

Idaho Water Resource Board Update

February 19, 2025



Jeff Raybould, Chairman



Water Project Funding

- Governor Little and the Idaho Legislature have been generous with funding for water infrastructure over past several years
- More than \$575 Million appropriated to Idaho Water Resource Board since 2019 for water projects



Priest Lake Outlet Dam Construction, 2023

IWRB Water Management Account

Appropriations with Interest

\$336,777,410

Projects	Budgeted Amount
Regional Water Sustainability Projects & Other Large Projects	\$173,268,556
Aging Infrastructure Grants (\$75M Appropriated for program – 7 rounds)	\$75,000,000
Loans (funds will be available for reallocation upon repayment)	\$20,996,333
Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant Program	\$20,000,000
Efficiency and Capacity Improvements to Canal Systems Grant	\$20,000,000
Statewide Monitoring and Measurement Grant Program	\$10,000,000
Other Regional Sustainability Projects, Loans, or Grants	\$17,512,521
Total	\$336,777,410

IWRB ARPA Funding

Received and Scheduled to Receive

\$250,000,000

Spending Plan

Anderson Ranch Dam Raise

\$112,500,000

MHAFB Water Pipeline

\$33,000,000

ESPA Recharge Infrastructure

\$14,000,000

American Falls Dam Spillway Repair

\$12,500,000

Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project

\$28,000,000

New York Canal Rehabilitation

\$50,000,000

TOTAL

\$250,000,000



Aging Water Infrastructure Grant Program

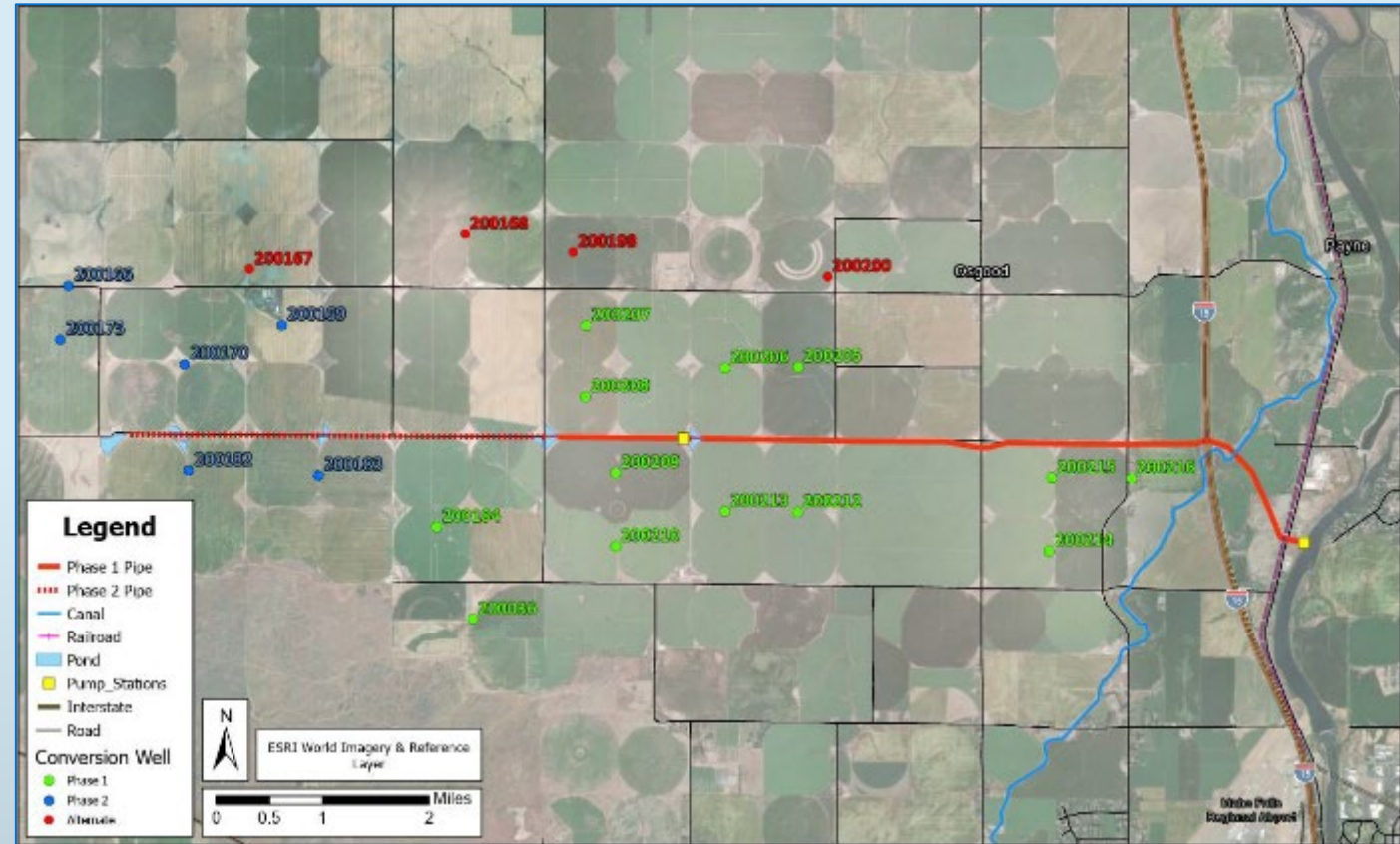
- For rehabilitation/repair of irrigation water storage and delivery systems
- Competitive application process
- Up to 1/3 of project cost covered by grant up to \$2,000,000
- IWRB has awarded over \$56M through 5 rounds for 90 projects



