

Idaho Water Resource Board Programs and Projects February 9, 2026

Jeff Raybould, IWRB Chairman



FY 2026 IWRB Actions: State Water Plan and ESPA CAMP Revision

Senate Concurrent Resolution 110 (2025 Leg)

- Support for the Surface Water Coalition & Ground Water Districts settlement agreement
- Support the IWRB revising State Water Plan policies 4B, 4D, and 4E and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan to **establish a state-funded ESPA managed recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis.**



Process

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • IWRB developed recommended changes | July 2025 |
| • Public Comments & Public meetings Idaho Falls & Twin Falls | July – Sept 2025 |
| • Public IWRB meeting to review comments | Oct 2025 |
| • IWRB finalized & approved revisions | Nov 2025 |
| • Submitted to the Legislature | Jan 9, 2026 |

FY 2026 IWRB Actions: Water Project/Program Implementation

Water Project Funding

- Governor Little and the Idaho Legislature supported significant funding for water infrastructure.
- More than \$650 Million appropriated to Idaho Water Resource Board since 2019 for water projects.



IWRB American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

ARPA Funding Projects	Contracted Spending Plan
ESPA Recharge Infrastructure	\$14,000,000
Anderson Ranch Dam Raise	\$112,500,000
American Falls Spillway Repair	\$12,500,000
MHAFB Water Resiliency Project – Pipeline/Pumpstation	\$33,000,000
Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project	\$28,000,000
New York Canal Rehabilitation	\$50,000,000
Total	\$250,000,000 *
<i>* IWRB Appropriation \$250,000,000 is under contract and will be expended by Dec 31, 2026.</i>	

IWRB Water Management Account

Total Appropriations with Interest (*Dec 2025*): \$404,128,957

Projects	Obligated by IWRB Resolution (<i>Jan 2026</i>)
Statewide Regional Water Sustainability Projects & Other Large Projects	\$161,759,423
ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Program *	\$99,341,141
Statewide Aging Infrastructure Grants	\$102,678,750
Statewide Flood Management Grants	\$7,400,000
Loans (funds available for reallocation upon repayment)	\$32,296,333
Water Quality Collection Program	\$600,000
Total	\$404,075,647
<i>* Includes \$30M FY 2026 Earmark</i>	

Regional Water Sustainability Projects: State-Led

- ESPA Stabilization (Recharge Program, grants, and other projects)
- Cooperative Cloud Seeding
- MHAFB Water Resilience Water Project (with US Air Force): **COMPLETE**
- Anderson Ranch Dam Raise (with US Bureau of Reclamation)
- Priest Water Management Project Lake – Thorofare and Outlet Dam: **COMPLETE**
- Lemhi Basin Settlement
- Bear Lake – Additional Storage



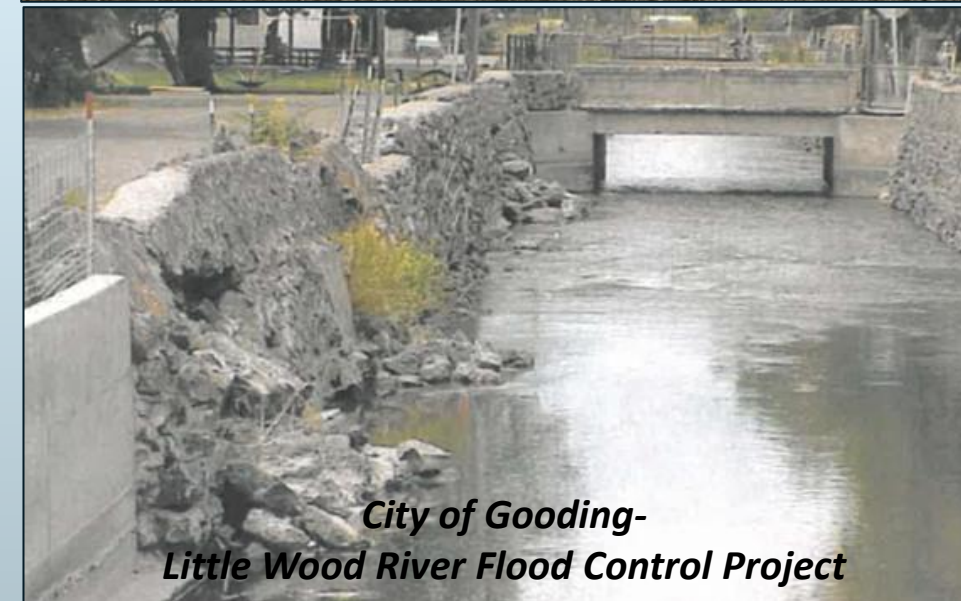
MHAFB Water Resilience Project – Intake construction (COMPLETE)



