




IDAHO Department of Water Resources

Boise Diversion Dam and Power House , 2016

The New Normal for WRs on the ESPA


Presented to the Eastern Idaho Water Rights Coalition

June 8, 2016

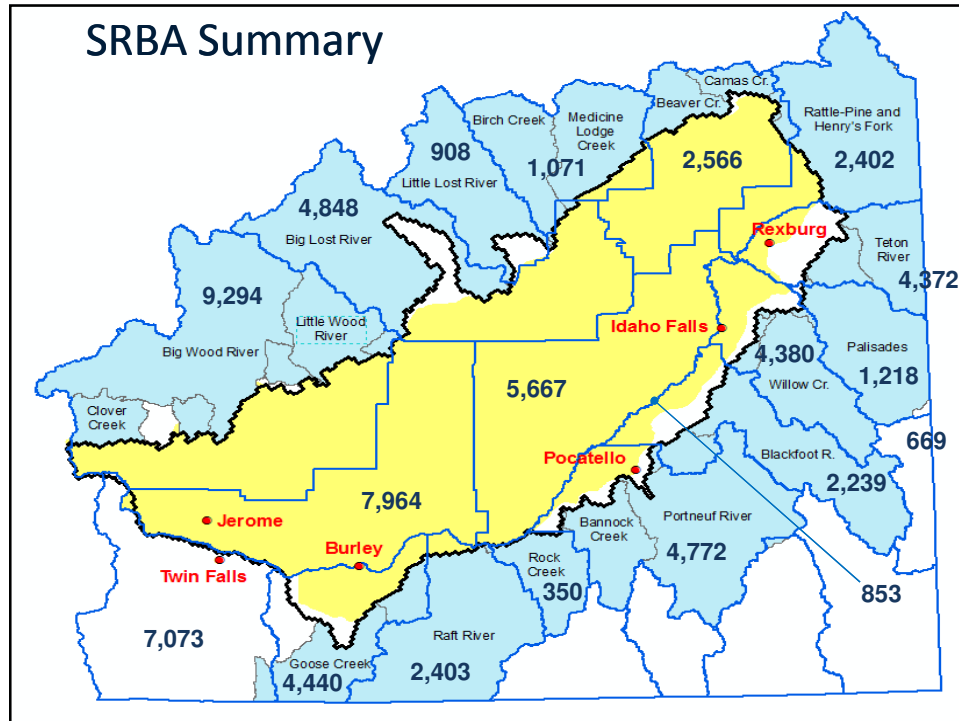




Presentation Overview

1. New Normal on the ESPA
2. Affects on Water Management Practices
3. Affects on Water Right Processes
4. Planning & Projects – A New IDWR Mission



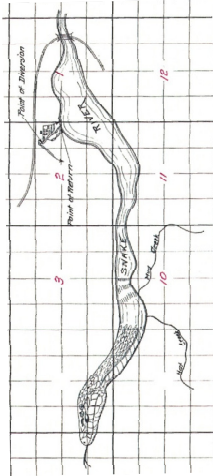
Wheel line on spuds, Aberdeen Area, 2015



