Idaho's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer


FY 2014 CREP Annual Performance Report (CEP-68R)

IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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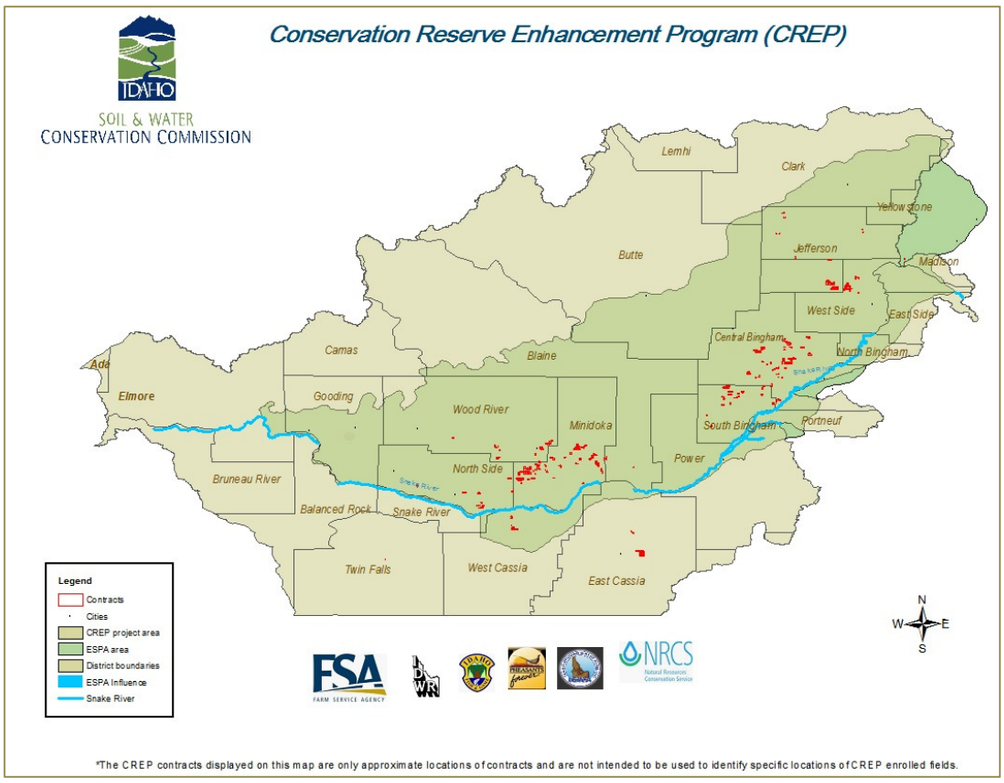
1939

Conservation the Idaho Way:
Sowing Seeds of Stewardship



Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this Annual Performance Report (CEP-68R) is to fulfill the State of Idaho's commitment under the terms and conditions of its agreement dated May 2006 with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) concerning the implementation of the Idaho Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This report covers FY 2014, defined as October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

Background

The Idaho Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreement between the State of Idaho, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) was signed in May 2006 for the improvement of water quantity and quality in Idaho. Other conservation issues addressed include the enhancement of wildlife habitat through establishment of vegetative cover while reducing irrigation water consumptive use and reducing potential agricultural chemical and sediment runoff to the waters of the state. CREP is a part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) operated by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Other agencies involved with this program include Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC), Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), Pheasants Forever, and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators (IGWA).

The CREP is designed to address issues related to water shortages in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). Increased use of ground water, drought, and changing irrigation practices have resulted in

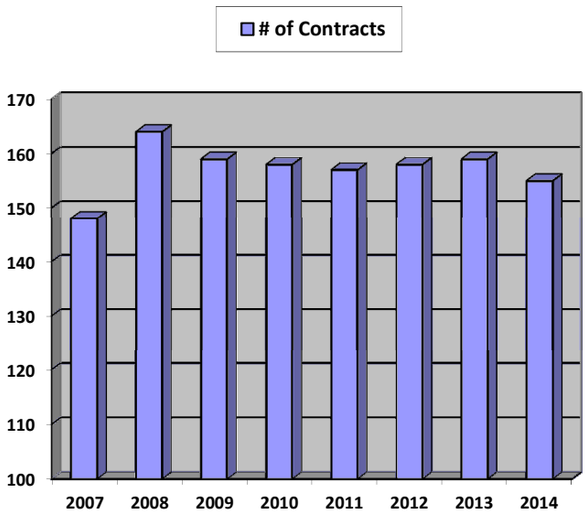
decreased spring flows of tributaries to the Snake River. The CREP has been established with the original goal of retiring up to 100,000 acres of ground water irrigated land. This reduction of use is to provide the water savings of up to 200,000 acre-feet annually.

