Henrys Fork Basin Study

Interpretation of Issues, Opportunities, Constraints & Ideas (as received by the HFWC workgroup October 19, 2010)

Part A : Translation into Goals & Objectives and First Phase Alternatives Screening Criteria

Revised Draft based on input received at November 16, 2010 Workgroup meeting

Goals and Objectives		First Phase Alternatives Screening Criteria	
Water Supply (WS)		**Potential for adverse effect**	**Potential for beneficial effect**
Goal WS: Provide increased water supply to meet Basin needs and help meet downstream State needs			
Objectives:			
WS-1	Provide additional in-Basin storage		
WS-1.1	Provide new or enhanced storage to meet Basin needs--to support all uses - Irrigation (especially augmenting end-of-season supply) - CDMI (supporting anticipated city and county growth) - Power production	Potential to meet existing and future needs in the Basin:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WS-1.2	Provide new or enhanced storage to help meet State needs such as meeting mitigation requirements and achieving CAMP objectives	Potential to help meet State needs:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WS-2	Enhance water supply through improvements in water management (e.g., distribution system improvements, conservation, re-use)	Potential to meet existing and future needs in the Basin:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
		Potential to provide supply to help meet State needs:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WS-3	Increase water supply predictability, reliability and flexibility		
WS-3.1	Provide new or enhanced storage and other supply actions at locations/elevations where water is deliverable to the largest area--to meet identified need	Potential benefits in terms of service area size:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WS-3.2	Improve ability to provide water where it is needed and when it is needed (i.e., supply timing)	Potential to improve supply availability throughout the year, especially during high demand periods:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WS-3.3	Increase reliability of full supply for existing junior water right holders	Potential to provide full supply to existing junior rights holders:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WS-3.4	Provide opportunities for fish flow enhancement when appropriate	Potential for supply flexibility sufficient to provide fish flow benefits:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WS-4	Protect supply to existing groundwater users	Potential for adverse impact to existing groundwater users:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WS-5	Seek water supply actions that support the vision for the future of the Basin--economic, land use, environmental (as reflected in local jurisdiction comprehensive plans)	Potential to support the vision for the future of the Basin--economic, land use, environmental:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WS-6	Seek and act on opportunities to increase hydroelectric generation as part of water supply actions	Potential for hydropower benefits:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WS-7	Seek and act on opportunities to increase flood protection as part of water supply actions	Potential flood protection benefits:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
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Water Rights, Legal and Contractual Requirements (WR)		**Potential for adverse effect**	**Potential for beneficial effect**
Goal WR: Protect existing water rights and work within existing Snake River system legal and contractual requirements			
Objectives:			
WR-1	Avoid adverse impact on existing surface or groundwater rights	Potential for adverse impacts on existing water rights (surface or groundwater):	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WR-2	Protect current operations and meet commitments of the Henrys Fork as part of the larger Snake River system	Potential for adverse impacts on ability to meet current contractual and other legal requirements:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
WR-3	Provide a process for municipalities in the Basin to obtain additional water rights to meet growth needs	Potential for providing municipalities the opportunity to obtain new water rights:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
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Natural Environment (NE)		**Potential for adverse effect**	**Potential for beneficial effect**
Goal NE: Protect, sustain, and seek to enhance natural resource values in all water supply development and management actions			
Objectives:			
NE-1	Protect and seek to enhance fish and wildlife resources		
NE-1.1	Seek opportunties to improve fish and wildlife habitat conditions	Potential for enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
NE-1.2	Protect sustain wetland and riparian habitat values, with special emphasis on avoiding adverse impact on wetlands in the lower Henrys Fork	Potential for adverse impact on the lower Henrys Fork wetlands:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
		Potential for adverse impact on other wetlands and riparian habitat:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
NE-1.3	Minimize adverse impacts on fishery resources (including habitat, barriers to fish passage, etc.)	Potential for adverse impact on fishery resources (general):	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
NE-1.4	Avoid actions that would push species into threatened or endangered status	Potential for adverse impact on sensitive species:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
NE-1.5	Avoid actions that would worsen conditions for species already designated as threatened or endangered	Potential for adverse impact on ESA-listed species:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
NE-2	Protect recreation and tourism values of Basin streams and other water bodies	Potential for adverse impact on Basin recreation and tourism resources:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
NE-3	Retain all stream reaches currently identified as possessing Outstanding Remarkable Values in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (Section D of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act) in their existing condition	Potential for impact on stream reaches possessing Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs):	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
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Socioeconomic Environment (SE)		**Potential for adverse effect**	**Potential for beneficial effect**
Goal SE: Promote a sustainable economy *and protect sensitive land uses*			
Objectives:			
SE-1	Promote economic security	Potential to provide long-term, sustainable economic benefits (increased income, reduced cost):	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
SE-2	Minimize adverse economic impacts	Potential for adverse economic impact:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
SE-3	Ensure that economic benefits equal or exceed costs in all water supply and management actions	Relative cost of alternatives:	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
SE-4	Ensure that those who benefit pay the cost of water supply and management actions	*[No assessment of altenative cost-benefit allocations at this level of planning]*	
SE-5	Minimize adverse impact on sensitive land uses	Potential for adverse impact on sensitive land uses (parks, recreation sites, special designations, other developed land uses):	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
SE-6	Minimize adverse impact on recreation activities on the same stretch of river	Potential for adverse impact on recreation activities (rafting, angling, picknicking, camping, hiking, biking):	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
SE-7	Minimize adverse impact on the naturalness or aesthetic appeal	Potential for adverse impact on naturalness or aesthetic appeal (scenic beauty, viewing nature, viewing wildlife):	High- Mod- None Mod+ High+
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Part B : Input to Alternatives and Study Process

Draft for discussion at November 16, 2010 Workgroup meeting

Alternatives	Approach and Current Status
New Storage--explore:	Identification of alternatives will be the subject of discussion at Workgroup meetings 5-7
• Options for new surface storage--both on-stream and off-stream	
• Aquifer storage as an alternative to surface storage	
• Aquifer storage and recovery system(s) to meet local needs	
Improvements in water management and use efficiency--explore:	
• Municipal and agricultural conservation	
• Improvements in water distribution systems	
• Automation and other infrastructure improvements	
• Recycling/reuse	
• *Water markets*	

Study Process and Results	Approach and Current Status
• Conduct a needs assessment; how much water is needed? - Cities and counties? - Agriculture? - Other uses?	Report to Workgroup on the status of these items will occur as part of technical presentations during meetings 5-7
• Quantify the water supply--how much do we really have? When and where is it available?	
• Plan for the influence of climate change on future water supply and management. [Note: USBR has conducted a study of climate change impact on the Snake River system; this study will be used during assessment of available water supply.]	
• Assess and consider existing supply and management conditions (especially surface-groundwater interactions)	
• Prepare an annotated bibliography of related studies and relevant data	
• Provide a summary of work-to-date (prior and on-going studies relevant to this process); provide historical background	
• Research original Teton water rights. Are these rights still valid or would reconstructing the authorized Teton Dam involve current/junior rights?	
• Are new storage rights available in context of existing river operations, contractual obligations, State recharge rights, etc.? Is the water supply already over-appropriated?	
• Challenge of pursuing and analyzing all these questions at this level of planning and within available budget. A key to meeting this challenge will be the objectives and criteria we choose to compare alternatives.	
• Technical data and studies used in this process (whether previously done or new) must be trustworthy/credible	
• Studies used to support this process should be widely disseminated	
• This study should be cost-effective, meeting constituent needs	