Priest Lake Outlet Dam Modification Project (COMPLETE)

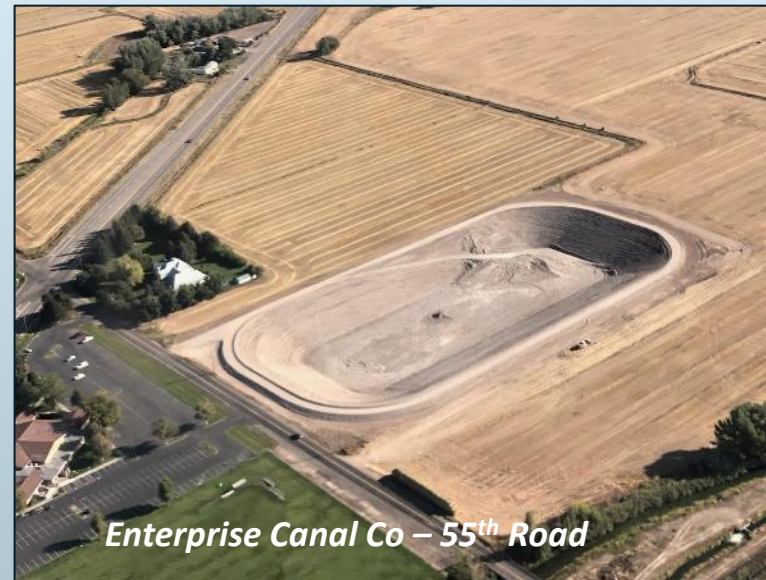
Regional Water Sustainability Projects

- American Falls Spillway Rehabilitation
- City of Gooding Flood Control Project - Little Wood River Channel
- City of Nampa Wastewater-to-Irrigation Reuse
- Lewiston Orchards Exchange Project
- Lost Valley Dam & Reservoir Expansion
- Mackay Dam Repair Project
- Milner Dam Rehabilitation Project
- Nampa-Meridian Irrigation District Ridenbaugh Canal Diversion Modernization Project
- New York Canal Rehabilitation
- North Fremont Canals
- Palouse Basin Aquifer Supply Project
- Raft River Pipeline
- Ririe Reservoir Rule Curve Modification
- Treasure Valley Water Supply Assessment Project
- Upper Payette Basin Storage Water Project



ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Program

- Support aquifer stabilization
- Support the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan between the surface and ground water users on the Eastern Snake Plain
- Includes:
 - IWRB's Managed Aquifer Recharge Program
 - Water supply enhancement through Cloud Seeding
 - Modeling and hydrologic analyses
 - Various grant programs



IWRB Water Management Account ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Program

Projects / Programs	Obligated Funds <i>(Jan 2026)</i>		
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Improvement Projects	\$5,000,000		
Near Blackfoot to Minidoka Reach Gain Improvements Projects	\$5,000,000		
ESPA Recharge Infrastructure **	\$8,192,087		
ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant (FY 2025)	\$13,330,625		
ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant (FY 2026 - Round 1)	\$12,060,936		
ESPA GW to SW Conversion Projects Grant (FY 2026 – Supplemental Scheduled Round 2)	\$6,669,375		
Twin Falls Canal Company Operations Efficiency Project (total \$26,340,915)	\$19,088,118		
FY 2026 Earmark (\$30M Appropriation)		IWRB District 3	IWRB District 4
Measuring & Monitoring Support Grant	\$815,102	\$363,418	\$451,684
ESPA Recharge Infrastructure **	\$13,314,500	\$0	\$13,314,500
ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant (FY 2026 - Round 1)	\$6,626,001	\$5,858,745	\$767,256
Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program (<i>AFRD2 & Portion of TFCC Projects</i>)	\$8,244,397	\$8,244,397	\$0
ESPA Groundwater Measurement Database	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
IDWR Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Support	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
FY 2026 ESPA Earmark Total:	\$30,000,000	\$14,966,560	\$15,033,440
ESPA Regional Sustainability Program Total (<i>Jan 2026</i>) :	\$99,341,141	50%	50%

ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Program

ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Projects Grant Program

- Convert groundwater irrigated land to surface water to offset groundwater pumping
- 50% of project cost
- Eligible Entities: GW Districts, Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, and Canal Companies
- IWRB has awarded 26 grants for over \$32M



