



Update from the Idaho Water Resource Board

Roger Chase, Chairman

Presentation to the Legislative Natural Resources Interim Committee

September 17, 2014

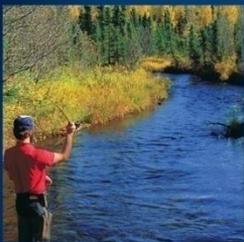


Updates

1) State Water Plan

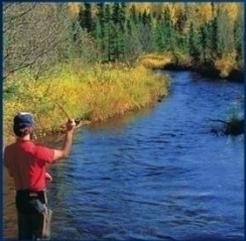
2) Water Sustainability & Aquifer Stabilization Initiative

- Progress on projects included in \$15M appropriation
- Progress on Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer recharge



State Water Plan

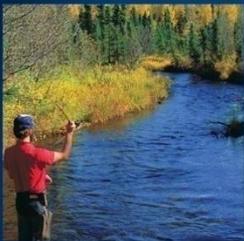
- During 2013 hearing on State Water Plan in House Resources & Conservation Committee some members raised concerns about certain policies in State Water Plan
- Water Resource Board committed to review concerns
- Over the past year the Board's Planning Committee held numerous public meetings to receive input on these concerns



State Water Plan

Concerns raised Committee members focused on three main issues:

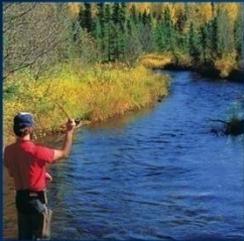
1. Future funding
2. Whether fish & wildlife and water quality policies creates additional regulatory requirements
3. Instream flow issues



State Water Plan

Future funding:

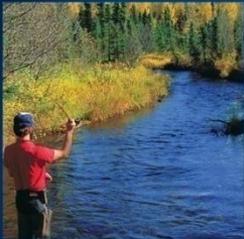
- State Water Plan recognizes additional funding needs for water resources
- State Water Plan recognizes Board will explore options for securing funding from variety of sources
- Board's review confirms State Water Plan cannot bind legislature to future appropriations



State Water Plan

Whether policies regarding fish & wildlife and water quality create additional regulatory requirements:

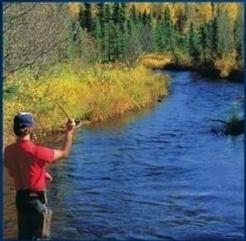
- State Water Plan expresses support for voluntary programs to conserve fish & wildlife and preserve water quality
- Board's review confirms that neither Idaho Constitution or Idaho Code grants Board authority to establish regulations without legislative authorization

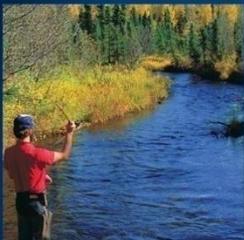


State Water Plan

Instream flow issues:

- State Water Plan expresses support for Board project actions in Upper Salmon River Basin
- Board's review confirms that these actions are being taken pursuant to legislative direction and Idaho Code
- Board's review confirms that actions assist local water users cope with economic, environmental and regulatory challenges associated with endangered species





State Water Plan

- Board agrees that additional edits and clarification of many policies would be beneficial
- The cost and effort of conducting statewide public hearing prior to adoption of changes outweighs any benefit
- Results and conclusion of this review were documented in letter to the Co-Chairs of the Interim Natural Resources Legislative Committee and legislative leadership
- Board values legislative input and wants your feedback

Water Sustainability Initiative Funding HB479

\$15 Million in one-time funds

Project	Amount
Mt. Home AFB Water Rights & Supply	\$4 Million
ESPA Managed Recharge Infrastructure & Expenses	\$4 Million
Northern Idaho Future Water Needs Studies	\$500,000
Water Storage (Galloway, Arrowrock, Island Park)	\$6 Million
Water Supply Bank Computer Infrastructure & Costs	\$500,000

Included in Governor's Budget and approved by 2014 Legislature

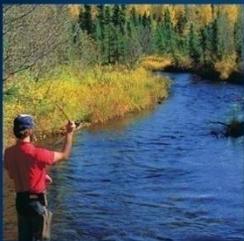
Status of projects included in \$15M Appropriation

