

PART I – AGENCY PROFILE

Agency Overview

The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (SCC) was originally created in 1939 by Idaho's soil conservation district law (Idaho Code § 22-2716, et. seq.). The original purpose of Idaho's district law was to address accelerated soil erosion caused by farming practices employed during a period of extreme drought and the resulting problems these practices were projected to have on overall agricultural productivity. Since then, Idaho's water quality law designated SCC as the lead agency on grazing and agricultural activities (Idaho Code § 39-3602). The SCC works closely with local soil and water conservation districts but neither has any regulatory authority over natural resources. The SCC has also been granted authority over the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program, which offers loans to agricultural borrowers for conservation purposes (Idaho Code § 22-2730). Other SCC authorities are specifically listed later in this report.

There are five commission members that oversee the SCC. These commission members are appointed to staggered five-year terms by the Governor with regard to their expertise in water quality, production agriculture, financial expertise, and other related experience such as county commissioner.

The SCC is led by an administrator who reports directly to the SCC commissioners. The administrator oversees the staff of technical experts that are in 13 different locations across the State. Most of the SCC field staff are co-located with local conservation districts within U.S. Department of Agriculture field offices. At the beginning of fiscal year 2010, the SCC had 22 full-time staff responsible for technical and administrative program delivery. At the end of fiscal year 2010, the SCC had 15 full-time staff and two vacancies which compared to 33 full-time and contract staff at the beginning of fiscal year 2009. This reduction of personnel has negatively impacted productivity and delivery of services.

The SCC was administratively housed at the Department of Lands until 1997 when the legislature transferred it to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. In 2010, the legislature recognized the importance of the independent, non-regulatory role and services that the SCC provides. Effective fiscal year 2011, the legislature renamed the commission the Soil & Water Conservation Commission, and granted SCC autonomy by authorizing it to enter into contracts for the proper administration of its statutory authorities. During the last quarter of the fiscal year, the SCC entered into an agreement for fiscal year 2011 with the Department of Administration for fiscal, human resources, and information technology support.

The SCC has adopted a strategic plan for FY 2010 – FY 2014. The strategic plan encompasses a vision, mission, and philosophy to direct the agency's technical and financial resources towards strategic goals.

Vision

The vision of the SCC is for the commission and local conservation districts to be recognized as the primary entities in the State of Idaho to provide landowners, land-users, and public land managers with assistance and solutions for natural resource conservation issues and concerns.

Mission

The SCC provides leadership and assistance for natural resource conservation programs as directed through state statutes and by agreements with local, state, and federal agencies. The SCC provides support and service to local conservation districts, as well as private landowners and land-users via the districts, to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance Idaho's natural resources through non-regulatory and science-based technical assistance, financial incentive programs, and educational programs.

Values and Philosophy

The SCC seeks to strengthen and expand conservation districts and locally led natural resource conservation while maintaining the flexibility to anticipate new challenges. The SCC strives to provide the highest level of professional, reliable, and ethical assistance to partners and clients in a manner deserving of the public trust (Idaho Code §§ 22-2716 & 22-2718).

- The commission and local conservation districts are the primary public entities in the State of Idaho to provide private landowners and land users with assistance for natural resource conservation
- The commission believes that the most effective decision making occurs at the local level between conservation districts, landowners, and technical assistance providers
- The commission supports and assists conservation districts
- The commission is a non-regulatory agency
- The commission advocates eco-system management
- The commission provides science-based technical assistance
- The commission provides incentive-based financial assistance to landowners and land users
- The commission supports local and statewide natural resource education programs
- The commission strives to anticipate the needs of its partners and to assist in identifying issues of concern
- The commission has established and encourages the use of the Idaho OnePlan
- The commission is committed to the principle and practice of diligence in protecting all private information entrusted to it
- The commission is committed to the principle and practices of public agency transparency

Core Functions/Idaho Code

Statutory Responsibilities by Programs and Services

Program or Service	Statutes/Agreements
<p>The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission is mandated to provide for conservation improvements, projects, and programs that are locally planned, coordinated, and implemented through statutory provisions pertaining to soil conservation districts and other appropriate state and federal agencies. The SCC leads non-regulatory efforts to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance Idaho's private and state lands, and to provide assistance to private landowners and land users to plan, develop, and implement conservation plans addressing soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.</p>	<p>State: §22-2716, et. seq.</p>
<p>Antidegradation Plans (Five Year Plans) The SCC is the lead agency for coordinating implementation of the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan and local conservation districts are directly responsible for an antidegradation plan. As a result, state rules require that each local conservation district is required to prepare a five-year plan for its district and update it annually. At a minimum, the plan contains components such as physical characteristics, economic condition and outlook, assessment of resource conditions, and identification and prioritization of objectives. Districts specifically look at water quality in stream segments of concern and work closely with Basin and Watershed Advisory Groups. Implementation of the five-year plan by individual districts is accomplished by annual work plans based upon available technical and financial assistance as well as public</p>	<p>State: §22-2716, et. seq. §39-3601, et. seq. IDAPA 02.05.02</p>

Program or Service	Statutes/Agreements
support for proposed project(s).	
<p>Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee</p> <p>The SCC has lead a statewide effort in describing the agricultural and private forest industry's potential in mitigating international greenhouse gas emissions through land-based practices. Examples include: methane reductions from waste management systems; carbon sequestration through agro-forestry and geological processes; and nitrous oxide reductions through improved nutrient management.</p>	<p>State: §22-5201, et. seq.</p>
<p>Clearwater Focus Program</p> <p>The Clearwater Focus Program is a component of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Program goals are to coordinate state, federal, tribal, and private resources to identify critical fish and wildlife habitat, conduct enhancement and restorative work, and identify funding sources for implementation of on-the-ground habitat enhancement and restoration projects. The SCC and the Nez Perce Tribe coordinate efforts to achieve multi-jurisdictional stewardship goals and to maximize interagency cooperation and coordination. The program is currently under the guidelines of a funding agreement with the Bonneville Power Administration.</p>	<p>State: Gubernatorial Directive</p> <p>Agreement: Clearwater Focus Program 1996-086-00 Exp</p>
<p>Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund</p> <p>Upon request, the SCC assists with a water quality financial assistance loan program overseen by the Department of Environmental Quality. This loan program referred to as the State Revolving Fund assists with implementation of Best Management Practices, addressing non-point source issues at the rural-urban interface.</p>	<p>State: §§39-3626, et. seq.; §22-2735</p> <p>Federal: Clean Water Act (PL 92-500)</p>
<p>Conservation Improvement Grants</p> <p>The purpose of grants from the SCC general fund is to finance conservation improvements, projects, and implementation for the Water Quality Program for Agriculture. Grants provide up to 50% cost-sharing for installation of agricultural conservation practices to protect water quality, improve range/grazing lands, improve/enhance riparian areas, and enhance critical fish and wildlife habitat. Grant applications must be accompanied by conservation plans designed and approved by the appropriate technical agency and sponsoring conservation district. Due to decreased state appropriations the SCC has not accepted grant applications since fiscal year 2009.</p>	<p>State: §22-2733</p> <p>IDAPA 02.05.03</p>
<p>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program</p> <p>The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency. The SCC is designated to provide technical leadership and oversight and CREP is intended to improve water quantity and quality, enhance wildlife habitat, reduce irrigation use and decrease agriculture-related chemical and sediment</p>	<p>State: §22-2715, et. seq.; 2005 House Bills 373 and 392; MOU between State of Idaho and USDA</p> <p>Federal: 16 U.S.C. § 3830,</p>