*Bingham Groundwater District -
Murdock, Morgan & Polatis Farms*

ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Program

ESPA Telemetry, Measurement & Monitoring Grant Program

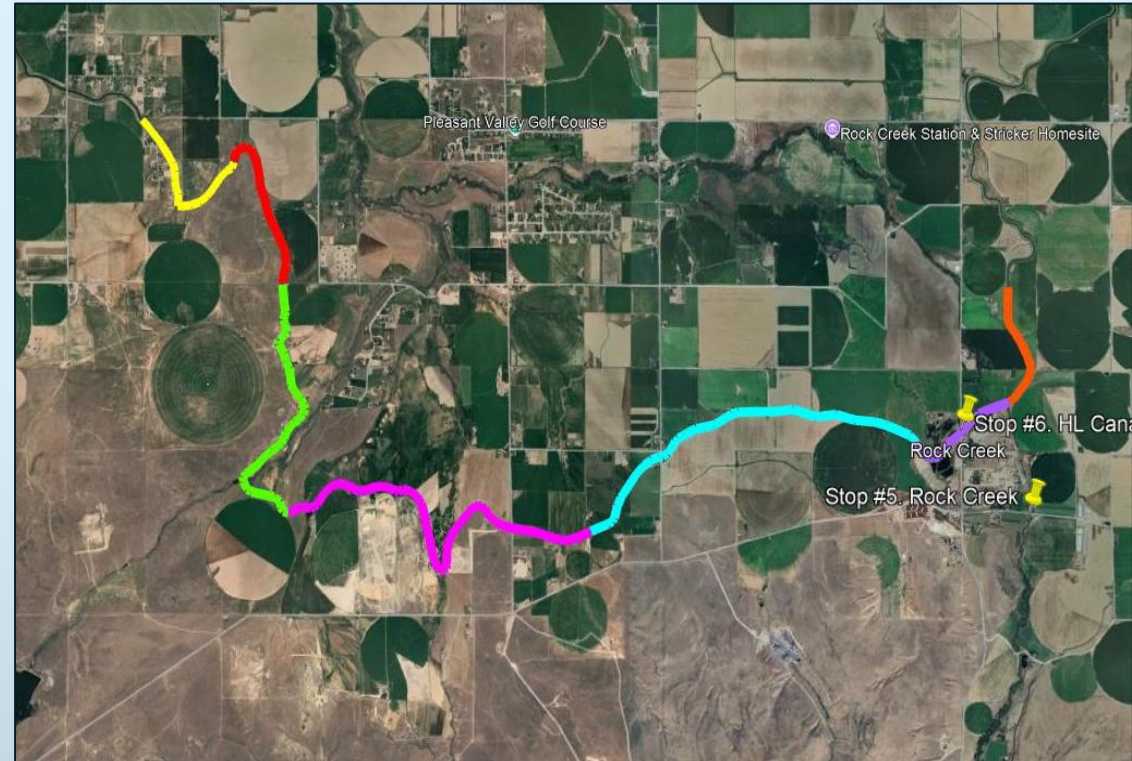
- Promote water conservation throughout the ESPA, focused on assisting irrigators with the cost of telemetry & monitoring equipment.
- 50% of project cost up to \$250,000
- Eligible Entities: GW Districts, Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, and Canal Companies
- IWRB has awarded over \$800K for 17 grants.



*Wilson Canyon Recharge Site
Telemetry Installation*

ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Program Surface Water Delivery System Efficiencies Program

- Improve Surface Water Coalition canals to reduce demand from SWC against the ground water users **without impacting incidental recharge to ESPA**
- Approved Projects: Over \$27M
 - Twin Falls Canal Co - Improve and line 10 miles of canal
 - Area to be lined not over ESPA
 - Stops water from leaking into Rock Creek and flowing back to Snake River below Milner Dam
 - Reduces TFCC's water use by as much as 40,000 acre-feet annually
 - American Falls Reservoir Dist No. 2/Milner-Gooding Canal – Evaluating potential efficiencies that will not impacting ESPA



***Twin Falls Canal Company Surface Water Delivery
Efficiencies Project***

ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Program

IWRB ESPA Recharge

IWRB added Recharge Capacity (since 2014)