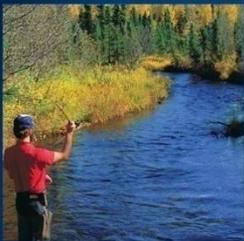
Project	Status
Mt. Home AFB Water Rights & Supply	Water rights purchased
ESPA Managed Recharge Infrastructure & Expenses	Engineering and test drilling underway at numerous locations
Northern Idaho Future Water Needs Studies	Contract executed with Rathdrum Prairie water utilities and U of I
Water Storage (Galloway, Arrowrock, Island Park)	<u>Galloway</u> – completed operations analysis, starting trail relocation study <u>Arrowrock</u> - \$1M from feds in Water & Energy Appropriations bill to complete study <u>Island Park</u> – completing agreements with BOR for engineering/environmental work
Water Supply Bank Computer Infrastructure	Expect to issue RFP in October

Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Recharge

Why do we need to recharge the ESPA?

1. Assist with resolving water use conflicts and their potential impact to Idaho's economy
2. Ensure Idaho can maintain minimum flows established under Swan Falls Agreement





Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Conjunctive Administration Delivery Calls

1) Rangen Aquaculture Facility

- Order requiring curtailment of 157,000 acres and 11 cities if not mitigated
- Chilling effect on economic development efforts – how can our economy grow if we can't sustain water supplies for existing uses?

2) Surface Water Coalition

2) Several additional calls from Hagerman Valley

ESPA and Swan Falls Agreement

Minimum flows at Murphy Gage just below Swan Falls Dam of:

✓3,900 cfs (4/1 through 10/31)

✓5,600 cfs (11/1 through 3/31)

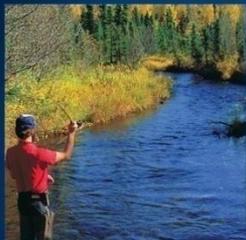


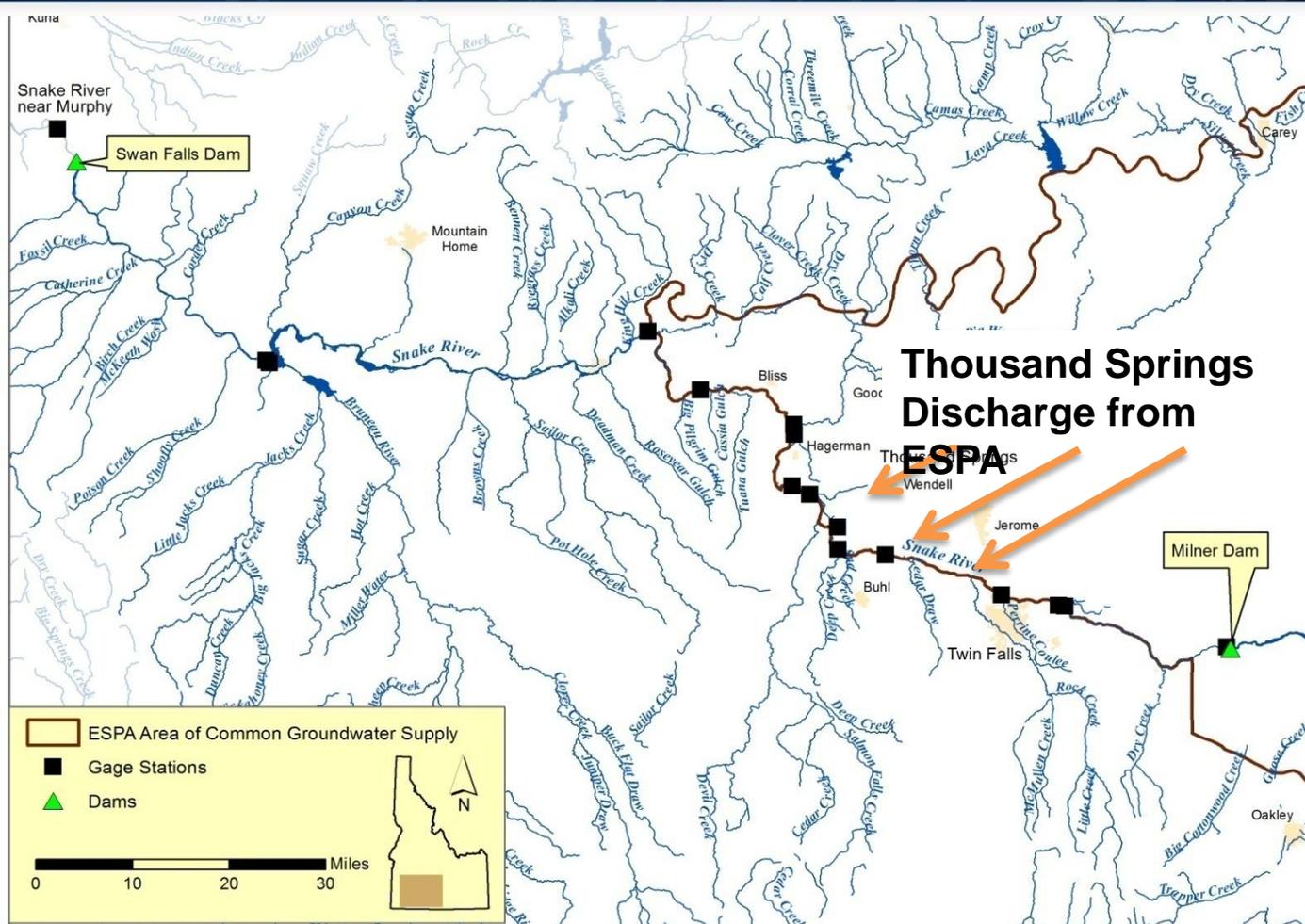
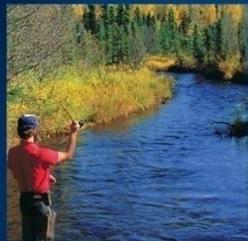
However, 180 miles Upstream at Milner Dam



