Resource Needs Assessment

SNAKE RIVER
RESOURCES REVIEW
One River, Many Voices

August 2000

Involving people with an interest in a healthy Snake River

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface ii

Acronyms and Abbreviations iii

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION 1-1
- Purpose 1-1
- RNA Relationship to SRDSS 1-1
- Resource Needs Assessment Objectives 1-2
- Resource Needs Assessment Process 1-2
- Geographic Coverage and River Reaches 1-6
- Snake River Resources Review Background and Context 1-7
  - SR^3 Purpose and Objectives 1-9
  - Emphasis on Existing Information 1-9
- Next Steps 1-9
- Document Organization 1-9

CHAPTER 2. RIVER AND RESERVOIR OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION 2-1
- Physical System 2-1
  - Surface Hydrology 2-3
  - Ground Water 2-6
  - Surface Water/Ground Water Interactions 2-7
  - Water Diversion and Use 2-7
- Irrigated Agriculture 2-8
  - Bureau of Reclamation Projects 2-10
  - Current Irrigation 2-11
- Municipal and Industrial Water 2-14
  - General 2-14
  - Recent and Potential Developments 2-14
- River and Reservoir System Operations 2-14
  - Water Supply Needs 2-15
  - Authorized Project Purposes 2-15
  - Water Rights 2-16
  - Storage Contracts 2-17
  - Flood Control 2-17
  - Power Generation 2-18
  - Endangered Species Act Considerations 2-18
  - Conservation Pool and Streamflow Targets 2-18
  - Agency and Entity Responsibilities 2-19
    - Reclamation 2-19

Corps of Engineers 2-19
Idaho Water Resource Board and the Department of Water Resources . . 2-20
Oregon Water Resources Department 2-20
Wyoming State Engineer 2-21
Idaho Power Company 2-21
Other Entities 2-21
Decision Pathways and Operation Tools 2-21
Hydromet System 2-22
Runoff and Flow Forecasts 2-22
Flood Control Rules 2-23
SSARR Model 2-23
Operation Modeling Spreadsheets 2-23
IDWR Water Rights Accounting Program 2-23
IDWR Storage Accounting Program 2-24
IPC Tools 2-24
Summary of Reservoir System and Operation 2-24
River and Reservoir System Investigations 2-25
Water Investigations 2-25
Models 2-26
Reclamation's MODSIM Model 2-27
IDWR Planning Model 2-27
University of Idaho Ground Water Model 2-28
Treasure (Boise) Valley MODFLOW Model 2-28
USGS Ground Water Model 2-28
Summary of Models 2-29

CHAPTER 3. RIVER AND RESERVOIR OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS 3-1
River and Reservoir Modeling Technical Work Group 3-1
Resource Relationships 3-1
Issues and Concerns 3-1
Database Needs 3-3
Modeling 3-4
Ground Water 3-5
Operational and Planning Needs 3-7
Summary of Operation and Planning Needs 3-10

CHAPTER 4. NATURAL RESOURCES 4-1
Introduction 4-1
Aquatic Resources 4-1
Resources Relationships 4-1
TWG Process 4-2
General Species Composition and Distribution 4-2
Management of Aquatic Resources 4-3