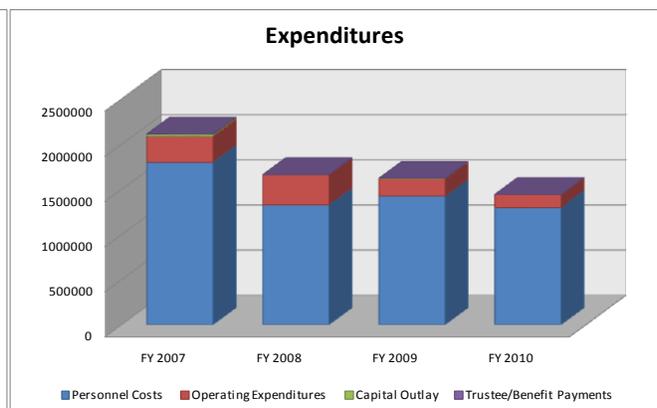
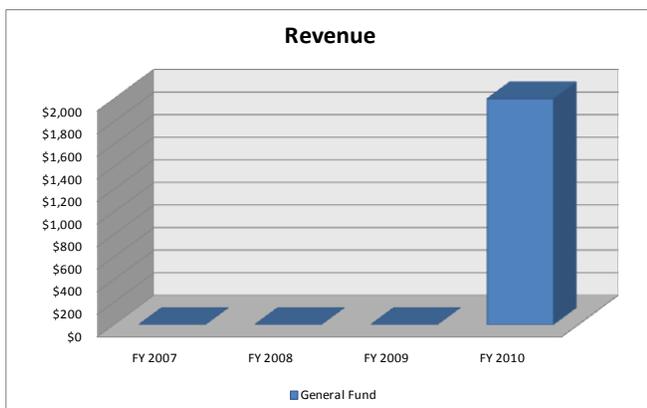
Program or Service	Statutes/Agreements
<p>runoff to the waters of the state. The program is targeted to enroll acres located in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.</p>	<p>et seq.</p>
<p>District Allocations By law, the SCC provides base funding to each local conservation district in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 annually. In addition, the SCC matches local government contributions in amount up to two state dollars for every local dollar. District allocations are subject to annual legislative appropriations to the SCC in its Trustee & Benefits general fund. The SCC is responsible for working with each of the 51 districts to request state funding each year.</p>	<p>State: §22-2727</p>
<p>Ground Water Quality Management An Interagency Cooperative Agreement updated in January 2008 between Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Idaho Public Health Districts, and SCC that facilitates cooperative groundwater protection programs in the state. The agreement is based upon the 1996 Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan. The focus for SCC in this program has been on nitrate priority areas.</p>	<p>State: §22-2716, et. seq.; §39-3601, et.seq.</p>
<p>Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan The Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (Ag Plan) is a guidance document that describes the state's process for the control and abatement of agricultural nonpoint source pollution as it relates to water quality. The goal of the Ag Plan is to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of the quality of surface and ground waters in Idaho as impacted by agricultural nonpoint source pollutants. The SCC is responsible to lead a coordinated effort to gain input from major stakeholders when an update to the Ag Plan is determined to be necessary.</p>	<p>State: §39-3601, et.seq. IDAPA 02.03.01 IDAPA 02.05.02 Federal: Clean Water Act (PL 92-500, §208)</p>
<p>Idaho OnePlan OnePlan is a cooperative, multi-agency effort using computer technology and software development to combine a myriad of government regulations, current best management practices, technical assistance, local, state and federal programs, and financial assistance possibilities into a holistic conservation plan. The program provides downloadable software and interactive web programs enabling landowners to develop conservation farm plans. The conservation-planning umbrella is in place along with the nutrient management practices component. Other components under development are integrated pest management and range management.</p>	<p>State: §22-2718 (4)(f)</p>
<p>Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program The SCC provides low-interest loans to agricultural operators to install practices for the enhancement of soil and water resources, improvement of riparian areas and fish and wildlife habitat, and to increase agricultural productivity. Loan applications must be accompanied by conservation plans designed and</p>	<p>State: §22-2730 through §22-2732 IDAPA 02.05.01</p>

Program or Service	Statutes/Agreements
<p>approved by the appropriate technical agency and sponsoring conservation district.</p>	
<p>Technical Assistance Technical assistance is provided to Idaho's conservation districts, private landowners, land users, and public land managers to address local resource issues, and assist the state of Idaho in meeting statewide and national mandates. Technical assistance includes on-farm conservation planning, watershed conservation planning, engineering design, surveying, and layout, and contract development for implementation of structural and management conservation practices.</p>	<p>State: §22-2716 et. seq.</p>
<p>Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Watershed Planning and Implementation The SCC is the state designated agency for agricultural and grazing components of TMDL Development for quality impaired water bodies within the state. Thereafter, the SCC is responsible for the planning and implementation of treatments to protect and improve water quality in watersheds impacted by agricultural and grazing activities.</p>	<p>State: §39-3601, et. seq. Federal: Clean Water Act (PL 92-500)</p>
<p>Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project The Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project (USBWP) is a component of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Program goals are to coordinate state, federal, tribal, and private resources to identify critical fish and wildlife habitat, conduct enhancement and restorative work, and identify funding sources for implementation of on-the-ground habitat enhancement and restoration projects. The SCC coordinates efforts to achieve multi-jurisdictional stewardship goals and to maximize multi-agency cooperation and coordination.</p>	<p>State: Gubernatorial Directive</p>
<p>Water Quality Program for Agriculture Provides cost sharing to owners and operators of agricultural lands for agricultural and grazing improvement to protect water quality. Priority areas include: TMDL watersheds; watersheds containing habitat for aquatic species listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act; and groundwater quality protection areas. The program is used to leverage and match federal, state, and private funds in addressing water quality and habitat-related natural resource concerns. Projects are subject to annual legislative appropriations to the SCC in its Trustee & Benefits general fund.</p>	<p>State: §22-2734 IDAPA 02.05.03 Federal: Clean Water Act (PL 92-500)</p>
<p>Watershed Advisory Groups The SCC provides technical assistance to watershed advisory groups, recommending specific actions needed to control point and nonpoint sources of pollution within the watershed so that designated beneficial uses are fully supported and other state water quality plans are achieved.</p>	<p>State: §39-3611, §39-3615 through §39-3616 Federal: Clean Water Act (PL 92-500)</p>