- Water planning, policy, and practice provides for full development of Snake River above Milner Dam

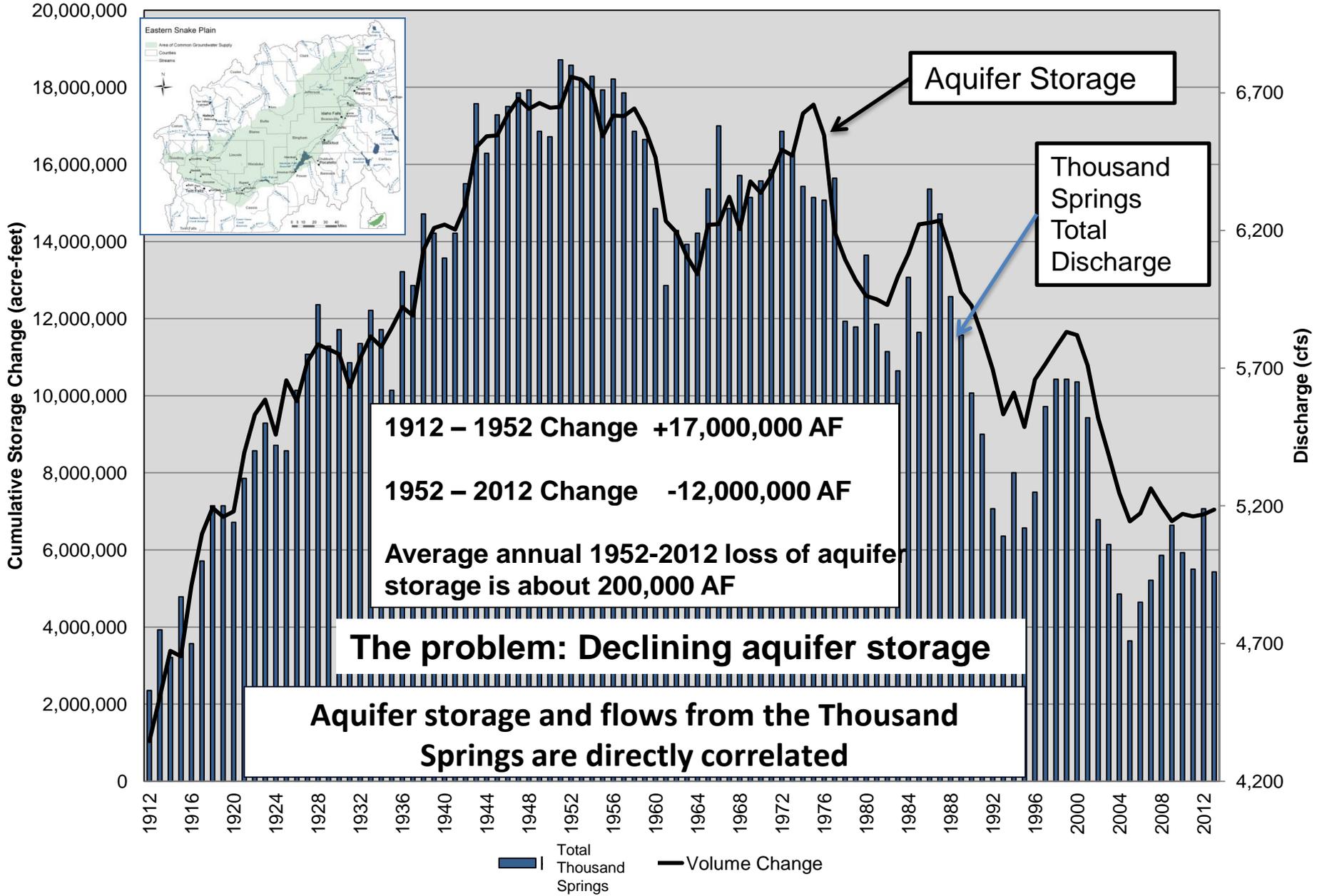
- At times this reduces Snake River flow at Milner Dam to zero