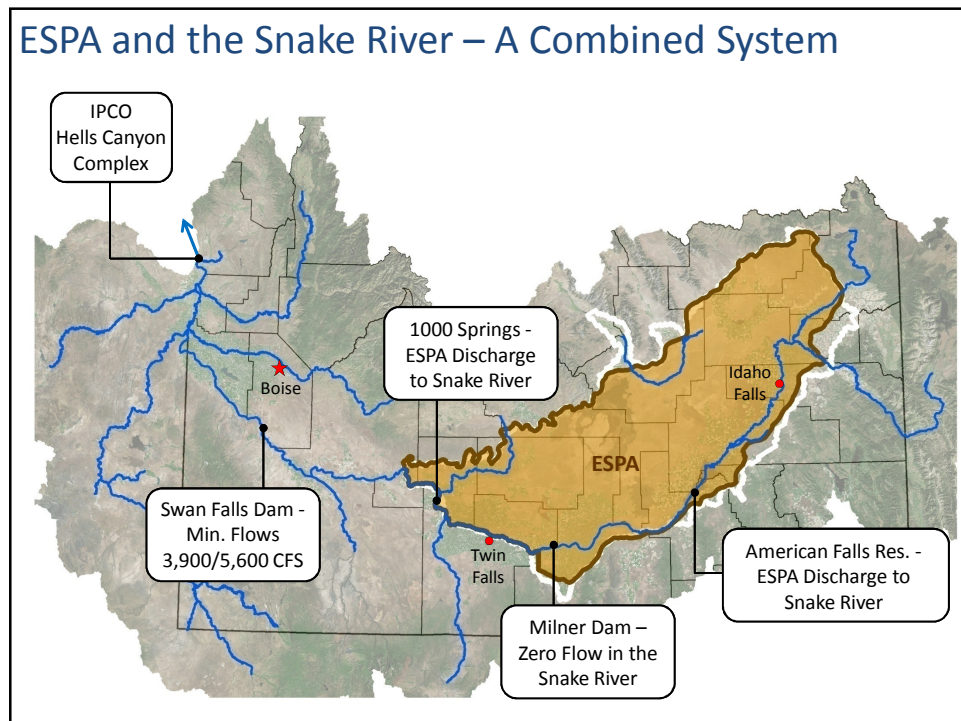
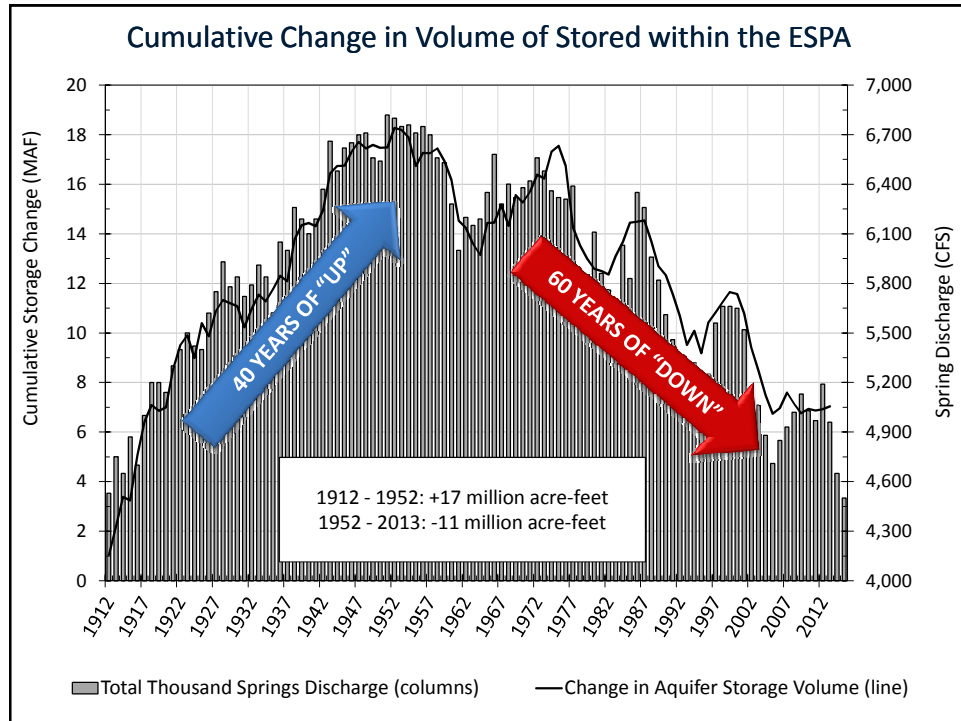



