

**Idaho's Conservation Reserve Enhancement
Program
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer**



**FY 2015 CREP Annual Performance Report
(CEP-68R)**



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SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



*The CREP contracts displayed on this map are only approximate locations of contracts and are not intended to be used to identify specific locations of CREP enrolled fields.

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 the Federal FY 2015, defined as October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

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 and 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).

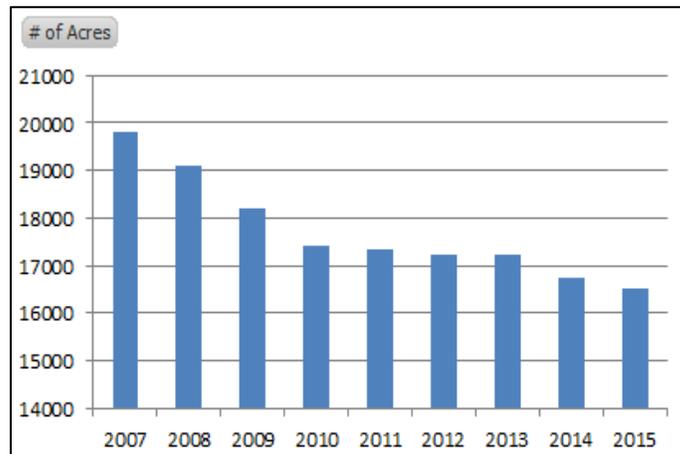
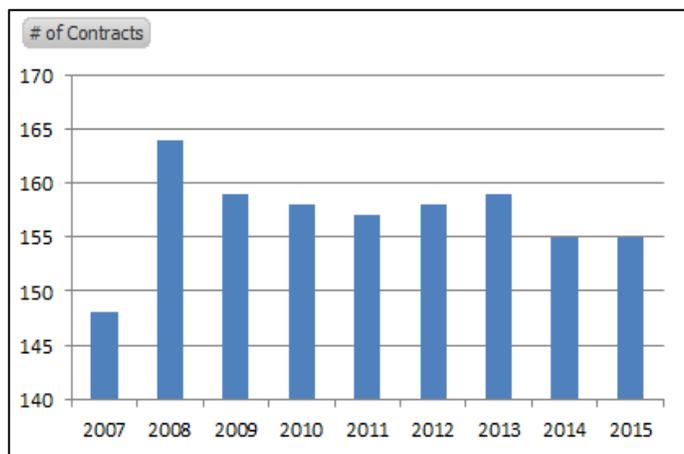
The CREP is designed to address issues related to water shortages in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). Increased use of ground water, drought, and changing irrigation practices have resulted in decreased spring flows of tributaries to the Snake River. The CREP has been established with the original 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 2015.

CREP Program Status for FY 2015

The number of CREP contracts and enrolled acreage has remained fairly constant since 2010. A small reduction of enrolled contracts and 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.

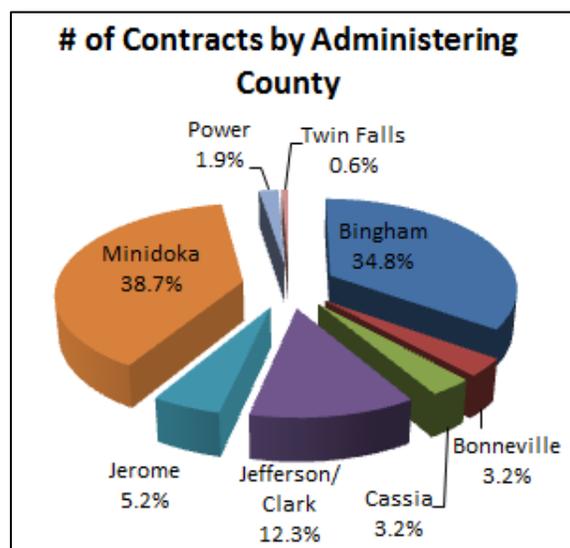
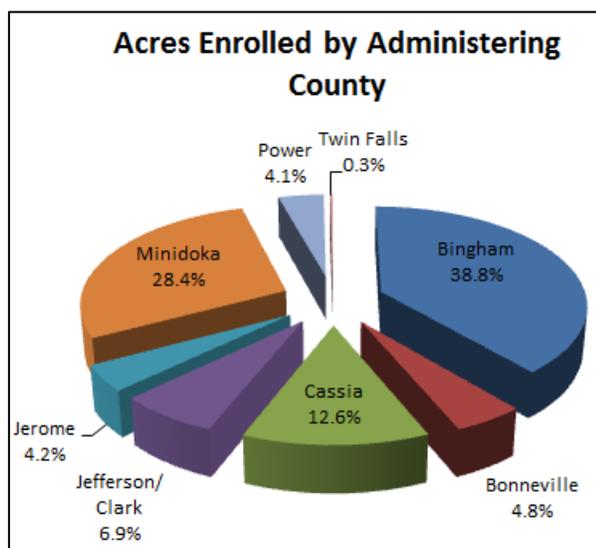
Fiscal Year (FY)	Number of Contracts	Number of Acres
2007	148	19,818
2008	164	19,110
2009	159	18,189
2010	158	17,422
2011	157	17,333
2012	158	17,237
2013	159	17,227
2014	155	16,729
2015	155	16,533



