

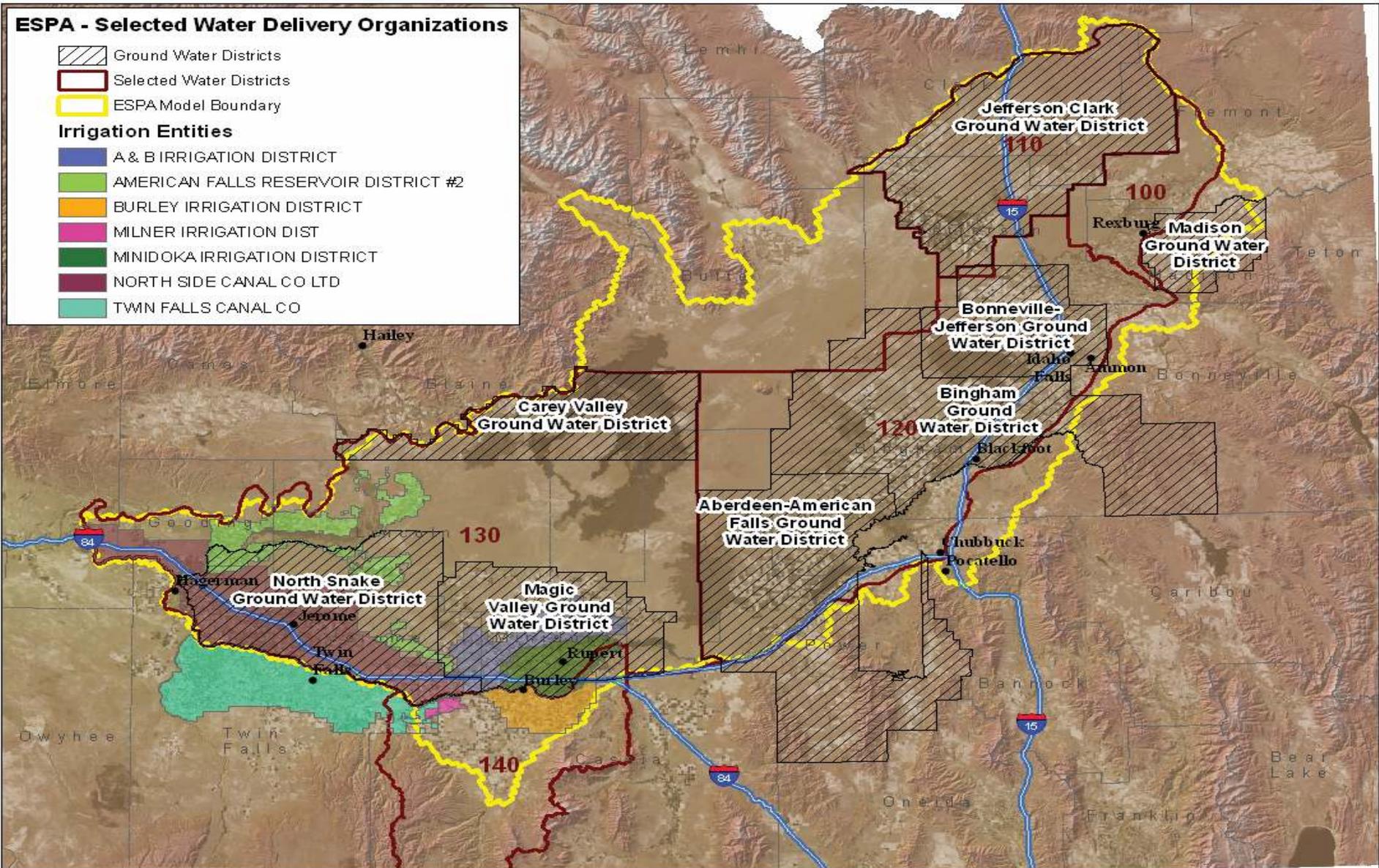
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