Milner Dam – Spillway Repair

Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Project Grant Program

- Convert groundwater irrigated land to surface water in areas with groundwater limitations
- 50% of project cost up to \$5,000,000
- IWRB has awarded 11 grants for over \$13M.



Proposed Osgood Pipeline Conversion Project, Bonneville County

ESPA Telemetry & Monitoring Grant Program

- \$2,000,000 to promote water conservation throughout the ESPA, focused on assisting irrigators with the cost of telemetry & monitoring equipment.
- 50% of project cost up to \$250,000
- Eligible Entities: GW Districts, Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, & Canal Companies
- Applications due by March 28th.



Canal Telemetry, Fremont County

Flood Management Grant Program

- Flood management, flood damage reduction, or repair of flood-damaged stream channels
- Complete application process
- 50% of project cost up to \$200,000
- IWRB has awarded a total \$6.1M over 7 years for 77 flood projects



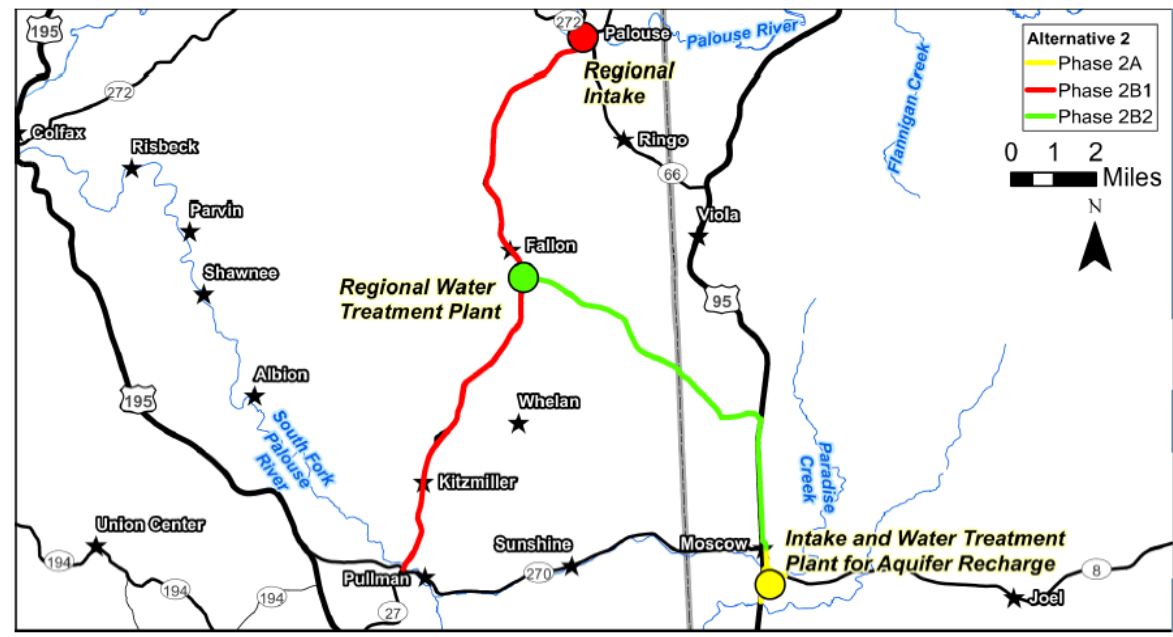
North Side Canal Flood Repairs

Regional Water Sustainability Projects

- IWRB list of projects determined to have potential to help achieve regional water sustainability.
- Must provide significant regional, basin-wide, or statewide benefits.



Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District Water Exchange Project – Pump Station Diagram



Palouse Basin Water Supply Project (N. Idaho)

Regional Water Sustainability Projects

- ESPA Aquifer Recharge
- Cooperative Cloud Seeding (with Idaho Power & water users)
- MHAFB Water Resilience Water Project (with US Air Force)
- Anderson Ranch Dam Raise (with US Bureau of Reclamation)
- Priest Water Management Project Lake –Thorofare and Outlet Dam (complete)
- Lemhi Basin Settlement
- Bear Lake

Thorofare/Breakwater Construction at Priest Lake



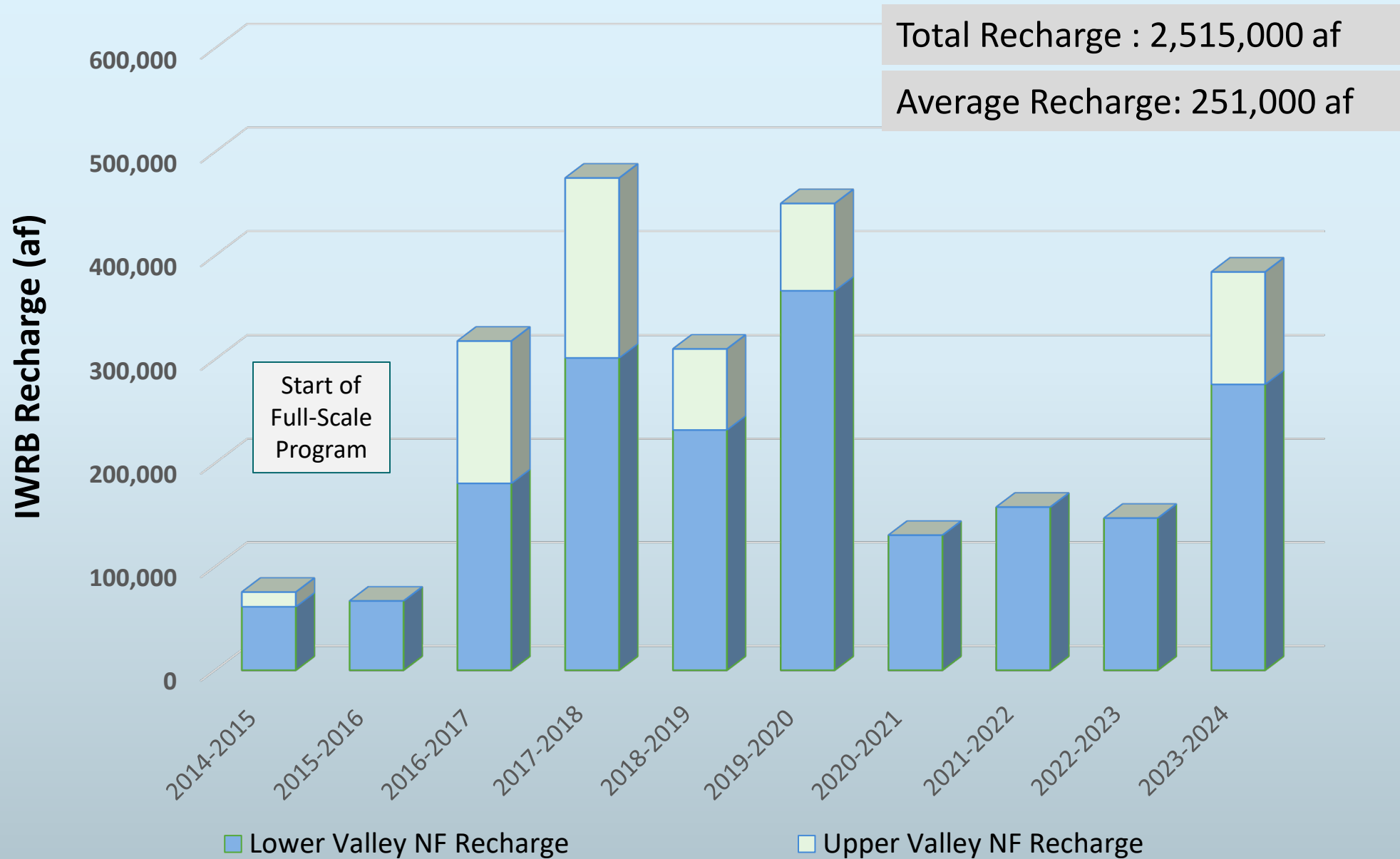
MHAFB Water Resilience Project – Intake construction