- Lower Valley: 2,050 cfs
- Upper Valley: 322 cfs
- Under Construction: 613 cfs

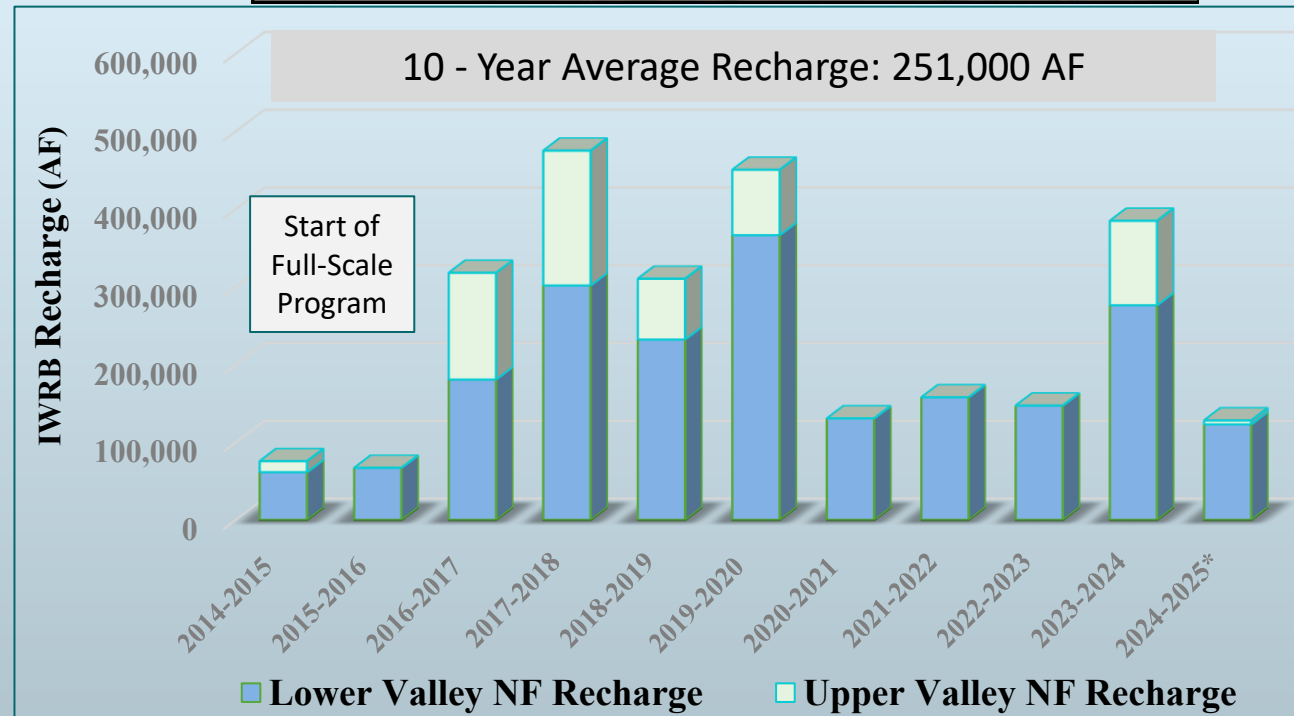
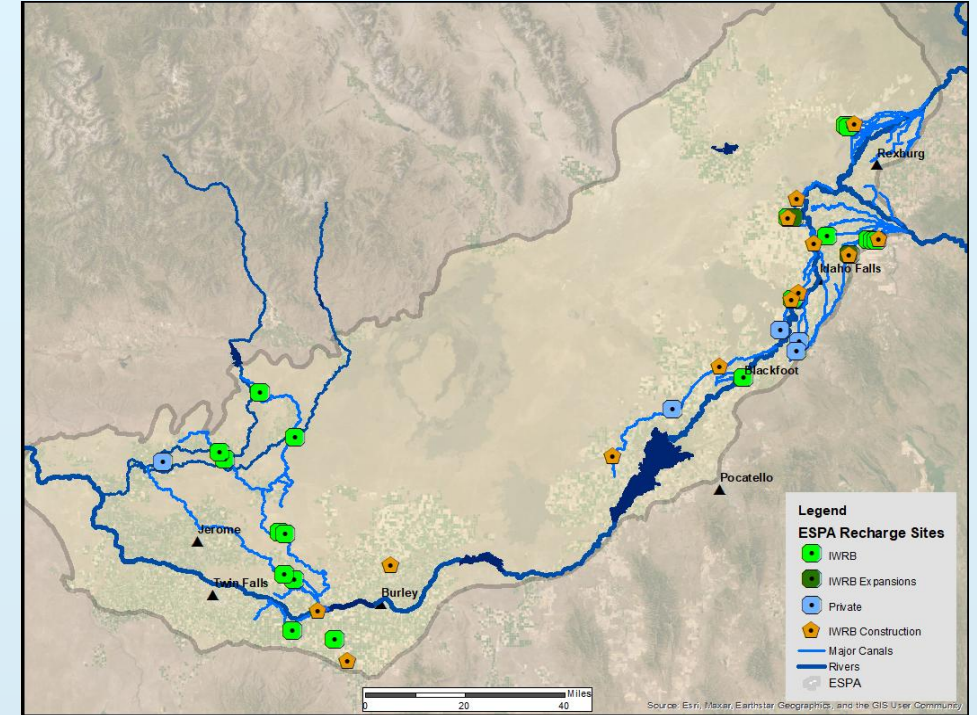
IWRB 10-Year Average 251,000 AF