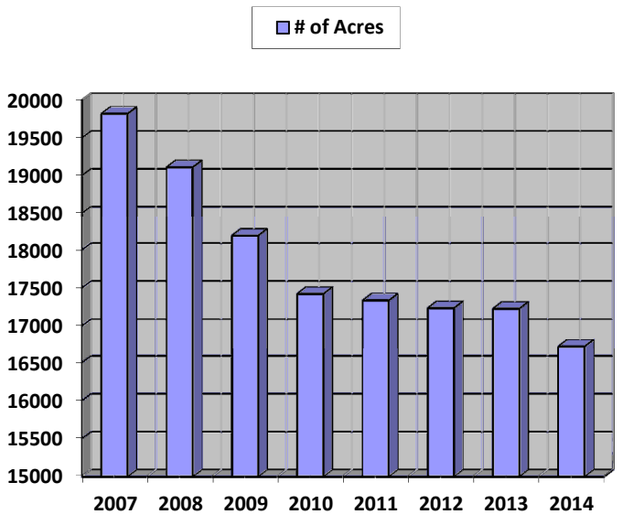
Pursuant to the terms of this agreement, ISWCC and IDWR are to provide an annual report to FSA summarizing the status of enrollments under CREP and progress on fulfilling other commitments of the program. The following report contains the program updates for FY 2014.

CREP PROGRAM STATUS FOR FY 2014

The number of CREP contracts and enrolled acreage has remained fairly constant since 2010. A small reduction of enrolled contracts & acres has been occurring, but most of the remaining contracts should stay active as the cost of liquidated damages for contract termination increase each year. Efforts to promote the CREP program included both formal and informal outreach to producers and coordination efforts with partner agencies. The CREP Coordinator and support staff attended board meetings of local soil conservation districts and FSA county committee meetings within the CREP area.

FY	Number of Contracts	Number of Acres
2007	148	19,818
2008	164	19,110
2009	159	18,189
2010	158	17,422
2011	157	17,333
2012	158	17,237
2013	159	17,227
2014	155	16,729

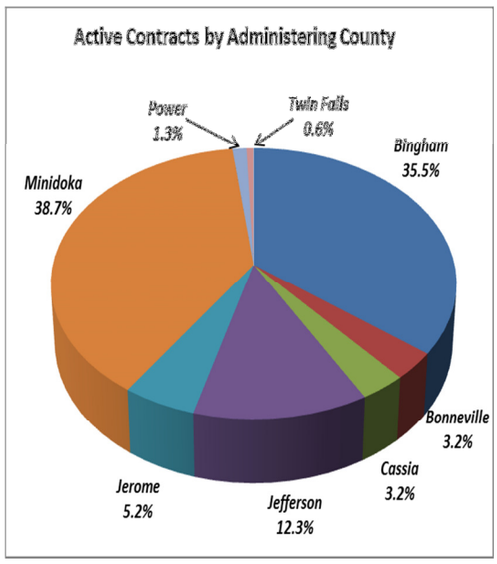


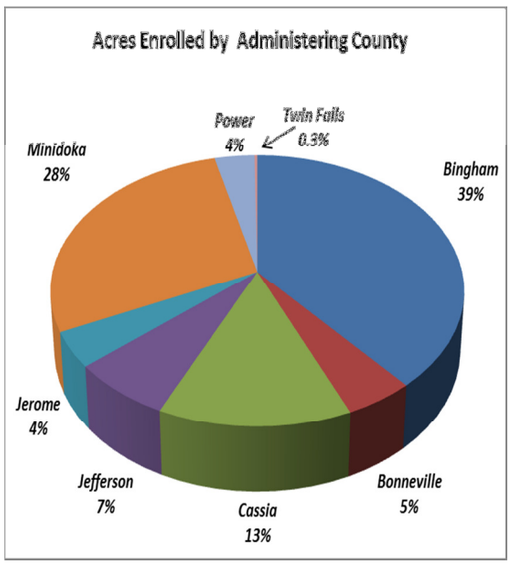


Active Contracts by Administering County (as of 10/1/2014)

Administering County	No. of Contracts	No. of Acres
Bingham	55	6,486
Bonneville	5	798
Cassia	5	2,223
Jefferson/Clark	19	1,167
Jerome	8	698
Minidoka	60	4,717
Power	2	598
Twin Falls	1	43
TOTAL	**155**	**16,729**

Level of Program Participation by Administering County FY 2014





The FY 2014 concluded with 155 active contracts on 16,729 acres. Considerations to the changing numbers reported include:

- Acreage adjustments and revisions. This varies the total number of acres enrolled.
- Requests of contract transfers to other county offices and consolidation of one office has changed the number of contracts and acreages from one county to another.
- Revisions take almost as much time as preparation of new contracts. FSA prepares new shape files, and acreage adjustments for program activities are updated to the conservation plan. Each revision then has a new Agreement not to divert document prepared to update the curtailed acres in the program. This document is then re-issued by IDWR and ISWCC.