CAMP Presentation August 23

8/28/2007

Idaho Ground Water
Appropriators

Selected ESPA Water Entities

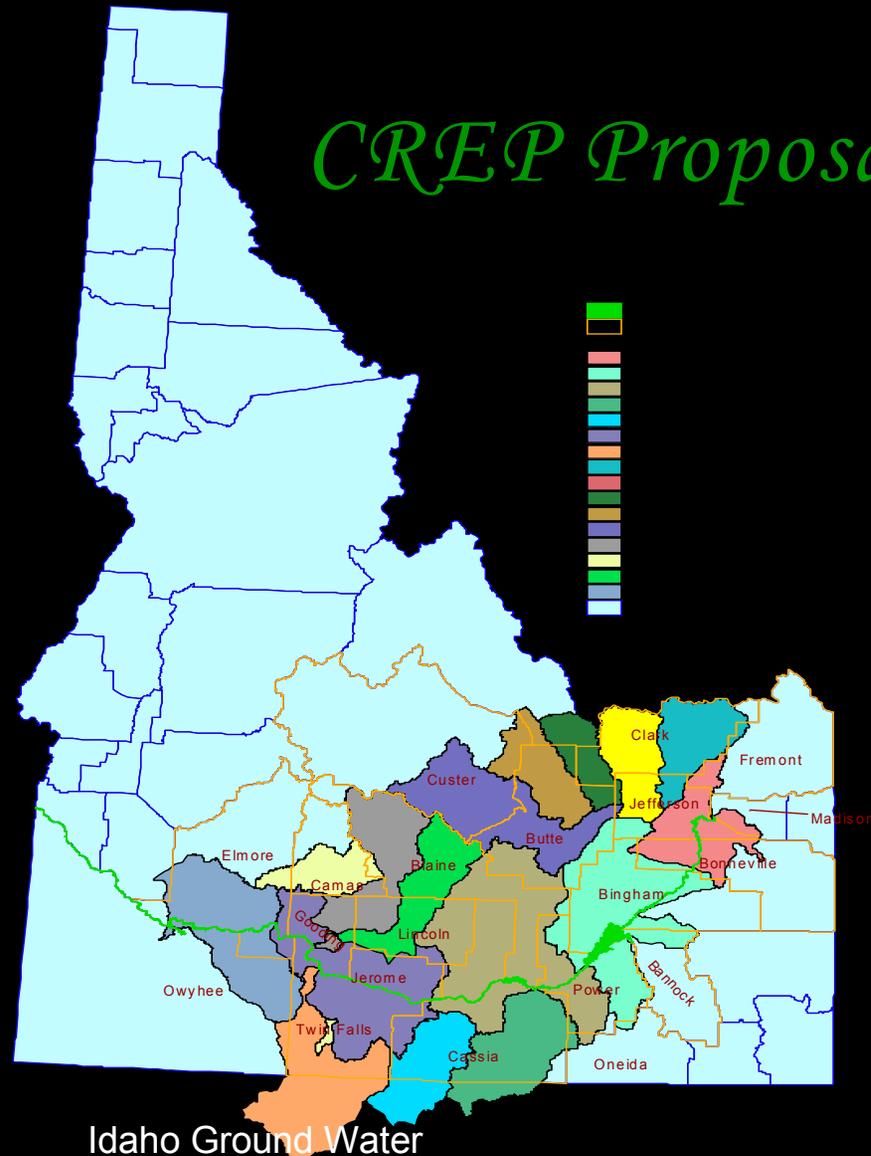


Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- CREP is a subset of the 39 Million acre Conservation Reserve Program (Farm Bill)
- CREP was part of the 1996 Farm Bill but was amended in 2002 Farm Bill
- CREP is a State and Federal Joint partnership
- Funding through Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) not through Congress
- 26 States have CREPs', three states have more than one CREP
- Idaho is one of three states with an irrigated CRP

CREP Proposal

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CREP Proposal

- 100,000 acres on the ESPA
- Funding is 80% federal and 20% state funding
- State funding can include in-kind services
- For planning purposes the average price per acre for this proposal will be \$160/yr. at 15 years
- FSA payment of \$124-134/yr plus state funding for other 20%
- Main purpose of the CREP is water conservation and habitat improvement

CREP Criteria

- Water must be measured, monitored and reported
- Habitat consideration
 - ◆ CP 4 (native grass and legumes)
 - ◆ CP 12 (native shrubs and grasses)
 - ◆ Must meet objectives of water or habitat conservation purposes
 - ◆ Ground water irrigation only because surface water supplies could not protect conserved water
 - ◆ Must meet CRP guidelines and rules

Challenges of CREP

- IGWA had to propose a one-time \$30/acre special incentive payment (SIP) before National Farm Service Agency would accept Idaho's CREP, State of Idaho has provided a loan for the \$3 M
- August 2006, over 200,000 acres signed up for CREP
- CRP rules and regulations have limited full participation
- Only 1/3 of Idaho's crop land can be a Conservation Priority Area for CRP unless designed by Sec. of Ag or Congress

Challenges (continued)

- Three counties not able to participate: Power, Bannock, and Bonneville are over the 25% acreage limit for CRP
- Payments are limited to \$50,000/yr per entity.
- Land not in Conservation Priority Areas has to be highly erodible to qualify for CRP
- Hay or pasture land is excluded from CRP unless it was planted during 1996-2001
- CREP eligible ground must have been irrigated in last 24 months

Counties	Acres Offered	Approved	Returned	Ineligible
Bingham	14,097.0	12,043.2	468.0	902.8
Blaine	202.8	102.7	0.0	0.0
Bonneville	274.9	153.9	65.9	0.0
Cassia	3,616.5	2,821.8	338.0	150.8
Elmore	213.1	213.1	0.0	0.0
Gooding	156.1	141.3	0.0	14.8
Jefferson/Clark	5,256.8	2,652.8	2,054.0	502.1
Jerome	3,690.8	2,677.1	305.9	208.7
Lincoln	2,616.7	1,396.0	837.1	61.8
Minidoka	11,246.7	7,052.6	3,086.9	56.6
Twin Falls	3,721.5	96.7	2,561.2	733.4
Total	45,092.2	29,351.2	9,716.1	2,631

Potential Solutions

- Exempt CREP acres from CRP limitation acres
- Exempt highly erodible from CREP
- Raise the yearly payment from \$50,000 to a higher amount
- Allow hay and pasture land into CREP
- Allow irrigated ground that has been irrigated within the last five years
- Have an inflation escalator for the yearly payment

Potential Solutions

- Working with Senator Crapo to make changes in new farm bill
- Get an exemption from Secretary of Agriculture or Congress on Conservation Priority Areas
- Get State Legislature to fund additional payments for lands not qualifying for CREP
- Explore other Federal Programs such as Nature Resource Conservation Service/EQIP program
- Look at private funding for addition CREP acres or alternatives

End of Presentation

Questions

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