



Bistate Aquifer Study Follow-up Discussion

December 12, 2023



Recap of November 14th Meeting

- An updated Bistate Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Model aligns with IWAC Goals and Purpose Statements.
- Benefits to updating the Bistate SVRPA Model.
 - 18 years of additional data including expanded SVRPA modeling throughout Spokane and Kootenai Counties; Agrimet Station data.
 - Implement a multi-layer model to aquifer depth.
 - Opportunity to address unanswered questions from the 2007 USGS Model.
 - Opportunity to update boundaries to be more protective of SVRPA protection activities.
 - Other benefits?



Recap of November 14th Meeting

- The current version of the USGS Modular Hydrologic Model (MODFLOW) is most cohesive with existing data for updating a bistate SVRPA model.
- USGS services to run an updated SVRPA MODFLOW model are cost-prohibitive and may be subject to delays.
- Contracting with private hydrogeological services to complete the project is a preferred option.



Current Discussion Topic – Updated Model Focus Areas:

- Define the political boundaries of the SVRPA.
- Evaluate SVRPA base depth via a multi-layer model approach.
- Re-evaluate Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer surface water body contributions from Lake Pend Oreille, Hayden Lake, and Hauser Lake.
- Land use – i.e. agricultural land use converted to residential.
- Pumping updates (2007 USGS study curtailed pumping rates to account for pumped water returning to the ground water table through irrigation practices).
- Other focus areas?



Next Step – Drafting an IWAC Purpose Statement

- Updated Bistate Aquifer Model as a Planning Tool
 - Evaluate climate change/drought tolerance.
 - Evaluate population growth and demand with forecasted purveyor pumping demand and capacity.
 - Impact of future increased withdrawal from the SVRPA on Spokane River levels.
 - Reduce the risk of future interstate water conflicts and/or interstate compacts.
 - Other planning tools?
 - Planning forecasted timeline range (20 yr, 30 yr, other?)



Next Step – Drafting an IWAC Purpose Statement

- Updated Bistate Aquifer Model benefits as a SVRPA Protection Tool:
 - Bistate particle tracking capabilities.
 - Updated aquifer boundaries more protective of aquifer protection activities.
 - Updated source water assessment delineations and wellhead protection areas.
 - Other protection benefits?



Building Consensus – Identifying Partners

- IDWR Water Resource Planner, Senior, Neeley Miller requested to be included on IWAC email distribution list.
- Dale Ralston, reached out by email to invite to meetings.
- Idaho Geological Survey – Alexis Clark – contact information?
- Other Government Entities?
- Coeur d’Alene Tribe Contact?
- Other



Identifying Special Interest Groups/NGOs

- After drafting a final purpose statement, share goals of the bistate aquifer model to non-governmental organizations.
- Identify pertinent groups, NGOs, and stakeholders.



Proposed SVRPA 3-hour CEU training topics

- History of events leading to the 2007 USGS Model.
- History of IWAC.
- Benefits of an updated bistate model as a planning tool.
- Benefits of an updated bistate model as a SVRPA protection tool.
- Present purpose statement.
- Offer 0.3 WA/ID CEUs.
- Other topics?
- Speakers?