Challenges to acquiring new enrollment

- Annual program payment rates are not as competitive with current rental rates because of commodity prices. Producers have been reluctant to enroll additional land when commodity prices have significantly increased in recent years.
- There is a lack of immediate threat of mandatory curtailment
- The concern of the 15 year commitment with fixed annual rent that doesn't increase with inflation.
- Retiring marginal land has allowed producers to focus their efforts on farming more profitable land. With the last several years of increased value of commodities, rental payment offers of CREP are not as an attractive option as it was when the program began. As a result, there have not been any new applications this past year, and several revisions have been prepared adjusting the boundaries from neighboring irrigated fields. Some locations are experiencing limited supplies of water, but because of the value of commodities, farmers have been choosing to grow lower water demanding crops such as wheat or other small grains in rotation with the corn and alfalfa to earn a higher return in the short term than if enrolled in the program which offers the consistent rental rate over 15 years.
- Enrollment into CREP allows a safety net for preserving the water rights if a curtailment were to be ordered by IDWR. To date, no long term curtailment order has been issued. Mitigation plans are prepared utilizing the existing enrollment acres.
- Recent general CRP signups that offer attractive rental rates have increased dramatically in some counties, and, although the rental rates are not as much as what CREP may offer, the CRP signup can be made without curtailing water right during the enrollment period. This "freedom" and shorter contract commitment is another option considered by landowners and this competes with any possible new crep signups.

Positives of CREP enrollment

- With many input costs rising, such as power, land acquisition, fuel, fertilizer, and risk, the net return may not always equal a consistent rental rate that CREP offers.
- This past year, devastating rains ruined the quality and value of thousands of acres of wheat and malting barley with millions of dollars of lost revenue. There have been inquiries to enrollment, but rental rates can be as high as over twice the amount of what crep offers.
- There have been several water calls, and mitigation plans have been created to prevent an outright curtailment. Enrolled acres in CREP have provided a consistent reduction in groundwater consumptive use. Other programs offer shorter term solutions, but may not provide as consistent reduction that CREP can provide.
- Field staff have been observing improvement in many areas of wildlife habitat, even in the non-established fields. Cover is providing nesting for birds, and there seemed to be an increase of antelope observed this year.
- In addition to the annual demand reductions realized from CREP, NRCS (AWEP) programs implementing surface water conversions have provided more than 35,000 ac-ft. of additional demand reductions on the ESPA. Although those programs compliment the water savings goals, actual savings realized with AWEP type projects are dependent upon having enough surface water available. CREP is still favored as a more consistent water savings tool as once the ground is enrolled, it is documented that no water is applied and it can be easily verified as actual water savings for those acres for the years enrolled.

This last August, an unusual and record rainfall event came at the worst time possible for the small grain growers in the Magic Valley. Rainfall amounts from 2" to as much as 6" were observed within a week's period of time from Gooding all the way north of Idaho Falls. The quality of the wheat and barley was drastically reduced to feed value and a millions of dollars were lost across the entire ESPA. This extreme anomaly is making some producers reconsider the value of a consistent annual income CREP provides.