Program or Service	Statutes/Agreements
<p>Watershed Improvement District Law</p> <p>By law, the SCC is designated to oversee creation and discontinuance of Watershed Improvement Districts throughout the state. Watershed Improvement Districts have broad authority to develop comprehensive plans, levy assessments and construct, operate, and maintain flood prevention structures. These Watershed Improvement Districts are separate and distinct from local soil and water conservation districts.</p>	<p>State: §42-3701, et. seq.</p>

General Fund Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Receipts	0	0	0	\$2,000
Expenditures	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personnel Costs	\$1,384,731.71	\$1,428,163.36	\$1,443,328.71	\$1,244,381.93
Operating Expenditures	696,477.85	980,616.33	831,691.63	369,471.51
Capital Outlay	4,602.06	17,142.94	5,418.36	27,983.01
Trustee/Benefit Payments (includes District Allocations)	2,164,748.13	1,947,436.64	1,884,404.94	1,979,842.65
TOTAL	\$4,250,559.75	\$4,373,359.27	\$4,164,843.64	\$3,621,679.10



**Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program
Revenue and Expenditures**

Revenue	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Principal Payments	\$1,362,524.66	\$1,652,002.88	\$1,430,025.40	\$1,745,822.54
Interest Payments	335,469.26	335,440.14	411,105.13	377,925.85
Interest on Cash Balance	49,978.54	21,142.56	2,750.63	10,794.57
Other	0.00	55.63	0.00	35,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,747,972.46	\$2,008,641.21	\$1,843,881.16	\$2,169,542.96
Expenditures	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Loan Disbursements	\$3,076,154.25	\$2,438,708.32	\$1,374,411.12	\$570,288.79
Program Expenses	90,617.11	97,329.43	96,660.90	268,987.74
TOTAL	\$3,166,771.36	\$2,536,037.75	\$1,471,072.02	\$839,276.53

**Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund
Revenue and Expenditures**

Revenue	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Principal Balance	\$0.00	\$931,133.57	\$881,645.36	\$830,605.27
Due to DEQ	981,754.98	932,158.89	882,670.68	831,630.59
SCC	0.00	12,577.14	12,577.14	12,577.14
Expenditures	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Expenses	0.00	503.00	503.00	\$105,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 0.00	\$ 503.00	\$ 503.00	\$105,000.00

**Federal Grant Funds
Revenue and Expenditures**

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

Performance Measurement Report

Revenue	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Receipts	\$199,264.15	\$206,501.60	\$322,907.73	\$491,354.19
TOTAL	\$199,264.15	\$206,501.60	\$322,907.73	\$491,354.19
Expenditures	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Expenses	195,921.42	278,486.33	408,400.07	410,729.84
TOTAL	\$195,921.42	\$278,486.33	\$408,400.07	\$410,729.84

District Allocations – Breakdown by District

District	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Ada	\$16,769.75	\$10,379.14	\$53,664.61	\$95,187.11
Adams	8,269.09	9,404.90	10,199.85	12,876.47
Balanced Rock	12,592.08	13,587.01	14,381.96	19,977.15
Bear Lake	17,799.03	17,745.36	24,684.39	34,285.82
Benewah	10,109.69	10,022.71	10,817.66	13,806.54
Blaine	16,043.20	17,745.36	18,540.31	29,724.93
Bonner	19,191.59	19,527.51	20,322.46	29,903.79
Boundary	13,842.45	14,775.11	15,570.06	21,855.17
Bruneau River	8,172.22	8,121.75	8,916.70	11,284.55
Butte	11,201.94	11,094.37	11,992.75	15,309.91
Camas	9,262.05	9,428.66	10,223.61	12,912.25
Canyon	13,742.45	13,587.01	14,381.96	19,172.29
Caribou	15,558.83	15,369.16	16,164.11	23,757.91
Central Bingham	8,293.31	8,240.56	9,035.51	11,123.66
Clark	10,715.15	10,616.76	11,411.71	19,172.29
Clearwater	13,742.45	13,587.01	14,381.96	20,960.87
Custer	8,293.31	8,653.41	9,448.36	12,458.27

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

Performance Measurement Report

District	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
East Cassia	7,687.85	7,646.51	8,441.46	10,229.37
East Side	11,926.07	11,804.86	12,599.81	16,489.41
Elmore	11,320.61	11,804.86	12,599.81	17,383.71
Franklin	25,379.39	27,731.34	28,526.29	48,257.92
Gem	10,715.15	16,557.26	19,621.29	23,643.75
Gooding	9,504.23	9,428.66	10,223.61	13,006.16
Idaho	11,926.07	11,804.86	12,599.81	18,278.00
Jefferson	10,715.15	10,616.76	11,411.71	14,700.83
Kootenai-Shoshone	15,558.83	11,507.84	13,883.11	21,408.02
Latah	29,484.41	29,626.36	30,421.31	43,318.17
Lemhi	7,687.85	7,646.51	11,649.48	14,700.83
Lewis	14,347.91	14,181.06	14,976.01	20,960.87
Madison	11,926.07	11,804.86	12,599.81	16,489.41
Minidoka	8,898.77	8,834.61	9,629.56	12,017.95
Mud Lake	10,109.69	10,022.71	10,817.66	13,806.54
Nez Perce	23,819.12	31,709.10	32,504.05	53,633.30
North Bingham	7,324.57	7,290.08	8,085.03	9,692.79
North Side	10,715.15	10,616.76	11,411.71	18,757.91
Oneida	17,496.30	18,339.41	19,134.36	25,208.27
Owyhee	7,687.85	7,646.51	8,441.46	11,123.66
Payette	14,650.64	14,478.09	15,273.04	20,066.58
Portneuf	15,801.01	18,577.03	25,694.16	35,627.26
Power	11,102.64	11,876.15	12,671.10	25,015.59
Snake River	11,986.62	12,992.96	13,787.91	18,904.00
South Bingham	7,082.39	7,052.46	7,847.41	9,335.08
Squaw Creek	11,926.08	11,350.42	12,145.36	16,131.70

