



# Report from the Water Resource Board

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## Natural Resources Interim Legislative Committee

**Jeff Raybould, Chairman**

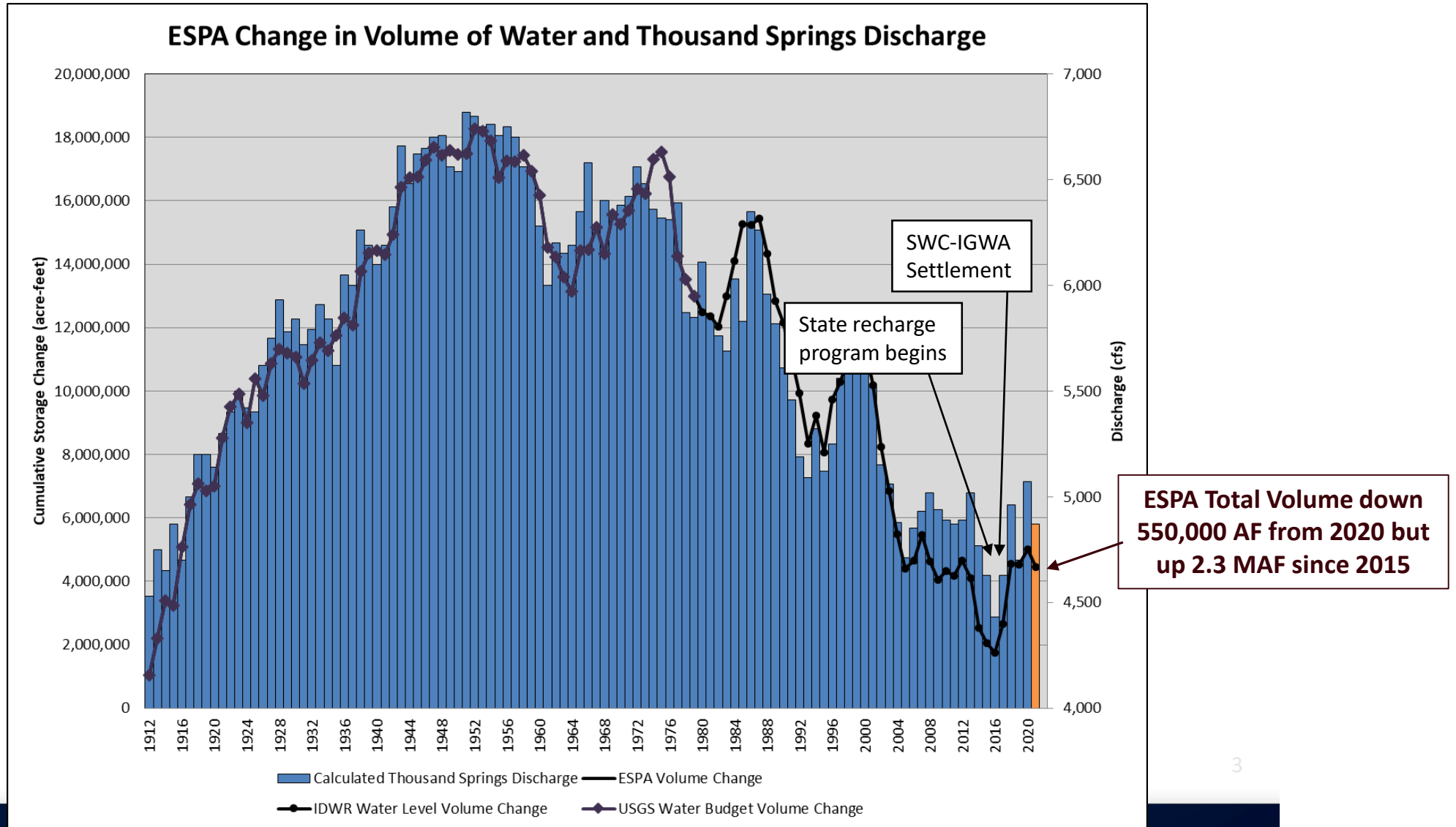
**Brian Patton**

September 27, 2021

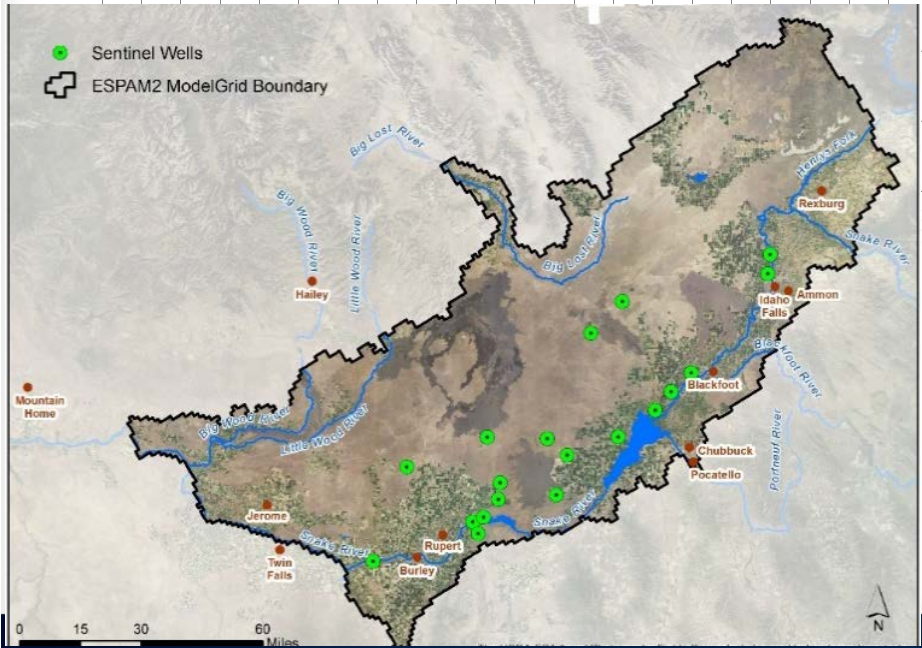
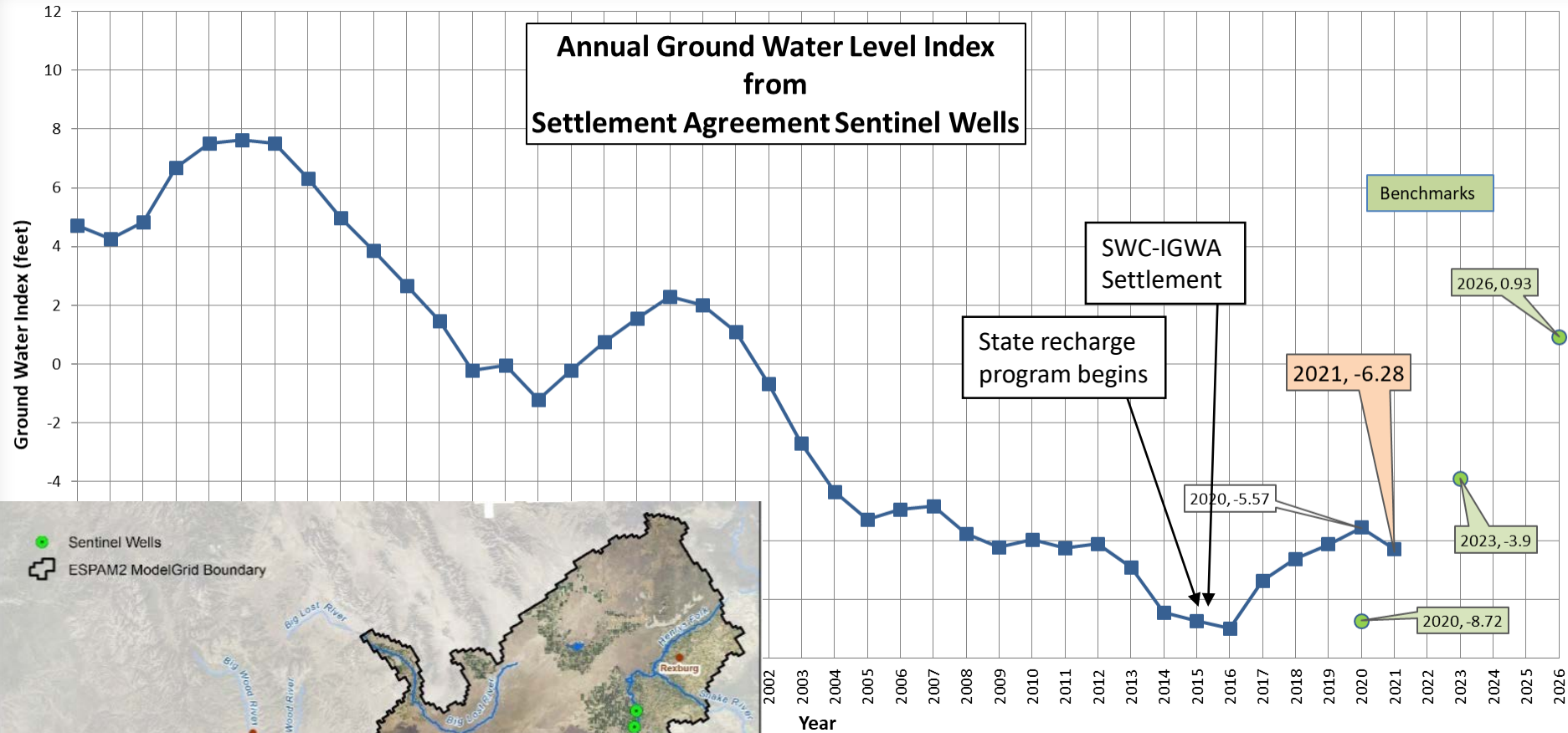
# ESPA Management Strategy