Active Contracts by Administering County (as of 10/1/2015)

Administering County	No. of Contracts	No. of Acres
Bingham	54	6,407
Bonneville	5	798
Cassia	5	2,075
Jefferson/Clark	19	1,138
Jerome	8	698
Minidoka	60	4,698
Power	3	676
Twin Falls	1	43
TOTAL	155	16,533

Level of Program Participation by Administering County in FY 2015



The FY 2015 concluded with 155 active contracts on 16,533 acres. Considerations to the changing numbers reported include:

- Acreage adjustments and revisions. This affects the total number of acres enrolled.
- Requests of contract transfers to other county offices have 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 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.
- Producers are concerned about making a 15 year commitment with a 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.
 - CREP working group has been seeking solutions to this ongoing dilemma, including requesting a rental payment increase for enrolled acres. It is hoped that by spring of 2016, enrollment acres will dramatically increase to provide a more equitable option for the ground water users.
 - A decision from the Surface Coalition water call includes a 3 year floating average 240,000 ac-ft. reduction in water usage needed to meet the conditions of the settlement. CREP is having renewed interest as with additional rental rates, this can be looked at as a feasible option to the landowner that may offset any economic hardships to the producer. An option would be to enroll land watered by end guns on pivots and planting the outside acreage to CP2 native grass mixtures. There are many benefits for this practice including:
 - Water would be available to provide firm weed-free seedbed and establish new grass plantings.
 - The removal of end guns not only saves a substantial amount of water, but energy as well.
 - Water used for normal crops could be turned back on for any re-seeding if needed.
- There have been nine new applications and several revisions prepared as field boundaries are updated. Some locations within the CREP area have been 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.
- Recent general CRP signups offer attractive rental rates, and although the rental rates are not as much as what CREP may offer, the CRP signup can be achieved without curtailing water right during the enrollment period. This "freedom" and shorter contract commitment is attractive to landowners and this competes with any possible new CREP signups.

Positive Benefits of CREP Enrollment

- With many input costs rising (such as power, land acquisition, fuel, fertilizer, and risk), the net return may not always be equal to the consistent rental rate that CREP affords. Increasing the rental payment should increase interest and enrollment of additional acres.
- Mitigation plans and water saving strategies have been created to prevent an outright curtailment to water calls in previous years. Enrolled acres in CREP have provided a consistent reduction in ground water consumption. Other programs implemented help and offer shorter term solutions, but may not provide as consistent a reduction that CREP can provide.
- 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.

- Field staff have observed improvement in many areas of wildlife habitat, even in the non-established fields. Cover is providing nesting for birds, and there seems to be an increase in the number of pronghorns observed this year. The mild winter also provided a huge increase in rodent activity. This in turn encouraged natural predators such as coyotes, and owls, hawks that feed on them. Large numbers of adult owls were observed this season throughout the CREP fields.
- 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.

