The Rathdrum Prairie CAMP

In Fiscal Year 2009, the Idaho Water Resource Board began the process of developing a long-term management plan for the Rathdrum Prairie aquifer. A final plan is anticipated to be completed in 2012.

The Rathdrum Prairie aquifer is a vital regional resource shared by the states of Idaho and Washington. Technical studies in this planning process will incorporate and refine information gained during the recent Spokane Rathdrum-Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Hydrologic Project.

CAMP Components

The technical and planning components will not start from scratch. The Spokane Valley-Rathrdum Prairie (SVRP) Hydrological Project was initiated in late 2003 to provide the technical information needed to address issues of supply in the SVRP. The project included the development of a water budget for the aquifer system and an improved understanding of the hydrologic system in the valley.

Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Atlas, 2004 Update

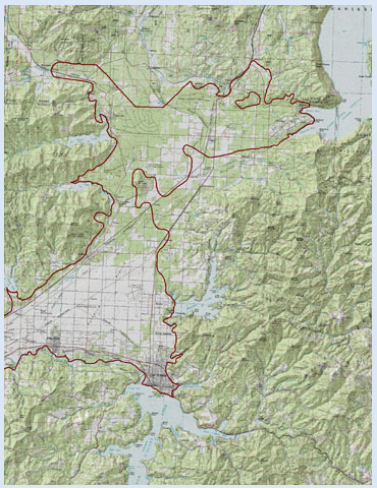
Anticipated CAMP technical studies include:

- Refinement of a water budget
- Optimal lake level regime study
- Refining groundwater model

Anticipate CAMP planning work includes:

- Future Water Demand Study
- Evaluation of the impacts of climate change on water supply
- Planning assessment of proposed alternatives to meet future water demands

This planning process addresses the portion of the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie aquifer that is located in Idaho.



Outline of the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer in Northern Idaho

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Helen Harrington
Manager, Water Planning Section
Idaho Department of Water Resources

The Idaho Water Center
322 East Front Street
PO Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098
Phone: (208) 287-4800
Fax: (208) 287-6700

Please visit our website at www.idwr.idaho.gov/waterboard/WaterPlanning/CAMP/CAMP.htm

The website contains background information, updates on the status of the programs, and ways to submit comments.

Spokane River looking downstream from Post Falls Dam

Rathdrum Prairie

Comprehensive Aquifer Management Planning (CAMP)

IDAHO Water Resource Board

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Comprehensive Aquifer Management Planning

Why are we developing a CAMP?

The CAMP Program is designed to develop aquifer management plans for managing ground and surface water resources into the future. The plans will guide technical and management actions undertaken by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) and the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

At the direction of the Idaho Legislature, the IWRB is developing a CAMP for the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer which will become a component of the Idaho State Water Plan. Once adopted, all state agencies shall exercise their duties in a manner consistent with the CAMP. The plan is also submitted to the federal energy regulatory commission and other federal agencies.

The specific goals of a Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) are to:

- Provide reliable sources of water, projecting 50 years into the future.
- Avoid conflict (i.e., the experience in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer)
- Prioritize future state investments in water
- Bridge the gaps between future water needs and supply

Post Falls Dam
Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

Photo by Guy Gregory

Spokane River
Photo courtesy of the City of Post Falls

Who is Responsible for What?

The CAMP program is under the authority of the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB). The IWRB is responsible for appointing the Advisory Committee members and adopting a CAMP for the basins.

Once the CAMP is adopted by the IWRB, it is submitted to the Idaho Legislature for final adoption.

Staff support for the IWRB is provided by the Planning Bureau of the Idaho Department of Water Resources. Staff provides administrative and technical assistance for IWRB programs and activities.

The Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the IWRB for consideration in the final CAMP

Citizens provide input and advice to the Advisory Committee and the Board.

Technical consultants provide data that will inform the discussions within the Advisory Committee and the IWRB.

Facilitators promote communication, understanding and agreement.

What a Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan is Not

A CAMP is **NOT** a change in prior appropriations system

A CAMP is **NOT** regulatory

A CAMP is **NOT** a change to or part of adjudication

A CAMP is **NOT** associated with Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)