





MILNER DAM
BISBEE PHOTO - 230.

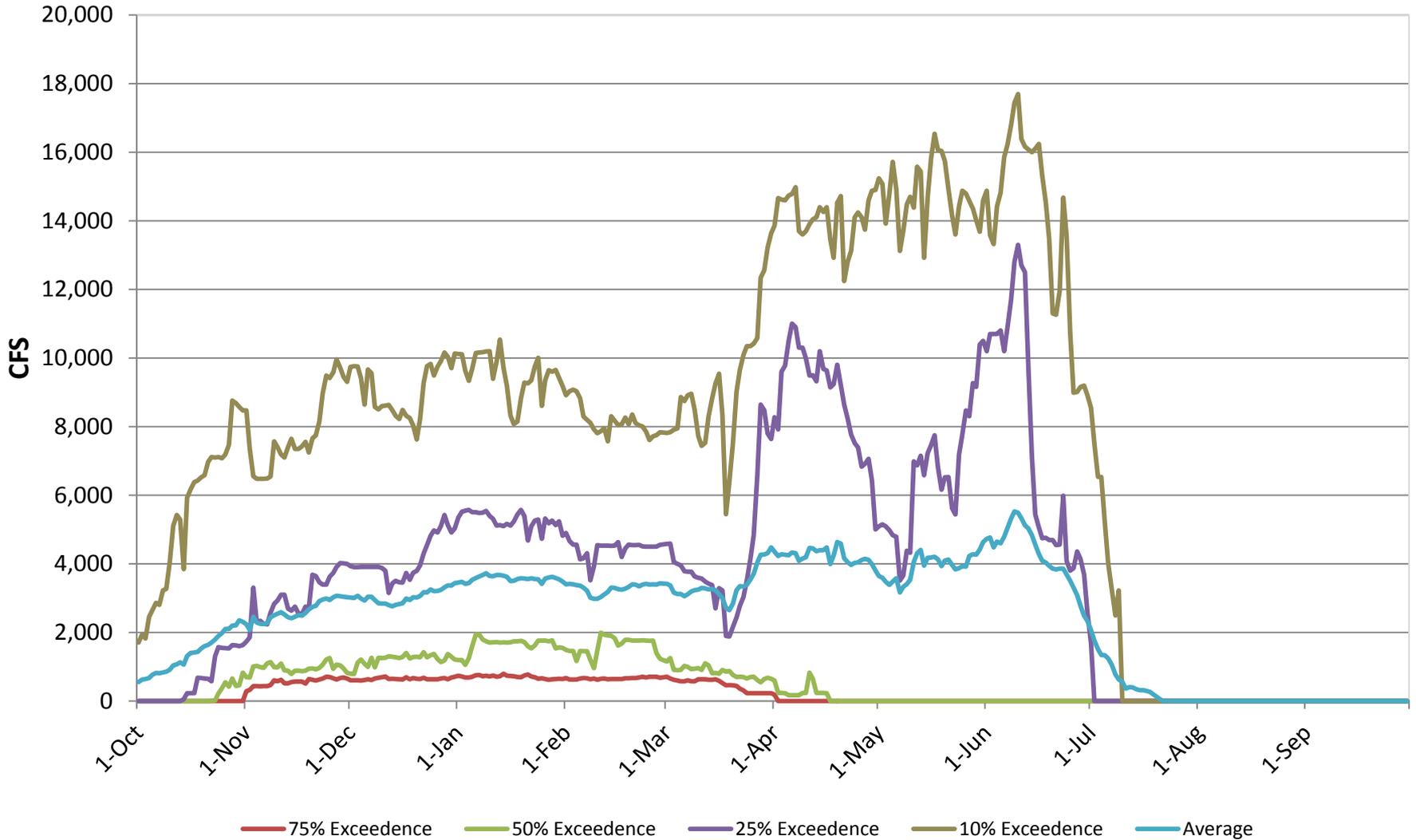


Milner Dam dry

