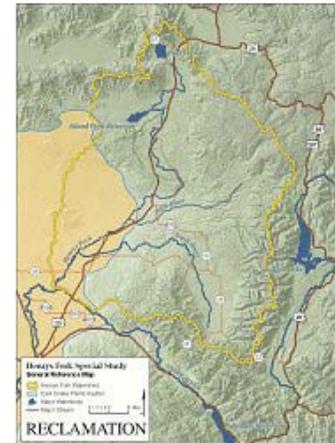


Henrys Fork of the Snake River Basin Study

Contact: Lesa Stark, 208-383-2260
Robert Schattin, 208-378-5090
Email, gen-PNR-HenrysFork@usbr.gov

Henry's Fork of the Snake River

The Henrys Fork of the Snake River includes the north fork upper Snake River, Fall River and Teton River watersheds. The Basin Study area is upstream of the confluence of the Henry's Fork and Snake River in central Idaho.



Background

The Snake River is the lifeblood of the Idaho economy, but periods of extended drought, changes in irrigation practices and other local factors have resulted in reduced spring discharges, reduced Snake River reach gains, and declining aquifer levels. There are more than 20 Federal reservoirs and 10 major private reservoirs in the upper Snake River basin, which extends from Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming to Brownlee Dam near Hells Canyon National Recreation Area on the Idaho/Oregon border. Reclamation operates the river and reservoir system as a unified storage system where water is stored and released to maximize the capabilities of the storage reservoirs, in cooperation with irrigation districts, the State of Idaho, and the State of Wyoming. Located in the upper reaches of the Snake River, the Henrys Fork watershed provides irrigation for over 200,000 acres and sustains a world class trout fishery. The Henrys Fork flows into the Snake River and partially overlies the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA).

Study Objectives

The objectives of the Study include:

- review of past water resource analyses, research, and literature to include relevant information in the current analyses;
- facilitation of water projects involving the acquisition of water supply, including the potential development of water storage, reduction of water demand, and canal system optimization;
- identification of problems, opportunities, and constraints in the Basin that will balance in-basin supply needs with state-wide water supply needs;
- evaluation of impacts of identified water projects on the basin water budget and environmental resources;
- development of a detailed basin water budget;
- evaluation of the effects and potential mitigation of climate change on water supply and demand in the Henrys Fork and Upper Snake River basins; and

There is broad support for the study. Public input and feedback will be sought throughout the study. The Henrys Fork Watershed Council, co-facilitated by the Fremont Madison Irrigation District and the Henrys Fork Foundation, is providing a forum for public participation. The total cost of the study is \$800,000 with a 50/50 cost-share between Reclamation and the Idaho Water Resource Board. The study is expected to be completed by the end of 2012.