- 250,000 AF annual average natural flow managed recharge program by state (IWRB)
- 240,000 AF annual use reductions by ground water pumpers under Settlement Agreement (may be offset or enhanced by their own recharge efforts)
- 50,000 AF storage water provided annually by ground water pumpers to SWC under Settlement Agreement - if not needed by SWC it is recharged by IWRB
- Food processors provide 8,500 AF of storage water to SWC – if not needed by SWC it is recharged by IWRB
- 7,650 AF annual average storage water contributed by ESPA Cities for aquifer management under their Settlement Agreement - recharged by IWRB
- SWID & ABID actions contribute about 25,655 AF
- Cooperative cloud seeding program (Idaho Power, State, water users) provides more water into system
- Essentially the plan laid out by CAMP

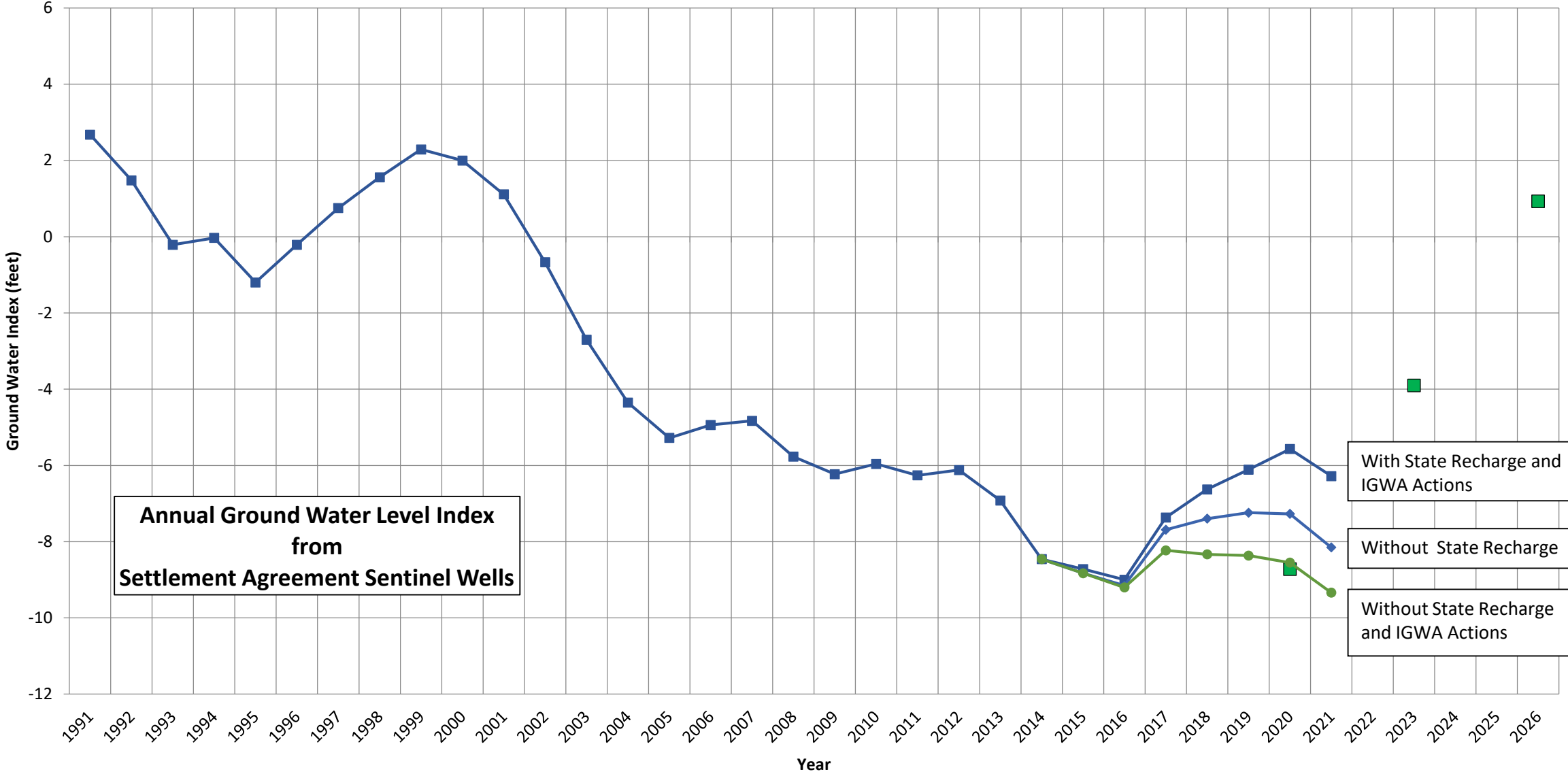
# Spring Discharge – 1912 to 2021





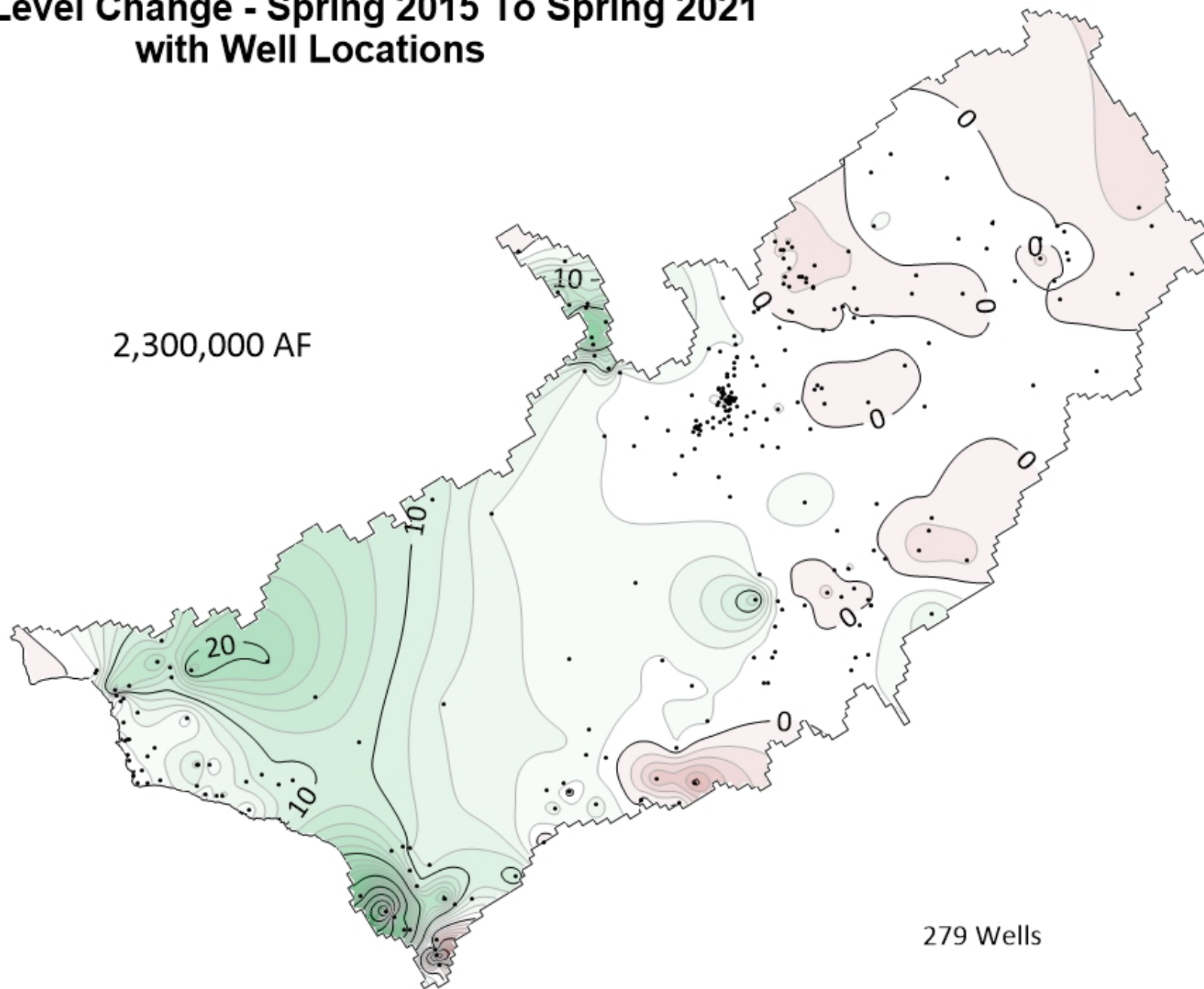
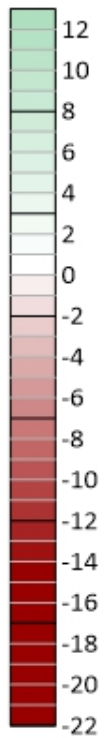


# A combination of wet years and changes in aquifer management have resulted in an increased sentinel index



# Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2021 with Well Locations

Water Level  
Change (ft)



279 Wells

# Natural Flow Recharge By State

| Year           | Volume (Acre-Feet) |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 2014-2015      | 75,475             |
| 2015-2016      | 66,897             |
| 2016-2017      | 317,714            |
| 2017-2018      | 474,001            |
| 2018-2019      | 310,132            |
| 2019-2020      | 447,956            |
| 2020-2021      | 130,463            |
| <b>AVERAGE</b> | <b>260,377</b>     |





# Managed Recharge Program

- Ongoing discussions about how best to manage winter flows
- Some want winter flows pass Milner Dam for hydropower generation
  - Compensate by recharging more of the high spring runoff flows
  - Would require more and larger facilities
- Others believe strongly that all available water should be recharged
- Difficult conversation in this drought year