Summary Hydrograph

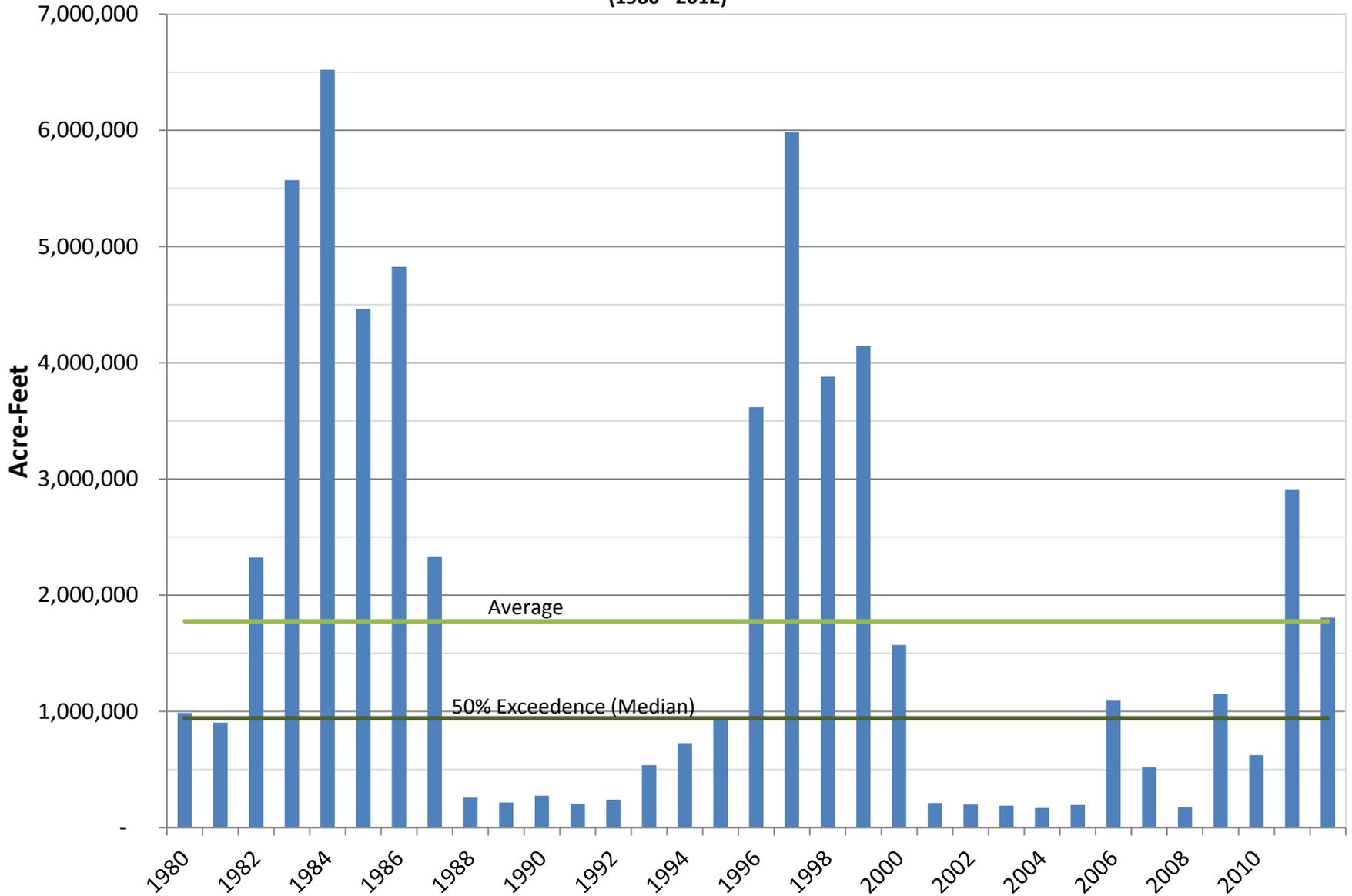
Natural Flow Passing Snake River At Milner

