

IDAHO
Water Resource Board



Idaho's Statewide Water Sustainability Effort

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Idaho Department of Water Resources





Idaho Dept. of Water Resources (IDWR)
Director Appointed by Governor

- Water rights administration
- Delivery of water per water rights
- Other regulatory functions

Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)
Members appointed by Governor & confirmed by Senate

- Water planning
- Water projects and project financing
- Water Bank
- Minimum stream flow water rights
- Problem solving

Shared Staff

Idaho State Water Plan - Highlights

- Demonstrates that Idaho has a plan for the use of Idaho's water resources
- Describes how Idaho will develop and manage the state's water and related resources
- All state agencies are to comply with the policies providing a framework for the management of the water resources of the State
- Provides guidance and direction for: Optimum Use, Conservation, Management (and soon Sustainability)

Adding Sustainability to the SWP

- The IWRB has developed a proposed Sustainability Policy through a robust public involvement process that began immediately following the previous SWP revision in 2012
- The IWRB will be conducting public information meetings and hearings throughout Idaho this summer to gather comments and suggestions on the policy
- The IWRB will consider comments and testimony in the fall, adopt policy at the November Board meeting and submit to the Idaho Legislature in 2017



Sustainability of Water Supplies

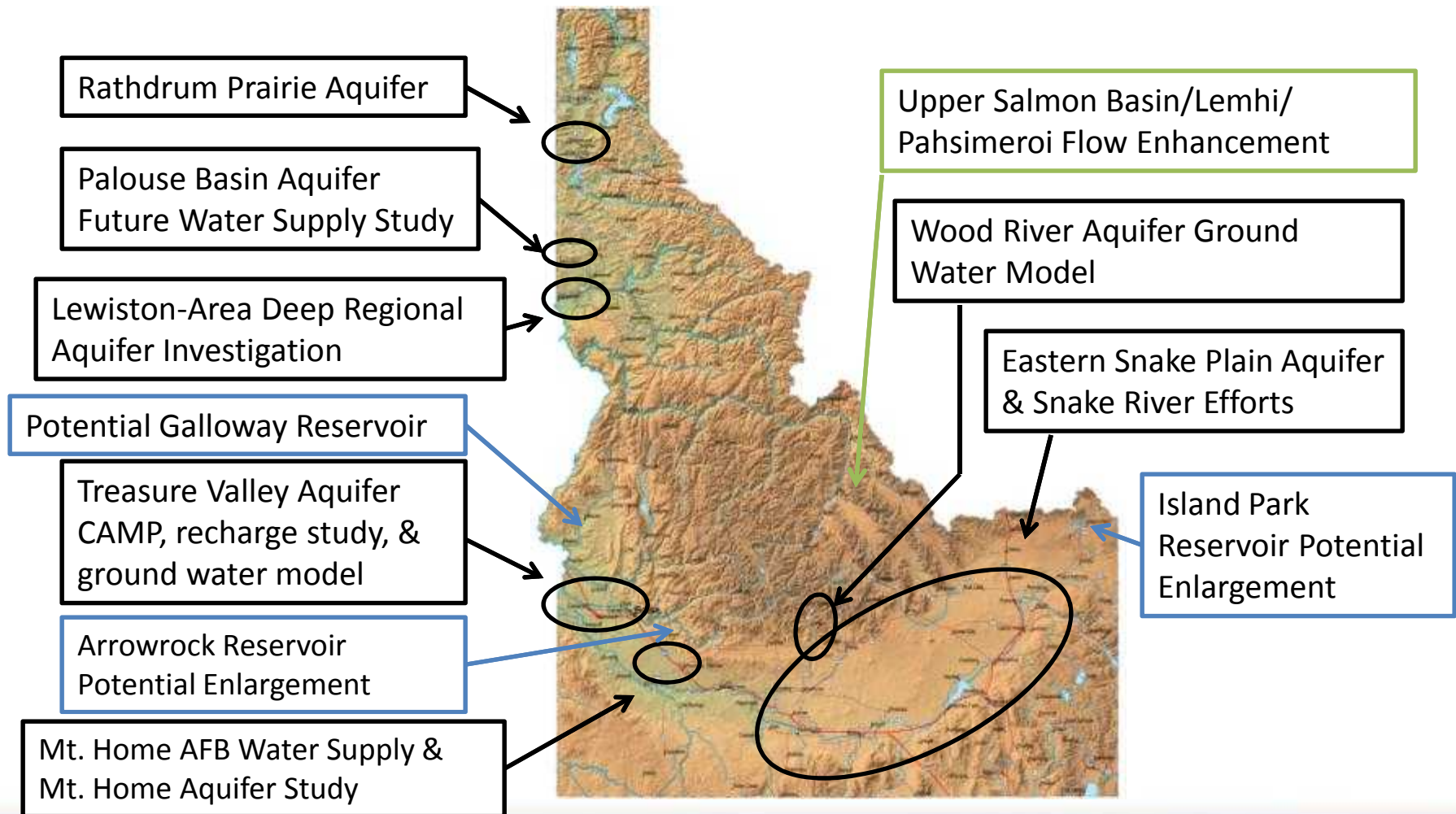
- Need to ensure water supplies for existing uses, for future growth, and for environmental purposes
- Must recognize water resources are not inexhaustible and therefore it is necessary to manage, administer, and take action to sustain, maintain, and enhance the resource
- Taking affirmative steps to address declining trends in the resource that will prevent future declines