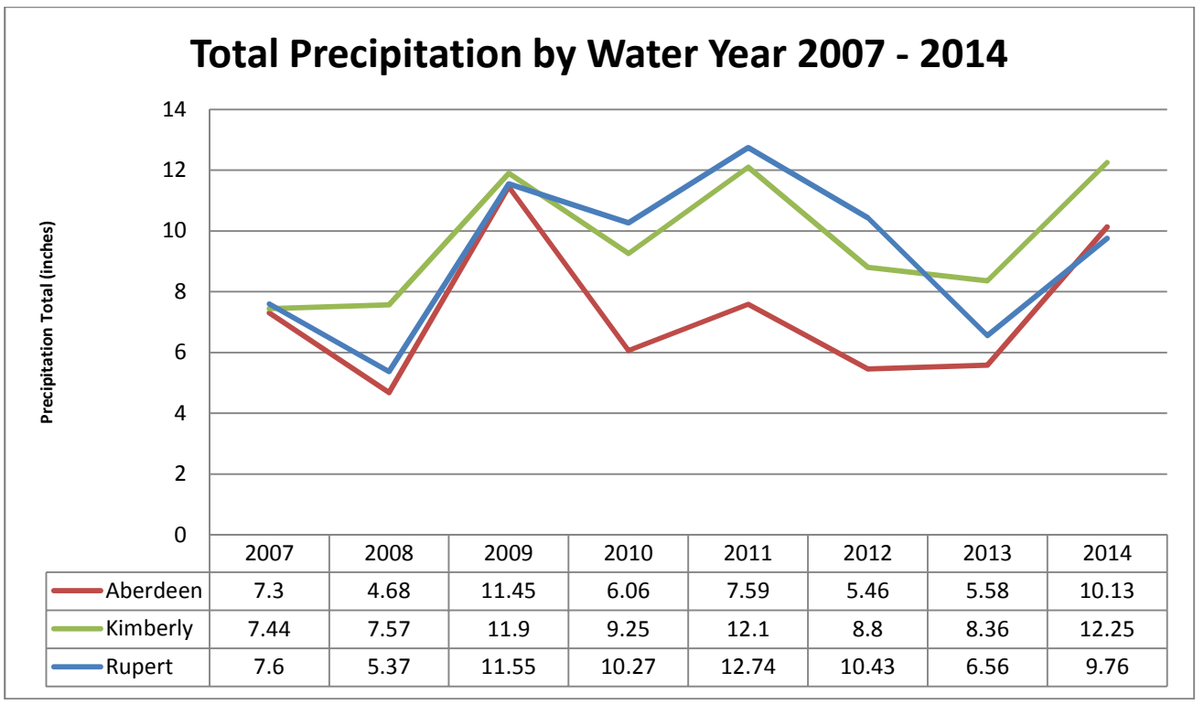
Grass Establishment

ISWCC field staff physically visit each field at least twice during the year to determine the status of the seedlings and follow up with each participant depending on the status of the field. Certifications for established fields began in 2009. Contracts with all fields meeting the requirements are listed below: Approximately 2,400 additional acres have established stands but contain fields within the contract that do not meet the minimum requirements for complete certification. Those contracts and acres are not included in the following table.

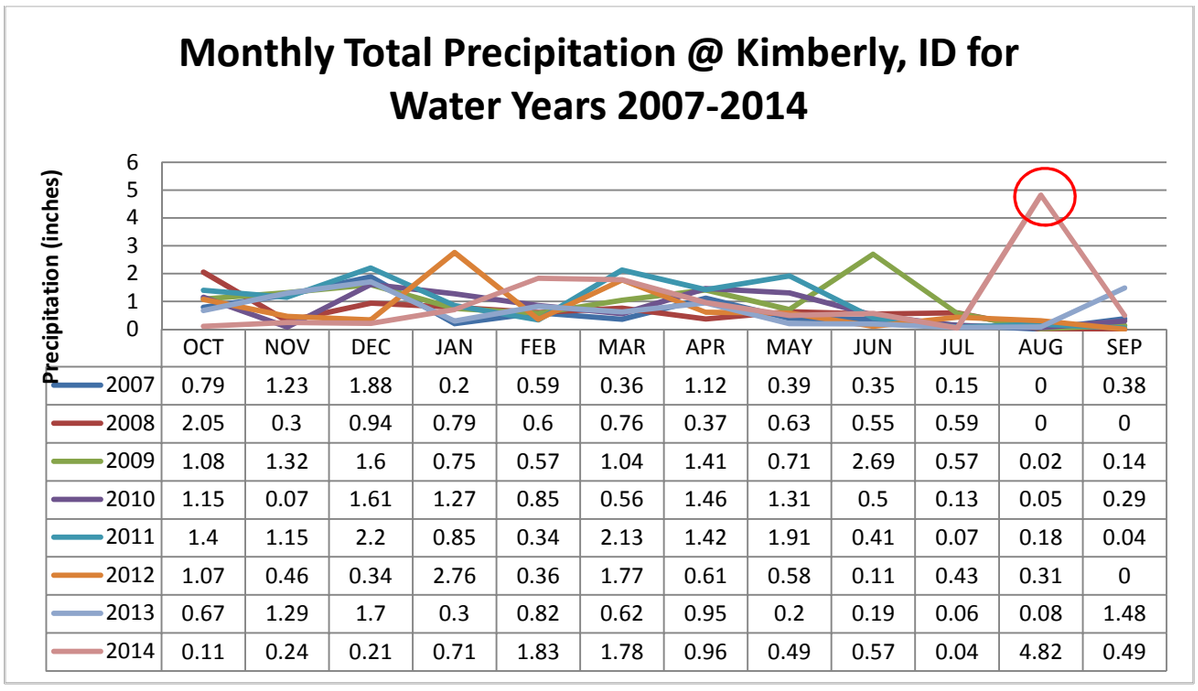
Federal FY	Established Contracts	Established Acres
2009	7	685
2010	28	4,873
2011	13	446
2012	0	0
2013	27	2,481
2014	6	312
TOTAL ESTABLISHED TO DATE	75	8,797