1980 - 2012



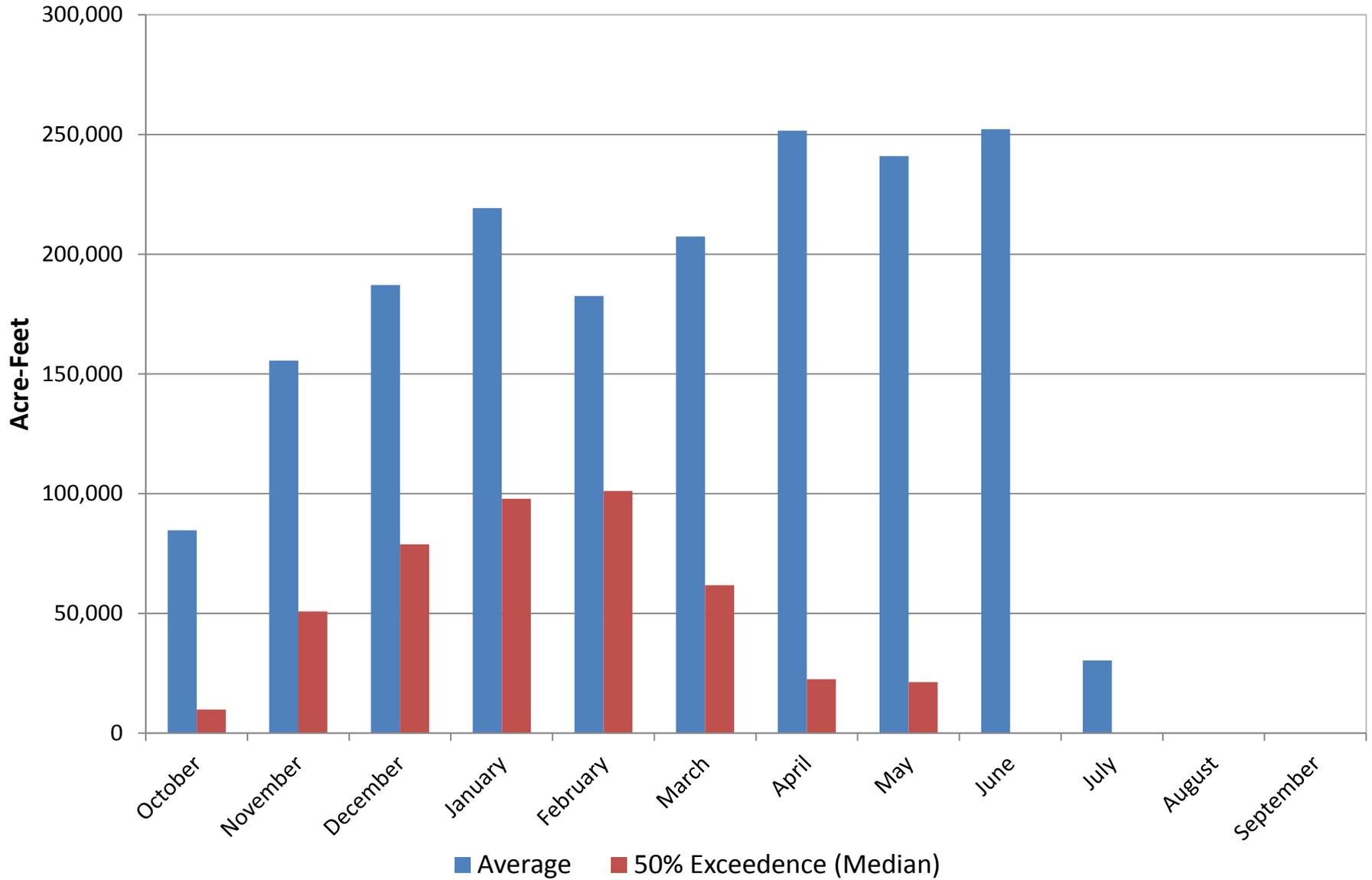
Total Annual Volume of Natural Flow Passing Milner