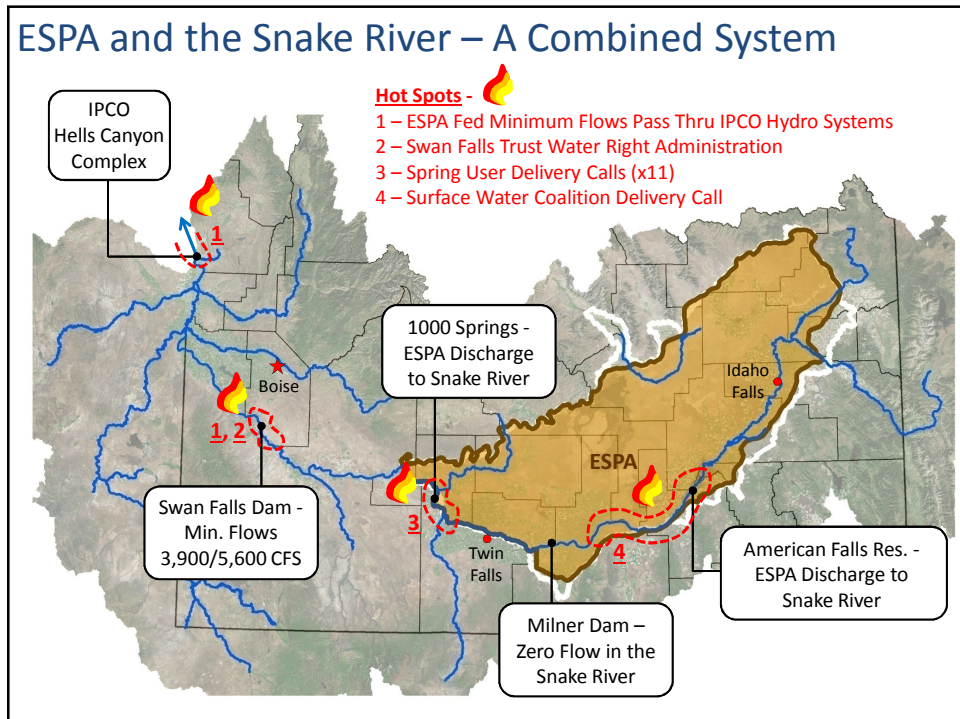
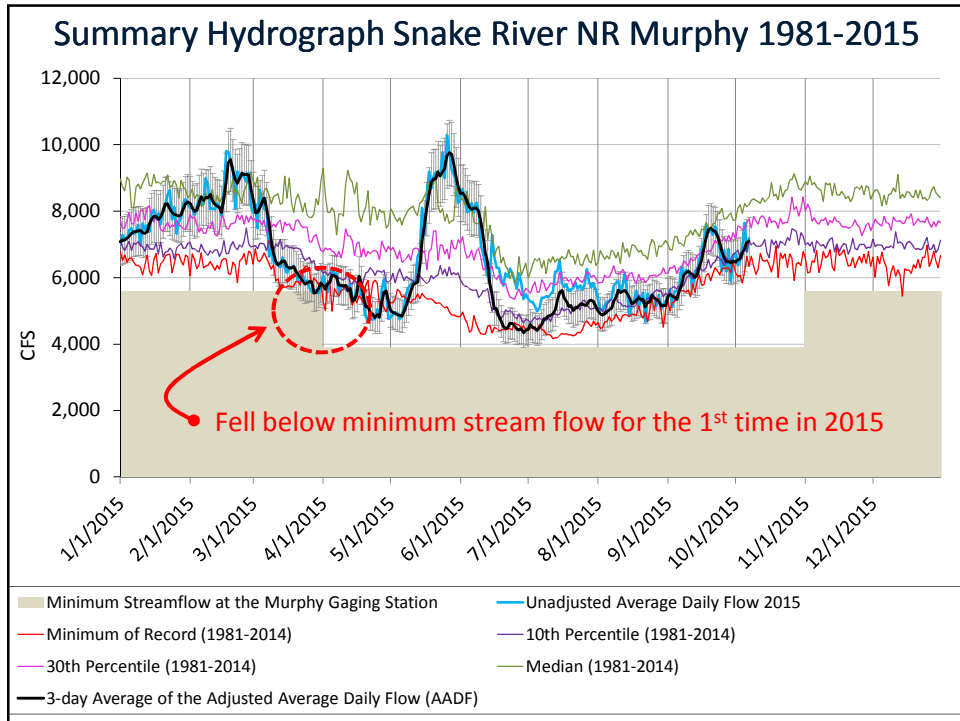
Expectation of Administration