River Reaches 4-4
General 4-4
Focus Reaches 4-4
Aquatic Resource Parameters 4-7
Key Relationships 4-7
Exceedence Curves 4-9
Summary of Aquatic Resource Parameters 4-10
Further Aquatic Resource Research and Development Needs 4-14
Wildlife and Vegetation 4-15
Resources Relationships 4-16
Wildlife and Vegetation Technical Work Group 4-16
Wildlife and Vegetation Resources of the SR^3 Area 4-17
Wildlife, Vegetation, and Habitat Resource Management 4-18
Wildlife and Vegetation River Reaches 4-20
Factors Affecting Target Resources 4-23
Vegetation and Physical Habitat 4-24
Riparian Zone Vegetation, Including Cottonwood Forest 4-24
Shoreline Wetlands (River and Reservoir) 4-24
Aquatic Macrophytes 4-24
Riverine Islands 4-25
Ute Ladies' Tresses 4-25
Raptors 4-25
Bald Eagle 4-25
Peregrine Falcon 4-26
Waterfowl 4-26
Ducks 4-26
Canada Geese 4-26
Trumpeter Swan 4-26
Shorebirds 4-27
Colonial Nesting Birds (e.g. Heron, Egret, Cormorant, Pelican) 4-27
Aquatic Furbearers 4-27
Amphibians 4-27
Development of Wildlife and Vegetation Resource Parameters 4-28
Wildlife and Vegetation Resource Parameters 4-29
Next Steps–Recommendations 4-36
Water Quality 4-36
Water Quality Technical Work Group Process 4-36
Water Quality Relationships 4-36
Water Quality Standards 4-37
Development of Standards 4-37
Factors and Standards 4-37
Impacted Stream Reaches and Reservoirs 4-40
Water Quality Parameters for SRDSS 4-43

CHAPTER 5. SOCIO-CULTURAL RESOURCES 5-1
Introduction 5-1
Hydropower 5-1
Hydropower TWG Process 5-1
Hydropower Relationships 5-2
Overview 5-2
Reclamation Powerplants and Operation 5-6
Anderson Ranch Dam and Power Plant 5-6
Black Canyon Powerplant 5-6
Minidoka Powerplants 5-7
Palisades Powerplant 5-7
Reclamation Power Customers 5-7
Bonneville Power Administration 5-7
Other Local Agencies and Utilities 5-8
Power Factors 5-8
Available Power Capacity 5-8
Energy Generation 5-9
Generation Efficiency 5-9
Project Use 5-9
Commercial Power Sales to BPA 5-9
Ancillary Services 5-9
Reclamation Power Parameters 5-10
Project Requirements 5-10
Powerplant Operation 5-10
Power Data, Modeling, and Information Needs 5-11
Recreation 5-12
Recreation Technical Work Group 5-12
Recreation Relationships With Other Resources 5-13
Overview of Recreation Resources and Activities 5-13
Boating 5-14
Water Skiing and Personal Water Craft 5-14
Fishing 5-14
Hunting 5-15
Swimming & Water Play 5-15
Camping 5-15
Picnicking 5-15
Viewing 5-15
Identification of Recreation River Reaches 5-16
Evaluation and Prioritization Criteria 5-16
Diversity of Recreation Opportunity 5-16
Unique Features 5-17
Public Concern 5-17

Agency Designation 5-18
Selection of Focus Reaches 5-18
Recreation Focus Reaches 5-18
Development of Recreation Resource Parameters 5-26
Relationships Between River/Reservoir System Conditions and Recreation 5-26
Recreation Factors 5-28
Boat Ramp Access 5-28
Boating Feasibility 5-28
Fishing Feasibility 5-28
Recreation Inventory 5-28
Recreation Parameters 5-29
Next Steps 5-39
Inventory and Parameters 5-39
Public Involvement 5-39
Recreation Economics 5-39
Archeological and Historical Properties & Indian Trust Assets 5-39
Introduction and Background 5-40
Technical Work Group Process 5-40
Indian Trust Assets 5-42
Definition 5-43
Background 5-43
Tribal Forum Meetings 5-43
Economics 5-44
Economics Technical Work Group 5-44
Introduction and Approach 5-44
Agricultural Economics 5-45
Irrigation Modeling and Data Required 5-46
Irrigation Model 5-47
Irrigation Model Output 5-48
Recreation Economics 5-48
Benefits Transfer Technique 5-49
Estimating Recreation Use Benefits 5-50
Hydropower Economics 5-50
Hydroelectric Powerplants in the Upper Snake River Basin 5-51
Model Selection 5-51
Analysis Period 5-52
Magnitude of the Potential Impact 5-52
Area of Impact 5-52
Specificity of Impacts 5-52
Regional Economics 5-53