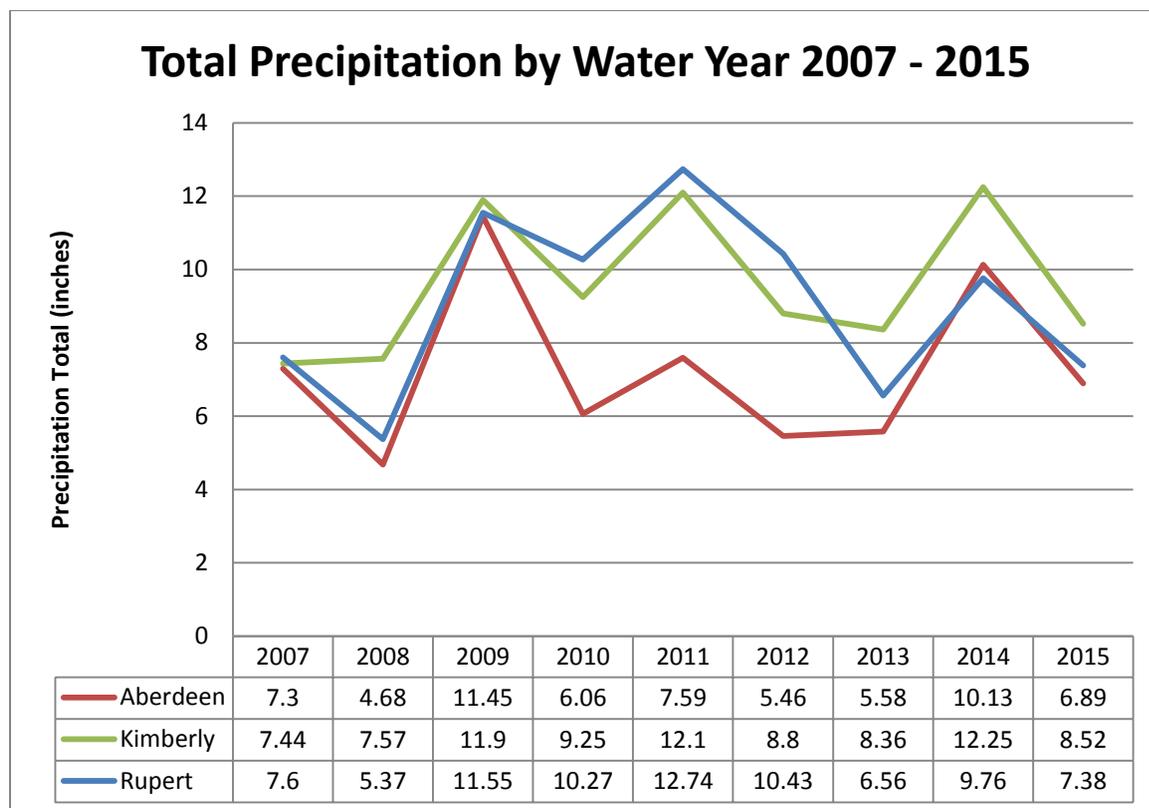
Grass Establishment

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 CREP 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
2015	5	784
TOTAL CERTIFIED CONTRACTS	86	9,581

- 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. 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 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 several years have been very challenging to re-seeding efforts and weed control.



Spring 2015

- As observed from the graph above, the very dry conditions since 2012 continue and this has limited vegetative growth of any kind. The peak rain experienced in August 2014 provided some deep moisture which encouraged fall growth of many of the deeper rooted weeds while many of the native grass species remained dormant. The timing of rainfall and available moisture in early spring appears to be a constant limiting factor. For example, moisture may be available in February, but the ground temperature is too cold for new seedlings to sprout. Then, when the soil temperature is warm enough for germination, the moisture is no longer available because of wind and evaporation. Many of the new seedlings that were able to sprout died due to lack of available moisture.
- Cheatgrass and other annual weeds did not survive very long this year because of the little surface moisture available. Fields targeted for spring herbicide treatment once again were limited because the weeds had already succumbed from lack of moisture. Although weeds did not grow much, they were still able to produce viable seeds. Some producers took extra efforts of herbicide treatment when weeds first emerged. By killing weed growth, especially in the early stages, moisture is preserved for the remaining grasses to better able to survive.

Summer 2015

- Natural rainfall throughout the growing season was well below normal. Producers stated that many areas within the reporting zones received less than 3 inches for the past year.
- With the fall of 2014/spring 2015 open winter, high populations of rodents made their return. Mice and voles were everywhere working on any growing plant they could find. The infestation was so severe that even established stands appear to have suffered. Re-evaluations will be needed on those fields next year to see if enough densities of the native grasses are present.
- 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”, however, this was not as feasible because there wasn’t enough plant growth. Some fields that had mid-management practices performed last year show severe stress and will need added evaluation this next year.
- Once again, original stands of alfalfa are still present in many of the fields after many 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.