(1980 - 2012)



Monthly Natural Flow Passing Milner

1980-2012



Ground Water Recharge Attributes

- Maximize use of Idaho's water resources
- Potential long term solution or partial solution for declines in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer
- Possible source of mitigation for future development

Concerns About Ground Water Recharge

- Limited quantity of water available
- Sporadic supply
- Limited time within which water can be diverted
- Availability may be restricted to specific river reaches
- Competition for limited supply

Competition for Limited Supply

- Flood water not presently appropriated is stored in reservoirs to fill space vacated if there is a flood control release. Water rights for ground water recharge could divert ahead of reservoir fill.
- Senior ground water and surface water right holders depend on sustainable aquifer. Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer is losing an average of approximately 214,000 acre-feet per year.
- Other uses.

Questions About Competition

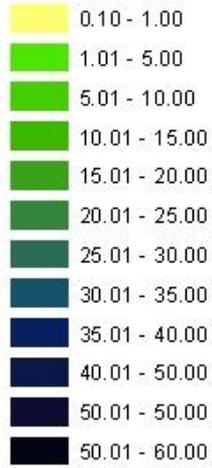
- How should physical storage in existing storage reservoirs be protected? Is it more important to store surface water in surface water reservoirs than underground?
- How should the demand for diverting water for sustaining the aquifer to protect senior water right holders be balanced with a desire to divert water for ground water recharge to support new development?

Questions About Competition (continued)

- With a limited supply of water, where can surface water be diverted for ground water recharge to accomplish the most good?
 - How do we define “most good”?