# Anderson Ranch Reservoir Enlargement Project

## Anderson Ranch Dam

- Located on South Fork Boise River in Elmore County, Idaho
- Authorized purposes: water supply, flood control, power, fish and wildlife, and recreation
- Active storage capacity ~413,000 acre-feet
- Full pool elevation 4196.0
- Structural height 456 feet; hydraulic height 330 feet
- 40 megawatt powerplant

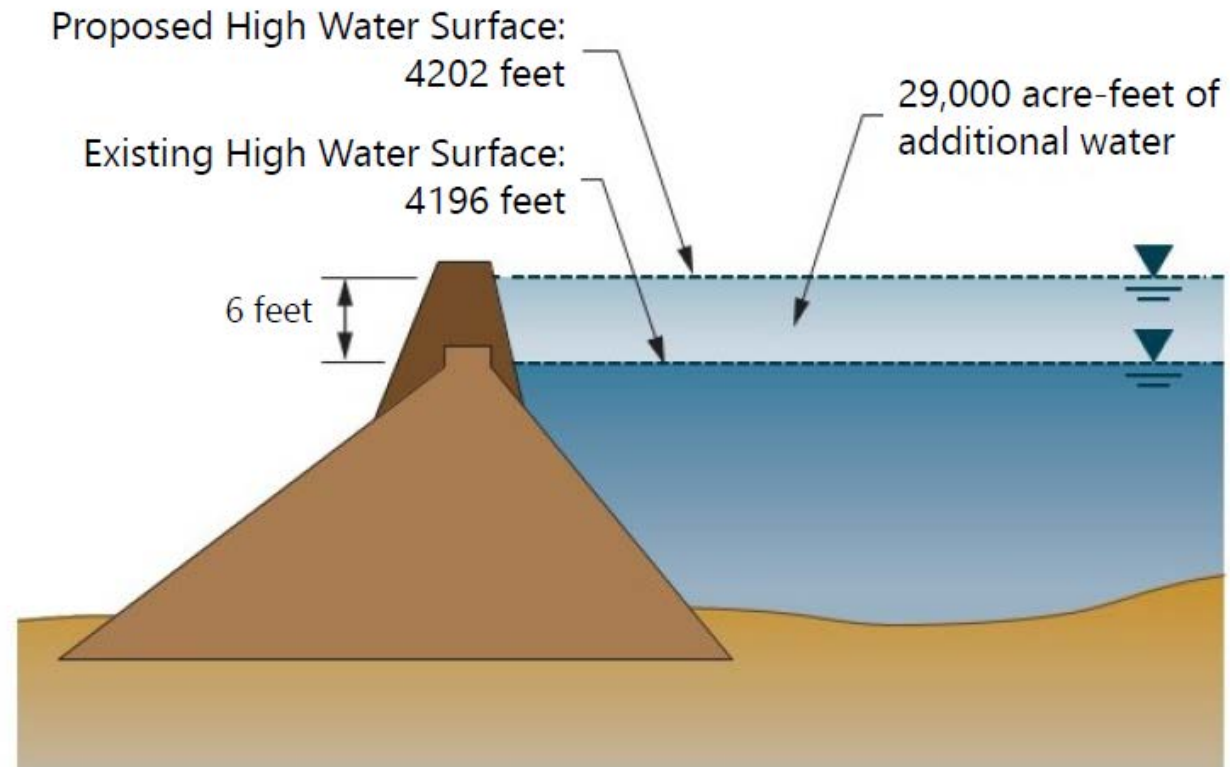


# Anderson Ranch Reservoir Enlargement Project

- Water Infrastructure Investments for the Nation Act
  - Allows for federal cost share
- HJM4 (2019 Legislature) – supports project
- HB285 (2019 legislature) – appropriated \$20M for this project OR the Mountain Home Air Force Base Pipeline
- SB1121 (2021 Legislature) – appropriated \$50M for this project or other large water projects

# Anderson Ranch Reservoir Enlargement Project

## Proposed Plan – 6-foot Dam Raise



# Anderson Ranch Reservoir Enlargement Project

## Construction Cost Assignment (from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)

| Purpose           | Total Construction Cost | Federal Cost Share | Non-Federal Cost Share |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| DCMI              | \$60,484,000            | \$0                | \$60,484,000           |
| Irrigation        | \$13,615,000            | \$0                | \$13,615,000           |
| Fish and Wildlife | \$2,187,000             | \$2,187,000        | \$0                    |
| Hydropower        | \$2,888,000             | \$2,888,000        | \$0                    |
| Recreation        | \$4,126,000             | \$4,126,000        | \$0                    |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>\$83,300,000</b>     | <b>\$9,201,000</b> | <b>\$74,099,000</b>    |

Feasibility Level Estimate



# Anderson Ranch Reservoir Enlargement Project

- IWRB's plan is for it to be the "spaceholder" and contract with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- IWRB would "sub-contact" parts of the new reservoir space to those that want it
- The "sub-contractors" would pay over time – these funds would be used to repay the construction cost