Fall 2015

- ISWCC Staff met with producers throughout the summer to continue working toward getting stands established and maintaining the viability of existing stands. From the spring thru fall, all fields were checked, and many had to be revisited because of weather changes and weed issues. Scheduled mid-management practices are being implemented on many of the established stands. Fields that had enough growth were clipped while others were harrowed. A couple of contracts were burned in the early spring to remove old weed debris. Burning appears to be the most effective option.
- With the anticipated fall and winter moisture, there should be a good chance that a December/January dormant seeding can be successfully accomplished. It is also hoped that cold temperatures will reduce rodent pressures.
- Preferred herbicide treatment for Cheatgrass control is being met with resistance from some of the producers. Past negative history with similar products for Cheatgrass control has kept many from fall application of the herbicide Plateau, which has proven to be very effective in annual grass suppression. As a result, mechanical operations such as low clipping, harrowing or burning are about the only options. In extreme cases where no native grasses are found, a glyphosate product such as Roundup is being used to completely kill all plants for a complete re-seeding.

Challenges to Establishment

There are many fields where producers are struggling to get established stands. The native grasses can be difficult and this is aggravated by extremely hot, dry conditions. 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 sites is returning to original environmental conditions. As this occurs, native grasses will become more dominant, as the non-native weeds subside. The program timing requirements can be a hindrance to participants, since policies require establishment, and efforts for re-seeding can be very costly with uncertain results.

It takes more staff time to work with the challenging situations and find equitable ways of weed control, seedbed prep, and re-seeding. The ISWCC is making sure that there is sufficient staff time available to meet these needs by allocating adequate resources to provide on-farm individual attention to improve stand densities.

Outreach

- Two CREP working group meetings were held this past fiscal year to keep all agencies apprised of the ongoing efforts implementing the program.
- The program is regaining momentum as ground water users seek equitable ways to meet the challenges of the 240,000 ac-ft. floating average reductions needed to meet the Surface Water Coalition settlement.
- Ground water districts have been meeting this fall to include CREP as part of their needed reduction strategies. Sponsoring added payments to CREP rental rates is favorable to other infrastructure options and provides continuous water use reductions.
- ISWCC staff attends district and FSA committee meetings and provide updates through the year.

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. It is projected that a hydrologic goal of a net ESPA water budget change of 6,000 acre-feet (af) annually 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.

Past efforts;

The Idaho Ground Water Appropriators) 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.

2015;

The settlement from the Surface Water Coalition agreement is to reduce ground water usage by a three year floating average of 240,000 ac-ft. per year. IGWA is working with each individual ground water district to find ways of minimizing economic losses. Part of that goal can be met by encouragement of additional acres enrolled into CREP to help meet those reductions. Discussions will be ongoing through the winter of 2015 into 2016 of finding ways to enhance CREP program payment rates to be more equitable with commodity prices and rental rates.

Increasing Field Efficiency Implementing CREP

ISWCC staff continues to use merged GIS shape file “road maps” for planning field visits efficiently and selecting areas needing follow up. In the middle of this season, staff acquired Galaxy Android smart pads

that utilize Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and tag photos, pinpoint problem areas, and expedite compliance checks. The use of the smart tablets and Avenza PDF mapping program reduces travel time and expedites field work documentation. This technology allows the provision of more accurate information to FSA and the producers. All ISWCC field staff will be utilizing this newly acquired methodology this next year.

Additional GIS Products and Technology

Additional field tools are being analyzed for improved utilization of existing programs. There will be an ability to share, at minimum, information on which contracts that have been checked, and to report growers' needs in real time. However, this is put on hold until USDA determines the security provisions of cloud technology and preserving sensitive information.

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.

ISWCC staff is currently working with GIS staff at the Idaho Department of Administration, and FSA to find solutions and ensure the new technology methodologies are used correctly.

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 16,533 acres currently enrolled, decreed water rights are reduced by approximately 66,132 af: or an estimated actual savings of 33,066 af of water saved annually. The CREP is currently at 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 33,066 tons per year due to water erosion and 99,198 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 area¹. 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 and 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.