IWRB Total Recharge 2,643,000 AF

Program Cost

- Infrastructure: \$58 M
- Conveyance Fees and O&M: \$28 M
- Cost* \$32 / AF

* No depreciation of capital cost

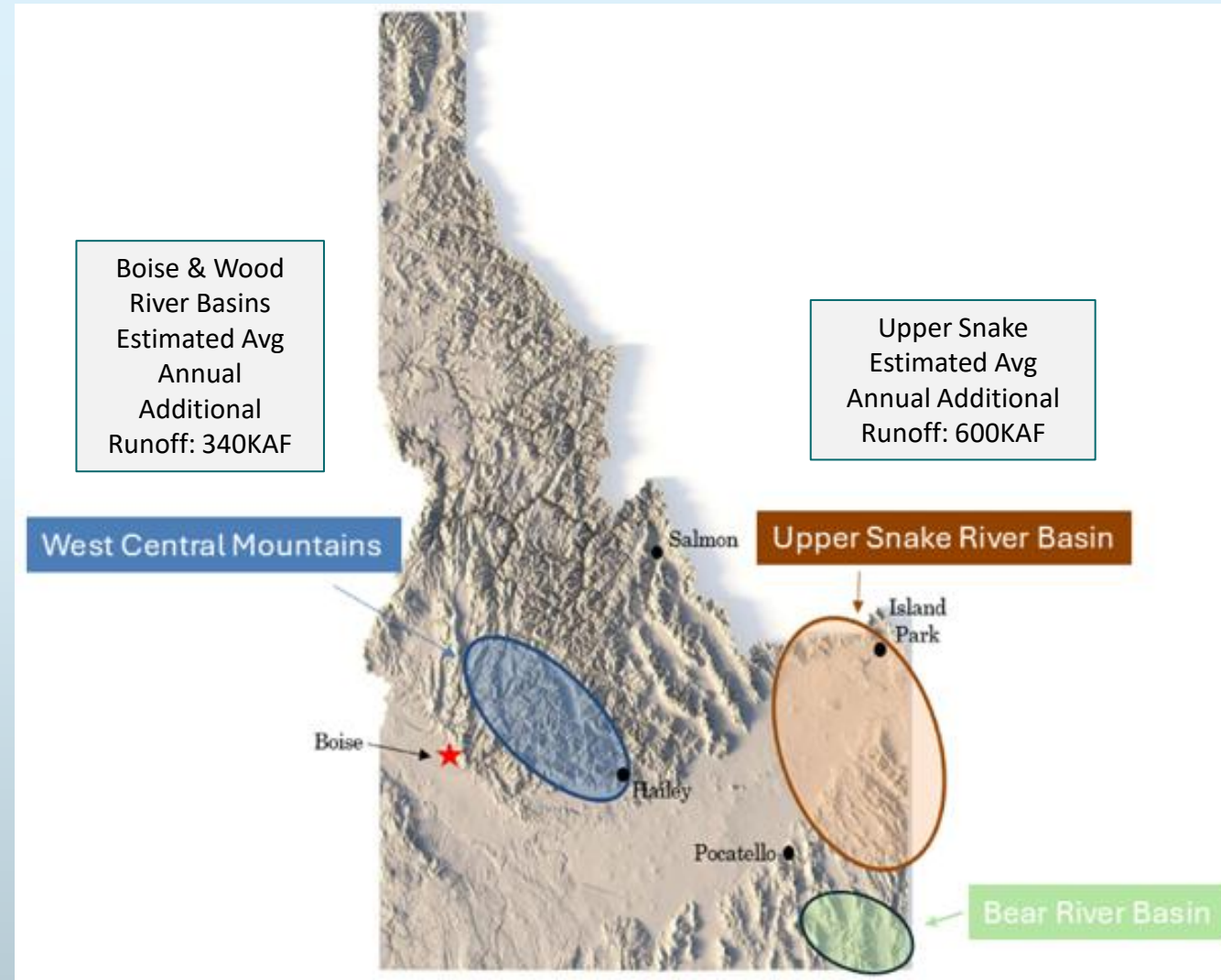


Cloud Seeding: Authorized Operational Areas in Idaho

- Collaborative Program
 - Boise, Wood, Upper Snake River Basins
 - IWRB, Idaho Power Company, and Water Users
- Upper Snake River Basin
 - High Country RCD & IWRB
- Payette River Basin
 - Idaho Power Company
- Bear River Basin
 - Northern Utah Program - State of Utah
 - Bear River Pilot Program - State of Utah and IWRB

Collaborative Program Cost/Benefit

- Average Annual Operations Cost: \$3,451,039
- Est. Avg. Annual Runoff Generated: 953,000AF
- Estimated Cost Per Acre Foot: \$3.62/AF



Cloud Seeding Program Resources & Information

IWRB Cloud Seeding Program Website

- Current cloud seeding project status
- Detailed information on authorized cloud seeding projects
- Authorized project seasonal reports
- General information on the history and science behind cloud seeding