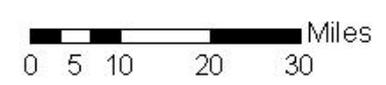
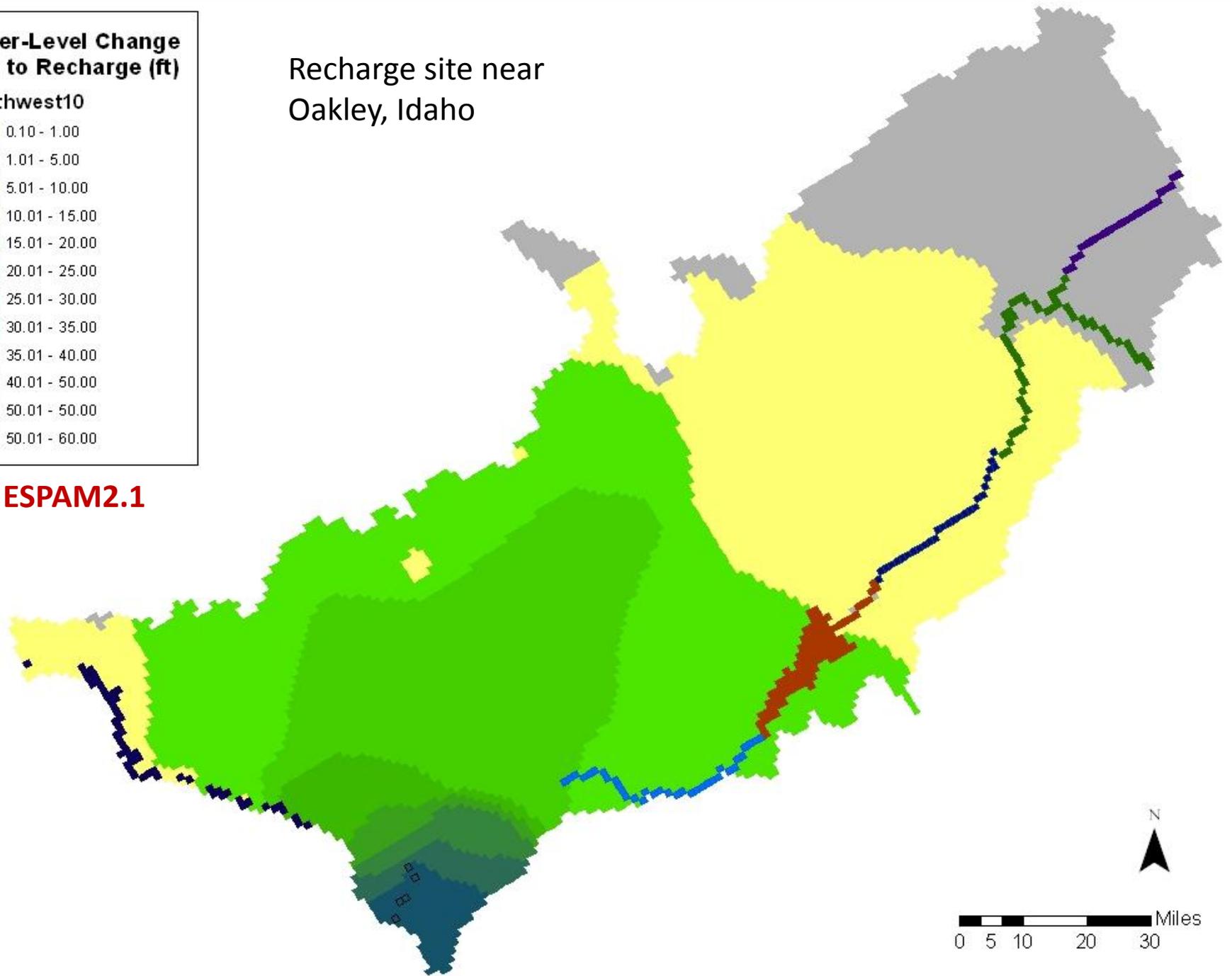
**Water-Level Change
Due to Recharge (ft)**

