

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS24283

The purpose of this Resolution is: 1) to establish an Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer managed recharge goal of 250,000 acre-feet on an average annual basis; 2) to direct the development of the capacity necessary to achieve the ESPA recharge goal on or before December 31, 2024; and 3) to provide Legislative approval to increase the ESPA CAMP Phase I managed recharge from 100,000 acre-feet to 250,000 acre-feet average annual managed recharge. As more fully described in the Resolution, these measures are necessary to address the declining ground water levels in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. Since 1952 the total volume of water stored in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer have decreased by an average of 216,000 acre-feet and spring flow discharges in the Thousand Springs reach are nearing 1912 measured flows. In absence of implementation of a managed recharge program across the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, there will be inadequate water supplies to provide a reasonably safe supply for all water users, which will lead to more protracted litigation and increasing economic harm to the State of Idaho. While managed recharge will not alone resolve the decline in the ground water levels, it is one of the measures that will be required to stabilize and enhance ground water levels in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

FISCAL NOTE

This Resolution has no fiscal impact; however, conducting the studies and implementation of statewide stabilization and sustainability projects called for by the Resolution will require funding.

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