[Link: Cloud Seeding Program | Idaho Department of Water Resources](https://www.idwr.idaho.gov/cloud-seeding-program)

The screenshot shows the official website for the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Cloud Seeding Program. The page features a navigation menu with links for Water Rights, Wells, Streams/Dams/Floods, Forms, Water Data, Maps/Spatial Data, Legal, Board, and About IDWR. The main content area is titled "Cloud Seeding Program" and includes a large image of snow-capped mountains. Below the image, a section titled "Cloud Seeding Operational Months" provides the following information: Aircraft Seeding Operations: November 1st to March 31st; Ground Generator Seeding Operations: November 1st to April 30th. A note states: "Cloud seeding does not occur outside of these operational periods in Idaho." The "Current Cloud Seeding Project Status" section is divided into two columns. The left column lists projects and their status: Upper Snake Basin Project (Active), Boise Basin Project (Active), Wood River Basin Project (Active), Payette Basin Project (Active), and State of Utah Projects (Active). The right column contains a legend with three categories: 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.), and Suspended (Project operations are temporarily suspended).

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

About the IWRB

- Planning
- Projects
- Programs
- Meeting Schedules
- Related Resources

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 Name	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.

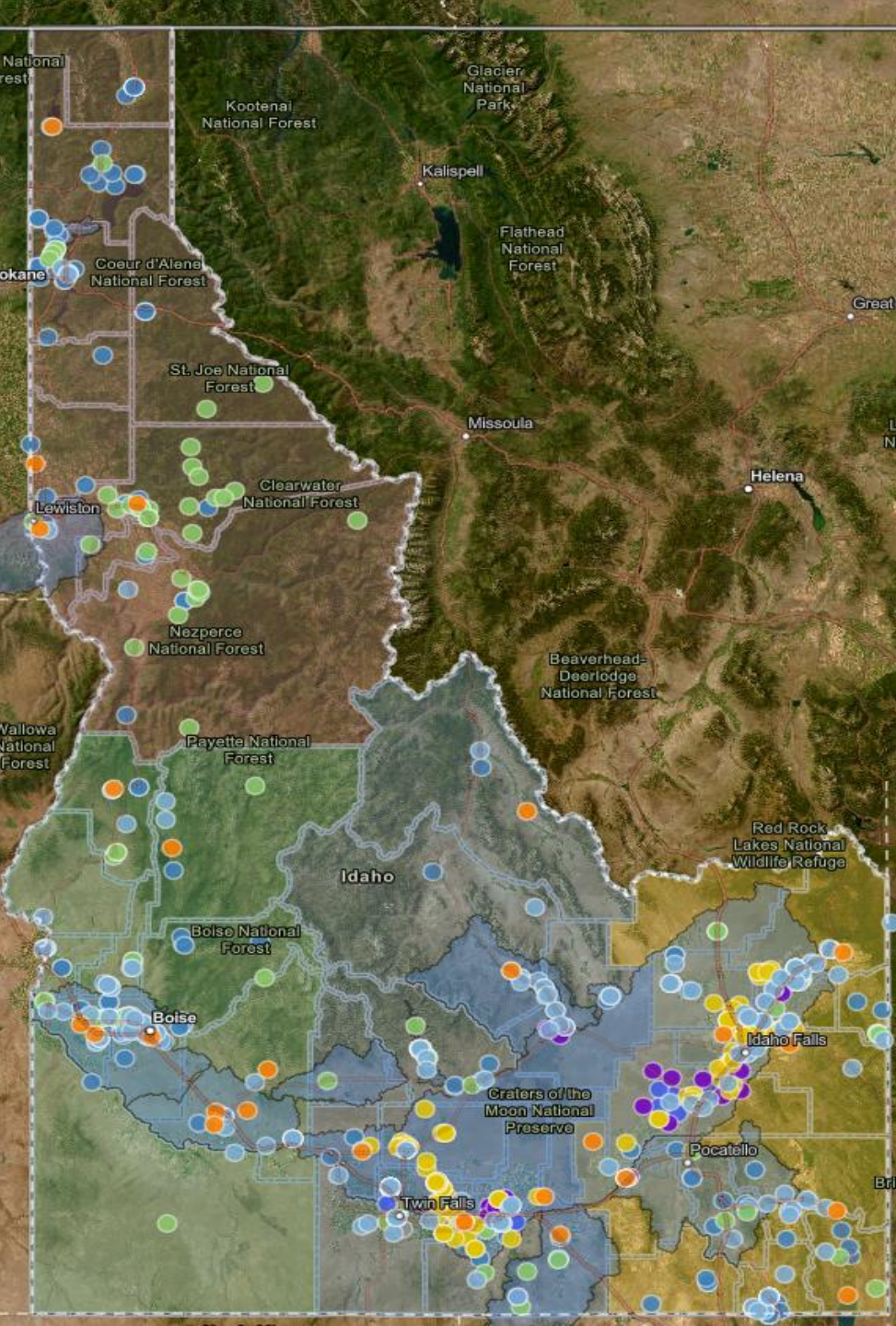
Statewide Aging Water Infrastructure Grant Program

