



5th Management Plans
Agricultural Subgroup Meeting

May 19, 2021

Google Form

- Additional opportunity to provide input and feedback on items discussed in the meeting
- Questions are optional so you can choose what you'd like to provide input on
- Responses will be posted anonymously on our 5MP Concepts Webpage
- Please respond by 06/02/2021

Link to Google Form Questionnaire: <https://forms.gle/STYpKbDQTKyYmRc5A>

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Status & Timeline for the 5th Management Plans
- III. Best Management Practices Program (BMP) Proposal
 - a) Agricultural BMP Advisory Committee Consensus Recommendation
- IV. Integrated Farm Program Proposal
- V. Closing Remarks



5MP Agricultural Subgroup

Previous Meetings

- * Reviewed 4MP Conservation Program
- * Reviewed Agricultural Data
- * Reviewed Statutory Requirements and potential for modifications
- * Discussion of modifications to the BMP Program
- * Initial framework of Integrated Farm Program

Next Steps for Future Meetings:

- * Finalize Integrated Farm Program
- * Review of draft regulatory language, as available

Next Meeting:



TBD



Status and Timeline of 5th Management Plans



Estimated 5MP Timeline

new.azwater.gov/5MP

2020: Development

- Work Group, Subgroups, & Stakeholder Outreach
- Data Analysis
- Develop [Concepts](#) to Increase Conservation
 - Update Existing Programs
 - Design New Programs

2021: Drafting

- Build out [Concepts](#) developed in previous phase
 - Regulatory Language
 - Feedback from GUACs/AMAs re: Customization & Implementation
- Draft Narrative & Background
- Develop Data Tools

2022: Adoption

- Publication of initial drafts
- Presentation to GUACs for recommendations
- Promulgation processes
 - Hearing & Public Comment
 - Findings & Adoption
 - Noticing of Conservation Requirements

5MP Ag Subgroup: Potential Work Plan/Timeline

Topic (5MP Ag Subgroup)	Meetings
Discussion of Integrated Farm Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geographic Limitations• Cut to the Aquifer• Flex Credits	January 2021 March 2021
Discussion of BMP Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations from the Ag BMP Advisory Committee	May 2021
Discussion of Reduction of Top 25% of Water Duties	Will discuss with draft regulatory language



Drafting Logistics

- * All 5 Fifth Management Plans will be drafted simultaneously
 - * Structure will largely match across AMAs
 - * Time for AMA Customization
- * Subgroups will reconvene as needed to review draft regulatory language
 - Goal: Publication of Initial Drafts in early 2022



Best Management Practices Program Proposal



Agricultural Best Management Practices Advisory Committee

Meetings

- * 12/9/2020: Purpose, scope, history of committee
- * 1/13/2021 : Review of individual BMPs, Timeline Discussion
- * 2/18/2021: Review of individual BMPs
- * 3/11/2021: Review of individual BMPs
- * 3/25/2021: Review of individual BMPs and points targets
- * 4/8/2021: Final recommendations

Recommendations

- * [Updates](#) to the list of Approved Best Management Practices (Appendix 4B in the 4MP)
- * Updates to category points targets



BMP Committee: Updates to the Approved BMPs (Appendix 4B)

BMP Category	New BMPs	Updated BMPs
Section I: 1. Water Conveyance System Improvements	1	1
Section I: 2. Farm Irrigation Systems	3	4
Section I: 3. Irrigation Water Management Practices	2	6
Section I: 4. Agronomic Management Practices	2	2
Section II: Procedure for New BMP	1	N/A

[Updated Appendix 4B Best Management Practices Program](#)



BMP Committee: Category Points

Category	Minimum Points Required	Maximum Points Allowed
Category 1: Water Conveyance System Improvements	+ 3	4
Category 2: Farm Irrigation Systems	2	4
Category 3: Irrigation Water Management	+ 2	4
Category 4: Agronomic Management	+ 2	4

Total Points Requirement = 12



Questions & Comments: Best Management Practices Program



Proposal for Alternative Conservation Program: Integrated Farm Program



Alternative Agricultural Conservation Programs

A.R.S. § 45-568.02(F)

“The director may include in the adoption of, or a modification to, the management plan for the fifth management period additional alternative agricultural conservation programs that the director determines achieve conservation that is at least equivalent to that required under [the Base Program]...”



Integrated Farm Program

Concept

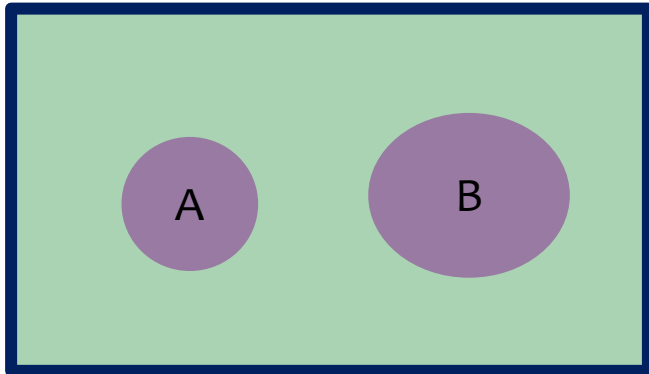
- * Allotment based program
- * Allows multiple IGFRs under the same owner/operator to combine reporting/allotments
- * Will include a "cut to the aquifer" percentage reduction of the total combined allotment.

Components of Proposal

- * Geographic limitations
 - * Contiguous
 - * Irrigation District
 - * Sub-Basin
- * "Cut to the Aquifer" Percentage
- * Process for joining/leaving
- * Management of flex credits



Alternative Conservation Program: Integrated Farm Program



Base Program	Proposed Integrated Farm Program	BMP Program
Single Right Allotment	Combined Allotments	No Allotment
Single Right Reporting	Combined Reporting	Combined Reporting

Legend

 Irrigation Right, same owner/operator



Integrated Farm Program Proposal*

Component	Proposal
Geographic Limitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation District: IGRs are in an irrigation district • Sub-Basin: IGRs are not in an irrigation district
Cut to the Aquifer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.5%
Flex Credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing flexibility accounts are frozen • A new flexibility account created for integrated farm unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debit/credit account according to new total allotment (minus cut to aquifer) • Limited to debits/credits totaling +/-50% of total allotment
Joining/Leaving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to BMP Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If lessee, permission from owner • Completed application Compliance with individual IGR flexibility accounts • Withdrawal from program under certain conditions

* [Full Text of the Integrated Farm Program Proposal](#)



Integrated Farm Program Proposal*: Initial Feedback

Component	Feedback
Geographic Limitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be at the sub-basin level for all farms , similar to how flex credits can be transferred <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Could pose technical/administrative challenges</i>
Cut to the Aquifer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed percentage of 7.5% is too high Percentage should be in the 3-5% range for the farmer to see benefit
Flex Credits	
Joining/Leaving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exiting process should be less prohibitive

* [Full Text of the Integrated Farm Program Proposal](#)



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Questions?

managementplans@azwater.gov

Management Plans Work Group:
new.azwater.gov/5MP

Full Text of Management Plans:
new.azwater.gov/ama/management-plans