TECHNICAL WORK GROUPS . . . . . Technical Work Groups-1
River & Reservoir Operations . . . . . Technical Work Groups-1
River & Reservoir Modeling . . . . . Technical Work Groups-1
Groundwater . . . . . Technical Work Groups-1
Water Rights . . . . . Technical Work Groups-2
Economics . . . . . Technical Work Groups-2
Water Quality . . . . . Technical Work Groups-2
Hydropower . . . . . Technical Work Groups-2
Recreation . . . . . Technical Work Groups-3
Fisheries . . . . . Technical Work Groups-3
Wildlife and Vegetation . . . . . Technical Work Groups-3
Archeological and Historic Properties . . . . . Technical Work Groups-4
Indian Trust Assets . . . . . Technical Work Groups-4
Endangered Species . . . . . Technical Work Groups-4

LITERATURE CITED AND REFERENCES . . . . . Literature Cited-1
Chapter 1 . . . . . Literature Cited-1
Chapter 2 . . . . . Literature Cited-1
Chapter 3 . . . . . Literature Cited-2
Chapter 4 . . . . . Literature Cited-2
Aquatic Resources . . . . . Literature Cited-2
Wildlife and Vegetation . . . . . Literature Cited-5
Water Quality . . . . . Literature Cited-6
Chapter 5 . . . . . Literature Cited-7
Hydropower . . . . . Literature Cited-7
Recreation . . . . . Literature Cited-7
Economics . . . . . Literature Cited-13

Appendix A -Overview of the Snake River Resources Review . . . . . Appendix A-1
SRDSS Basic Concepts . . . . . Appendix A-2
Role of Partner/Contributor Agencies and Other Interests . . . . . Appendix A-2
Public Outreach Events . . . . . Appendix A-3
Overview of SRDSS Development Process . . . . . Appendix A-4
Tools and Technology Inventory and Assessment . . . . . Appendix A-5
Preliminary System Design . . . . . Appendix A-6
SRDSS Pilot . . . . . Appendix A-6
Final System Design, Development and Implementation . . . . . Appendix A-7

Appendix B - Irrigation . . . . . Appendix B-1
Introduction . . . . . Appendix B-2
Government Promotion of Agriculture . . . . . Appendix B-3
Federal Development . . . . . Appendix B-3

Appendix C - Common Aquatic Species And References Used to
Develop Parameters . . . . . Appendix C-1
Common Aquatic Species . . . . . Appendix C-2
Parameter Development Sources . . . . . Appendix C-4

Appendix D - Federally Listed and State Listed Rare Species . . . . . Appendix D-1
Special Designation Species (Federal and State Listed) in SR^3 Area . . . . . Appendix D-2
Methodology for Selecting State Listed Rare Species . . . . . Appendix D-5
Cross-Referenced Conservation Data Center Codes . . . . . Appendix D-5

Appendix E - Description of Wildlife and Vegetation . . . . . Appendix E-1
Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat . . . . . Appendix E-2
Riparian Vegetation and Cottonwood Galleries . . . . . Appendix E-2
Wetlands . . . . . Appendix E-3
Riverine Islands . . . . . Appendix E-4
Aquatic Macrophytes . . . . . Appendix E-4
Listed Plants . . . . . Appendix E-5
Wildlife . . . . . Appendix E-5
Mammals . . . . . Appendix E-5
Birds . . . . . Appendix E-6
Amphibians . . . . . Appendix E-9