- Total amount reflects some certified/established contracts that have since been revised or terminated.
- Of the total active contracts, approximately 90% of eligible practices, are classified CP2 – Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses and 10% are classified as CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat Non easement. Producers are attracted to the flexibility of re seeding with the CP2 practice.
- Other available options for practices can include the following listed below, but without water, they are not as attractive to implement:
- CP22 – Riparian Buffer (Cropland Only)
- CP25 – Rare and Declining Habitat
- CP12 – Wildlife Food Plot

This year's growing season was somewhat similar to last year until the unusual rainfall event that hit in August. Extreme dry conditions once again created challenges for participants on how to proceed with weed control and stand establishment. The charts below indicate the nature of the dry years that our contract participants have had while trying to establish the native grasses since CREP began. Most of the CREP contracts are located in areas best represented by the Aberdeen graph (red). The last 3 years have been very challenging to re seeding efforts and weed control.



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Aberdeen	7.3	4.68	11.45	6.06	7.59	5.46	5.58	10.13
Kimberly	7.44	7.57	11.9	9.25	12.1	8.8	8.36	12.25
Rupert	7.6	5.37	11.55	10.27	12.74	10.43	6.56	9.76



	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
2007	0.79	1.23	1.88	0.2	0.59	0.36	1.12	0.39	0.35	0.15	0	0.38
2008	2.05	0.3	0.94	0.79	0.6	0.76	0.37	0.63	0.55	0.59	0	0
2009	1.08	1.32	1.6	0.75	0.57	1.04	1.41	0.71	2.69	0.57	0.02	0.14
2010	1.15	0.07	1.61	1.27	0.85	0.56	1.46	1.31	0.5	0.13	0.05	0.29
2011	1.4	1.15	2.2	0.85	0.34	2.13	1.42	1.91	0.41	0.07	0.18	0.04
2012	1.07	0.46	0.34	2.76	0.36	1.77	0.61	0.58	0.11	0.43	0.31	0
2013	0.67	1.29	1.7	0.3	0.82	0.62	0.95	0.2	0.19	0.06	0.08	1.48
2014	0.11	0.24	0.21	0.71	1.83	1.78	0.96	0.49	0.57	0.04	4.82	0.49

Spring 2014

- As observed from the graph above, the very dry conditions since 2012 continued in many areas that limited weed pressure. Surviving grasses were able to gain a better stand and show more of a solid presence in many of the fields. Staff observed several new areas of native grasses thru this growing season. Cheat grass pressure is still a problem in many fields but some growers report they favor this to bare ground for protection from wind erosion. The challenge is to transition from a monoculture of weedy grasses to wildlife friendly cover while protecting the soil.
- Cheat grass and other annual weeds did not survive very long this year as there was very little surface moisture available. Fields targeted for spring herbicide treatment once again were limited because the weeds had already succumbed from lack of moisture.

Summer 2014

- Natural rainfall throughout the growing season was way below normal until August. Producers stated that many areas within the reporting zones of receiving less than 3 inches for the past year.
- As the summer progressed, so did the dry conditions. Many landowners decided not to burn because of the dry windy conditions and opted to perform a clip or mechanical type of operation such as a harrow. A favorite method is to perform a "knee high clip". This is to cut off weed growth from developing seed, and still allows grasses to mature to re seed. Many areas have improved with higher densities from natural regeneration.
- What is somewhat surprising at this point in the program is the amount of original alfalfa that is still present in many of the fields after 7 years without irrigation. The deep rooted plants are able to take advantage of the moisture that has migrated thru the soil profile during the winter.
- In late August, unusual record amounts of rainfall hit many of the CREP areas late in the season. Some fields did respond to the moisture, but many areas stayed dormant only to produce heavier weed pressures. The predominant weed this fall has been the emergence of Russian thistle and Kochia. The second crop of cheat grass also emerged.

Fall 2014

- ISWCC Staff had been meeting throughout the summer with producers to continue working towards getting stands established. From the spring thru to the fall, all fields were checked, and many had to be revisited because of the weather changes. Many also that had been scheduled for mid-management on certified acres had to be looked at as well.
- With the amount of water received into the ground from the August and September rains, there is a good chance that a December/January dormant seeding can be successfully accomplished.
- Herbicide treatment for cheat grass control is being met with resistance from some of the producers. Past negative history with similar products for control has kept many from fall applying the herbicide which has been very effective in annual grass suppression. As a result, mechanical operations such as low clipping, or harrowing are about the only options available to help uproot young plants. In extreme cases where no native grasses are found, glyphosate is being used to completely kill all plants for a cleaner field for re-seedings.
- A producer chose to do a hot burn on 250 acres in July, completely scorching the solid stand of cheat grass that has plagued that field. This was performed when the cheat grass had died down, and the surrounding desert was still green limiting the chance of wildfire. Within a month, a solid stand of native and Siberian wheatgrass quickly emerged and showed a robust growth from the rains. Although somewhat risky, this method showed to be a very cost effective approach to controlling cheat grass in the area and establishing the desired grass species.

