



# Eastern Snake Plain Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan

## Implementation Progress

February 3, 2010



## Implementation

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- House Bill 264 approved by legislature and signed into law by Governor Otter April 23, 2009.
- Implementation Committee appointed by Water Board.
- Board extended contract with CDR Associates for facilitation services for another year.
- Board accepted CDR recommendations for formulation of Implementation Committee including establishing Work Groups.

## Aquifer Recharge

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- In 2009 about 125,000 acre-feet of recharge was accomplished during the 2009 water year.
- The Implementation Committee is currently finalizing an approach to dealing with the incidental recharge issue included in HB264.
- Moving ahead with constructed recharge sites to increase capacity
  - Obtaining right of way at Milepost 31 site
  - Evaluating enlargement of Egin site
- The CAMP goal is to continue the program and average 100,000 acre-feet of recharge per year.

## Other CAMP Actions

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- Continuing to developing conversion projects administration mechanism.
- Through the AWEF program 14 conversion projects totaling 4884 acres are currently under contract to be funded.
- Demand reduction continues with efforts to incentivize CREP and design a state alternative to CREP for lands that don't qualify.
- Through the AWEF program 14 Thousand Springs area projects designed to improve efficiency of spring-fed delivery systems are currently under contract to be funded.
- Idaho Power is operating 9 remote cloud seeding generators in Upper Snake this winter, and plan to increase to 35 after 5 years. Contractual arrangements to formalize program under CAMP still need to be developed.

## Phase 1 Funding

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- Irrigated Agriculture, \$3 million/yr
- Idaho Power, \$1-1.5 million/yr
- Municipalities, \$700,000/yr
- Spring Users, \$200,000/yr
- Industrial, self-supplied, \$150,000/yr
- State \$3 million/yr.
- Federal – pursue opportunities as available
- Recreation/Environmental - pursue opportunities as available

## Funding Mechanisms Draft Legislation

- HB 264 directed the development of a funding mechanism to implement CAMP, consistent with the Phase 1 funding targets.
- Assessment of mandatory fee rather than a tax.
- Fee will be collected through Counties and Water Districts.
- Fee based on allocation set forth in ESPA CAMP.

## Draft Legislation

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- Includes clear findings supporting a fee structure to demonstrate benefit.
- County Treasurer will assess all irrigated lands on Eastern Snake Plain one dollar.
- Water Districts will collect for second dollar of Ground Water user fees, municipal, industrial, aquaculture and hydropower below canyon rim.

# Draft Legislation

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- Legislation authorizes retention of percentage for administration.
- Legislation to authorize non-payment result in property lien.

# Status of Legislation

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- Version 1.8 brought to Implementation Committee Feb. 2.
- Water Board to meet Friday Feb. 5 and make final decision on draft legislation.
- Legislative leadership is expecting draft legislation after Board action.

# Questions?