Tables

Table 1-1 SR^3 Technical Work Groups 1-4
Table 1-2 Major River Reaches of the SR^3 Area 1-7
Table 2-1 Storage Facilities with an Active Capacity Greater than 20,000 Acre-feet in SR^3 Reaches 2-2
Table 2-2 Idaho Population 2-9
Table 2-3 Idaho Irrigated Acreage 2-10
Table 2-4 Contracts for Storage in Reclamation Reservoirs 2-13
Table 2-5 Use and Managing Entity of Reservoirs With Active Storage in Excess of 20,000 Acre-Feet in the SR^3 River Reaches 2-16
Table 2-6 Planning Tools in Current Use 2-29
Table 3-1 Most Challenging Issues 3-3
Table 3-2 Capability of Current Operations and Planning to Address Issues and Concerns 3-4
Table 3-3 Ground Water Data Inventory 3-6
Table 3-4 Surface Water Modeling Needs 3-7
Table 3-5 Ground Water Modeling Needs 3-9
Table 4-1 River Reaches and Target Aquatic Resources 4-5
Table 4-2 Aquatic Resource Parameters 4-11

Table 4-3 General Categories of Wildlife and Vegetation Resources 4-18
Table 4-4 Focus Reaches and Wildlife and Vegetation Target Resources 4-21
Table 4-5 Wildlife and Vegetation Resource Parameters 4-30
Table 4-6 Idaho Water Quality Standards for Aquatic Biota 4-39
Table 4-7 Idaho Water Quality Standard for Full Body Contact Recreation 4-39
Table 4-8 Water Quality Problems (Reclamation Reservoirs and Affected Downstream Reaches) 4-40
Table 4-9 Water Quality Parameters 4-44
Table 5-1 Upper Snake River Hydroelectric Powerplants $\geq$ 5 MW Installed Capacity 5-3
Table 5-2 Reclamation Irrigation Projects and Power Customers 5-7
Table 5-3 Existing and Projected Demands of Reclamation Projects and Irrigation Power Customers 5-10
Table 5-4 Preliminary Guidelines for Reclamation Hydroelectric Powerplants 5-11
Table 5-5 Activities Evaluated 5-17
Table 5-6 Recreation Focus Reaches 5-19
Table 5-7 Potential System Conditions on Reservoir Recreation Activities 5-26
Table 5-8 Potential System Conditions on River Reach Activities 5-27
Table 5-9 Recreation Parameters for Reservoirs 5-29
Table 5-10 Recreation Parameters for Free-Flowing River Reaches 5-33

Figures

Frontispiece Geographic Coverage of the SRDSS . . . . . follows ii
Figure 1-1 SRDSS Development Process . . . . . follows 1-2
Figure 2-1 Average Annual Runoff of Major Tributaries of the Snake River . . . . . follows 2-4
Figure 2-2 Seasonal Variations of Snake River Flow 2-3
Figure 2-3 Annual Streamflow Exceedance Curves for Selected Snake River Gauges 2-4
Figure 2-4 Storage Fluctuation of Selected Reservoirs 2-5
Figure 2-5 Exceedance Curves for Active Storage at Beginning of Irrigation Season 2-5
Figure 2-6 Snake River Plain Aquifer . . . . . follows 2-6
Figure 2-7 Surface and Groundwater Diversions 2-8
Figure 2-8 Decision Pathway Diagram: Snake River Basin Reservoir Operations . . . follows 2-22
Figure 3-1 Relationships Diagram: River and Reservoir Operation and Investigations . follows 3-2
Figure 3-2 Relationships Diagram: Ground Water . . . . . follows 3-2
Figure 4-1 Relationships Diagram: Fish and Other Aquatic Resources . . . . . follows 4-2
Figure 4-2 Fish and Other Aquatic Resource Sub-Reaches . . . . . follows 4-6
Figure 4-3 Relationships Diagram: Wildlife and Vegetation . . . . . follows 4-16
Figure 4-4 Wildlife and Vegetation Sub-Reaches . . . . . follows 4-20
Figure 4-5 Relationships Diagram: Water Quality . . . . . follows 4-35
Figure 4-6 Water Quality Sub-Reaches . . . . . follows 4-38
Figure 5-1 Relationships Diagram: Hydropower

