

Management Area Overview



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Objectives

1. Provide an introduction to Management Area regulations and guidance
2. Describe Benefits and Drawbacks of Management Areas
3. Foster initial discuss by SMGWA Board about Management Area decisions

Management Area Overview

§ 354.20. Management Areas

“(a) Each Agency may define one or more management areas within a basin if the Agency has determined that creation of management areas will facilitate implementation of the Plan. Management areas may define different minimum thresholds and be operated to different measurable objectives than the basin at large, provided that undesirable results are defined consistently throughout the basin....”

Management Area Overview

- A GSA can define “Management Areas”
- Management Areas may:
 - Have different minimum thresholds
 - Have different measurable objectives than the basin
 - Be monitored to a different level.
 - Be defined by natural or jurisdictional boundaries

Management Area Overview

- Management Areas may be based on differences in:
 - water use sector,
 - water source type,
 - geology, or
 - aquifer characteristics.
- However...
 - Other portions of the GSP (e.g. hydrogeologic conceptual model, water budget, notice and communication) must be consistent for the entire GSP area.

Management Area Overview

- Benefits
 - Acknowledges differences in hydrogeologic conditions (particularly for large and/or complex basins)
 - Facilitates different Projects and Management Actions (PMA) for different parts of a basin
 - Allows groundwater management at the most local level (potentially important in a large and/or complex basin)
 - Others? Ideas?
- Drawbacks/Challenges
 - How to justify where a Management Area boundary should be delineated
 - Can create an “us and them” dynamic between Beneficial Users
 - Can create new administrative layers of governance and implementation
 - Accruing benefits from a PMA in one Management Area when the benefits extend beyond its boundary
 - Quantifying benefits that vary within a Management Area from a given PMA
 - How to implement different management strategies between two or more Management Areas.
 - Others? Ideas?