District	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Teton	10,666.71	10,854.38	11,649.33	15,720.32
Twin Falls	11,986.62	12,992.96	13,787.91	18,904.00
Valley	29,557.07	14,220.46	32,797.51	50,114.79
Weiser River	16,164.29	15,369.16	16,164.11	23,643.75
West Cassia	7,687.85	7,646.51	8,441.46	10,229.37
West Side	10,412.42	10,319.74	11,114.69	14,253.68
Wood River	8,293.31	8,240.56	9,035.51	12,134.95
Yellowstone	14,224.40	15,129.16	15,924.11	20,357.88
TOTAL	\$659,371.68	\$659,606.75	\$780,048.92	\$1,117,314.80

Profile of Key Services Provided by the Conservation Partnership

Key Services Provided by the Conservation Partnership	FEDERAL FY2006	FEDERAL FY2007	FEDERAL FY2008	FEDERAL FY2009	STATE FY2010
Conservation systems implemented on all cropland (acres)	161,845	198,507	224,962	210,000	186,527
Conservation systems implemented on other land uses (acres)	342,283	419,073	405,880	410,000	291,162
Grazing/pasture management systems implemented (acres)	86,472	149,814	202,103	205,000	257,358
Riparian acres implemented with protection, restoration, enhancement or creation (acres)	350	68	57	58	72
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Private agricultural land removed from tillage-induced erosion through financial incentive for a contractual time period. Includes CREP (acres)	800,000	825,000	786,172	757,348	711,540

** Prior to state fiscal year 2010, conservation data had been reported by federal fiscal year. Starting with state fiscal year 2010, the SCC will provide conservation data based upon the state fiscal year. Due to the transition, the fourth quarter data for federal fiscal year 2009 has been included as part of the state fiscal year 2010 data.

Conservation Partnership Key Services

The conservation partnership is commonly referred to as a three legged stool with one leg being the local soil conservation districts, another the Soil Conservation Commission and the third leg is the federal partnership of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The premise of the partnership, going back many years in the conservation movement, was that the locally led districts would identify the resource needs and make contact with landowners. Then the federal and state agencies would provide both financial and technical assistance to accomplish the district's mission. The Idaho Conservation Partnership has provided key services to benefit private land and natural resources in Idaho, which is evidenced in the table above.

Fiscal Year 2010 Performance Highlights

Strategic Plan 2010-2014

The SCC began a process to develop a five-year strategic plan in March 2008. A seven member team representing the conservation partnership conducted an analysis of statutory authority, identified opportunities for growth, and identified strengths and weaknesses to address. Development of the strategic plan included distribution and analysis of a survey of our conservation partners, three public comment periods, and a public hearing for adoption.

The resulting strategic plan, adopted January 2009 and implemented for Fiscal Year 2010, has five core functions and 25 objectives; the performance for each core function will be evaluated with five compound performance measures. One of the external factors affecting results in the SCC Strategic Plan is "required budget cuts". Since the strategic plan was adopted, the SCC has experienced a 50% decrease in available state general funds and permanent full time staff. As a result, during fiscal year 2010, the SCC has circulated possible revisions to the strategic plan to best use the available staff and resources. Those revisions will be formally considered during an SCC open meeting in fiscal year 2011.

Antidegradation Plans (Five Year Plans)

All 51 districts successfully completed the requirement to update their individual five-year plans this year. In many cases, districts chose to supplement the required components of the plan with other local priorities including energy, public outreach, youth education, and urban growth. Local districts consider the plan in their regular public meetings and incorporate any local feedback. In almost all cases, SCC technical field staff assists the local districts with requests to inventory and assess the resource concerns required in the plan.

Clearwater Focus Program

The Clearwater River subbasin was designated as a coordination program by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council in November 1996. Since then, the Clearwater Focus Program (CFP) has coordinated a technical work group and a core review team to develop habitat restoration projects and evaluate proposals to be submitted for funding by various sources. The two groups include representatives from state, local, federal, tribal, private, and industry interests. The primary funding sources are Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund and the Snake River Basin Adjudication program. This year, the CFP convened multiple times to discuss project development and evaluate project proposals. Of the 13 proposals reviewed, ten were funded and three were deferred pending additional information. The CFP works closely with, and provides assistance to, five conservation districts in the subbasin which includes the Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce districts. Based on legislative action this year, authority and funding for the CFP was effectively transferred from SCC to the Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Idaho is designed to address water shortages within the Eastern Snake River Plain. This area extends from King Hill to Ashton and is approximately 130 miles long and 70 miles wide. Factors such as increased use of groundwater, drought, and changing irrigation practices have resulted in decreased spring flows in tributaries to the Snake River. The Idaho CREP goal is to

retire up to 100,000 acres of groundwater-irrigated land. This reduction will provide a water savings of approximately 200,000 acre-feet annually. The CREP area includes 26 local soil conservation districts, 20 Farm Service Agency county committees, and seven groundwater districts. Agencies involved with the SCC include: Farm Service Agency, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Pheasants Forever, and Idaho Groundwater Users. Please see Appendix A for a map outlining the CREP boundaries in Idaho.

The summary of CREP acres enrolled by administering county as of June 30, 2010:

Administering County	Number of Contracts	Acres Enrolled
Bingham	60	6,897
Bonneville	1	154
Cassia	5	2,223
Gooding	2	106
Jefferson/Clark	23	1,819
Jerome	7	586
Lincoln	4	524
Minidoka	66	5,383
Power	2	598
Twin Falls	1	43
TOTAL	171	18,333

Based on current acreage enrolled, there is an estimated water savings of 36,665 acre feet per year, which is equivalent to average annual water consumption of 330,000 people or utilizing 150 pivots covering 120 acres each for 15 years. The estimated annual power savings is 72,413,375 kilowatt hours. In addition, an estimated 146,660 tons of soil are saved due to decreased wind and water erosion. Fifty three contracts have wildlife enhancement plantings on 9,243 acres.

The SCC is designated as the technical lead for CREP. The SCC staff checks all enrolled fields at a minimum of once per year with many fields being checked multiple times. Enrolled acres are seeded to a permanent cover of native grasses and then are certified as established in a subsequent year depending on weather patterns and vegetative growth. In fiscal year 2010, 23 complete contracts of 4,239 acres were certified as established. An additional 3,000 acres are established but cannot be certified until all fields within the specified contract meet the minimum vegetative stand requirements. The SCC refers to the Natural Resources Conservation Service specifications and guidelines for seeding recommendations, and has received training from the state Plant Materials Specialist and staff from the Plant Materials Center in Aberdeen, Idaho.

The wet spring increased the weed pressure necessitating additional management practices, such as clipping and spraying, to get stands established. Excessive pests such as rodents and grasshoppers have presented challenges this year for the program participants.