Figure 5-2 Hydropower Facility Locations . . . . . follows 5-2
Figure 5-3 Example of Hydropower Generation Curve . . . . . follows 5-9
Figure 5-4 Relationship Diagram: Recreation . . . . . follows 5-12
Figure 5-5 Recreation Sub-Reaches . . . . . follows 5-18
Figure 5-6 Economic Analysis Sub-Regions . . . . . follows 5-46

Preface

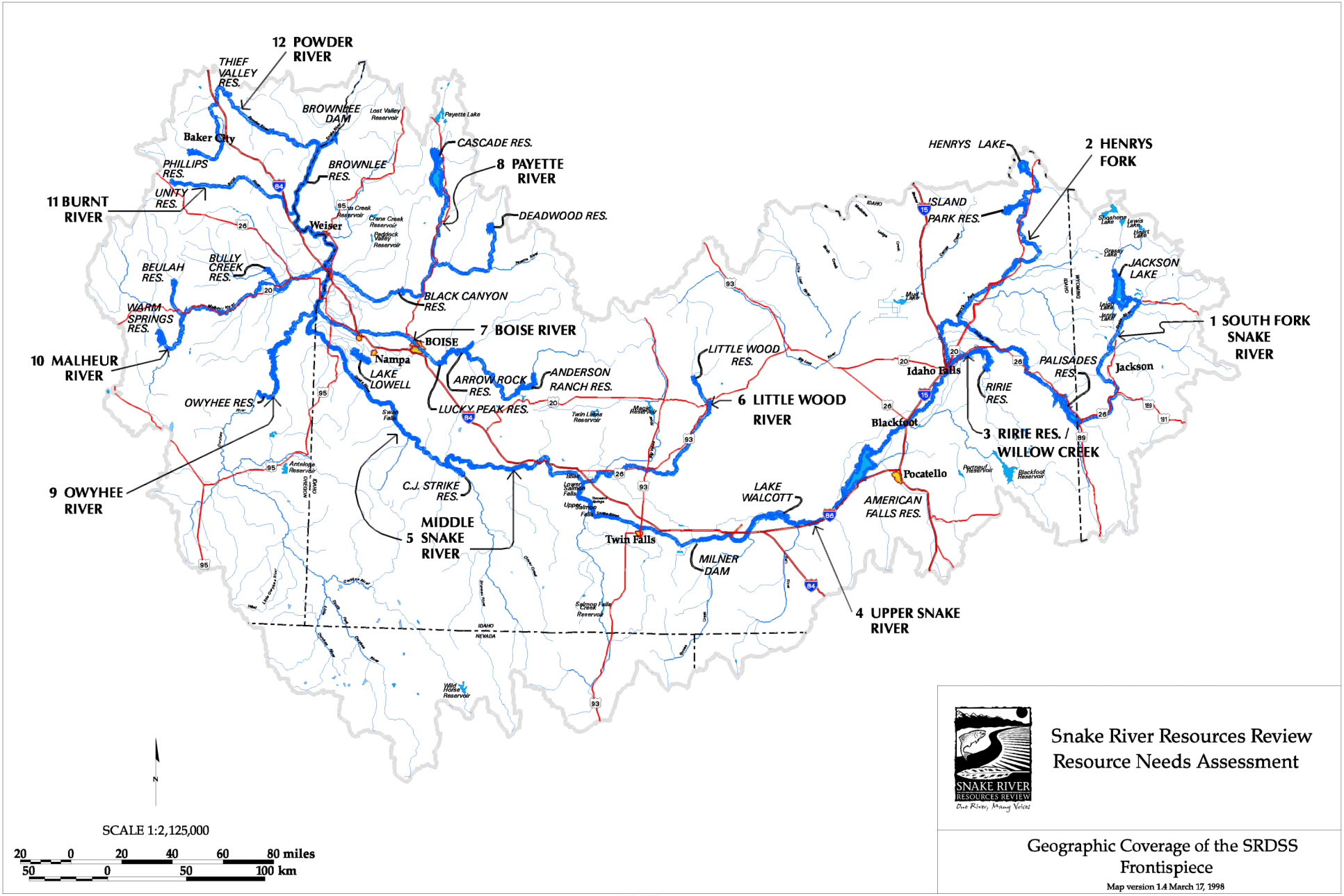
The information contained in this document represents our understanding of the hydrology, natural, and socio-cultural resources within the Snake River Resource Review (SR^3) area as of the publication of the Draft Resource Needs Assessment (RNA) in March 1998. It is a summary of multi-agency/entity SR^3 technical work group efforts to collect basin-wide information for input to the Snake River Decision Support System. Since publication of the draft RNA, SR^3 technical work groups have continued efforts to understand issues, collect additional data, and develop tools for addressing SR^3 area issues. SR^3 progress since March 1998 will be documented in a variety of ways.

