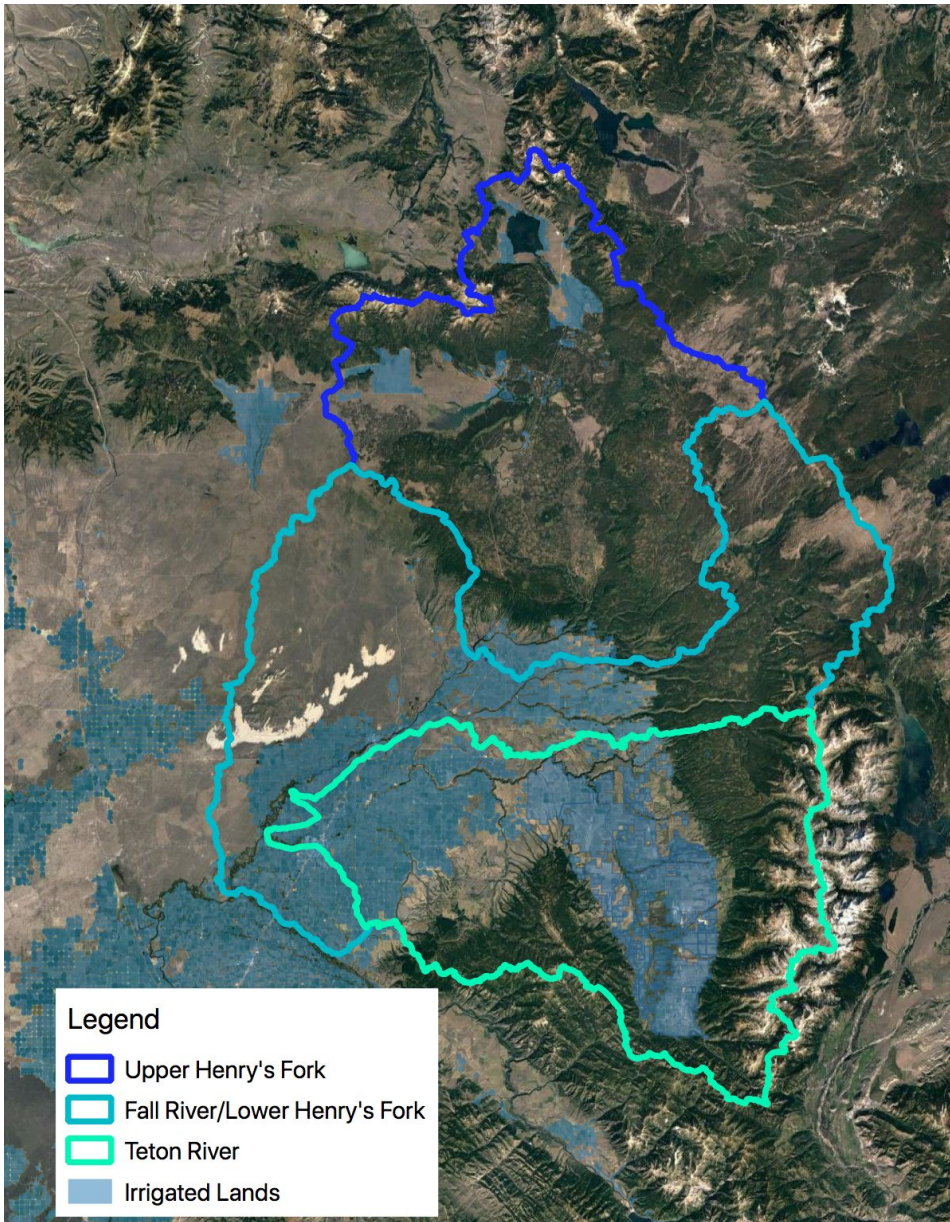


Upper Snake Collaborative Initiatives

Diminished water supplies threaten Eastern Idaho's agricultural economy and natural resources. Friends of the Teton River, Henry's Fork Foundation, The Nature Conservancy of Idaho, and Trout Unlimited are partnering with agricultural producers to devise and enact local strategies that are consistent with and beneficial to ESPA CAMP goals, enhance economic returns for farms, and reduce demand for water in the region.



Goals

Maximize carryover in Island Park Reservoir through demand reduction and support flows that meet irrigation and ecological goals from St. Anthony to the confluence.

Strategies

Provide water managers and irrigators decision support tools, work with farmers to modify agricultural practices, develop grassroots collaborations to devise and implement on-farm practices, and develop water transactions that improve water availability and reduce demand.

Decision Support Tools

The Upper Snake Collaborative provides tools that allow water managers to understand and predict basin-wide changes in water availability and manage local water supply with more precision

Example: Dr. Van Kirk's Daily Water Report

- Expert hydrologists update and distribute water models and databases to water managers to increase overall precision of the system



Photo: Camrin Dengel

Grassroots Collaboration

The Henry's Fork Foundation and Friends of the Teton River convene local collaboratives to share information, develop new approaches to water management, and scale solutions

Example: Teton Water Users Association

- Various water users (agriculture producers, conservation groups, municipal and county leaders, others) have come together as a collaborative to develop a more stable water supply for Teton Valley

Example: Henry's Fork Watershed Council

- Since local collaboration is critical to ensuring the sustainability of the Henry's Fork ecosystem and those who depend on it, this collaborative was formed to promote respect and cooperation among the diverse watershed stakeholders

Agriculture

We work with producers to install new technologies and modify practices in ways that reduce demand for water

Example: LESA System

- Low elevation sprinkler application systems reduce the water used to irrigate fields by minimizing evaporation and wind drift losses. We are currently monitoring the effects of our first LESA installation, and if compelling, we will explore mechanisms to incentivize further conversion to LESA

Example: Plant Winter Wheat

- Irrigation for winter wheat stops earlier in the season than that of spring grain, reducing diversions in the critical late season irrigation period



Water Transactions

The collaborative identifies and executes transactions that reduce demand on water resources and/or improve water availability for farmers

Example: Groundwater Recharge

- A pilot market is being developed to modify irrigation practices to increase late season water availability