Additionally, reduction goals of approximately 30,000 more acres may be needed to achieve part of the goals with the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan. CREP is recognized as a major component that will help address the water quantity issues in the Eastern Snake River Plain.

District Allocations, Services, and Support

Annual state funding is critical to the operations of local conservation districts. Local districts successfully leverage limited funds with local knowledge and volunteer efforts to improve natural resource conditions. The SCC recognizes the value of locally led conservation and implemented a strategy to shift specific operational decisions from the statewide commission to locally elected districts. As a result, in fiscal year 2010, the SCC intentionally decreased expenditures in order to increase the amount of financial assistance available to districts.

Looking forward, the SCC realized that the significant budget cuts in fiscal year 2011 will present cash flow difficulties to many districts so an additional \$251,000 from savings and efficiencies was distributed in June 2010.

Beyond district allocations, technical assistance is the bulk of the SCC assistance provided to districts. However, when it comes to administrative services and support to districts, four of the five staff focused on these responsibilities left SCC employment during the last two fiscal years and state budgets have not allowed for those positions to be filled. In the meantime, SCC has made interim assignments to the remaining staff to meet high-priority needs and provide the highest level of customer service and support possible, including:

- At the beginning of fiscal year 2010, SCC field staff polled the districts and found that training on roles and responsibilities was the top priority for the district supervisors and staff. As a result, in November 2009, the SCC utilized the Attorney General's office to provide training on Ethics in Government, Open Meetings and Public Records requirements.
- The SCC initiated the creation of a new District Supervisors Handbook that will be completed in fiscal year 2011. The Handbook and training will be made available as a resource to new and continuing supervisors.
- The SCC researched and made recommendations for a complete and comprehensive insurance policy that adequately covered the districts and their activities. The insurance recommendation was accepted by most districts and implemented during the middle of the fiscal year. Most districts now utilize the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program due to the comprehensive coverage and training opportunities.
- The SCC also funded an agreement with the Idaho District Employees Association that provided training for district employees across the state.

SCC conducted a survey and received a response from all 51 districts at the end of the fiscal year. Questions were asked about the technical assistance provided, connections with other state and federal agencies, district operations, opportunity to be involved in Commission decisions and whether are not existing SCC staff and resources are adequate. The Commission made communications and cooperation with local districts a priority in FY 2010. The survey results for that category were the highest with 44 districts agreeing that they had the opportunity to comment or be involved in Commission activities and decisions. Not surprisingly, based upon the decrease of available budgets, the lowest responses were as to whether or not existing SCC staff and resources are adequate to provide technical assistance, program delivery and district support. The survey results for that category were that 25 districts disagreed, 7 were neutral and 19 agreed. SCC will utilize the results of the survey and comments provided to adjust priorities for technical field staff and maximize the resources available for conservation.

Groundwater/Nitrate Priority Areas

By working with local soil conservation districts, individual landowners, and other state and federal agencies, the SCC encourages and facilitates voluntary implementation and outreach activities that will benefit groundwater. Implementation efforts were focused on Idaho's Nitrate Priority Areas (NPAs) as designated in 2008 by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Please see Appendix B for a map of Groundwater and Nitrate Priority Areas within the state.

Nitrate Priority Area	Rank	Nitrate Priority Area	Rank
Twin Falls	1	Glenns Ferry	17
Ada Canyon	2	Grace/Soda Springs	18
Weiser	3	Preston	19
Fort Hall	4	Blackfoot	20
NE Star	5	Purple Sage	21
Marsing	6	Lindsay Creek	22
Grand View	7	Mink Creek	23
Hagerman	8	Lapwai Creek	24

Nitrate Priority Area	Rank	Nitrate Priority Area	Rank
Cassia County	9	Notus	25
Bruneau	10	Parma	26
Lower Payette	11	St. Anthony	27
Minidoka	12	Mud Lake	28
Ashton/Drummond	13	Emmett North Bench	29
Mountain Home AFB	14	North Pocatello	30
Mountain Home	15	Bliss	31
Clearwater Plateau	16	Homedale	32

There were 45,715 acres treated with best management practices (BMPs) through state funded programs such as WQPA and federally funded programs such as 319 grants during fiscal year 2010 that will have a direct, positive impact on ground water quality. The estimated total reductions to pollutants that can be expected as an outcome of state-funded BMP implementation are:

- 115,420 pounds of nitrates eliminated per year
- 19,677 pounds of phosphorus eliminated per year
- 52,025 tons of sediment erosion reduced per year

Beyond these acres, additional acres were treated through other programs and independent efforts by agricultural producers.

In addition to BMP implementation, there were efforts in public outreach, monitoring, and planning activities that took place in various locations throughout the state. These activities will help to raise awareness of ground water quality issues and may help initiate BMP implementation projects in other NPAs.

Idaho OnePlan

Farmers and agencies can both benefit from reducing duplication of effort, regulatory red tape and cross-agency bottlenecks. The OnePlan coordinates the various conservation requirements of the numerous agencies with regulatory and technical oversight. Anyone can use the OnePlan software and develop a farm plan regardless of how he or she chooses to use the results. It is private information and is entirely up to the individual whether or not to share such information. For example, a landowner may decide to share it with state or federal agencies to aid in cost share or grant applications.

This year, OnePlan unveiled a web based pesticide recordkeeping application that allows interested farmers to meet the requirements and stay in compliance with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Earlier congressional earmarks were exhausted this fiscal year and the SCC investment was limited to \$20,000 due to decreased state budgets. OnePlan staff completed extensive outreach to commodity organizations about current needs and utilized that feedback to apply for and receive competitive funding for two large grants. The first is \$130,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency for fumigation-related recordkeeping as part of the integrated pest management component. The second is a \$30,000 Conservation Innovation Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for expanded mapping efforts to improve the functionality of OnePlan.

Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP)

This program provides long-term, low-interest loans to farmers and ranchers for conservation improvements. Loans are available up to \$125,000 for terms of up to 15 years. Projects address environmental issues, including, but not limited to: soil and water resource conservation; efficient and beneficial use of water resources; riparian area improvement; fish and wildlife habitat restoration and preservation; and the increased agricultural productivity of croplands, pasture and hay land, rangeland, and woodland.

RCRDP Loan Program Accomplishments	FY2010 Totals	Program Totals
Loans Approved	12	577
Total Loan Commitments	\$730,864	\$30,121,895

Current Active RCRDP Loans: 194
 Total RCRDP Principal Balance: \$7,995,655

The loans that were approved during fiscal year 2010 included projects to reduce soil erosion and consumptive water use such as:

- Improving irrigation efficiency by converting acres of flood irrigation to pipeline, pump, and sprinkler systems
- Purchase of no-till or direct-seed drills to replace traditional tillage equipment
- Installing pumping facilities to livestock watering troughs, which also improves riparian area and reduces nonpoint source pollution in waterways

In addition to funding critical conservation projects, the rules governing RCRDP were updated by the legislature at SCC's request to allow flexibility within the loan policies and procedures. The most significant change was increasing the individual loan limit to \$200,000 per loan in order to keep up with rising costs associated with agricultural production.

