

## Computer models used to conjunctively administer water rights on the ESPA

Speaker: Dr. Allan Wylie, Idaho Department of Water Resources

Wednesday, October 29, 11:30 -1 pm (talk will start at 11:45)

Location: Washington Group Plaza Executive Dining Room (Turn left at the front desk and right at the cafeteria)

720 Park Blvd

Boise, ID 83712

Cost: Free

IDAWRA thanks the Corps of Engineers for providing the venue.

### Abstract

Water levels, spring discharges, and gains in the Snake River have been declining in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). Due to declining flows in Rangen spring a farmer made a call on the groundwater pumpers on the ESPA. The Idaho Department of Water Resources claimed that the interaction between ground water and surface water was too complex to administer. In 1993 the State Supreme Court ruled that the Department must administer ground water and surface water conjunctively using the best available science. Since 1999 the Idaho Department of Water Resources has used computer models to conjunctively administer ground water and surface water rights on the ESPA. The available data to calibrate a ground water model and the scientific tools to assist in calibration have all changed since 1999. Therefore over time, three different models have been used, all have been based on the data available and the scientific tools available when they were calibrated.

### Speaker Biography:

**Dr. Allan Wylie** presently works as a hydrologist for the Idaho Water Department of Water Resources. He holds a bachelor's degree in earth science from Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska, a master's degree in geology from the University of Montana, and a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Idaho. Dr Wylie is a Hydrologist for the Idaho Department of Water Resources where his responsibilities involve developing ground water models for use in support of conjunctive ground water and surface water administration. Prior to coming to work for the Idaho Department of Water Resources Dr Wylie worked for the University of Idaho where he helped develop a ground water flow model of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

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