1. Idaho Code §42-604 mandates the Director form water districts as necessary to properly administer uses of water from public streams, or other independent sources of water supply, for which a court having jurisdiction thereof has adjudicated the priorities of appropriation.
2. CM Rules 37.03.11
 - Procedures for responding to delivery call by senior surface or ground water right holder against junior surface and/or ground water right holder
 - It is intended these rules be incorporated into general rules governing water distribution



IDWR Beneficial Field Report, 1940





ESPA AQUIFER MANAGEMENT

- ESPA losing about 216,000 AF annually since 1952
- Management efforts to obtain a 490,000 AF swing in water budget
 - 250,000 AF annually from state's managed recharge program
 - 240,000 AF annually from ground water users demand reduction
- Goal is to recover aquifer to 1990's conditions



ESPA AQUIFER MANAGEMENT – STATE'S COMMITMENT

- Legislature committed \$5M annually beginning in 2015 from Cigarette Tax to "State-wide Aquifer Stabilization" through 2019
- Legislature committed \$5M annually to "Water Sustainability Projects" beginning in 2016
- Additional one-time funds - \$4M in 2014, \$0.5M in 2015, \$2.5M in 2016
- Funds managed by IWRB
- ESPA is 1st priority, but other aquifers across state have needs and will compete for funds - Wood River, Mt. Home, Treasure Valley, Lewiston Plateau, Palouse, Rathdrum Prairie, Malad Valley
- IWRB setting budgets for spending





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ESPA AQUIFER MANAGEMENT – STATE’S COMMITMENT

- Initiated “Winter-Recharge” efforts in partnerships with various canal companies and irrigation districts
- Infrastructure improvements to increase recharge capacity Egin Bench, Great Feeder, Milner-Gooding, North Side canals
- Additional projects in planning.
- ESPA Recharge by State during past two years:

	2014-2015	2015-2016
Upstream of Minidoka Dam	14,166	None available
Downstream of Minidoka Dam	61,068	66,536
Total Recharge	75,234	66,536
Spill Past Milner	About 300,000	111,326