Regional Water Sustainability Projects

- City of Gooding Flood Control Project - Little Wood River Channel
- City of Nampa Wastewater-to-Irrigation Reuse
- Raft River Pipeline
- Treasure Valley Water Supply Assessment
- Palouse Basin Aquifer Supply Planning
- Lost Valley Reservoir Expansion Planning
- North Fremont Canals
- American Falls Spillway Rehabilitation
- New York Canal Rehabilitation
- Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project
- Ririe Reservoir Rule Curves



IWRB ESPA Recharge





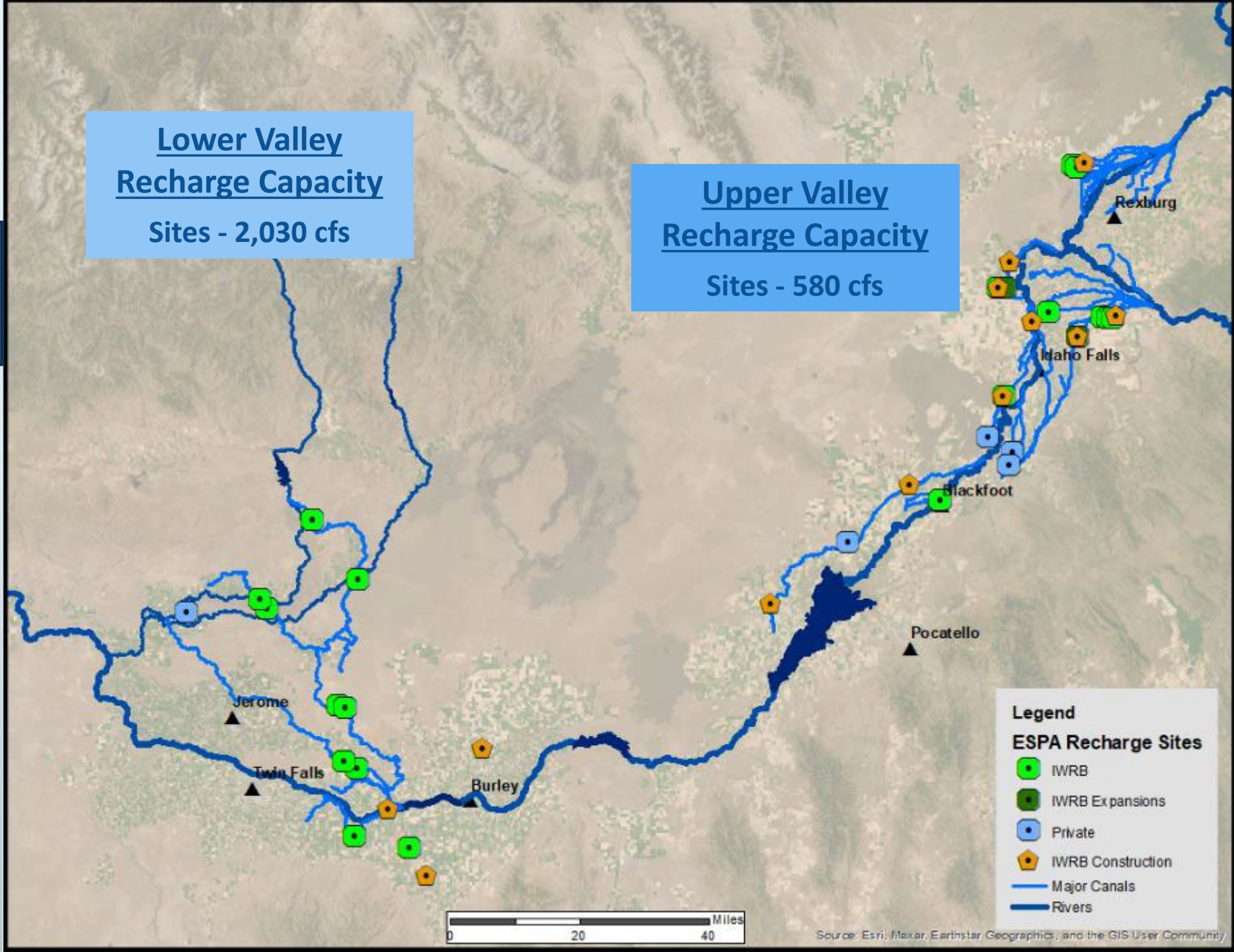
ESPA Recharge Sites

Lower Valley Recharge Capacity

Sites - 2,030 cfs

Upper Valley Recharge Capacity

Sites - 580 cfs



- Legend**
- ESPA Recharge Sites**
- IWRB
 - IWRB Expansions
 - Private
 - IWRB Construction
 - Major Canals
 - Rivers

Cloud Seeding Program

Collaborative Program

- Operated in the Upper Snake, Boise, Wood River basins
- Partnership between IWRB, Idaho Power Company (IPC), and local water users
- IPC performs cloud seeding operations, State and local water users participate in program funding
- Program consists of 3 aircraft, 57 generators, and a network of weather instruments