- Fields on several contracts have been re-seeded this fall and many more are planned to be planted thru this winter up to April 1st of next year. All have been dormant seedings as most of the producers have removed their irrigation equipment or have equipment in disrepair.
- Producers with existing stands have chosen to either chemically treat, or clip or harrow to minimize weed pressures, and provide more available water for their grasses.

Challenges to establishment

There are many fields where producers are struggling trying to get established stands. The native grasses can be difficult and this is only aggravated by the extreme hot, dry conditions typically found in the area. Native grasses are trying to compete with non-native weeds from decades of previous cropland activities. As time goes by without irrigation, the ecology of many sights are returning to its original setting. As this occurs, native grasses will become more dominant, while the non-native weeds subside. The program timing requirements can put participants in a bind as policies require establishment, and efforts for reseeding are very costly with uncertain results.

There is quite a bit more time needed working with the challenging situations and finding equitable ways of weed control, seedbed prep, and re-seedings. The ISWCC is making sure that there is adequate staff time available to meet these needs by allocating adequate resources to provide on-farm individual attention to improve stand densities.

An added challenged developed this year when some staff had to focus on other workload obligations. This reduced capacity for field checks. As a result, ISWCC hired part time contract assistance for the mid management practices scheduled on the established stands. Another staff position was delegated to assist with administrative work.

Outreach

- Two CREP working group meetings were held this past fiscal year to keep all agencies apprised of the ongoing efforts implementing the program.
- Presentations were made by ISWCC staff in most of the CREP counties and provided updated information and discuss current issues with some of the contracts.
- Presentations to many groups including CREP to 5 germane House Ag committees in 2014.

Other actions and activities in the ESPA

Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP)

- The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) or ESPA CAMP establishes a long-term program for managing water supply and demand in the ESPA through a phased approach to implementation, together with an adaptive management process to allow for adjustments or changes in management techniques as implementation proceeds. Due to the inherent complexities in the management and responses of the river and aquifer to water budget changes, it was decided to incrementally implement the various mechanisms proposed in this Plan. The long-term objective of the Plan is to implement efforts towards a net ESPA water budget change of 6,000 acre-feet (af) annually. It is projected that this hydrologic goal can be achieved by the year 2030 through implementation of a mix of management actions including, but not limited to,
    - aquifer recharge

- ground-to-surface water conversions
- Demand reduction strategies.

The Plan sets forth actions which stabilize and improve spring flows, aquifer levels, and river flows across the Eastern Snake Plain.

Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc.

The Idaho Ground Water Appropriators and (five out of ten ground water district members) purchased three large fish facilities in the Hagerman Valley in 2010. In purchasing these three large aquaculture facilities, it fulfilled the requirement of more than 160-200,000 af of Demand Reduction for the Southern part of the ESPA CAMP. There is still a need for "Demand Reduction" in the middle and Northern sections of the ESPA. The overall goal for the ESPA CAMP is still 600,000 af.

Increasing Field Efficiency Implementing CREP

ISWCC staff continues to use merged GIS shape file “road map” for planning field visits efficiently and selecting areas needing follow up. This upcoming season, staff will have updated equipment purchased that will utilize Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and smart phones or tablets to tag photos, pinpoint problem areas, and expedite compliance checks. The use of smart phones and Ipads will greatly reduce travel time and expedite field work documentation. This will free up staff to spend more time with producers.

Individual Privacy Provision

Privacy concerns are maintained and 1619 policies are followed. When locations are analyzed for computing water savings, modeling, and estimated travel times, field boundary displays are “fogged” to dissipate actual boundaries and individual information is scrubbed to ensure private information is secure.

Water SMART Clearinghouse

A website link to CREP has been included in the Department of Interior’s Water SMART Clearinghouse website. The goal of the clearinghouse is to identify, coordinate, and integrate water conservation and sustainable water strategies. The clearinghouse can be accessed at www.doi.gov/watersmart.

Results of the Annual Monitoring Program

The CREP partners collect and analyze data annually to assess water and power savings, determine soil savings and average reduction of chemicals, and monitor wildlife habitat. Field checks are performed to assess grass establishment and modify efforts in weed management based on existing conditions. The total amount of acreage enrolled in CREP can be compared to retiring water usage from 123 pivots covering 140 acres each or 27 sections of land (640 acres = one section).