- For rehabilitation/repair of water infrastructure, and irrigation water storage and delivery systems
- Competitive application process
- Up to 50% of project cost covered by grant up to \$2,000,000 (increased from 1/3 cost share in 2025)
- IWRB has awarded over \$78M through 6 rounds for 126 projects (2023-2026)

Farmers Land & Irrigation Co. – Soda Creek Diversion Repairs



Galloway Diversion Dam Rehabilitation Project



IWRB Programs and Projects

IWRB Regional Sustainability Projects



IWRB Aging Infrastructure Grants



IWRB Recharge Program



Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Program



Measuring And Monitoring Grant Projects



IWRB Flood Grants



IWRB Loan Program



IWRB Cloud Seeding Program



Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program



IWRB Funded Monitoring, Modeling and Hydrologic Studies



IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Projects

Over the last three years, Gov. Brad Little and the Idaho Legislature allocated state surplus funds and federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Idaho Water Resource Board for leading Idaho Regional Water Sustainability Projects. In the State Water Plan, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) defines "sustainability" as the "active stewardship of Idaho's water resources to satisfy current uses and assure future uses of this renewable



North Side Canal Company Main Canal Rehabilitation Project

Overview: The North Side Canal Co. (NSCC) was established under the authority of the "Desert Land Act" and "Carey Act" in 1907. NSCC began water delivery in 1909 from Milner Dam on the Snake River with a natural flow water right. Development of the project continued over the next 100+ years until approximately 155,000 acres of desert land were developed and irrigated from Milner Dam to just east of the King Hill area on the north side of the Snake River. Additional natural flow water rights were obtained along with storage water rights in Jackson Lake, Pallasdes Reservoir, and American Falls Reservoir to increase the water supply needed to irrigate the project. NSCC owns and operates 900 miles of irrigation canals that deliver approximately 1 million acre-feet of irrigation water per year to 155,000 acres of farmland in the Eden, Hazelton, Jerome, Wendell, Gooding, Blits and King Hill areas below Milner Dam. The NSCC main canal conveys over 2,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water during the summer irrigation season to meet the crop water needs on the project. Investments made to the existing irrigation canal systems, such as NSCC's main canal, help to continue the conservation of surface water and ensure the sustainable and reliability of water delivered to producers for crop production.



Construction specialist applies shotcrete, a mix of cement, sand, and aggregate mix pneumatically projected through a hose at high velocity onto the walls of the North Side main canal below Milner Dam. (Photo courtesy North Side Canal Co.)

Type of project: Main Canal Rehabilitation Project
Location: Burley, Idaho
Total project cost: \$9 million
Idaho Water Resource Board Aging Infrastructure Grants: Two grants for \$4 million
IWRB loan: \$5 million
North Side Canal Co. cost-share: \$5M
Start: November 2025
Finish: March 2027

The Challenge: More than 8,000 linear feet of concrete lining was originally constructed in 1907 in the NSCC main canal to alleviate water loss through fractured basalt that was encountered when the canal was first constructed below Milner Dam. The existing concrete has significant degradation over the last century of use. Continued degradation and failure of the concrete lining will result in more water lost through the underlying fractured rock. Loss of water in this section of canal adversely impacts the producers served by NSCC. The Idaho agricultural economy is a \$20 billion industry created by 11.5

A recharge site, north of Twin Falls. The Idaho Water Resource Board is an ongoing Regional Water Sustainability Project.

Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Recharge Projects - Ongoing

Priest Lake Water Management Project - Target completion in 2026. The IWRB will be awarding more funds for Regional Water Sustainability Projects in the future. In general, projects on the Regional Water Sustainability List are large, capital-intensive projects that need to be funded by multiple agencies with a local cost-share commitment and strong community support. For more information, go to <https://idwr.idaho.gov/programs/financial/global-water-sustainability-projects/>.

go to idwr.idaho.gov

Questions?