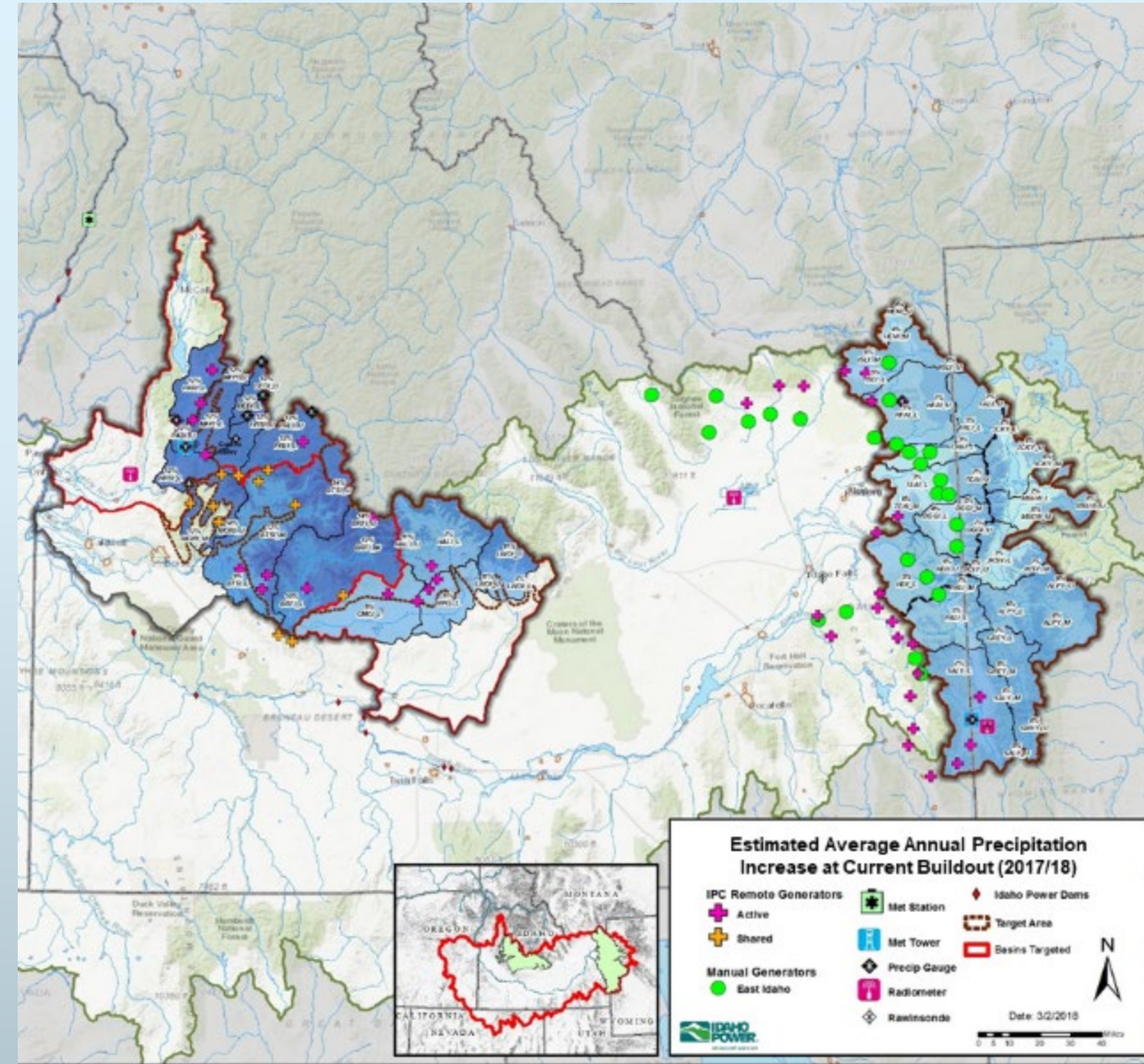
Cloud Seeding – Collaborative Program

- Average Annual Operations Cost: \$3,595,947
- Est. Avg. Annual Runoff Generated: 953,000AF
- Estimated Cost Per Acre Foot: \$3.77/AF

Est. Avg Annual Additional Runoff | Project Costs *

- Boise River Basin – 239 KAF | \$1.02M
- Wood River Basin – 101 KAF | \$766K
- Upper Snake River Basin – 613 KAF | \$1.81M

*Average volumes from Idaho Power Co. Integrated Resource Plan; WY2025 planned program costs.




Cloud Seeding Program

Updated Website

[Link: Cloud Seeding Program | Idaho Department of Water Resources](#)

Official Government Website

Research News Events Contact




IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Water Rights • Wells • Streams/Dams/Floods • Forms • Water Data • Maps/Spatial Data • Legal • Board • About IDWR

Home / Idaho Water Resource Board / Idaho Water Resource Board Programs / Cloud Seeding Program

Cloud Seeding Program



Cloud Seeding Operational Months:
Aircraft Seeding Operations: November 1st to March 31st
Ground Generator Seeding Operations: November 1st to April 30th
**Cloud seeding does not occur outside of these operational periods in Idaho*

Current Cloud Seeding Project Status


Project	Status
Upper Snake Basin Project	Active
Boise Basin Project	Active
Wood River Basin Project	Active
Payette Basin Project	Active
State of Utah Projects	Active

Legend

Inactive
No cloud seeding operations are occurring in the project area.