Water Savings

IDWR monitors and documents actual water savings. Each acre enrolled into CREP equals actual water savings of approximately two af. With 16,729 acres currently enrolled, decreed water rights are reduced by approximately 66,916 af: or an estimated actual savings of 33,458 af of water saved annually. The CREP is currently 17% of goal to save 200,000 af annually. The equivalent water savings is close to the annual consumptive use of approximately 330,000 people.

The extent of these water saving benefits are shown using the IDWR ground water model. The ESPA ground water model has been measuring Snake River flows and detecting moderate increases in spring levels from the Thousand Springs area and larger increases from the American Falls area. Model trends indicate continued increases for future years.

Soil Erosion

Due to the highly erodible nature of the farm ground enrolled in the CREP program, changing the ground cover from annual crops, stream, or canal banks to permanent vegetative cover provides average soil savings of two tons per acre per year due to water erosion and six tons per acre per year due to wind erosion. This equals soil savings of 33,458 tons per year due to water erosion and 100,374 tons per year due to wind erosion.

Pesticides and Nutrients

Often attached to eroded soil particles are nutrients such as Nitrate (NO3) and Phosphate (PO4), pesticides, or other agricultural chemicals applied to the field. By reducing the amount of soil erosion, the potential amount of nutrients and pesticides reaching ground water or water bodies downstream is greatly reduced. Considering variables such as amount of fertilizer applied to a field, the type of fertilizer used, and crop rotation, it is estimated that 1.7 to 4.5 million pounds of fertilizer are no longer being applied to enrolled acres.

Wildlife Populations and Habitat

Of special concern within the CREP area is habitat of grassland-nesting birds including sharp-tailed grouse and sage grouse. Sage grouse are of particular concern throughout the entire state due to a steady decline in population since monitoring began in the 1950's. More extensive declines have occurred in the Upper Snake region, which encompasses much of the Idaho CREP area[1]. Acres enrolled in CREP can provide nesting and cover opportunities especially if the fields are adjacent to growing sage brush. While some contracts specifically had sage brush planted initially, many fields have sage brush establishing naturally from nearby seed sources. As noted from Fish & Game, this can provide some brood benefits for the sage grouse.

Fish Habitat

The benefits of the CREP program peak during the irrigation season when the demand for irrigation water is the greatest. Voluntary reduction programs reduce the demand during this peak, allowing more water to stay in the aquifer. Aquatic habitat will continue to improve through the reduction of potential sediment, pesticides, and harmful nutrients entering the waterways. Improved water quality and increased stream flows can provide a higher quality habitat for various native aquatic species as well as sensitive species found throughout the Thousand Springs reach of the Snake River.

[1] Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2006

Recommendations for Program Improvement

1. Continue seeking solutions to securely share information

- IDWR has had limited involvement with CREP for this past fiscal year because of retiring staff and re-assignments to immediate needs such as recharge. ISWCC staff continued to keep the database information updated and will work with IDWR & FSA thru the winter months.

2. Coordinate additional CREP efforts targeting sage grouse

- It is recommended that Idaho CREP partners continue to identify measurable objectives aimed at protecting sage grouse by increased existing efforts and proposing new measures. The permanent vegetative does provide continued cover, and nesting opportunities that didn't exist before when annually tilled. As mentioned above, there are many areas that are naturally establishing with sage brush. Staff makes recommendations to the producers to not clip and only spot spray in those areas where the sage brush is establishing.

3. Increase participation levels

- ISWCC continues to utilize the CREP informational brochures and distribute those at community events and grower meetings. The brochures continue to be displayed in the USDA service centers that producers can see and look at when they walk into the office.
- New contracts are difficult to obtain if additional incentives are not offered. This is a problem as land values have escalated over the years from the increased value of commodities. Some producers are faced with options that they had not considered before. Irrigated ground that is selling for more than twice the amount than when the program started puts pressure on whether they want to stay in the program or not. Sales prices in some areas have actually been enough to justify paying the liquidated damages when terminating a contract. Many cropland areas are renting for twice the amount that is offered thru the program.
- The working group is considering some strategies of how to promote and find additional incentives to increase the current rental rates. An increased amount from the state or outside group, for example, may be more cost effective than some of the alternatives considered with mitigation plans for groundwater savings. Also, the working group will be inquiring FSA if there are any provisions of updating the rental payments on enrolled ground.

4. Improve Field Technology

- Updated apps for smart phones have been utilized to improve field check efficiencies. From determining precise locations of possible problem areas to locating individual fields to the nearest acre, the locator device overlaid onto a pdf map is expediting the field work. It is planned for next year to eqip our CREP staff with tablets or I pads. This will expedite the documentation process considerably.

