Hypothetical Decision Tree Example using the Comprehensive Allocation Method

In order to illustrate how all of these factors might be utilized by a GSA to make pumping allocations consistent with groundwater rights law, Figure 1 provides a hypothetical scenario.

**Figure 1: Comprehensive Allocation Method Decision Tree Example**

Define Sustainable Yield*

- Other Consensus-Driven Allocation Methods
  Allocation methods that do not necessarily track with existing groundwater law. Such methods will require broad agreement from stakeholders and may lengthen the process and resources required if an adjudication ensues.

- Comprehensive Allocation Method
  This approach applies the known conditions of existing groundwater law, which increases the probability that the approach will be supported if judicial review ensues; however, the approach requires significant information to undertake.

- Direct Adjudication
  Legal proceeding that can be extremely time and resource intensive when users cannot agree on an allocation scheme, but can provide greater longer-term legal certainty.

Define and Characterize Water Rights, Recharge Resulting from Imported Water

Prescriptive or Appropriative Rights

- Do prescriptive or appropriative claims exist within the subbasin?
  - No
    - No action.
  - Yes
    - Determine claim of each prescriptive/appropriative user.

Overlying Rights

- How many acres overlie the subbasin?
  - No
    - No action.
  - Yes
    - Have unexercised claims been distinguished by prescription?
      - No
        - Determine the irrigated acres claim to a portion of the sustainable yield of the subbasin. What is the per acre share of the sustainable yield of the basin?
      - Yes
        - Determine how much water each user imports and augment allocation according to the amount of water that recharges the basin.

Imported Water

- Is there groundwater recharge that results from surface water imported into the subbasin or water that would otherwise be lost to the subbasin?
  - No
    - No action.
  - Yes
    - Reduce claims proportionally to equal sustainable yield.

Allocations for prescriptive right holders

Allocations for overlying rights = Sustainable Yield

* If conditions in the subbasin change, allocated shares of the sustainable yield of the subbasin may need to be adjusted.