Technical Assistance

The SCC utilizes unique, field-based experience to provide technical and engineering assistance to Idaho's conservation districts and private landowners to address local resource issues, and assist the state of Idaho in meeting statewide and national mandates. On the ground, the SCC field staff work to identify problems, determine the landowners objectives, inventory resources, formulate alternatives, and assist with implementation activities. These technical assistance efforts are site specific and typically begin with a request or referral from the local conservation districts. Many times, this technical assistance and assessment is leveraged with other state and federal funding opportunities for implementation.

The SCC staff and commissioners assisted and interacted with all 51 local conservation districts with on the ground technical assistance in fiscal year 2010. These technical assistance efforts benefitted at least 942 private landowners. The combined leveraging of willing landowners, local districts, and the SCC technical staff yielded almost \$52 million of resource conservation dollars to be put on the ground over the next several years.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Watershed Planning and Implementation

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that states restore and maintain the integrity of the nation's waters. Pursuant to section 303 of the CWA, states are to adopt water quality standards necessary to protect fish, shellfish, and wildlife while providing for recreation in and on the waters whenever possible. Section 303(d) of the CWA establishes the requirements for states to identify and prioritize water bodies whose quality is at risk. For waters identified on this list, states must establish a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the pollutants, which is the maximum level of pollutants that may exist in a water body to maintain optimal water quality standards.

The state of Idaho has adopted a non-regulatory approach to control agricultural non-point sources of pollution that are identified in a TMDL plan. A non-point source pollutant is pollution that cannot be directly tied to its source, unlike point source pollution, which could be identified coming directly out of a pipe. One example of an agricultural non-point source pollutant is sediment, which is very difficult to identify where it came from once it enters a water body.

For agricultural and grazing activities on private land, the SCC is the designated agency that can assist landowners in developing and implementing conservation plans that incorporate best management practices

(BMPs) that will help meet water quality standards. The SCC is responsible for drafting TMDL agricultural implementation plans that outline an adaptive management approach on agricultural lands to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Ten TMDL agricultural implementation plans were completed in FY2010, which brings the total number of agricultural implementation plans that have been completed by the SCC to 78 plans. In addition, there are 15 new plans or addendums to existing plans in progress and another 35 plans or addendums that are scheduled to begin. Once a TMDL implementation plan is completed, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) normally conducts a Five Year Review with involvement from the SCC and local districts. Please see Appendix C for a map of TMDL areas in the state.

Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program (USBWP)

USBWP projects provide benefits to federally-listed fish as well as to agricultural operators who cooperate in these conservation efforts by cost sharing on projects which conserve water, protect and enhance riparian habitat, and improve agricultural systems. During the most recent project year, USBWP had seven new projects in the planning phase, four projects moving from planning into implementation, and eight projects that were completed. Federal funding for these projects comes from a variety of sources including Bonneville Power Administration, Northwest Power & Conservation Council Budget Oversight Group, and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds. Some additional funding came from a private foundation grant and Lemhi County this year. The USBWP works closely with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District in project development and the district is conducting construction oversight on some projects.

Of the eight projects completed this year, there were 12 conservation actions including in stream habitat enhancement, riparian habitat enhancement, migration barrier removal, removal of an unscreened diversion, and installation of backdoor barriers. Important metrics this year include 112 riparian acres treated, 5.8 miles of fence installed, 9.4 miles of aquatic habitat access improved, and 1.2 cubic feet per second of stream flow restored. To date, USBWP has completed 120 projects, which includes 165 individual conservation actions. Based on legislative action this year, authority and funding for the USWBP was effectively transferred from SCC to the Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

Water Quality Cost-Share Program for Idaho (WQPA)

The SCC assisted 22 local conservation districts and 84 landowners as part of 19 different WQPA priority areas in fiscal year 2010. Local efforts included initiation of conservation planning and implementation of best management practices (BMPs) that improve their agricultural operations and resource conditions.

This work was accomplished through the sponsorship and local oversight of 22 conservation districts, the integration of funding from WQPA, and federal and landowner sources. The \$736,470 state investment was leveraged with federal and landowner contributions for a total of \$1,619,299. Please see Appendix D for a map of the WQPA project locations within the state.

WQPA Expenditures					
Division (geographic area)	# of Local Districts	Cost Share Funds Spent FY 2010			
		WQPA	Federal	Landowner	Total
1 (panhandle)	4	\$78,871	\$91,235	\$22,471	\$192,577
2 (north central)	5	\$328,081	\$14,619	\$170,961	\$513,661
3 (southwestern)	4	\$94,351	\$43,087	\$84,269	\$221,707
4 (magic valley)	5	\$189,092	\$17,119	\$84,816	\$291,045
5 (south eastern)	2	\$30,794	\$14,185	\$16,263	\$61,242
6 (upper snake)	2	\$15,281	\$207,191	\$116,595	\$339,067
Total	22	\$736,470	\$387,454	\$495,375	\$1,619,299

The result of this WQPA investment is the treatment of 18,337 critical acres including:

- 59,790 feet of fencing
- 17,137 acres of cropland with a nutrient management plan
- 5,604 acres of residue management
- 14 watering facilities