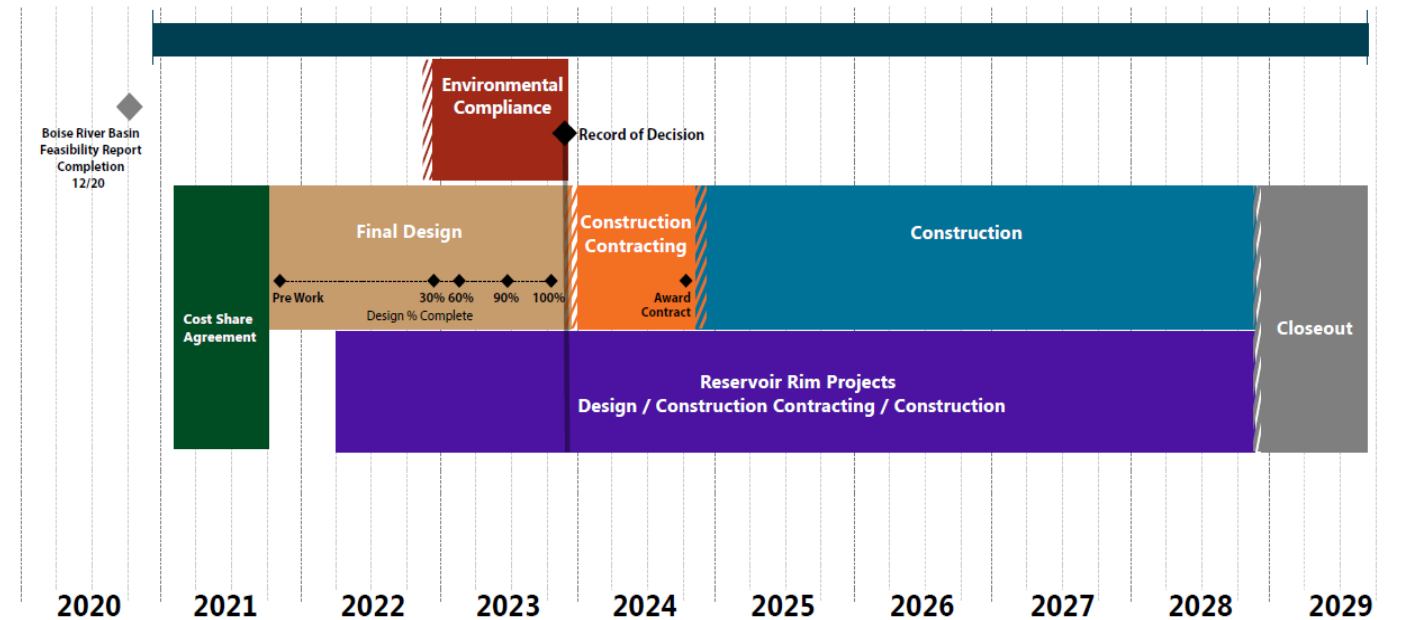
# Anderson Ranch Reservoir Enlargement Project

- Final Feasibility Study submitted to Congress in December 2020
- Finding of Feasibility issued by Secretary of Interior in December 2020
- WIIN Act funds allocated for Federal portion of project cost
- Currently negotiating agreement between Water Board and US Bureau of Reclamation
- Plan to start final design and other pre-construction work this fall