Related to Aquatic Resources, Water Quality, Wildlife and Vegetation (Chapter 4), and Recreation (Chapter 5), updated information will be incorporated into stand-alone documents specific to each discipline. Updated information will include background, data collection processes and current information, resource parameters, literature cited, and future activities. Documents will be in a loose-leaf format for ease in up-dating individual sections as new information becomes available.

Progress related to River and Reservoir Operations (Chapter 3) is documented in the 'Operations Manual for Mid and Upper Snake River Operations', December 1997, or subsequent revisions. Progress related to model enhancement associated with River and Reservoir Investigations, including ground water, will be documented as required for each model.

There are four economic areas which have been developed through SR^3 (Chapter 5). These include Hydro-power, Irrigated Agriculture, Regional and Recreation Economics. Model development and enhancements, and associated data and model assumptions will be documented separately for each economic discipline.

Future work related to Archeological and Historical Properties, and Indian Trust Assets (Chapter 5) will be completed on a project-by-project basis, apart from SR^3. Therefore, no additional SR^3 documentation will be done related to Archeological and Historical Properties, or Indian Trust Assets



Snake River Resources Review
Resource Needs Assessment

Geographic Coverage of the SRDSS Frontispiece

Map version 1.4 March 17, 1998

DRAFT

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best management practice
BOD	Biochemical oxygen demand
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
cfs	cubic feet per second
COD	Chemical oxygen demand
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
DMI	Data management interface
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
EPA	(U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESP	Extended Streamflow Prediction
ESPA	Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer
ESRP	Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer
FCRPS	Federal Columbia River Power System
FBC	Full body contact
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GAMS	Generalized Algebraic Modeling System
GIS	Geographic Information System
GTWG	Ground Water Technical Work Group
GUI	Graphical User Interface
HF/RF	Henrys Fork and Rigby Fan
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
IDPR	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
IIE	Integrated information environment
IFIM	Instream Flow Incremental Methodology
IMPLAN	Impact Analysis for Planning
I-O	Input-output
IPC	Idaho Power Company
ITA	Indian Trust Asset
IWRB	Idaho Water Resources Board
M&I	Municipal and industrial
mg/L	milligram per liter
µg/L	microgram per liter
MW	megawatt
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFRC	North Fork Reservoir Company
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service

NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NT	A computer operating system
NWS	National Weather Service
OWRD	Oregon Water Resources Department
PMP	Positive Mathematical Programming
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
RFC	River Forecast Center (of the National Weather Service)
RM	River mile
SR^3	Snake River Resources Review
SRAM	Snake River Agricultural Model
SRBA	Snake River Basin Adjudication
SRDSS	Snake River Decision Support System
SRPA	Snake River Plain Aquifer
SSARR	Streamflow Synthesis and Reservoir Regulation Model
T&E	Threatened and Endangered (species)
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TWG	Technical Work Group
U of I	University of Idaho
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WGFD	Wyoming Game and Fish Department