PART II – PERFORMANCE MEASURES

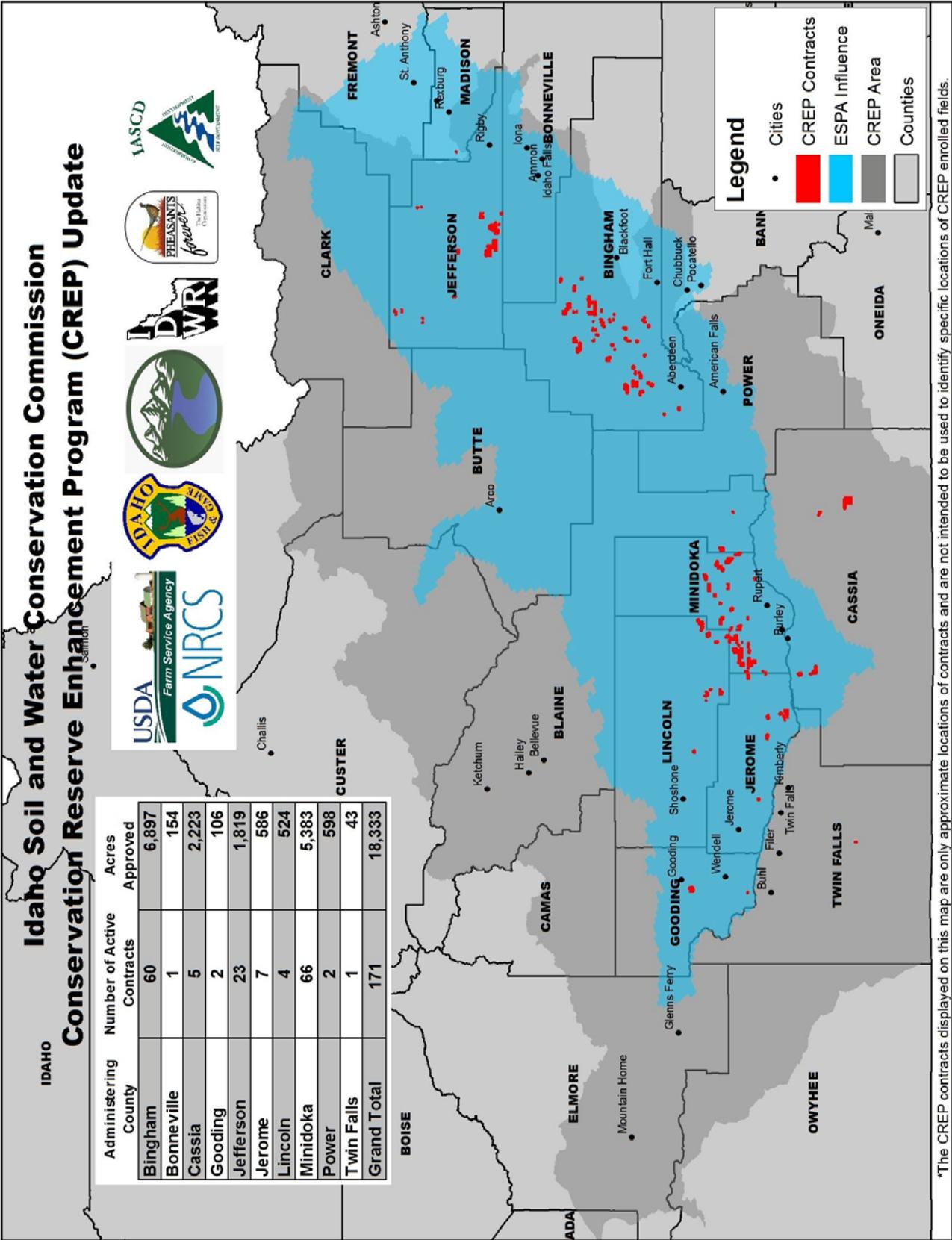
Key Functions	FY 2006 to 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011 Benchmark
1. Responsibilities to Conservation Districts Baseline: Conduct an annual survey of the 51 Idaho conservation districts to determine performance, priorities for the coming year and overall level of satisfaction			
Survey results	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 overall satisfied • 19 overall somewhat satisfied • 10 overall neutral • 10 overall somewhat dissatisfied • 1 dissatisfied • Only 19 districts agree that Commission staff and resources are adequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 overall satisfied • 20 overall somewhat satisfied • 10 overall neutral • 5 overall somewhat dissatisfied • 0 districts dissatisfied
2. Technical Assistance Baseline: Determine technical assistance provided by SCC staff to local districts and private landowners			
Number of landowners assisted and number of districts receiving technical assistance	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 942 landowners • 51 districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 landowners • 50 districts
3. Duties and Responsibilities Defined by State Mandates and Other Agreements Baseline: Inventory performance for the objectives of this core.			
Antidegradation Plans (Five Year Plans)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual updates completed by all 51 districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual updates completed by all 50 districts

Key Functions	FY 2006 to 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011 Benchmark
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18,333 total acres in approved contracts 171 active contracts 4,239 acres certified as established 23 contracts with all acres certified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20,333 total acres in approved contracts 191 active contracts 4,000 additional acres certified as established 30 additional contracts with all acres certified
Groundwater/Nitrate Priority Areas	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45,728 acres with BMPs applied 115,420 pounds nitrate reduction 19,677 pounds phosphorous reduction 52,025 tons sediment reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53,000 acres with BMPs applied 128,000 pounds nitrate reduction 22,000 pounds phosphorous reduction 58,000 tons sediment reduction
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Ag Implementation Plans	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Completed Plans 15 Plans in Progress 35 Pending New Plans or addendums to existing plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete five Plans in Progress Initiate 17 New Plans or addendums based on DEQ Priorities
Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 Ongoing Priority Areas Three Completed Priority Areas 18,337 acres treated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 Ongoing Priority Areas Five Completed Priority Areas 11,000 acres treated
4. Develop Statewide Leadership Role Awareness Baseline: Design an outreach program and communication network with available resources.			
	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 issues 'On the Ground' newsletter featuring statewide news 4 issues 'Conservation Exchange' newsletter featuring activities of local districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 quarterly newsletters combining local district activities and statewide news
5. Operations Baseline: Determine annual priorities for projects that improve SCC and local districts.			