Active
Project operations are active. Operations include weather forecasting and cloud seeding activities. Forecasting occurs continuously throughout the operational period to identify storm systems and conditions conducive to cloud seeding. Actual cloud seeding activities are conducted with ground generators and aircraft and are only performed when favorable storm systems are observed.

Suspended
Project operations are temporarily suspended.



Anderson Ranch Dam Raise

- Partnership between IWRB and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- 29,000 acre-feet of additional reservoir space
- Reclamation completed 60% design level
- \$125.8 million total cost
- 11% federal cost-share – 89% non-federal
- Expect construction contracts to be let in 2026, with construction starting in 2027
- Working on process to allocate water



*Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project
Photo by Reclamation*

Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resiliency Project

- IWRB/USAF MOA – Spring 2022
- Transmission System:
 - Design/Construction - 2024-2025
 - Completion - July 2025
 - Estimated project cost \$40M
- Water Treatment Plant:
 - USAF WTP Construction Contract Awarded - April 2024
 - Commissioning of USAF Raw Water Tanks – May 2025
 - WTP Construction Complete – Summer 2026
 - Estimated cost \$91M paid by Federal Government
- Transfer Pipeline and Pumphouse to USAF – July 2025



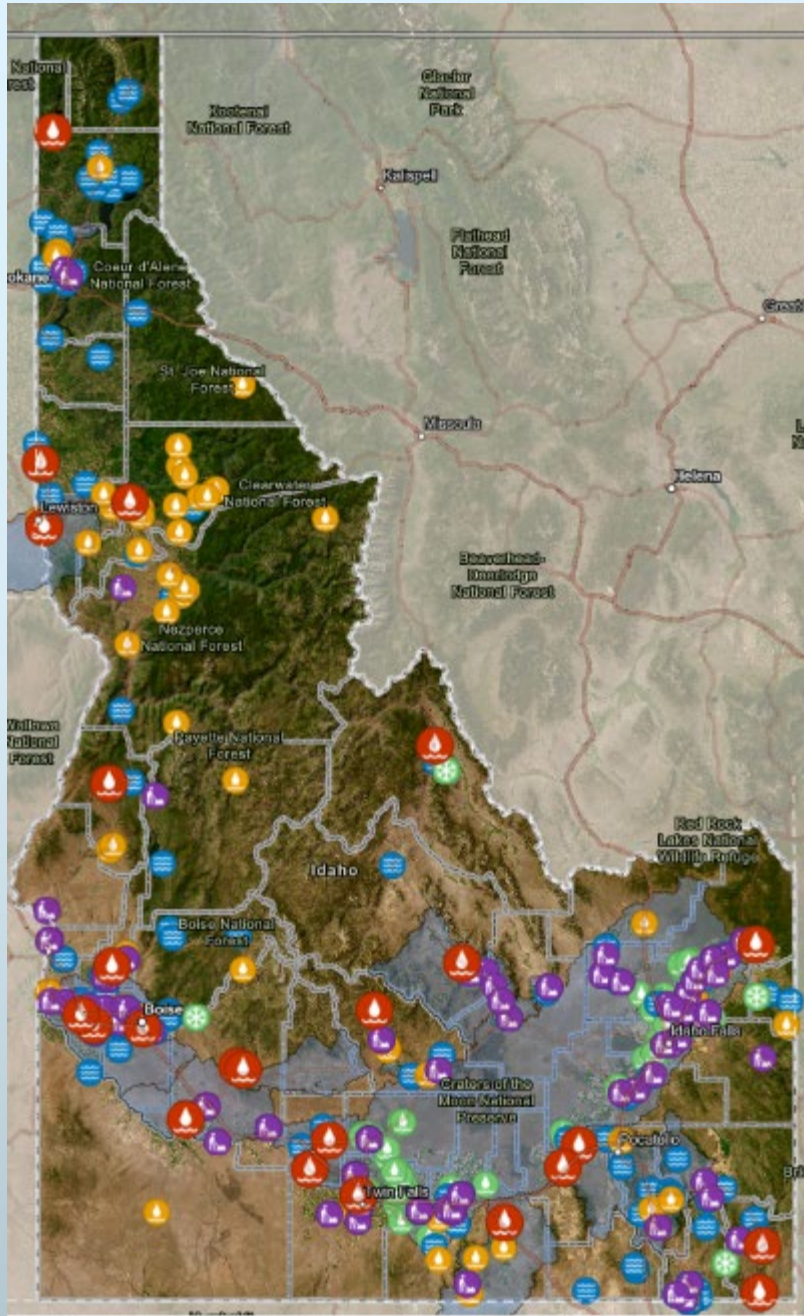
Priest Lake Outlet Dam Modification Project



