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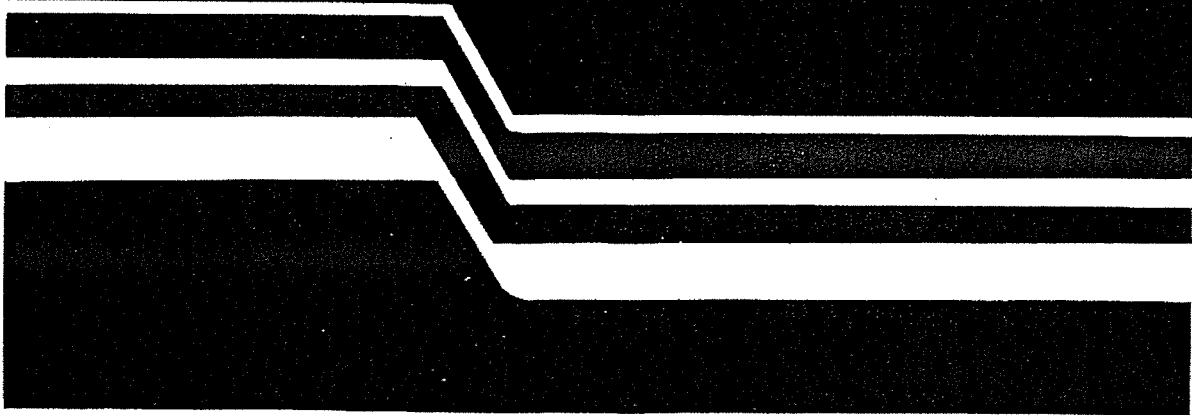
Excerpted pages of the
1986 *Idaho State Water Plan*
(Idaho Water Res. Bd., Dec. 12, 1986)

IDAHO STATE WATER PLAN



ADOPTED BY THE
IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

DECEMBER 12, 1986



"There shall be constituted a Water Resource Agency, composed as the Legislature may now or hereafter prescribe, . . . Additionally, the State Water Resource Agency shall have power to formulate and implement a state water plan for optimum development of water resources in the public interest. The Legislature of the State of Idaho shall have the authority to amend or reject the state water plan in a manner provided by law . . ."

Idaho Constitution

State of Idaho

THE STATE WATER PLAN

Cecil D. Andrus, Governor

Idaho Water Resource Board
July 1, 1987

Gene M. Gray
Chairman

Richard W. Wagner
Vice-Chairman

F. Dave Rydalch
Secretary

Mary T. Brooks
Kenneth E. Hungerford
Wm. J. Lanting
Clarence Parr
J.D. Williams

Adopted
December, 1986

Approved by the Idaho State Legislature
March, 1987

R. Keith Higginson
Director
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Statehouse
Boise, Idaho 83720



STATE OF IDAHO

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

STATEHOUSE
BOISE, IDAHO 83720

To the Citizens of Idaho:

The Idaho Water Resource Board is pleased to provide you with this new version of your State Water Plan. We gratefully acknowledge the time and effort expended by citizens around the state in providing input to the Board for this most recent revision.

The State Water Plan is a dynamic document in that it is continually being reviewed and evaluated by the Water Resource Board. It can be, and has been, changed to reflect social and economic conditions. It is, however, directed towards the future in that the policies contained in the plan are meant to guide the use of the water resources of the state for the benefit of all its citizens for years to come.

The success of this plan depends on how actively the citizens of the state work towards its implementation. The Board looks forward to working with individual citizens, organizations, the legislature, and local, state, and federal governments to make these policies a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gene M. Gray".

Gene M. Gray, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

GMG:IR

BEFORE THE WATER RESOURCE BOARD OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO

IN THE MATTER OF REVISIONS)
TO THE STATE WATER PLAN) RESOLUTION
_____)

WHEREAS, Article XV, Section 7 of the Constitution of the State of Idaho empowers the Idaho Water Resource Board to formulate and implement a State Water Plan for optimum development of water resources in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Plan was originally adopted in 1976 and revised in 1982, pursuant to Section 42-1734, Idaho Code, which requires the Plan to be reviewed at least every five years with amendments to be adopted in the same manner as the original Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board held public meetings and hearings throughout the State to obtain suggestions and comments regarding the present revisions to the State Water Plan; and

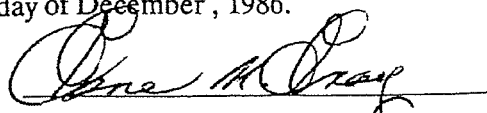
WHEREAS, Article XV, Section 7 of the Constitution of the State of Idaho requires changes in the State Water Plan to be submitted to the Legislature upon the first day of a regular session following the change, and provides that the change shall become effective unless amended or rejected by law within sixty days of its admission to the Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Article XV, Section 7 of the Constitution of the State of Idaho, and pursuant to powers granted by statute, the Idaho Water Resource Board hereby adopts the attached revised State Water Plan as the policy of the state of Idaho for the future use and conservation of Idaho's water resources.

PASSED AND APPROVED This 12 day of December, 1986.

ATTEST:


JAMES SHAWVER, Secretary


GENE M. GRAY, Chairman

FOREWORD

The State Water Plan is the result of much thought, study and research by the Idaho Water Resource Board to fulfill its constitutional mandate "to formulate and implement a State Water Plan..."

The State Water Plan consists of a series of objectives and policies that are to be used to guide water resource management in Idaho. A continuation of ideas first presented in the Interim State Water Plan of July 1972, this version is substantially reorganized from earlier versions and contains a number of amendments and deletions.

