

In cooperation with:



Idaho Water
Resource Board

&



Henry's Fork
Watershed Council

Henry's Fork Basin Study

Meeting Summary

May 5, 2011

Meeting date: May 3, 2011

Summary prepared by: Mark Bransom/CH2M HILL

Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation requested that an interim meeting be held independent of the larger Stakeholder Workgroup meetings to informally discuss the Henry's Fork Basin Study (Study). Meeting attendees are listed at the end of this summary.

Lesa Stark/Reclamation and Bob Schattin/Reclamation opened the meeting by summarizing the current status of the Study which included the following:

- Summary of identified water supply alternatives which include surface storage, managed recharge, water markets, conservation, and demand reduction,
- Intent to move to reconnaissance-level evaluations of alternatives and/or combinations of alternatives,
- Overview of the Stakeholder Workgroup meeting process

In addition, Lesa and Bob reviewed the study process and study schedule.

Meeting Agenda

Lesa and Bob provided a summary of Reclamation's work-to-date on the Draft Needs Assessment. It was noted that there is additional effort required to quantify environmental flow needs given the variability in existing flow augmentation recommendations. Meeting attendees identified the following water needs and issues:

- Additional winter flows in the lower Henry's Fork
- Legal limitations in Idaho for in-stream environmental flows
- Need storage for flexibility in FMID to meet irrigation shortages
- It was noted that Dr. Van Kirk's estimate for the Lower Watershed are low (>5KAF) and that the estimate for the Upper Teton is likely too high. Need to refine irrigation water shortages in the Draft Needs Assessment.
- Need to identify when shortages occur. Timing is an important issue for alternatives selection.
- Additional mapping would be beneficial to the Study and alternatives selection. Map stream reaches where needs exist and add timing, quantity information. Identify where there are temperature issues as best as possible (St. Anthony to Beaver Dick).
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council Sub-basin Study Upper-Snake

The next agenda item was a alternatives brainstorming discussion designed to receive group input on specific alternatives, including combinations of storage, recharge, conservation, markets, and other management strategies, that can meet specific, identified needs. Meeting participants identified a number of alternatives that may warrant reconnaissance level evaluation as shown in Table 1 (see attached). *Note: Table 1 has been expanded since the meeting to include a few additional alternatives, as well as identifying what needs would benefit from each alternative.*

Upcoming Meetings and Agenda

- Reclamation will meet May 16 with IDFG to develop additional information regarding environmental flows.
- The group that participated in the May 3 meeting summarized here has been invited to meet with Reclamation on May 17.
- Reclamation is in the process of arranging several additional small-group meetings to receive and develop additional input on alternatives and needs.
- The full Workgroup meeting – Meeting 8 – scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2011 has been cancelled. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 21, 2011.

Meeting Attendees

Meeting Attendees included:

- Sara Rupp – Friends of the Teton River
- Jeff Raybould – FMID
- Dale Swenson – FMID
- Jerry Rigby – FMID Counsel
- Kim Ragotzkie – Henry’s Fork Foundation
- Scott Bosse – American Rivers
- Mark Ricks – FMID
- Doug Hillman – FMID
- George Crapo – FMID
- Scott Neville – FMID
- Dennis Fransen - FMID
- Kim Trotter – Trout Unlimited
- Jim De Rito - Henry’s Fork Foundation
- Lesa Stark – Bureau of Reclamation
- Bob Schattin – Bureau of Reclamation
- Mark Bransom – CH2M HILL

Henrys Fork Basin Study

Table 1. Water Supply Alternatives

Out-of-Basin Needs	In-Basin Needs					Alternatives	
	Teton Valley Irrigation and Environmental (Upper Teton)	Lower Watershed Irrigation and Environmental (Lower Teton)	Henrys Fork Environmental	DCM&I	Climate Risk	Description	Notes
						No Action (Baseline)	
		✓	✓		✓	Enlarge existing surface storage (Island Park dam); enlarge Cross Cut Canal	
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Enlarge existing surface storage (Ashton dam); enlarge Cross Cut Canal (CCC); exchange with Upper Teton natural flows.	Ashton provides significantly more water so could be considered as a separate alternative (some water could be used in-basin and out-of-basin). Exchange = Market alternative (benefits Upper Teton, but may have negative impacts on Teton River Flows).
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Off-channel surface storage (Lane Lake) – evaluate various alternatives, multiple reservoirs, sources, hydropower, and pump storage potential; exchange with Upper Teton natural flows.	
✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	On-stream surface storage in Teton Valley (Bitch Creek, Upper Badger Creek, Moody Creek, Felt Dam (existing site)) + water conservation (Upper and Lower Teton)	Need to expand/clarify conservation measures- develop a scope of the potential alternative. Sprinkler conversion and pipe canals in the Upper Teton.
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	On-stream surface storage	

						in Upper Henrys Fork (Moose Creek) enlarge Cross Cut Canal; exchange with Upper Teton natural flows.	
✓						Enlarge Blackfoot Dam	Snake River Basin Storage Appraisal Study (Reclamation 1994) identified enlarging Blackfoot Dam as a potential new on-stream storage option from a USACE study to gain 101 KAF of additional storage. This facility is outside of the Henrys Fork Basin.
				✓		Municipal Conservation (e.g., tiered rate schedule; night-only irrigation; reuse of Treated Municipal Waste Water for irrigation, other measures TBD, less-frequent but longer municipal irrigation events, modify municipal irrigation schedules frequently according to changes in weather).	
		✓	✓	✓	✓	FMID System Optimization (e.g., re-regulation, automation)	Automation provides additional water that could be made available for market through the Rental Pool and provides additional water for a buffer in dry years.
✓		✓				Managed Recharge in Egin Basin	
✓	✓					Managed Recharge in the Upper Teton	Per the 2005 aquifer recharge demonstration project (Fox Creek Area), the rise in groundwater levels

							attenuated quickly due to the high transmissivity of the aquifer.
						Year round accounting WD01 (e.g., determine the volume of water delivered/applied for an appropriate time step (day, week, month, or year).	Establishes a benchmark that is used to evaluate potential water conservation measures.
			✓		✓	Irrigation Conservation - Pipeline conversion in Marysville/Ashton area	
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Irrigation Conservation - Pipeline conversion in Marysville/Ashton + storage	
	✓			✓		Demand Reduction Programs in the Upper Teton (e.g., rotational fallowing, dry land farming, etc.) – Reduce Irrigation Demand by 10%, 20%, 30%; Economic Valuation of Water Markets (e.g., price incentives).	Demand reduction measures more practical in the Upper Teton due to higher precipitation and lower value crops.
		✓	✓	✓		Demand Reduction Programs in the Lower Watershed (e.g., water rights buy-out); Economic Valuation of Water Markets (e.g., price incentives).	WestWater Research, LLC has evaluated water rights buy-out for the ESPA CAMP. ESPA numbers in upper Teton may not be comparable due to development pressure, but Ashton/St. Anthony/Rexburg area may be valid comparison.