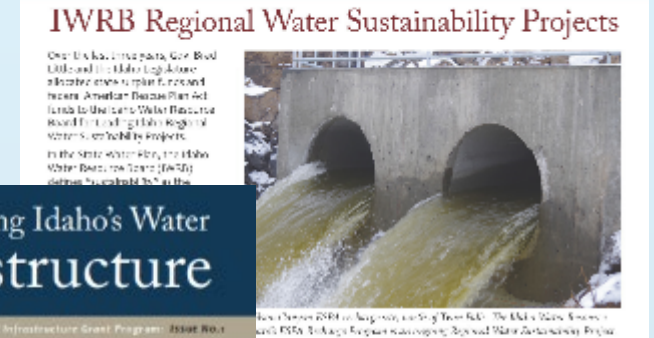
- Better manage Priest Lake to maintain lake levels and river flows
- Increased height of gates and other dam improvements
- Construction was completed spring 2024

IWRB Programs and Projects

- Flood Grants
- Loan Program
- Regional Sustainability Projects
- Aging Infrastructure Grants
- Cloud Seeding & Recharge Projects



Idaho Water Resource Board Programs, Projects & Initiatives Map



King Hill Irrigation District

Project description:
The King Hill Irrigation District has been working for the last 5 years to put together a multiple brigation-efficiency pipeline project to benefit local irrigators and farmers in the Hammett area.

"When we started this process several years ago, we figured it'd have a \$5 to \$5.5 million price tag. As it is today, it's going to be in excess of \$6 million," said Jeff Blankens, Chairman of the King Hill Irrigation District.

The project has been completed, just in time for the 2023 irrigation season.

"We're extremely grateful to all of the different agencies that have been helpful in this process," Blankens says. "The Timore Soil Conservation District and the Commission for their grant, Idaho Water Resource Board for their grant and loan, and especially NRCS which has been our partner since the beginning. They helped us design and engineer the project."

"And then of course, our water users and producers. Without them stepping up to the plate, helping with the cost share in the loan, it'd only be a dream if it weren't for them."

Project benefits:
Carmie Sharp, Conservation Team Leader for NRCS, said the project has multiple benefits in reducing water use, improving water quality and reduced pumping costs of an estimated 4 million kilowatt-hours per year.

"It's a win-win project all the way around," Sharp says. "It's a win from a resource standpoint, it's a win for the shareholders, the landowners who are the water users, it's a win for the irrigation district, and it's going to have positive impact for our community."

About five miles of irrigation pipeline have been installed from a new point of diversion by the Snake River to reach about 120 different farms and water users spread over 2,000 acres of land. A bank of five large irrigation pumps with variable speed drives will push the water flows to the farmers served by the pipelines.

The new irrigation system replaces an old open ditch system that wasn't reliable, Blankens said.

"Our infrastructure was over 100

Key facts:

- Type of project: Irrigation efficiency open canal to pipeline, new water pumps
- Location: Hammett, Idaho
- Total project cost: \$6M
- Aging Infrastructure Grant: \$1.5M
- Water Board Loan: \$1.5M
- Local cost share: \$3M
- Other funding partners: NRCS, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Start date: November 2022
- End date: May 2023

[For more information go to \[www.inwr.idaho.gov\]\(http://www.inwr.idaho.gov\)](http://www.inwr.idaho.gov)

Questions?