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

updated July 27, 2021

## Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project Timeline\*



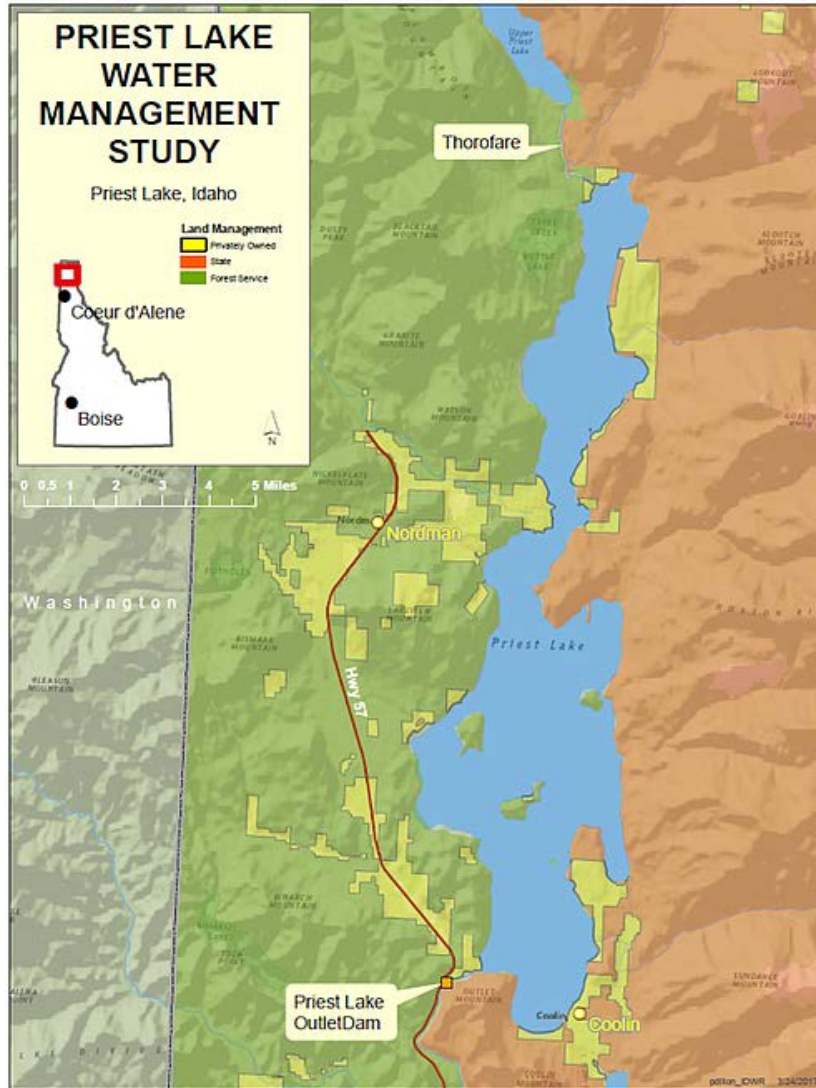
\*Time frames subject to change

# Mountain Home Air Force Base Sustainable Water Project

- Joint Federal-State partnership to provide reliable water supply to base
- SJM104 (2019 Legislature)
- IWRB holds Snake River water rights and pipeline easement for project
- MOU between State of Idaho and Air Force signed in May of 2021
- Air Force funds secured
- Need to turn MOU into actionable agreement



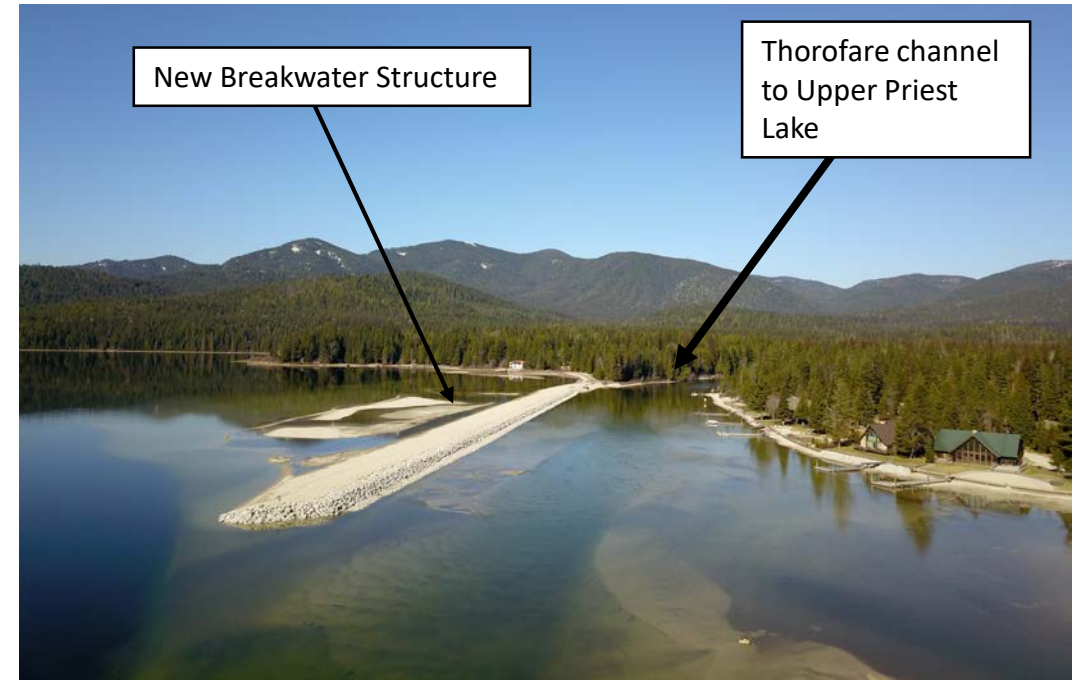
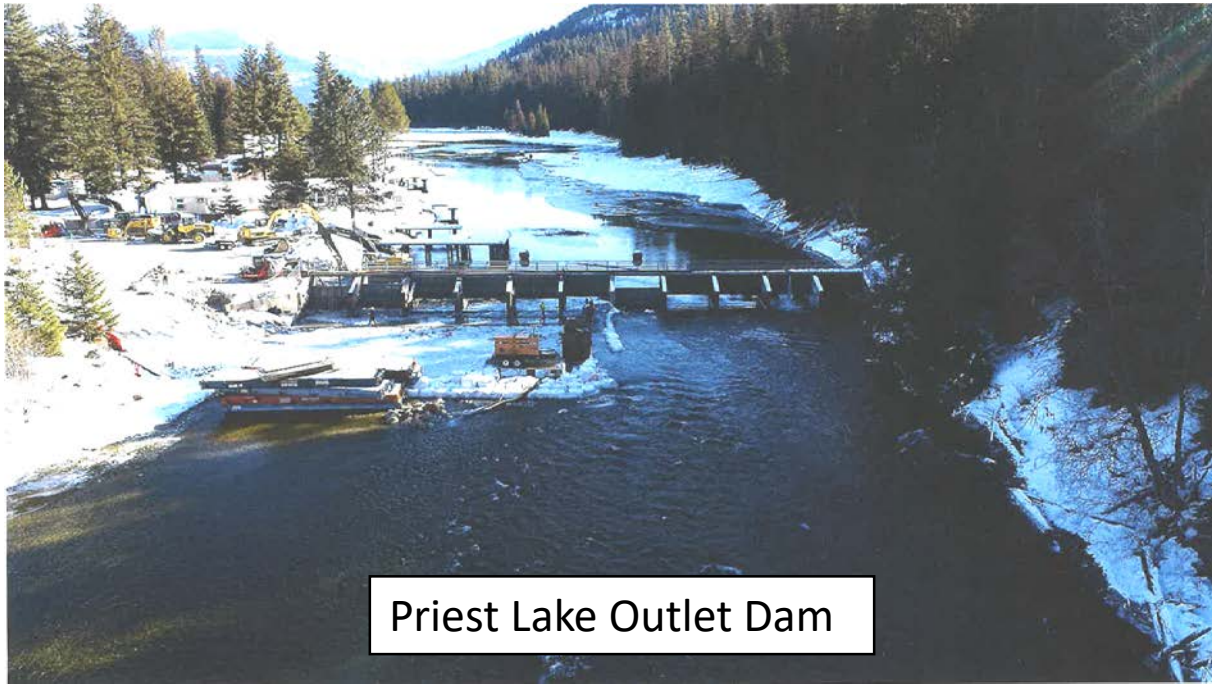
# Priest Lake Water Management Project