New Sweden Irrigation District – Basalt Recharge Basin Under Construction

ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Program

IWRB ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Program - WMA, Secondary & ARPA (Since 2015)

Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Program



Measuring And Monitoring Grant Projects



Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program



IWRB ESPA Recharge Program



Modeling, Measurement, & Hydrologic Studies



ESPA Area of Common Groundwater Supply (ACGWS)



ESPA ACGWS Expansion Basins



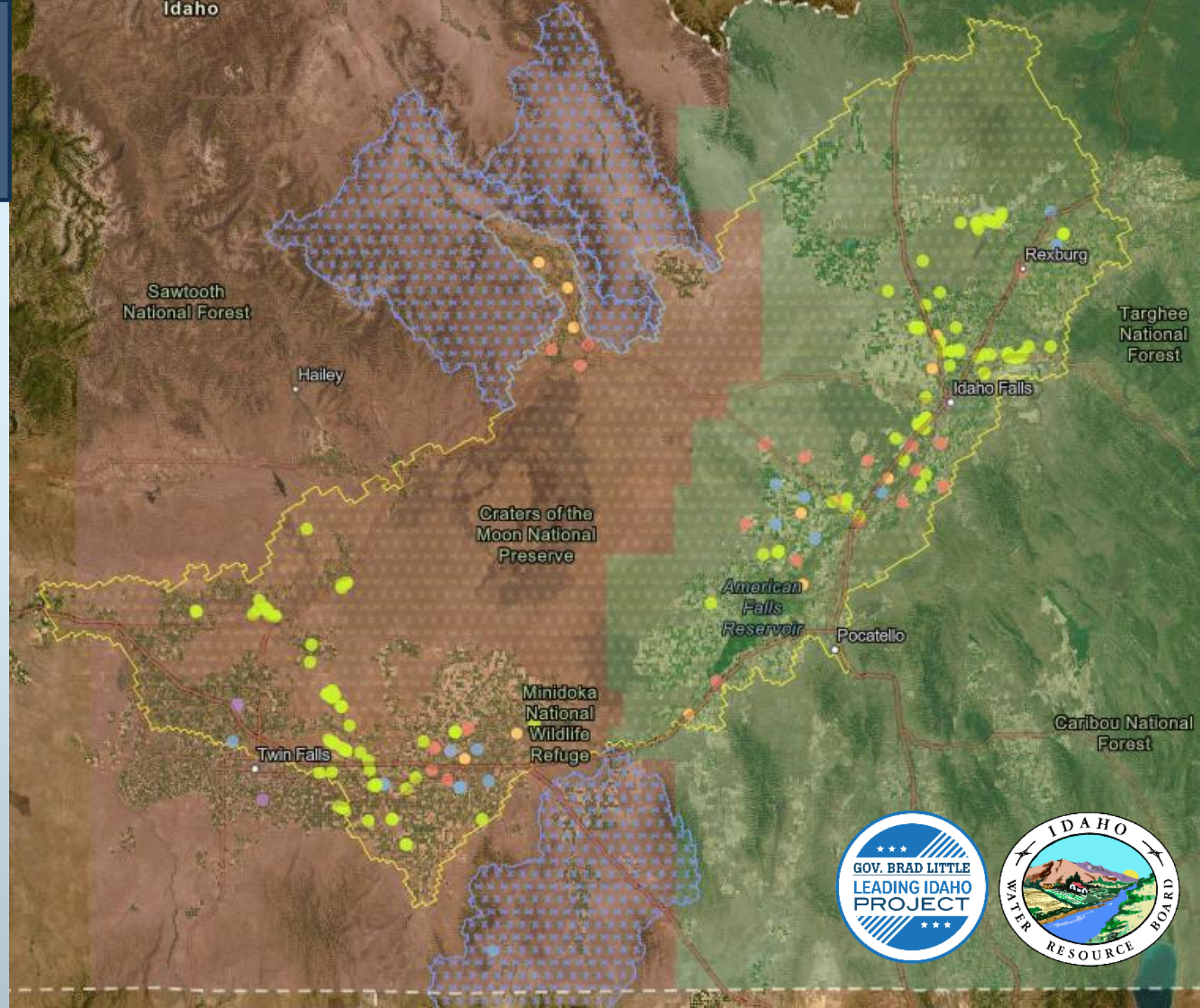
IWRB Districts



4



3



Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resiliency Project

- Provide surface water supply to MHAFB to remove dependence on declining groundwater supply.
- IWRB constructed pump station and 14-mile pipeline:
 - **COMPLETE!!**
 - Estimated project cost \$40M
- USAF - Water Treatment Plant
 - Scheduled Completion – Summer 2026
- Estimated cost \$91M paid by Federal Government
- IWRB in process of transferring Pipeline and Pumphouse to USAF



Anderson Ranch Dam Raise

- Partnership between IWRB and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- 29,000 acre-feet of additional reservoir space
- Reclamation completed 100% design level (March 2026)
- \$125.8 million total cost
- 11% federal cost-share – 89% non-federal
- Expect construction contracts to be let in 2027
- Working on process to allocate water



*Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project
Photo by Reclamation*