

Pend Oreille County
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Greg Snow
Director

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Carl Einberger, LHG
Aspect Consulting

Re: WRIA 55 Watershed Plan Update

Dear Carl,

I first want to tell you that I appreciate your efforts to come up with a viable and workable plan for Pend Oreille, Stevens, and Spokane Counties. It's a monumental task.

With that said, I do have a concern that I think could potentially have a negative effect on all of us.

As we go through the data and the collection points and methods, there is a component that I feel is missing. We are all aware that the natural watershed boundary has no regard for State lines, and this is where my concern lies.

A review of aerial photos will show that there is a stream, McDonald Creek, that crosses Highway 41 in Idaho (about 7 miles south of Newport between Hoodoo Loop Rd. and McDonald Creek Rd.) that goes subsurface shortly after the highway crossing. The Latitude is 48°5'36.27"N, Longitude 117°1'55.16"W. This stream would appear to drain to the Scotia Valley as it is in close proximity and downgradient from where it goes underground. Further, several years ago the resort community of Stoneridge in Blanchard, Idaho, conducted a groundwater study and determined that groundwater flows in that basin traveled north towards Newport. This would also lend itself to the idea that it drains to the Scotia Valley.

These two water sources may only represent a portion of the total influence from outside of the State's defined watershed boundary, and if they are subsurface influences probably would not show up at any of the gauging stations but may affect the total water budget or help to offset some uses if accounted for.

I don't know if there is any validity or value to my concerns, but I think that it may at least warrant some conversation. When we start enacting rules that govern future usage, it might be

prudent to know what influences are outside of the State defined WRIA boundary. I'm not sure what kind of effort it would take to secure that data, or if it's something we can explore at all.

It's in all our best interests to make sure that the science behind our study includes as much relevant data as possible so that the end result is a product based on as much information as is available.

I appreciate your consideration of this and would gladly entertain your thoughts.

Best Regards,



Greg Snow

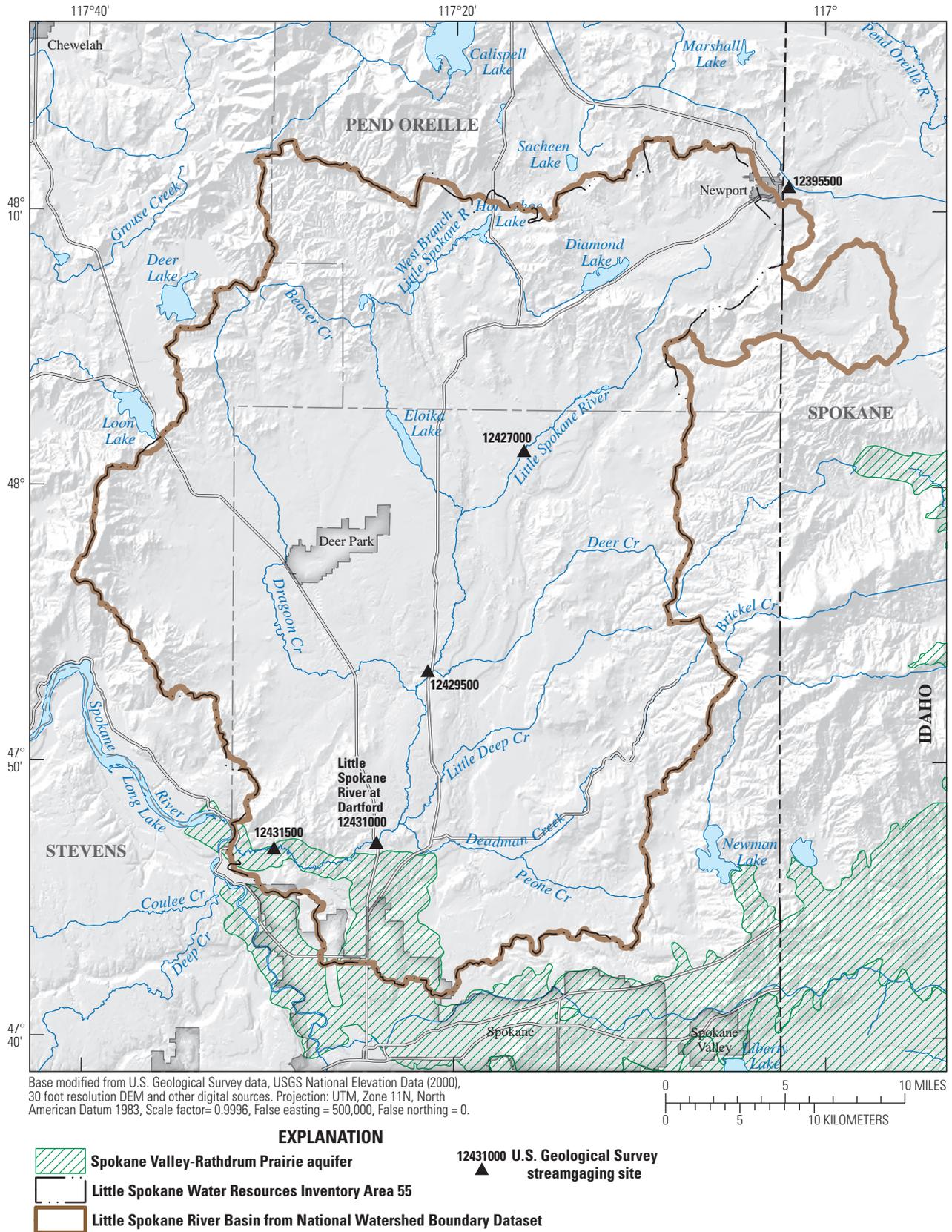


Figure 12. Water Resource Inventory Area 55 in the Little Spokane River Basin, Spokane, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties, Washington. (HUC, hydrologic unit code.)