Sustainability continued

- Planning and management actions to promote water sustainability must be designed and implemented to ensure that existing water rights are protected and economic vitality of Idaho is optimized



Water Sustainability Projects Statewide



Water Sustainability

Commitment to water sustainability is forever.

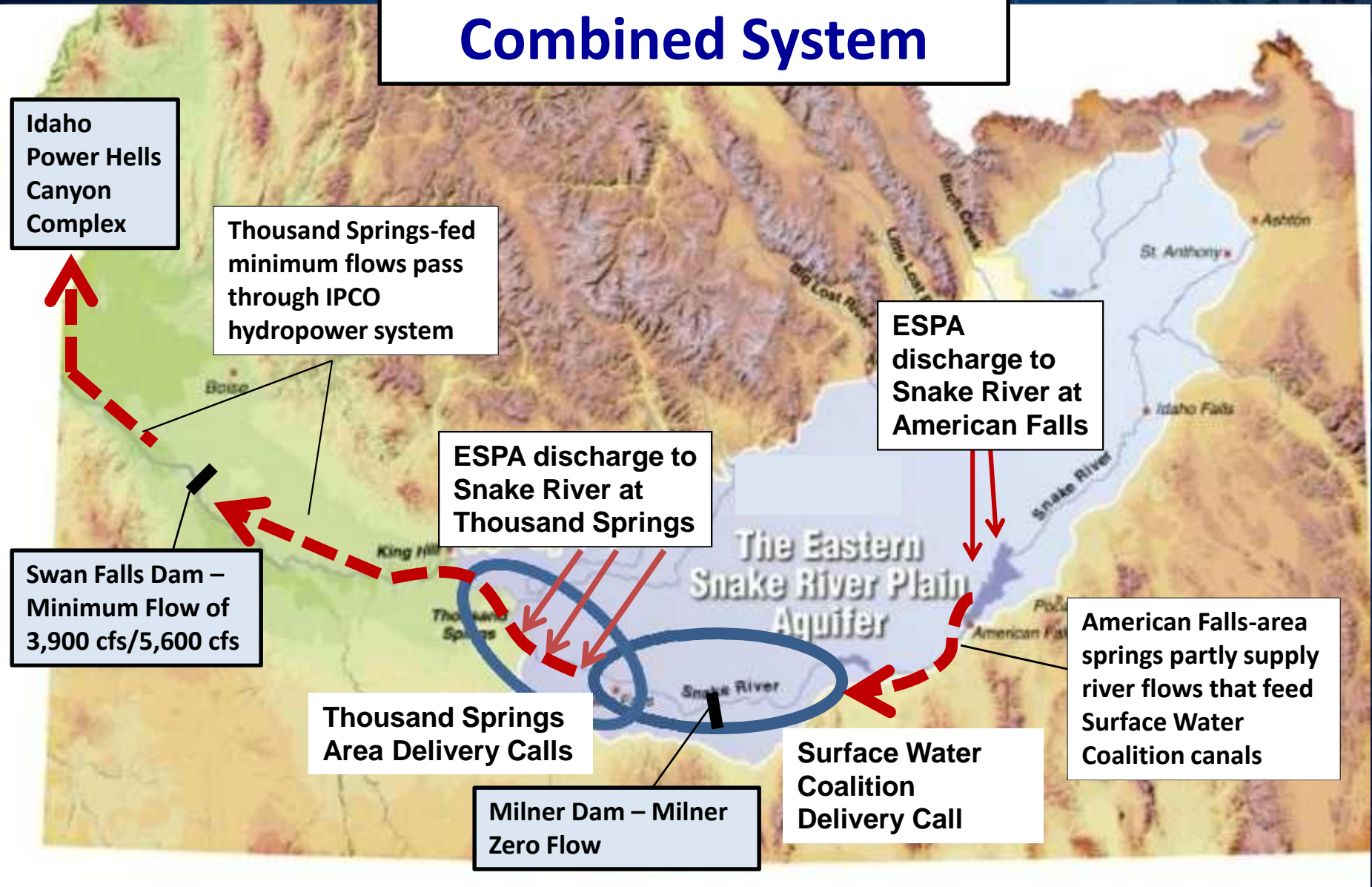
Working together we can make this happen!