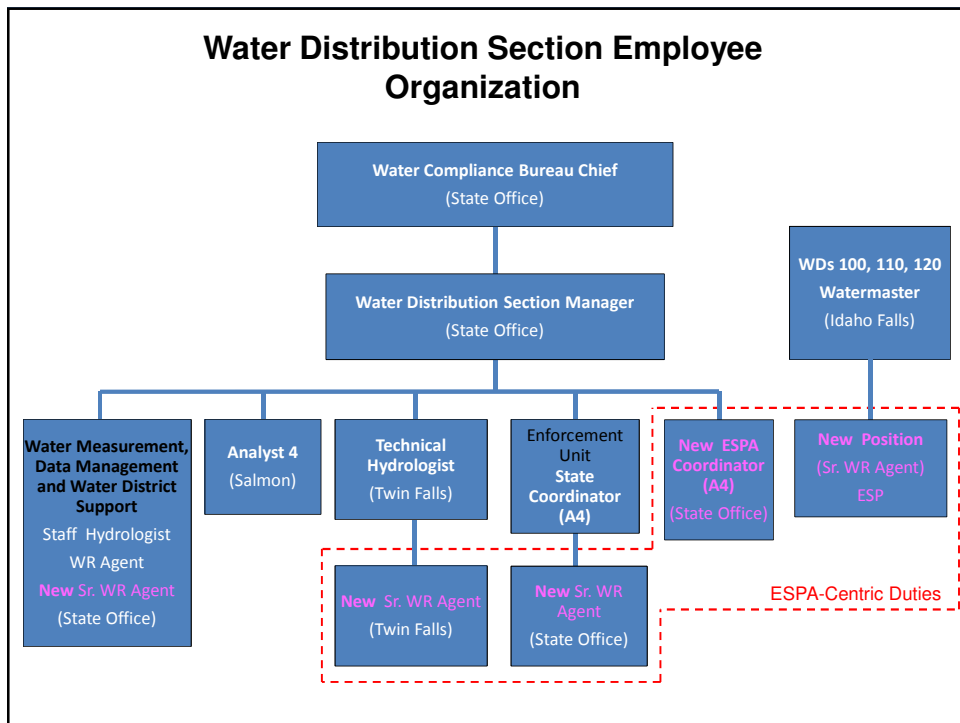
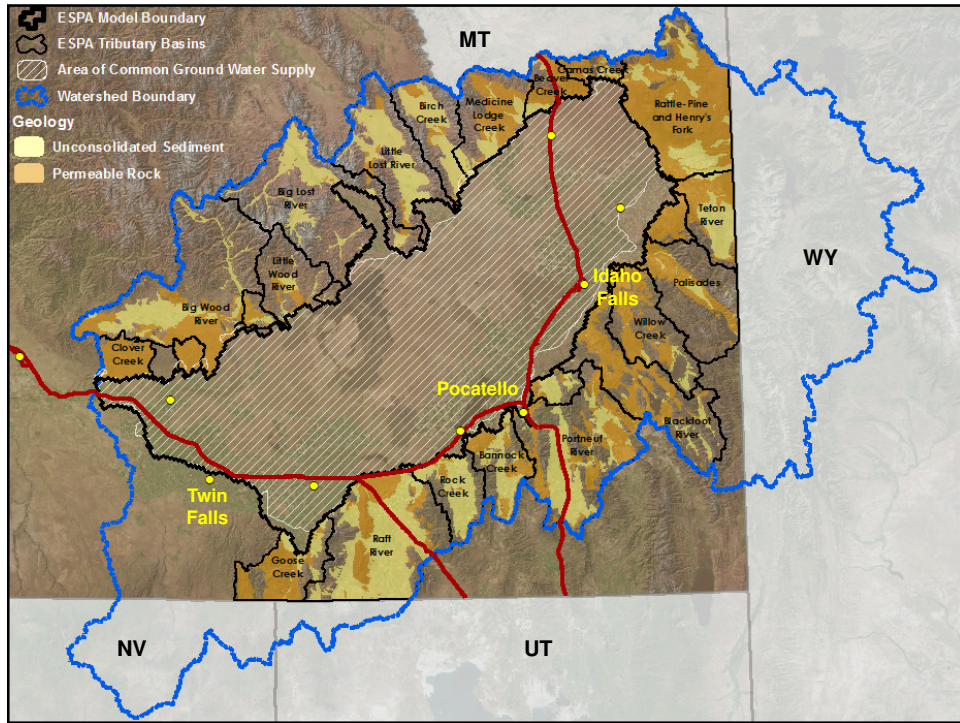
Department of
Water Resources

Changing Water Management Practices

1. Ground Water Right mitigation is the new norm
2. ESPA administration to expand
3. Settlement Agreement Expectations
4. ESPA-wide Ground Water Measurement Order
5. Strong reconsideration of the role of GWMA's in the State



Little Wood River, 2015

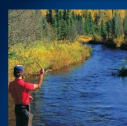
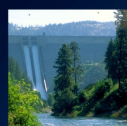




North Kootenai Water District
Municipal Water Tank, 2015

Changing Water Right Processes

1. Review of Trust Water Rights
 - Initiate 20-year review
2. Greater Scrutiny of New Applications
 - Mitigation Review
 - New Moratorium Order forthcoming
3. Greater Scrutiny of Transfers
 - Mitigation Review
 - Downy Example
4. Greater Scrutiny of WSB Transactions
5. More protests



A Forward Looking Perspective

- ◆ On-going and expanded conjunctive administration is critical (where settlements are not in place)
 - Water Districts
 - Comprehensive measurement device installation
 - Consideration of GWMA's in lieu of delivery calls
- ◆ Reduction in consumptive use of the ground water resource is necessary
 - Voluntary reduction gives more control to the junior than administrative curtailment
- ◆ State sponsored recharge is necessary
- ◆ Private recharge is also necessary, but our eyes must be wide open to the legal and physical realities

Questions and/or Discussion?



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