Implementation of the water plan will require changes in Idaho law and public attitudes. The Idaho Water Resource Board will continue to work with the Idaho Legislature to implement the plan. Public understanding is the key to full implementation of the plan. The Idaho Water Resource Board has always found support among the citizens of Idaho for a state water plan, and believe that this plan will provide for economic growth while protecting a quality environment.

Because public priorities change in response to economic and social conditions, the Idaho State Water Plan is reviewed and updated on a continuing basis. In addition to the effort made by the Water Resource Board to involve the public in the planning process, since November of 1984 all changes to the Idaho State Water Plan are reviewed by the Idaho Legislature. According to statute, the plan is reviewed and reevaluated in its entirety at least once every five years. This version is the result of a five-year review.

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George L. Crookham, Jr., Caldwell
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**Former Directors
Idaho Department of Water Resources**

C. Stephen Allred
A. Kenneth Dunn

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Formulation of the State Water Plan as adopted involved a great number of Idahoans from all walks of life. Citizen input was received through public opinion surveys, at information meetings and public hearings. The contributions of the private sector as well as state, federal and local agencies assured that a broad view of public interest will be considered in future water resource decisions. Without this citizen and agency response, a State Water Plan would not be possible.

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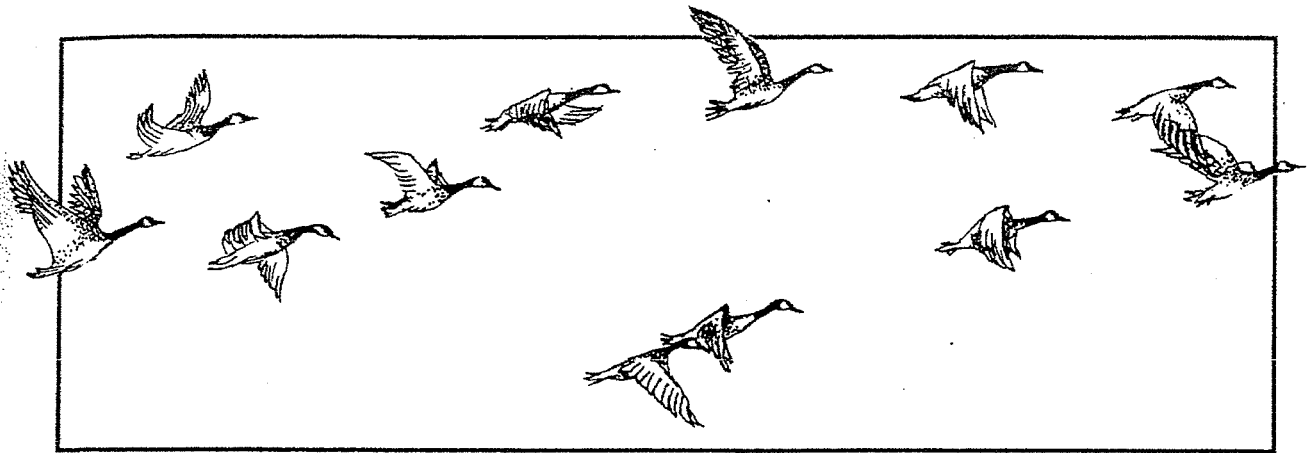
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River Basins Group

POLICY 5A - Snake River Basin

IT IS THE POLICY OF IDAHO THAT THE GROUND WATER AND SURFACE WATER OF THE BASIN BE MANAGED TO MEET OR EXCEED A MINIMUM AVERAGE DAILY FLOW OF ZERO MEASURED AT THE MILNER GAUGING STATION, 3,900 CFS FROM APRIL 1 TO OCTOBER 31 AND 5,600 CFS FROM NOVEMBER 1 TO MARCH 31 MEASURED AT THE MURPHY GAUGING STATION, AND 4,750 CFS MEASURED AT WEISER GAUGING STATION. A MINIMUM AVERAGE DAILY FLOW OF 5,000 CFS AT JOHNSON'S BAR SHALL BE MAINTAINED AND AN AVERAGE DAILY FLOW OF 13,000 CFS SHALL BE MAINTAINED AT LIME POINT (RIVER MILE 172) A MINIMUM OF 95 PERCENT OF THE TIME. LOWER FLOWS MAY BE PERMITTED AT LIME POINT ONLY DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER.

The minimum flows established for the Snake River at the Murphy and Weiser gauging stations are management constraints; they further insure that minimum flow levels of Snake River water will be available for hydropower, fish, wildlife and recreational purposes. The establishment of a zero minimum flow at the Milner gauging station allows for existing uses to be continued and for some new uses above Milner.

It also means that river flows downstream from that point to Swan Falls Dam may consist almost entirely of ground-water discharge during portions of low-water years. The Snake River Plain aquifer which provides this water must therefore be managed as an integral part of the river system.

The minimum flows established for Johnson's Bar and Lime Point are contained in the original Federal Power Commission license for the Hells Canyon hydropower complex. By adopting these flows, the Idaho Water Resource Board recognizes the importance of minimum flows to downstream uses and makes their maintenance a matter of state water policy. Article 43 of the power license provides that:

"The project shall be operated in the interest of navigation to maintain 13,000 cfs flow in the Snake River at Lime Point (river mile 172) a minimum of 95 percent of the time, when determined by the Chief of Engineers to be necessary for navigation. Regulated flows of less than 13,000 cfs will be limited to the months of July, August, and September,