CREP acreage continues to provide nesting and cover opportunities sharp-tailed, sage grouse and other wildlife.

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

Recommendations for Program Improvement

Common Database and Information Security

IDWR has made several improvements and changes to provide staff time needed to evaluate new offers and prepare revisions to verify water savings. FSA, IDWR, and ISWCC are working to find a solution to the problem of sharing common databases and spreadsheets. The Idaho Department of Administration is looking into “hosting” the files on their server and limiting access to only those primarily responsible for the program. This will provide a much needed improvement to database management and communication.

Additional CREP Efforts Targeting Sage Grouse

It is recommended that Idaho CREP partners continue to identify measurable objectives aimed at protecting sage grouse by increasing existing efforts and proposing new measures. The permanent vegetation 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.

Program 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 look at when they walk into the office.

New contracts are difficult to obtain if additional incentives are not offered. This has been 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 makes producers question 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 for how to promote and find additional incentives to increase the current rental rates, such as seeking ways to increase the rental payments for CREP from FSA and ground water districts. The working group put any action on hold this past year awaiting the outcome of the Surface Water Coalition settlement.

There is still a need to reduce water use, and meet reduction requirements in the ESPA. The working group is investigating and working with the partners to find new incentives and options. Along with the changes sought for enhancements with the CREP, there is the potential option for local ground water districts to enter into payment enhancements on new enrollments for the CREP contract period. This will provide an enhancement to the annual rental payments for landowners and the organizations involved in achieving the goals of interstate agreements and integrated management planning.

Field Technology Improvements

Updated apps for smart phones and tablets 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. All CREP staff are now able to utilize the workpad/GPS technology for field investigations. In July, Android devices were purchased and

training was ongoing thru the fall of FY15. For FY16, the field staff will be able to document and pinpoint areas of improvements and send the information directly to ISWCC staff in Boise who will process and email to FSA and mail to the producer the field findings the same day.

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 dryland cover/wildlife land. It was recommended at the beginning of the program as part of its bmp effectiveness that ISWCC create a work plan and collect soil quality data on some sites at the beginning of the contract period, periodically thru the contract period, and upon conclusion of the contract. Soil quality trends gathered can show changes 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 funding.

Economical Alternative Solutions

A soil conservation district and an 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.

Ideas 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 project could be initiated, the value of high intensity, short duration grazing could provide a very feasible option for preparation of re-seeding 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 native seedings can have a chance to establish.

Summary of Non-Federal Program Expenditures

Program Totals - FY 2007 through FY 2015

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
FY 2015	\$9,489,531

PROGRAM TOTAL TO DATE: \$70,351,259

Total State Cash and In-Kind Contributions

Idaho Department of Water Resources	\$9,341,002	
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission	\$147,679	
Idaho Ground Water Appropriators	(incl. in IDWR report)	
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	\$850	
TOTAL		\$9,489,531

Detailed Summary by Agency

Idaho Department of Water Resources		
Water District Water Master Expenses		
WD 01	\$1,376,405	
WD 100	\$12,688	
WD 110	\$64,377	
WD 120	\$87,532	
WD 130		
Total Water Master Expenses		\$1,541,002

Idaho Ground Water Appropriators	(Incl above)	
IDWR Projects		
Recharge projects, loans, studies, cloud seeding projects within the ESPA	\$7,796,000	
Total IDWR Projects		\$7,796,000

IDWR Employees		
Neal Farmer, Rick Collingwood, Linda Davis, Paula Dillon, Sandra Thiel		
Total IDWR Employee Wages		\$4,000

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission		
ISWCC Employees		
Chuck Pentzer, State CREP Coordinator Brian Reed, Idaho Falls Rob Sharpnack, Shoshone Carolyn Firth, Burley Carolyn Watts, Teri Murrison, Boise		
Total ISWCC Employee Expenses		\$128,591

ISWCC Operating Expense		
Contract assistance	\$2,573	
Fuel, travel, office expenses	\$16,515	
Equipment		
Total ISWCC operating expense		\$19,088

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)		
IDFG Employee		
Sal Palazzolo (meetings, staff updates)	\$850	
Total IDFG Employee Expenses		\$850

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.

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.