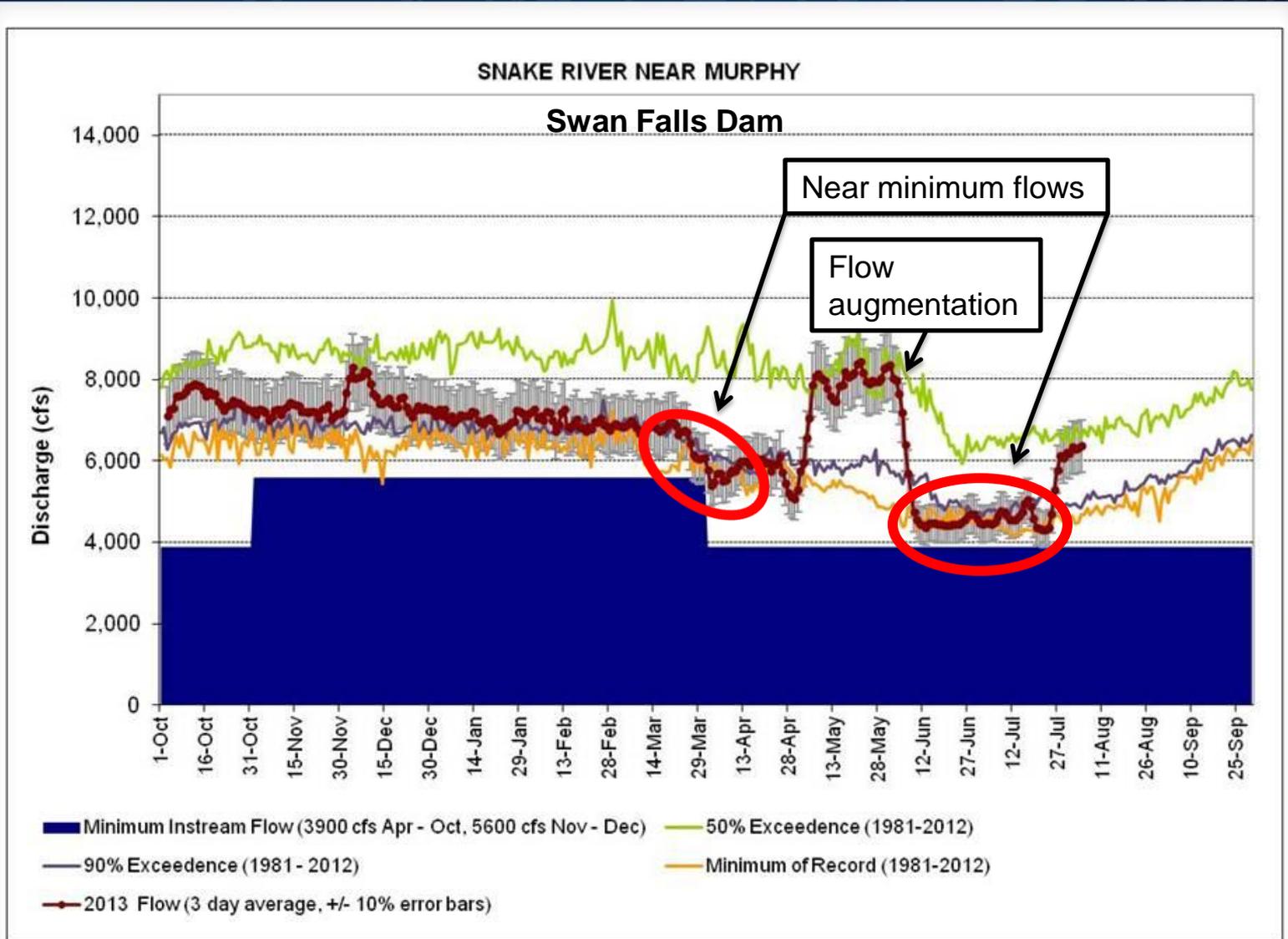
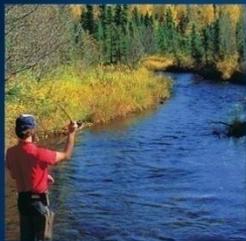