5. Measuring Soil Quality

- Testing for soil quality before and after program enrollment was not considered at the beginning of the program. This information can be useful for measuring the effects of the CREP program on soil quality as the field changes from conventional tilled, irrigated cropland to permanent vegetative cover/wildlife land. It has been recommended that ISWCC staff create a work plan to collect the soil quality data on some sites at the beginning of the contract period, periodically thru the contract period, and upon conclusion of the contract. The data analysis can show baselines in soil quality and health including the effects on organic matter, compaction layers, water holding capacity, and pH levels. This feedback process has not been initiated due to limited staffing and resources.

6. Finding economic alternative solutions

- A soil conservation district and a FSA committee have asked about seeking economically viable alternatives to getting stand establishment. Their concern is that there is a high risk of spending money on native seed with uncertain results because of the dry weather that we have been experiencing. Discussions such as allowing intensive grazing of unestablished stands in exchange for a reduced rental rate that year would reduce weed growth and promote better seedbed preparation have been discussed. CRP rules have been pretty clear that grazing cannot occur on stands that have yet to be established. A valid equitable concern from the district and county committee may lead to further discussions thru this winter. If a pilot type project could be initiated, the value of high intensity, short duration grazing could provide a very feasible option for preparation of reseeding fields. On rare occasions, staff has identified small inclusions where land had inadvertently been grazed. Comparisons of that with adjoining fields showed that the grazed portion had fewer weeds with spears of native grasses emerging and noticed for the first time in six years. The adjoining CREP field without grazing was overtaken with the weeds. As indicated in many documents, native grasses are persistent, but not competitive. Once weed competition is removed, the natives can have a chance to establish.

Summary of Non-Federal Program Expenditures

PROGRAM TOTALS – FY 2007 THROUGH FY 2014
TOTAL STATE CASH AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

FY 2007	$5,230,360
FY 2008	$35,390,421
FY 2009	$3,814,925
FY 2010	$4,436,640
FY 2011	$5,271,232
FY 2012	$1,528,156

FY 2013	$3,263,418
FY 2014	$1,926,576
PROGRAM TOTAL TO DATE:	$60,861,728

Idaho Incentive Payments –
$3 million total budget $490,390
Current: $30 per acre (one-time payment to participants located within groundwater districts)

FY 2014 TOTAL STATE CASH AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Idaho Department of Water Resources	$1,545,002	
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission	$379,574	
Idaho Ground Water Appropriators	(included in IDWR above)	
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	$2,000	
TOTAL		$1,926,576
FY 2014 DETAILED SUMMARY BY AGENCY:		
Idaho Department of Water Resources		
Water District Water Master Expenses		
WD 01	$1,376,405	
WD 120	87,532	
WD 110	64,377	
WD 100	12,688	
TOTAL Water District Master Expense		$ 1,541,002
Idaho Ground Water Appropriators	(Included in IDWR report above)	
IDWR Projects		

Total IDWR Projects		**
IDWR Employees		
Neal Farmer		
Linda Davis		
Total IDWR employee wages		$4,000
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission		
ISWCC Employees		
Chuck Pentzer, CREP Coordinator, Jerome		
Brian Reed, Idaho Falls		
Rob Sharpnack, Shoshone		
Carolyn Firth, Burley		
Jan Webster, Teri Murrison, Boise support		
Total ISWCC Employee Wages		$81,676
Operating Expense		
Contract assistance	$1,803	
Fuel, travel, office expenses	$11,128	
Equipment		
Total ISWCC operating expense		$12,931
Annual Loans/Grants		
Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (Loan)	$284,967	
TOTAL ISWCC program loans and grants (ESPA only)		$284,967
Idaho Department of Fish and Game		
IDF&G Employee		
Sal Palazzolo (meetings, updating staff)	$2,000	
Total IF&G Employee Wages		$2,000

Pursuant to the terms of the contract, it should be noted that the State of Idaho has met its obligation to use $5 million to purchase permanent private water rights in the ESPA CREP area no later than December 31, 2010. During 2007, the State of Idaho partnered with the City of Twin Falls and the North Snake and Magic Valley ground water districts to purchase the Pristine Springs area for a total of $26 million. The purchase of this area addressed a number of conflicts between spring water users and ground water users in the Magic Valley and provided the City of Twin Falls with a fresh water source to improve the quality of its water supply.[2] This expenditure was reported as a line item by IDWR in the FY 2008 Annual Report.

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[2] From: US Fed News Service, Including US State News Article date April 28, 2008, Copyright © HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Provided by ProQuest LLC.