operating requirements to protect water quality, fish, wildlife, and other instream values.

Agencies identify waterways where fish, wildlife and water quality concerns require closer scrutiny than occurs under the One Stop Permit. Additionally, rivers and streams closed to mineral entry by the Land Board, and Water Resource Board designated natural and recreational rivers prohibiting stream channel alterations are closed under the One Stop Permit. On some waterways closed under the One Stop Permit, recreational mining may occur if the longer Stream Channel Alteration Permit application is filed, which is processed using a full agency review of each individual application.

HISTORY OF ONE STOP PERMIT AUTHORIZATION IN THE PAYETTE RIVER BASIN

In July 1988 the Idaho Water Resource Board designated the North Fork Payette from Cabarton to Banks, the South Fork Payette from the Sawtooth Wilderness Area boundary to Banks, and the Payette from Banks to Black Canyon Dam as interim protected rivers. These reaches were open for all or parts of the year under the One Stop Permit before this designation. In August 1988 the Land Board closed these reaches to mineral entry in

conjunction with the Water Resource Board's interim protection. This action prohibited recreational dredge mining under the One Stop Permit or the Stream Channel Alteration Permit. In May 1989 the Water Resource Board adopted a resolution allowing recreational suction mining on interim protected rivers with a Stream Channel Alteration Permit.

While the Draft Payette River Reaches Plan was being prepared, the Land Board reconsidered mineral entry closures on the South Fork Payette in April 1990. They agreed to delay a decision until the Idaho Water Resource Board held public hearings on its Draft Payette River Reaches Plan.

A representative of the Idaho Gold Prospectors Association was a member of the first Payette River Citizens Group, and worked with the Water Resource Board and Land Board to get reaches of the South Fork Payette River open for recreational mining under the One Stop Permit. As a result, the Water Resource Board's Payette River Reaches Plan supported recreational mining under the One Stop Permit for two reaches of the South Fork Payette River: 1) from the Sawtooth Wilderness Area boundary to the Deadwood River, and 2) from Big Pine Creek confluence to the Middle Fork Payette confluence. All other reaches of the South Fork, North Fork and Payette River were closed to recreational mining under both the One Stop Permit and the longer Stream Channel Alteration Permit in that plan. The Land Board working cooperatively with the Water Resource Board amended the mineral closure on the South Fork Payette in 1990 to allow recreational mining only. The Idaho Gold Prospectors Association has now requested that some of these reaches be opened under the One Stop Permit.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

In addition to the state protected designation that prohibits recreational dredge mining, the Payette River from Banks to Black Canyon Dam was closed by the Land Board to all mineral entry. The Land Board will have to amend the mineral closure on the main Payette in order for recreational mining to occur under the One Stop Permit. Reaches currently open to recreational dredge mining with a One Stop Permit are listed in Table 42 on page 114 of the Payette River Basin Plan. Many reaches closed under the One Stop Permit may be mined after completing an application for a Stream Channel Alteration Permit.

The Idaho Gold Prospectors Association have stressed that regulated suction dredge mining can have little to minimal impacts, while most research has reported on the impacts of unregulated activities. A review of some of this literature included the Final Environmental Impact Report for Adoption of Regulations for Suction Dredge Mining prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game (1994). The degree of impact is associated with dredge size, size of river and stream, size of stream compared to size of dredge, density of dredges, and amount of fine material dredged. Regulated dredge mining to minimize impacts consists of the following:

- Seasonal or permanent closure for reaches with special status fish species;
- Establishing suction dredge seasons to avoid critical spawning periods of fish;
- Prohibiting suction dredge mining into the stream bank;
- Prohibiting damage to woody riparian habitat from suction dredge operations;
- Placing conditions on the use of winches;
- Placing restrictions on the size of the nozzle intake;

- Prohibiting damming or obstructing a stream;
- Prohibiting diverting stream into a stream bank; and
- Prohibiting importing earth material into water.

These conditions are currently part of the One Stop Permit. However, the Department has one person to monitor and enforce One Stop and Stream Channel Alteration permits in the Southwest Region. Therefore, very little monitoring will occur.

Several agencies have identified some concerns about opening reaches of the South Fork and main Payette rivers to recreational mining. Idaho Department of Fish and Game notes that bull trout recovery efforts would not support opening the South Fork Payette under the One Stop Permit. The South Fork Payette is considered a bull trout migration corridor.

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation notes the potential conflicts between recreationists. As the Recreation section in the Payette River Basin Plan indicates, the majority of float boating activity in the basin (commercial and private) occurs on the South Fork Payette and main Payette. Recreational miners tend to dredge in calmer waters, minimizing potential safety concerns, but there would likely be conflicts with other recreationists. Opening this reach could create conflicts between users groups that would then become the responsibility of recreation management agencies to resolve.

A representative for Idaho Department of Lands questions the potential to recover minerals in these reaches. None of the Lands Department personnel could determine if the Lands Board would be amenable to amending mineral entry closures to allow recreational mining. Idaho Geological Survey notes there are better places to mine for gold in the basin, such as near Grimes Pass or in the Deadwood drainage. Although it was acknowledged some gold may have washed downstream into the Payette River.

During the Department's annual review of the One Stop Permit, agencies have requested these reaches be closed under this permit. The Department has noted that if the Board were to remove the prohibition for recreational mining, the Department would likely keep these reaches closed under the One Stop Permit because of requests by other agencies.