When flow is zero at Milner, flow at Murphy Gage is made up almost entirely of spring flows from the ESPA

Cumulative Volume Change of Water Stored Within ESPA and Thousand Springs Discharge



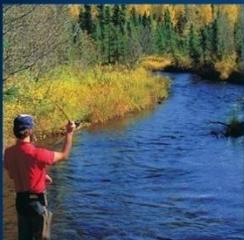


Implications of Swan Falls Agreement Combined with Milner Zero Flow Policy

ESPA must be managed to sustain spring flows sufficient to meet the Murphy Gage minimum flows

- ✓ Relatively Few junior-priority trust rights in river that could be curtailed
- ✓ Curtailment of junior trust rights in ESPA not preferred solution – delayed timing means effects don't reach river when needed and causes economic damage in process



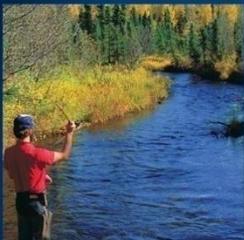


Goal: Stabilize ESPA

- ✓ HB 547 passed by 2014 Legislature allocates \$5 million annually from cigarette tax to Water Resource Board for “***statewide aquifer stabilization***”
- ✓ ESPA is high priority
- ✓ ESPA CAMP and State Water Plan goals
- ✓ HB 479 allocates \$4 million one-time to Water Board for ESPA recharge infrastructure

Operations at
Shoshone
Recharge site





ESPA Recharge – what has been done?

