

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Paul R. Cleary, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I, April 17, 2003
Water Resources Commission Work Session

Informational Report on the Echo Meadows Project

I. Issue Statement

The Echo Meadows Project is an artificial recharge demonstration project designed to improve summer flows and temperatures in the Umatilla River. Fred Ziari, President of IRZ Consulting, an irrigation and civil engineering company, will provide an overview and preliminary results of the Echo Meadows Project.

II. Background

Presently, many rivers and streams in the Pacific Northwest do not meet temperature standards set under the Clean Water Act. The Echo Meadows Project, designed by IRZ Consulting, is a demonstration project investigating the potential to augment and cool streamflows using artificial ground water recharge.

The Echo Meadows Project is designed to divert water from the Umatilla River during high winter flows in December through February and artificially flood lands in the Echo Meadows area near Echo, Oregon. The intent of this process is to recharge the shallow aquifers of the old flood plain and then discharge water back to the Umatilla River, providing cool mainstem recharge during summer low flow. The project was set up to monitor and collect field data to determine the timing of the cooler ground water discharge back to the Umatilla River and to identify potential benefits to return flows. Due to limited funding, the project was restricted to two days of diverting water during February 2002. An additional limited license will allow water diversion through May 2003 this year. An overview of the project design, results of the 2002 recharge effort, and future project operations will be provided.

III. Recommendation

This is an informational report. No Commission action is required.

WRC Work Session Item I

April 17, 2003

Page 2

Barry Norris

Technical Services Administrator

503-378-8455, Ext. 246