- Better manage Priest Lake to maintain lake levels, maintain downstream flows in Priest River, and maintain navigation in the Thorofare between Priest Lake and Upper Priest Lake
- Includes modification of outlet dam and breakwater structure at the Thorofare
- HB677 passed by 2018 Legislature appropriated \$2.4M and redirected \$2.419M for project
- Bonner County contributed \$240,000 and lake interests contributed \$135,000
- Breakwater/Thorofare construction is complete
- Outlet dam modifications will resume this fall and should be complete by spring



# Priest Lake Water Management Project



# Bear River Basin

- Completed study of Bear Lake operations in cooperation with Utah, Wyoming, and Pacificorp
  - Found that significant volumes of additional water could be stored when entering a drought cycle by changing lake operations
  - Must resolve flow conveyance issues downstream in Gentile Valley
  - May be impacts to Great Salt Lake
- 
- 1-year pilot program for cloud seeding in Bear River Basin this coming winter





# Lemhi River Basin

- Ongoing negotiations to resolve conflicts in Lemhi River Basin
- SCR137 (2020 Legislature)
- High flow use, new water right applications, needs of water for endangered fish recovery



# Water Management Account – Large Water Projects Fund

- Appropriations to fund (HB285, 2019 & S1121, 2021) \$70.0M
- Interest earned 0.6M

- IWRB has allocated the funds as follows:

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Anderson Ranch Enlargement   | \$17.6M     |
| Mountain Home AFB Water      | 28.0M       |
| ESPA Recharge Infrastructure | 22.4M       |
| Bear Lake                    | <u>2.0M</u> |
|                              | \$70.0M     |

- Potential availability of ARPA Funds may cause this to be reconsidered



# Water Projects Priority List

- List of priority water projects developed by IWRB with input from others
- Requested by Governor and Speaker
- Projects with regional, basin-wide, or state-wide benefits
- Smaller projects (canal headgates, city water tanks, etc.) can be handled through aging infrastructure revolving funds
- List found at: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/IWRB/>

# Potential for Federal Funds for Water Projects

- ARPA Funds
  - \$1.1B to the state for water, sewer, broadband
  - US Treasury draft guidance takes a narrow view “water” expenditures
  - Governor Little sent a letter asking Treasury to broaden their allowable expenditures
  - We have been told these funds will be appropriated in the upcoming budget through the normal process.
- Infrastructure Bill (Senate Version)
  - **Section 40903:** Creates a small water storage project grant program.
  - **Section 40904:** Creates a loan program for water users that operate BOR projects to finance needed repairs
  - **Section 40909:** Clarifies that ARPA funds can be used to pay the non-federal portion of an approved Bureau of Reclamation water project. This would apply to the Anderson Ranch dam raise project.
  - **Section 40910:** Authorizing federal participation and cost sharing for aquifer recharge projects.
  - These programs will be run on a competitive application process (except for the ARPA provision)

# Questions