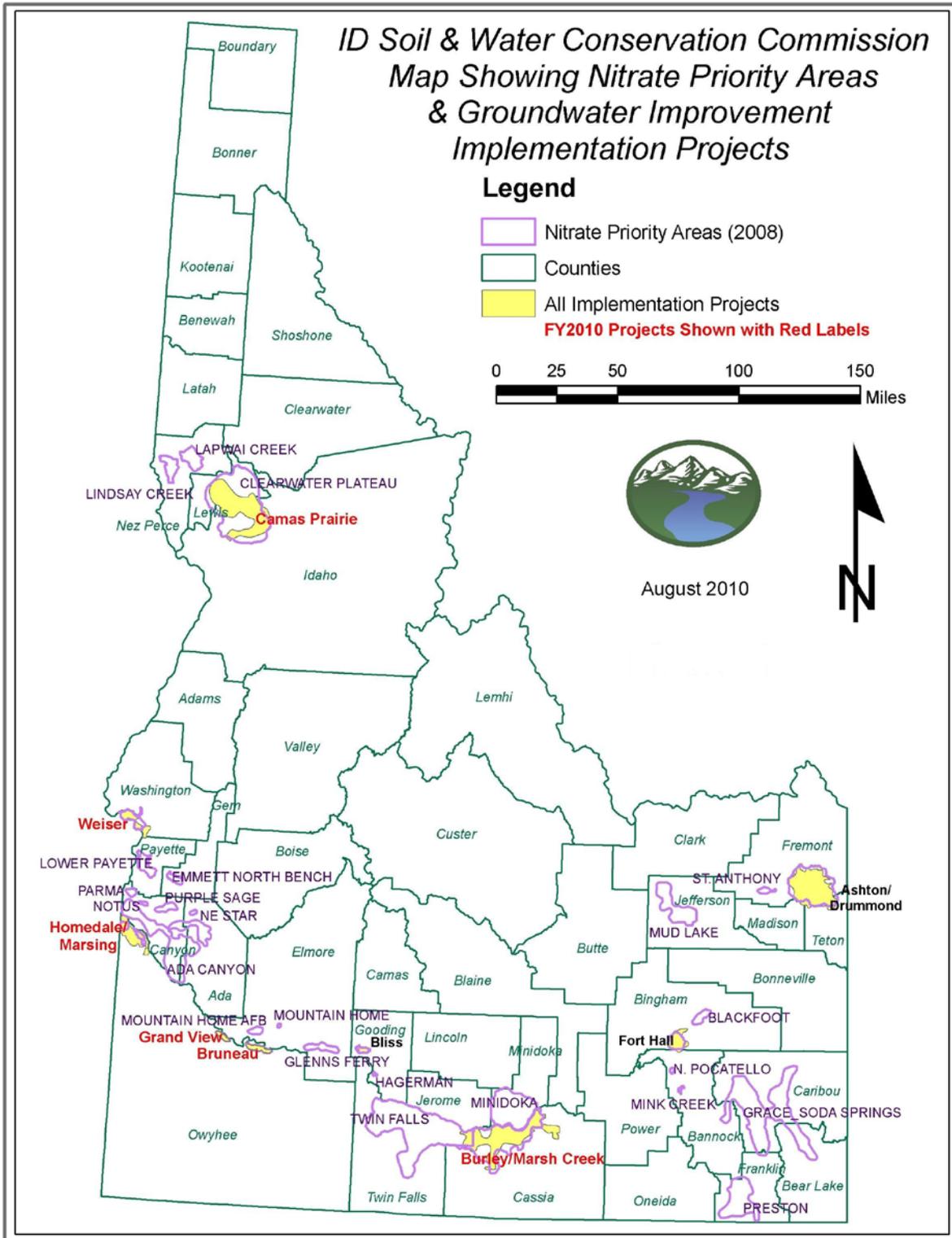
Key Functions	FY 2006 to 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011 Benchmark
	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local district insurance options researched, presented and upgraded to Idaho Counties Risk Management Program • Attorney General training on Ethics, Open Meetings, and Public Records • Idaho District Employees Association agreement for training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rulemaking and policy setting for allocation of state general funds to local districts • Develop District Supervisor's Handbook • Assist, if requested, at least two districts with consolidation

For More Information Contact

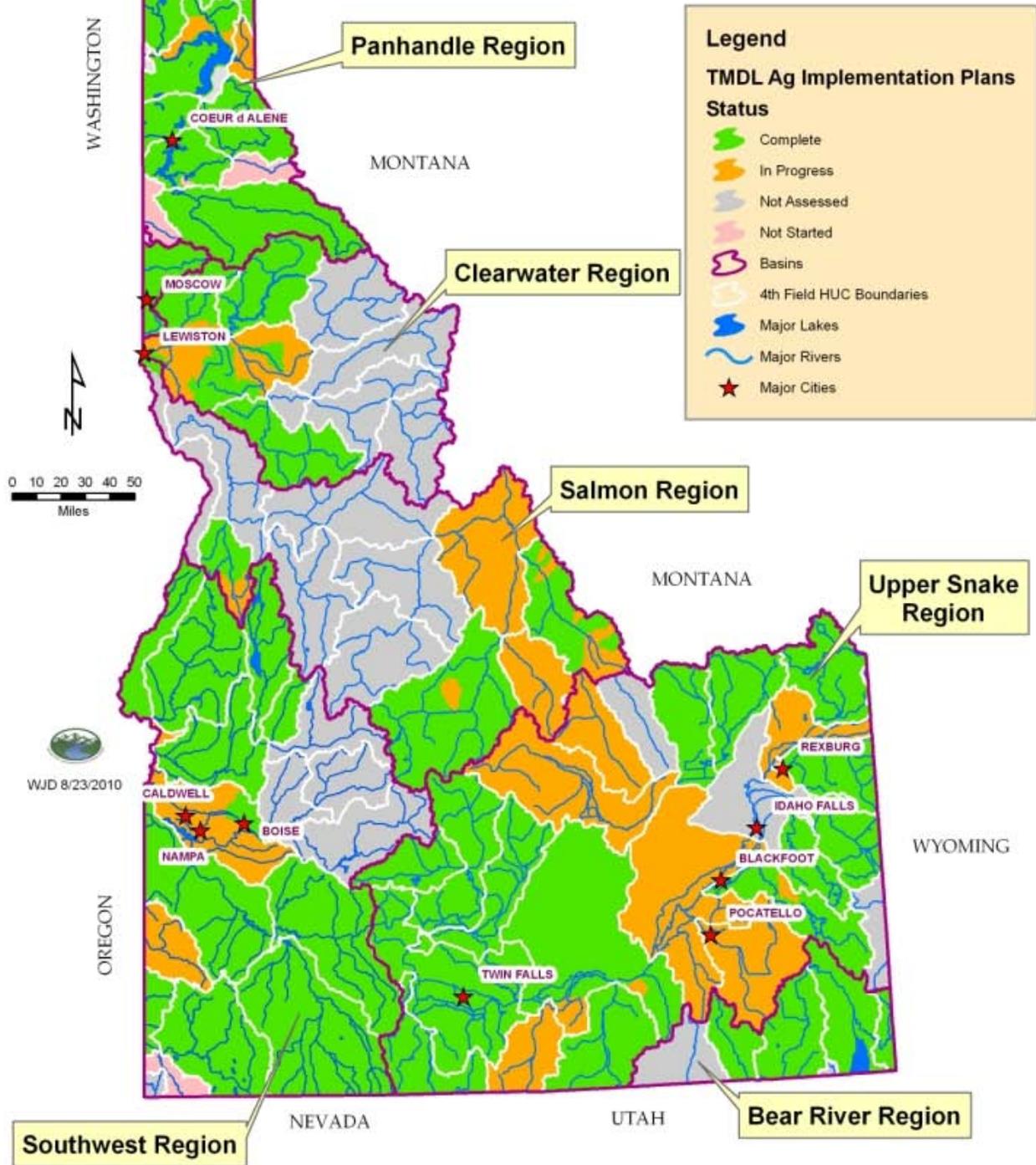
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APPENDIX B – GROUNDWATER/NITRATE PRIORITY AREA MAP FY 2010



IDAHO TMDL AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2010 STATUS MAP



APPENDIX D – WATER QUALITY PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURE MAP FY 2010