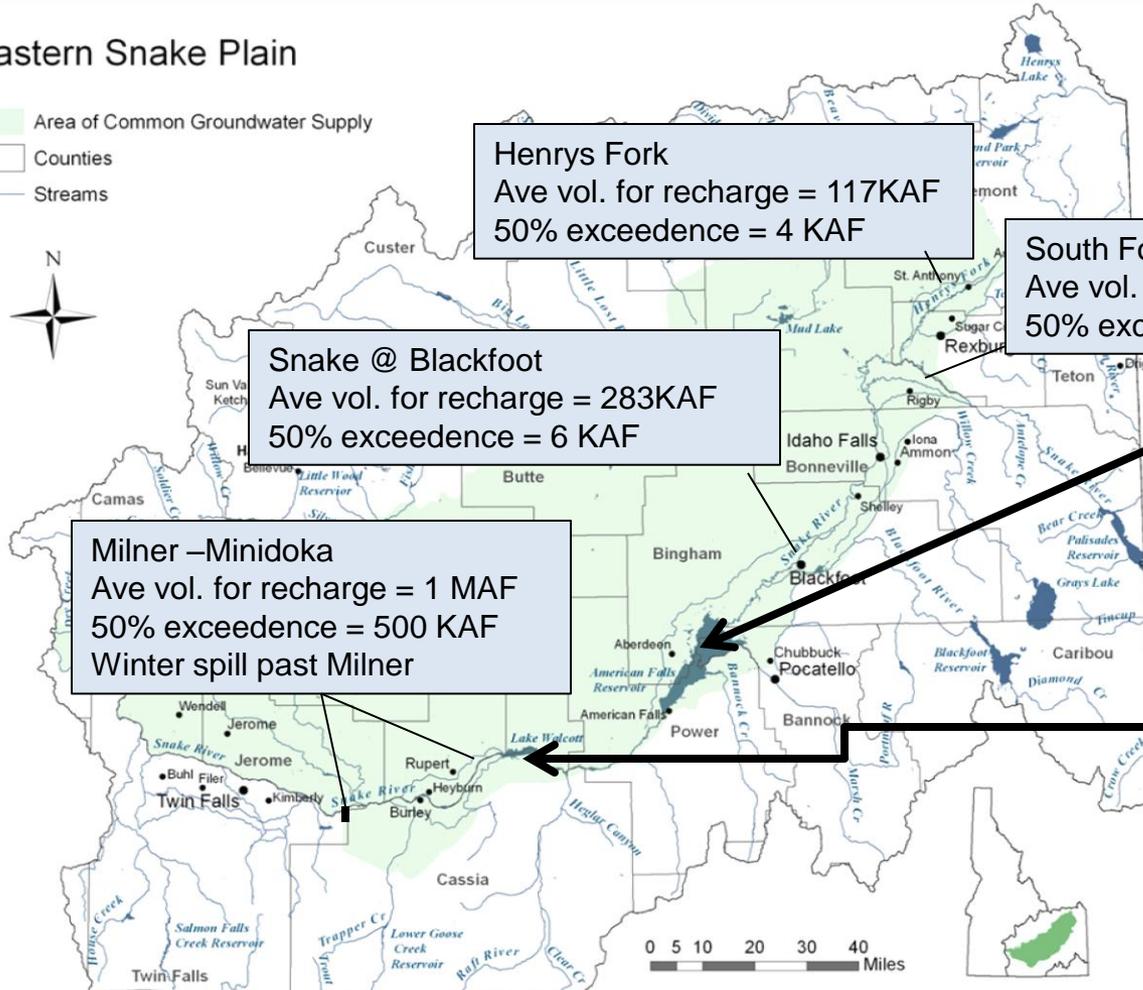
Since ESPA CAMP Approval in 2009

	Below American Falls	Above American Falls	Total
2009	46,708	77,828	124,536
2010	5,595	55,913	61,508
2011	77,614	40,430	118,044
2012	54,671	70,147	124,818
2013	3,867	0	3,867
2014	10,435	0	10,435
Average	33,148	40,720	73,868

Location Matters for Recharge Water Availability

Eastern Snake Plain

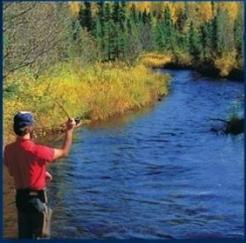
- Area of Common Groundwater Supply
- Counties
- Streams



- American Falls Reservoir: 1.6 million AF 1921 priority

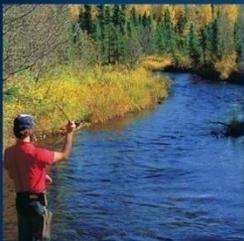
- Unsubordinated hydropower rights at Minidoka Dam: 2,700 cfs 1909/1912 priority

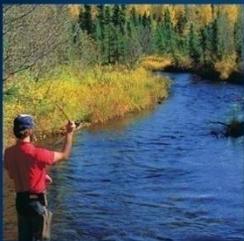
(2000-2012 data)



Progress on ESPA Recharge

- Water for recharge available all winter long at Milner Dam under Water Board's recharge water right – have not used this available water to significant degree
- Adopted winter recharge water delivery payment plan to incentivize those canals that divert at Milner to deliver available recharge water
- Negotiating delivery agreements with several canals that divert from Milner with expectation of significant recharge this winter



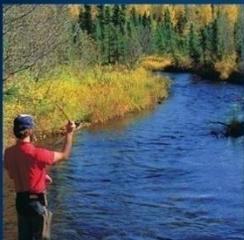


Progress on ESPA Recharge

- Infrastructure improvements needed for winter recharge in these canals will be underway shortly (ice loading on gates, winter-time access, etc.)
- Additional infrastructure improvements in these canals being studied for cost vs. additional recharge capacity

Progress on ESPA Recharge

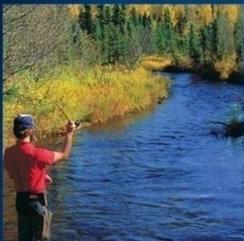
- Investigating pump-to-recharge projects from the Milner pool – develop additional delivery capacity to utilize available water
- Test drilling and injection tests underway or planned at a number of locations around the Milner Pool



Test drilling at
Walcott Site

Progress on ESPA Recharge – Upper Valley Issues

- Water availability for recharge:
 - ✓ Available every year all winter long at Milner Dam
 - ✓ In Upper Valley available water occurs as large flows for short periods of time in about ½ of years
 - ✓ Complicates delivery and payment arrangements
- Working with water users in Upper Valley to identify potential recharge infrastructure needs





QUESTIONS?