

THOUSAND SPRINGS WATER SUPPLY RESTORATION FRAMEWORK

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NATURAL RESOURCES INTERIM COMMITTEE
Of
THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE
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OBJECTIVES

“Proactively mitigate for material injury to senior spring water rights caused by diversions under junior ground water rights so that delivery calls will not be necessary.”

“Develop an adaptive management plan to stabilize and enhance the ESPA spring flows to meet existing water rights and future needs.”



RESTORATION FRAMEWORK

- ◆ Billingsley Creek Component
- ◆ Spring Component
- ◆ Above the Rim Component
- ◆ Adaptive Management Component

BILLINGSLEY CREEK COMPONENT

- Delivery of 10 CFS To Billingsley Creek
- Delivery of Magic Springs Tail Water
- Capture North Side Tail Water



SPRING COMPONENT

- 💧 Direct delivery of substitute water
- 💧 Lease Agreement
- 💧 Subordination Agreement

ABOVE THE RIM COMPONENT

- Recharge Program
- Conservation Program

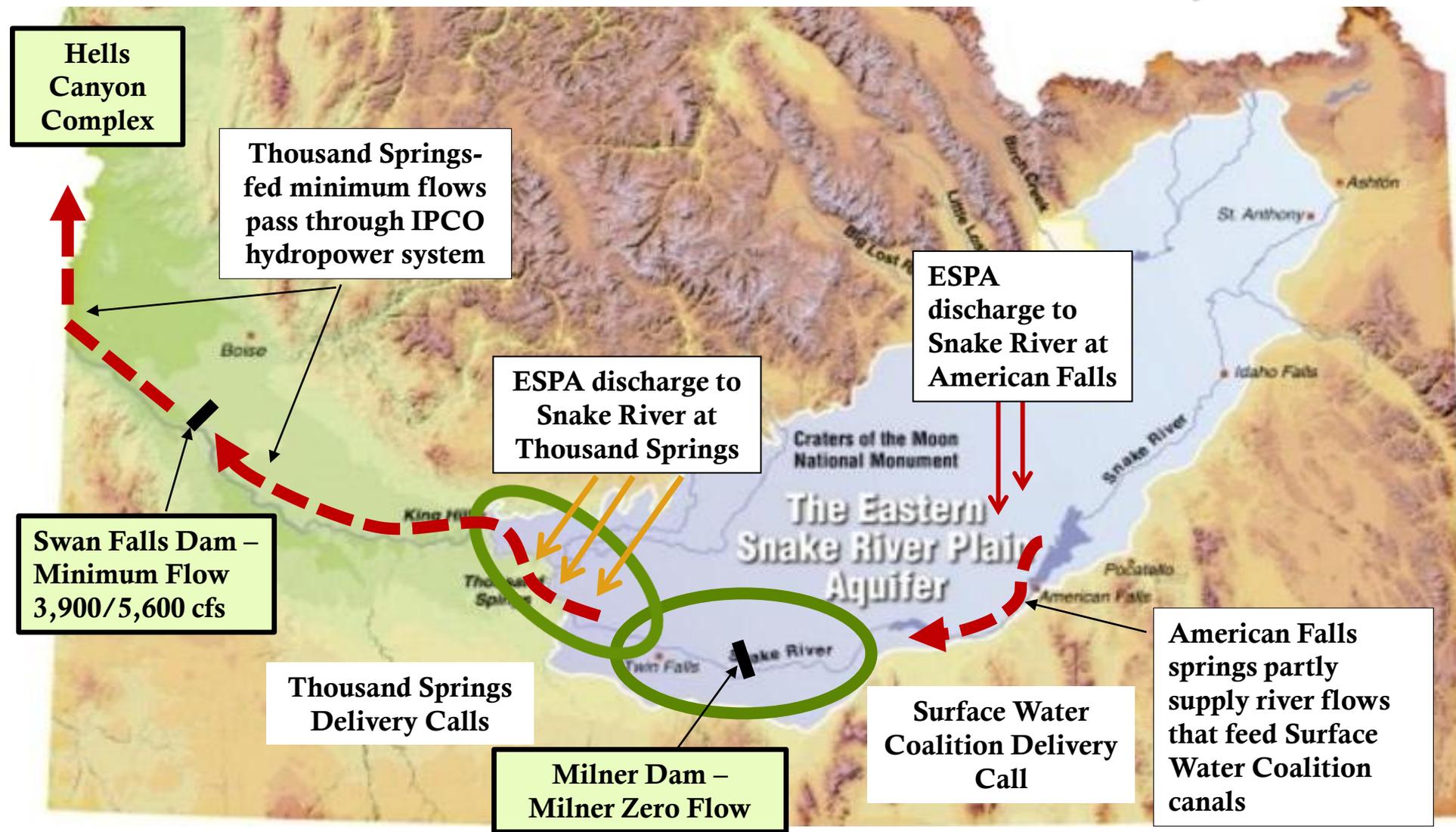
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT

- ◆ Spring flow monitoring program
- ◆ Steering Committee to oversee program implementation and to address changed circumstances
- ◆ Measureable goals and targets

NEXT STEPS

- ◆ Continue discussions with Hagerman Valley Water Users.
- ◆ Evaluate benefits of current and proposed activities.
- ◆ Create a Working Group to assist in the development of a spring monitoring program to better predict spring flow trends.
- ◆ Coordinate ESPA management with implementation of Swan Falls Settlement.

ESPA and the Snake River – A Combined System



QUESTIONS

Surface Water Coalition Delivery Call Settlement Agreement Overview
Agreement Entered Into June 30, 2015 and Finalized August 1, 2015 Between Participating Members of the
Surface Water Coalition and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc.

1. Objectives

- a. Mitigate for material injury to senior water users in the Surface Water Coalition (SWC) Delivery Call
- b. Provide safe harbor to participating ground water users in participating Ground Water Districts (GWD)
- c. Minimize economic impact to water users and the State economy
- d. Increase reliability and enforcement of water use, measurement, and reporting across the Eastern Snake Plain
- e. Develop adaptive management plan to stabilize and enhance the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) ground water levels to meet existing water right needs

2. Near Term Practices (2015 Water Year)

- a. Delivery of 110,000 acre-feet of storage water to SWC by Idaho Ground Water Appropriators (IGWA)
- b. Dedication of \$1.1 million to provide water to existing conversion projects

3. Long Term Practices (Commencing 2016)

- a. Consumptive use reduction of ground water by 240,000 acre-feet annually
- b. Annual storage water delivery of 50,000 acre-feet
- c. Irrigation season reduction: April 1 – October 31 (benefit to Swan Falls min. flows)
- d. Mandatory installation of approved measurement devices by 2018
- e. Support State sponsored recharge program of 250,000 acre-feet annually
- f. Additional support for the following: NRCS conservation programs; new conversion projects; management of Trust Water Rights; and participation in review and possible recommendations of changes to IDWR administrative processes on the ESPA.

4. Term Sheet Benchmarks and Ground Water Level Goal

- a. Goal: stabilize and ultimately reverse the trend of declining ground water levels and return ground water levels to levels equal to the average ground water levels from 1991-2001
- b. Benchmarks: (1) by 2020 ground water levels will equal ground water levels in 2015; (2) by 2023 ground water levels will be halfway between 2015 ground water levels and the goal; and (3) by 2026 goal is reached and ground water levels equal or exceed 1991 – 2001 average.
- c. Metrics: ground water levels are measured in 19 mutually agreed to sentinel wells

5. Adaptive Management

- a. If any benchmarks or the ground water level goal is not met, additional recharge, consumptive use reduction, or other measures shall be implemented by the participating water parties to meet the goal.

THOUSAND SPRINGS WATER SUPPLY RESTORATION FRAMEWORK

1. Objectives

- a. Proactively mitigate for material injury to senior spring water rights caused by diversions under junior ground water rights so that delivery calls will not be necessary.
- b. Develop an adaptive management plan to stabilize and enhance the ESPA spring flows to meet existing water rights and future needs.

2. Billingsley Creek Component – Goal to restore stream flow

- a. Direct delivery of up to 10 CFS of spring water to head of Billingsley Creek
- b. Substitute water supply for Curren Ditch users
- c. Capture North Side tail water for reuse

3. Spring Component – Goal to address water supply shortfalls

- a. Direct delivery of substitute water where feasible
- b. Lease agreement
- c. Subordination Agreement

4. Above the Rim Component

- a. Recharge Program
- b. Conservation Program

5. Adaptive Management Component

- a. Spring flow monitoring program
- b. Steering Committee to oversee implementation and to address changed circumstances
- c. Measureable goals and targets