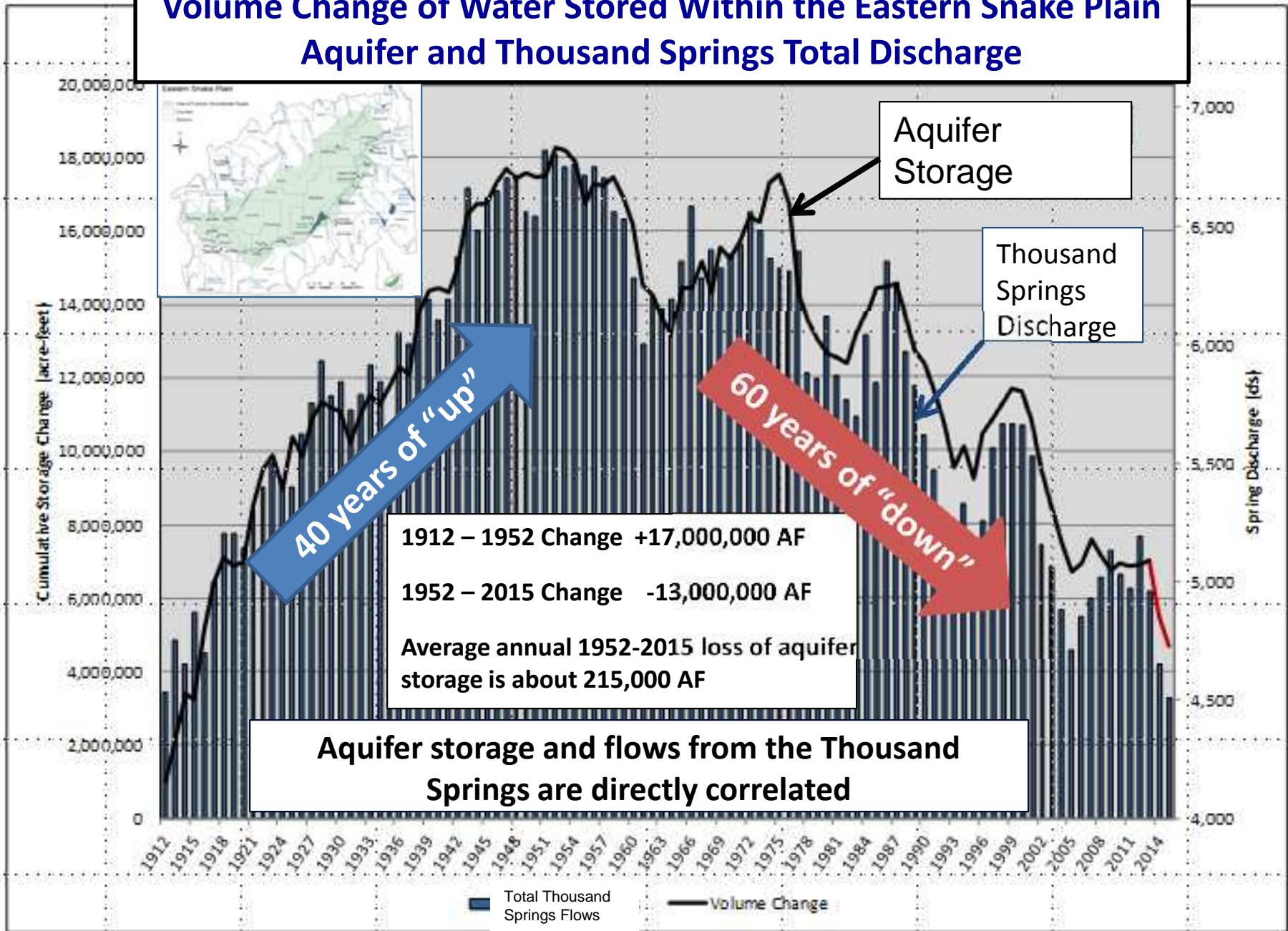


Thank you

Combined System

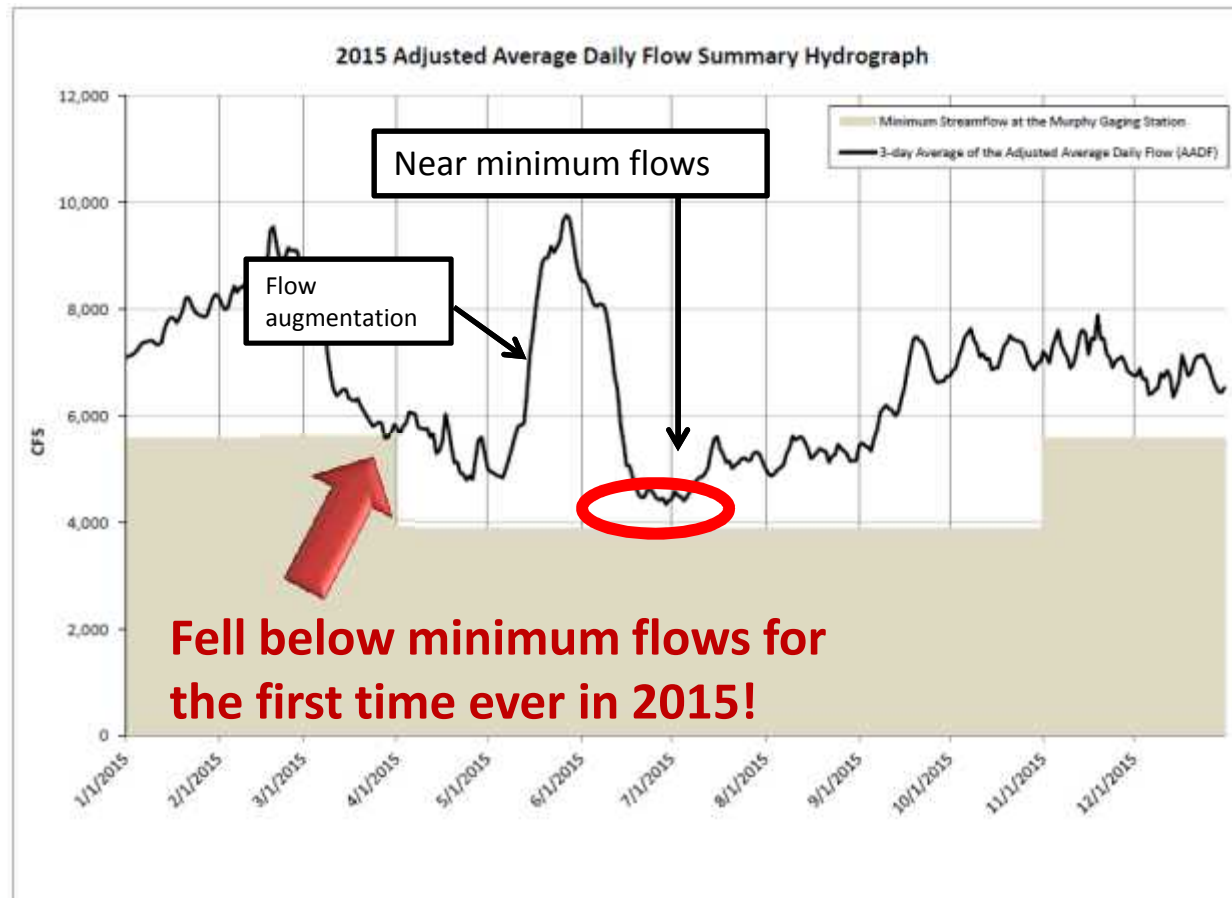


Volume Change of Water Stored Within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and Thousand Springs Total Discharge



Why So Much Emphasis on Snake River and Aquifer?

Snake River & aquifer system is at crisis stage



Economic Value

- Eastern Snake Plain region accounts for about 1/3rd of Idaho's economy
- Curtailments due to Rangen or SWC delivery calls may have significant adverse economic effects



How to Get Water Into the Ground?

- Use unlined canals that divert from river and cross the plain
- Most cost effective way to divert & recharge large volumes of water
- Contract with canal companies & irrigation districts to carry water to recharge
- Creates public/private partnership & outsources work to canal companies
- Supplement with spreading basins



Aquifer Recharge

- Have approximately \$3.7 million in recharge capacity improvement projects underway
- Anticipate about \$8 million under construction next winter and \$10 million the following winter
- Even using existing canals, substantial improvements are needed to carry winter recharge water



Loans for Water Projects

- In FY 2015 the IWRB approved 9 loans totaling \$9.31 million
- Significant projects include:
 - ✓ A&B pump station & pipeline
 - ✓ Last Chance Diversion Dam replacement
 - ✓ Rangen Pipeline
 - ✓ Others



New pump station under construction at A&B Irrigation District, January 2016

Aquifer Recharge

- SW Flow Monitoring
- GW Level Monitoring
- GW & SW Quality Monitoring



Water Sustainability Funding

- Commitment to water sustainability is forever
- Recharge must be ongoing to keep aquifers in balance



Questions