Southwest10



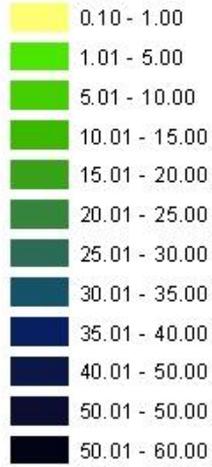
Recharge site near
Oakley, Idaho

ESPAM2.1



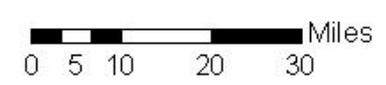
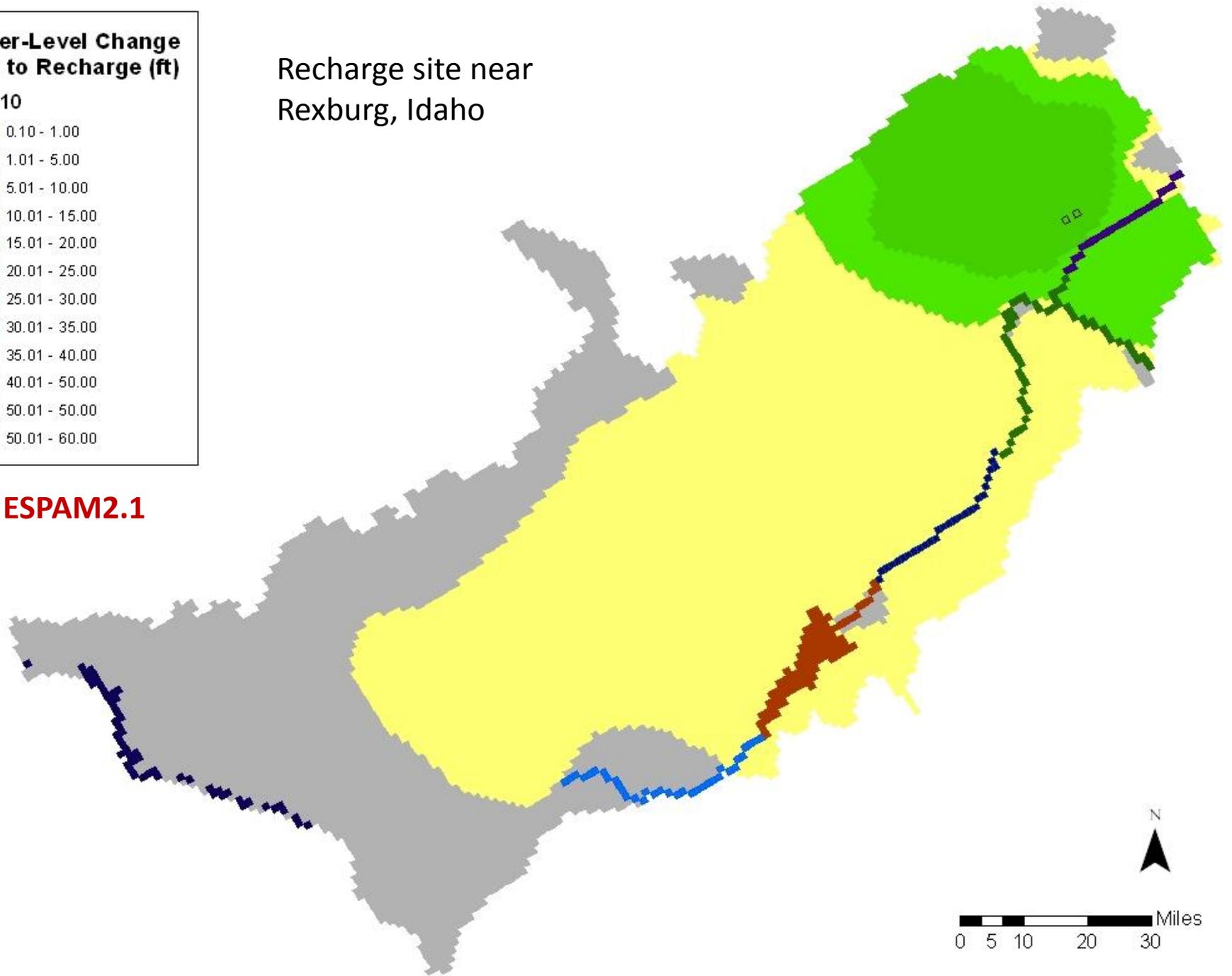
**Water-Level Change
Due to Recharge (ft)**

egin10



Recharge site near
Rexburg, Idaho

ESPAM2.1



Questions About Competition (continued)

What entity is best suited for establishing priorities to address the competing interests in diverting water for ground water recharge?









Questions About Competition (continued)

If ground water recharge is employed as mitigation for new development, what mechanism should be implemented to track benefits of recharge and ensure accomplishment of multiple goals?

Draft Legislation

- Executive legislative idea proposed prior to 2013 legislature
- Held because Idaho Water Users Association wanted to refine the legislation
- 20 -30 drafting and review meetings conducted during 2013.
- Significant attempts at compromise.

Current Version of Draft Legislation

- Proposes significant control and evaluation of appropriations for ground water recharge – either authority of the director to subordinate or condition to ensure maximum benefit.
- Proposes that Idaho Water Resource Board will promulgate rules to ensure that appropriation for ground water recharge and accrual of recharge credits will be consistent with goals of state water plan and comprehensive aquifer management plans.

Current Version of Draft Legislation (continued)

- Idaho Water Resource Board rules would establish priorities for appropriation and exercise of water rights for ground water recharge – both rights held by the Board or held privately.
- Water supply bank (existing organization) would accrue and account for credits resulting from recharge activities.

